IPS e.max Smile Award 2016: In search of the world’s most esthetic dental cases

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IPS e.max is the most popular all-ceramic system in the world.* It has proven itself a million times over. A decade of clinical studies and more than 100 million restorations confirm the success and reliability of this system. Its manufacturer, Ivoclar Vivadent, is now launching a worldwide contest to find the most esthetic dental cases solved with the IPS e.max system. Users from all over the world are called upon to hand in their most impressive dental work.

A panel of noted experts will evaluate the projects presented with regard to esthetics, complexity and harmony and select the winners. The top submissions will receive international recognition. The awards for the best entries will be presented on 10 June 2016, on the eve of Ivoclar Vivadent’s International Expert Symposium in Madrid, Spain.

Teamwork is a must

This is how it works: Participation is restricted to dentist/dental technician teams only. After signing in at www.ipsemax.com/smileaward, the

20 years of digital panoramic imaging: Seeing better with modern technology

By Sirona

The first digital panoramic X-ray machine that Sirona put on the market 20 years ago made perceptible changes in radiological imaging in dentistry – away from films that had to be developed with chemicals and then physically stored to a fast, more precise method with easy storage function.

Digital X-rays, first patented in 1988, became a marketable commodity in 1993. Sirona presented the first panoramic X-ray machine with a digital sensor, the ORTHOPHOS Plus DS, 20 years ago. The ultimate goal: top image quality for an even more reliable diagnosis with lower radiation exposure for patients. The workflow within the practice was simultaneously improved. It was no longer necessary to develop films with chemicals.

Since then, digital imaging has become a fixed component of a dental practice and has many advantages over conventional imaging with X-ray films: time is saved because the images are available immediately, the images can be processed on a computer and the image quality is higher with reduced radiation exposure. Today, sensor or scanner systems are usually used for intraoral images instead of conventional films. Three-dimensional imaging has become standard, especially for implantology.
Digital imaging constantly improving

The latest innovations by Sirona in imaging techniques have taken digital imaging to a whole new level. The Direct Conversion Sensor (DCS) is new and absolutely unique in this form. It generates electrical signals directly from X-rays without the previously required intermediate stage of first converting them to light. The image data this yields is significantly better in relation to the exposure to radiation. The Direct Conversion Sensor generates extremely sharp X-ray images very efficiently.

For one panoramic image the Sharp Layer technology, which is also new, uses several thousand individual projections that are taken very rapidly from several angles in one rotation and reproduce the individual morphological situation very precisely.

The advantages are excellent panoramic images and the possibility of compensating for positioning errors retroactively.

The future means integration

With respect to the many possibilities for digital imaging diagnostics, there is a clear trend: More and more processes in dental practices are digital. The next step here is integration. “Our products can be easily integrated with one another,” says Jörg Haist, Head of Product Management Imaging Systems at Sirona. “Our SIDEXIS 4 imaging software ensures that panoramic and other X-ray data can not only be processed, but also accessed in the treatment center, documented in the practice administration, and used with CEREC.”

Ceramill Dicom Viewer - Ceramill Mind upgrade module for the visualisation of Dicom data

By Amann Girrbach AG

The Ceramill Mind upgrade module “Ceramill Dicom Viewer” is a visualisation and communication software. It allows data from CT or CBCT machines (DICOM format) to be imported, displayed and merged with stl data to make underlying or superficial anatomical structures of the patient visible. Different visualisation options enable easier, more precise and therefore more reliable quality of communication between the dentist and laboratory. Three-dimensional radiographic images imported into the Ceramill Dicom Viewer thus provide information about the paths of the jaw and facial nerves, bite relationship of the teeth to one another or the bone quality. The sections and anatomical planes to be displayed can be regulated via recognition of the tissue thickness, which achieves more precise pre-planning of the restoration. Once stored as an stl data record, the patient data can be accessed in the Ceramill Mind for checking or information, e.g. when designing abutments.

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Ceramill Argotherm 2
Shielding gas sintering furnace for Ceramill Sintron enters the next generation

By Amann Girrbach

Two years after the market launch and more than one million Ceramill Sintron restorations placed clinically, Amann Girrbach now supplies a new, improved generation of the Ceramill Argotherm shielding gas sintering furnace – elegant and in the already familiar design of Ceramill equipment. The enlarged furnace chamber enables easier and more reliable handling of the removable Ceramill Argotherm sintering chamber, while an integrated compressed air and shielding gas monitor ensures even higher process reliability during the sintering procedure. Equipped with touch screen and a clear conceptualised display for optical control of the sintering process the successor model also provides increased comfort in terms of operability and handling.

Ceramill Argotherm furnaces were specially developed for sintering the dry millable CrCo sinter metal Ceramill Sintron and guarantee distortion-free, predictable and cavity-free final sintering of restorations at the press of a button. The compact furnace with minimum space requirement is used as a bench model and actively cools after sintering.

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The esthetics of slowness

By Sirona

The tempo of our times is fast. Many things today happen at such a breathtaking speed that the details of movement can hardly be perceived. But behind the speed lies utmost precision – for example when milling a crown with CEREC.

Thanks to technical advances, highly precise production is possible at a breathtaking speed. Ultra-modern technology also allows us to record these movements in super slow motion so we can make things that happen too fast to be detected by the human eye become visible. Sirona used this technology to record the production process of a CEREC crown in the Sirona CEREC MC XL Premium Package milling machine using a high-performance camera at a speed of 2,000 images per second. The result is a fascinating, choreographed ballet of technology. Milling tools, ceramic, and water jets act in a very small space, recorded using a special lens and with a soundtrack of appropriate classical music.

“No one has ever seen CEREC like this in 30 years,” even Aaron Dayringer, CEREC Product Manager at Sirona, was impressed.

The video, which was posted on various social media sites, creates an emotional feeling about this fascinating technology, as numerous comments have shown. “The number and kind of reactions are overwhelming; we certainly did not expect that,” says Andreas Blauig, Corporate Social Media Manager at Sirona.

The video has now been viewed on Facebook more than 70,000 times, more than 800 viewers have shared the clip, many times the average for the industry. But at the same time, the video is more than merely image advertising. “The appeal of CEREC restorations stems from their high level of precision. Only if they fit precisely can restorations be completed in one sitting without any problem,” says CEREC specialist Dayringer. “The sophisticated milling processes ensure that dentists no longer have to do any regrinding by hand. The striking video shows how precisely the CEREC MC XL Premium Package milling machine works at high speeds.”

The video can be viewed at this link: https://youtu.be/lGbllLvl-uA and may be reused.