NEWS

AMD LASERS founder

Buys back company from DENTSPLY

AMD Group LLC and its founder and president, Alan Miller, recently announced the purchase of AMD LASERS from DENTSPLY International. The sale was effective on 1st August. Miller launched AMD (Alan Miller Designs) with the Picasso laser in 2009. The company rapidly grew and was purchased by DENTSPLY in 2011, expanding its product distribution network around the world.

"Over the past five years Picasso laser technology has been loved, celebrated and endorsed by clinicians, hygienists, universities, hospitals, dental clinics and patients around the world," the company said in a press release announcing the sale.

"Picasso laser technology has won numerous industry awards, while Alan Miller and AMD LASERS have also been recognized by non-dental associations for innovation, design, technology and company growth."

Miller expressed the company's thoughts on this organisational change. "This is a great outcome for our customers and our company," he said. "In taking AMD LASERS private again, we can go back to our roots, focusing on the entrepreneurial spirit that made AMD LASERS one of the fastest growing and most successful companies in the dental laser industry."

"DENTSPLY is a fantastic company with some of the most talented people I have ever met," Miller said. "They did a great job converting AMD into a very sophisticated operating company, and I couldn't thank them enough for furthering the interest in dental lasers."

"Quality, value, and support set AMD LASERS and its product offering apart from the competition," the press release continued. "This is a testament to the company's commitment to providing not only the best dental lasers but also the education, service and support that the dental profession rightfully demands and expects."

India targets fluorosis problem with

New identification system

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in New Dehli has said that it has tested a new and simpler system that could help to identify dental fluorosis in the population. The tool is based on photographic information from patients with the conditions gathered from several districts in India, and can be used by health workers without prior knowledge in dentistry.

First tests conducted with the new system by an ICMR Task Force among schoolchildren in the South Delhi and Hisar districts turned out successful, with little difference found in regard to detection rates of dental specialists and field workers unfamiliar with fluorosis, the Council said. With this tool, the organisation hopes not only to help health workers nationwide to detect the condition in its early stages but also to gather reliable national data on the prevalence of flourosis, which is considered to be a major public health problem owing to the excessive intake of fluoride through drinking water in most parts of India.

[PICTURE: ©V.S.ANANDHAKRISHNA]

Although representative data in the country is lacking, results from different studies suggest a high prevalence in areas with high water flouridation. If the condition is not detected, it can lead to skeletal fluorosis, a disease that causes bone to lose its flexibility through the accumulation of osseous tissue. It has also been associated with renal failure, atherosclerosis and other health problems.

Anaesthetised patient

Falls and dies in dental practice

In a dental office in Düsseldorf, a patient died after a tragic fall. The 45-year-old woman, who had been treated under anaesthesia owing to a mental disability, woke up dizzy in the recovery room and accidently slammed her head against an aquarium. Still under the influence of the aesthetic, the patient apparently stumbled and hit her head against the aquarium with such a tremendous force that it burst. A shard of glass severed the woman's carotid artery and she subsequently bled to death within a short period. The police, who began their investigation straight away, have declared the case "a tragic accident". Practice staff was given counselling by emergency chaplains.

[PICTURE: ©MATHOM]

Analysts predict Light Instruments' dental laser

Outstanding market domination in the European market

Light Instruments Ltd., commercially known as "Syneron Dental Lasers" (www.synerondental.com), provider of innovative hard and soft tissue dental laser technology, has been predicted by iData to become the leading brand for All-Tissue dental lasers category in the European market by 2020. iData Research (www.idataresearch.com) is the leading global authority in medical device market reports for the healthcare market. The Research Group provides Competitive Analysis in the medical device industry and is positioned among the leading analysts delivering strategic intelligence for the dental market. In its November market analysis, iData distinguished the hard and soft dental laser market into three categories each representing a different generation of laser energy delivery system: optic fibres, articulated arm and the Direct Delivery technology, accentuating the importance of the technology physiognomies in the field competition. According to the Research Group, in terms of ease-of-use, cutting power and portability, the Direct Delivery

Technology incorporated in the LiteTouch™ dental laser (introduced back in 2007 by Light Instruments Ltd.) is a new generation technology and expected to gain market leadership in the All Tissue Lasers category over the forecast period. The direct delivery laser provides ergonomic elasticity with a powerful, yet delicate energies spectrum, capable of easily cutting both enamel and bone tissues. This advantage is expected to prove critical in making this technology the preferred lasers of the future.

Little progress in

Highly skilled labour migration

A number of mutual recognition arrangements concerning various industries have been signed between ASEAN member states in recent years with the goal of stimulating and regulating the migration of highly skilled professionals like dentists. A new report released by both the International Labour Organization and the Asian Development Bank in Jakarta indicates that, despite the improved framework, labour mobility in these industries has not progressed much. The main obstacles to the implementation of the arrangements remain different systems of education and professional recognition, the report states. It also suggests that some countries still favour filling certain positions with native labour rather than professionals from abroad. Language, culture and social acceptance appear to be further barriers to foreigners seeking to occupy high-skill posts in another country.

Multinational mutual recognition arrangements between ASEAN members exist for a number of occupations, including engineers, architects, accountants and nurses. An agreement regulating the migration and foreign employment of dentists was signed by

[PICTURE: ©1000 WORDS]

ten ASEAN member states in 2009. According to the report, highly skilled workers are estimated to constitute only one per cent of the workforce in the entire ASEAN region. Combined with the lack of mobility, it predicts that they will not be able to satisfy demand, which is expected to grow by 41 per cent, or 14 million additional jobs, owing to the introduction of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

Intended to establish a single regional market and to foster economic development, the AEC is anticipated to be fully established by the end of 2015.

Jeffrey M. Nugent becomes

New president and CEO of BIOLASE

US dental laser specialist BIOLASE has announced that the company's board of directors has appointed Jeffrey M. Nugent as its new president and CEO. He assumed the position as interim CEO in June this year, after Federico Pignatelli had resigned from his roles as chairman and CEO. According to the company, Nugent will be focusing on expanding BIOLASE's global leadership in dental lasers.

Paul N. Clark, chairman of the board, stated that Nugent has already had a positive impact on BIOLASE during his short term as interim CEO. In order to drive the company's growth and turnaround strat-

[PICTURE: © KRITCHANUT]

egy, he established the Global Commercialization Team in August and hired two seasoned executives to lead the sales and marketing division.

Nugent has broad experience in the medical device, medical laser technology and dental industries. Throughout his professional career, he has worked in chief executive positions of well-known companies, including cosmetic companies, such as Revlon and Neutrogena Corporation; and pharmaceutical and consumer goods manufacturer Johnson & Johnson, where he also led the company's dental business.