Henry Schein opens new UK headquarters

By Dental Tribune International

Almost a year after construction started, Henry Schein opened its new headquarters in the Gillingham Business Park in October. The new state-of-the-art and energy-efficient facility, which includes two floors of office space and a warehouse, will serve as the main office and distribution centre for the company’s dental and medical customers in the UK.

The new facility was built adjacent to the existing Henry Schein UK facility at the site, which was established in 1991. Its new warehouse includes an education centre with a showroom for product demonstrations featuring a wide range of innovative high-tech digital technology. The company is also planning to develop additional warehouse space if more storage capacity is needed.

“This new, outstanding facility is a source of great pride for our company, underscoring our commitment to environmental sustainability, as the project’s planning and construction has taken into account the impact on the surrounding environment,” said Stanley M. Bergman, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Henry Schein, at the opening on 8 October, which was attended by over 500 people.

The company stated that its new facility was built with sensitivity to the surrounding natural habitat and local animal species. Over the course of the project, measures were taken to clear vegetation in an environmentally sensitive manner and to protect and relocate protected wildlife inhabiting the development site, and a trained ecologist made periodic visits to the site. Henry Schein also worked with Medway Council, the government authority charged with providing local services to Gillingham and other nearby towns, to create an acoustic and visual barrier between the new facility and nearby homes by planting trees.

Influx of fake products targeted

By Dental Tribune International

According to figures from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in London, over 12,000 individual pieces of counterfeit and unapproved dental products were seized in the UK up to April this year. At the recent BDIA Dental Showcase, the British Dental Industry Association (BDIA) announced that it will partner with major dental and general media outlets, including the BBC, to heighten awareness among dental professionals and the general public of the dangers these products can potentially pose.

In addition to a widespread advertising campaign to be run in the British dental press in 2015, an upcoming episode of Fake Britain, a consumer rights show airing on BBC One, is going to address the situation, which, according to the BDIA, increasingly poses health risks to both patients and users of the products.

While they still represent a small market share, the number of substandard devices purchased by dental professionals has steadily grown in recent years across all segments.

“We are now seeing copies and substandard versions of more complex devices, such as dental X-ray machines and handpieces, being increasingly purchased through the Internet and other sources,” Bruce Petrie from the MHRA told Dental Tribune.

In order to address the situation, the agency in partnership with the BDIA launched the Counterfeit and Substandard Instruments and Devices Initiative earlier this year, which aims to make more dentists aware of the problem and to report questionable products to the relevant authorities.

BDIA Executive Director Tony Reed commented, “We are pleased with the very positive reception that our initiative has received and the next step in growing awareness amongst the dental team is the launch of our advertising campaign."

According to the BDIA, dentists and members of the dental team should be vigilant regarding products of unknown origin and report suspect devices immediately through its website. Products manufactured by reputable suppliers such as BDIA members generally pose no concerns, the association said.