For more than 150 years, the Westminster Hospital in London took care of the sick and disabled until making way for the Queen Elizabeth II Convention Centre in 1994. One of the most high-profile convention venues in the British capital today, this modern flat-roofed building opposite Westminster Abbey now stages over 350 events each year.

Recently, dental manufacturer Ivoclar Vivadent from Liechtenstein hosted hundreds of professionals from all over the globe at the prestigious venue to discuss the latest in monolithic restorations.

Following the principle that dental restorations should always mimic the natural dentition, prominent clinicians from Europe and the Americas presented a number of clinical cases that demonstrated what can be achieved with dental ceramics. Impressive restorative work was shown by German dental technician Oliver Brix and the UK’s own Dr James Russell, among others, who discussed clinical cases treated using Ivoclar Vivadent’s IPS e-max. While it is still not able to reproduce nature entirely, the restorative system, along with other modern dental materials, has not only changed how cosmetic dentistry is performed, but also allowed it to be increasingly less invasive, Russell said.

The use of CAD/CAM technology was further shown by Italian technician Michele Temperani to achieve higher aesthetic outcomes when combined with all-ceramic materials. Issues in the field were also addressed, including the correct bonding technique, which, according to Belgian presenter Bart van Meerbeek, depends on functional monomers. While research has shown that self-etching is often the most effective approach, the etch and rinse technique is still required in many cases, he explained.

During a round-table discussion held on the first day, all experts agreed that a thorough diagnosis and a good working relationship between the clinician and dental technician are still among the most important criteria for achieving the best results.

Overall, Ivoclar’s latest expert event drew over 750 delegates to London. Organised in collaboration with King’s College London Dental Institute, one of the most prestigious dental institutions in the UK, it was the second edition of a series that started in Berlin in Germany two years ago. A follow-up event has already been scheduled for 2016 and will be held in Madrid in Spain, Chief Sales Officer at Ivoclar Vivadent Josef Richter said.

Delegates can look forward to a number of new products to be launched by Ivoclar Vivadent during the year, including the much-anticipated IPS e.max Press multi, which will allow horizontal pressing for long-lasting clinical success. Also announced were new furnaces in Ivoclar Vivadent’s Programat line with a new design that will offer guided pressing, among other features, to make restorations easier and faster.

In response to increasing demand, Wieland Dental, part of Ivoclar Vivadent since 2012, will be launching a new version of its compact CNC milling system Zenotec that will allow wet pressing. The company’s offering of Zenostar zirconia, as well as abutment solutions, will also be extended.