



# 5 days, 103 meetings, IDS 2017

By Geoff Staples

**A**t IDS 2017, the potential of the digital workflow, integrated solutions and manufacturing processes was everywhere to be seen. For me, IDS was an opportunity to speak to the developers of the latest products about their direction and potential investment strategy into the future.

It was hard to know where to start, so limiting the focus to Digital | CAD/CAM | 3D printing | and related materials and techniques was the key. Having said that, I managed to stop and engage (albeit briefly at times) with 103 of the 2,305 exhibitors at IDS 2017. There were new products, materials, OEM manufacturers supplying to manufacturers (re-branding, scanners, milling and 3D printing systems), as well as consumable manufacturers entering the digital space. Everyone seemed to spruik communication strategies (dentist to laboratory and back) to make life easier and improve on what we do now i.e. digitising and integrating the workflow process at the dental practice and lab.

Here's a brief look at what on show and discussed:

**1 3D PRINTING** was certainly the buzz. I counted 26 separate manufacturers of 3D printing systems (with multiple systems and price points) utilising either SLA, DLP-SLA, MSLA, SLS or SLM technology. Courtesy of "OEM", you then saw many more re-branded units on offer from various traditional players in the clinical and laboratory supply space. Prices ranged from Euro 4K to 450K+ for Selected Laser Sintering (SLS) systems. Lower priced units offered models (ortho and check models) and surgical guides and as the price went up, so did the accuracy, print quantity per run and material options. There was also expertise in metal 3D printing on show, particularly for the manufacture of dental frameworks (RPDs, implants) and for reconstructive surgery. Watch this space! Once you understand the differences in 3D printers and the respective output, it's much easier to select the correct solution and design an appropriate workflow for your dental laboratory or practice.

**2 Laboratory SCANNERS** have been part and parcel of IDS for a decade or more. Notably, 3Shape introduced their new E series range of 3 scanners and Heraeus Kulzer (now just Kulzer) introduced their new Cara 4.0 scanner. The latter is designed for practices to use to digitise impressions at the clinic with the scan file sent to their laboratory of choice. All the other players in the market were there too of course with the trend towards open systems continuing in perpetuity.

**3 Laboratory MILLING** systems also abounded at IDS with the major players all out in force. The standout for me, though, was Ivoclar Vivadent (IV) with their all new PrograMill PM3, PM5, PM7 and PrograMill One milling solutions. These four brand new mills are under the new Ivoclar Digital brand, rather than Wieland, with the latter name the slipping quietly away. From a dental technology perspective, what they showed from

hardware is not necessarily new as this technology is utilised in other manufacturing disciplines, but it is new to dentistry. Developing 4 new mills since IDS two years ago represents a huge investment from Ivoclar Vivadent into the dental laboratory market and should be applauded.

**4** Nine (9) separate Smile Design **SOFTWARE** solutions were on offer at IDS. Digital Smile Design (DSD) and 3Shape highlighted what they could do with a smile while the interesting solution came from a company called Kapanu Smile solutions. Whilst not fully released, what was shown was very intuitive and even the patient had an interactive role with just a photo. Having a patient involved is a key driver to success as there is no need for models to begin the initial process.

**5** Digital **WORKFLOW** solutions are well known in crown and bridge, orthodontics and implants but digital denture solutions is the point of difference for some manufacturers (first touted en masse last IDS). At least eight laboratory consumable manufacturers offered this with CAM and CAD solutions either with a laboratory-based system, such as, Amann Girrbach and Ivoclar Vivadent or via manufacturing partners such as Circle, Next-Dent, Zfx and Avadent. Whilst the digital denture is not new, companies are moving into this space with their varied solutions.

**6** **INTRADRAL SCANNERS** were everywhere. The big players were all there joined by GC, VOCO and others with new offerings. Dental Wings I/O scanner (either DWOS or .STL file) was certainly the big improver and one to watch. Identica from Medit along with Planmeca launched new I/O scanners that offer .STL file outputs. 3Shape, meanwhile, launched TRIOS Wireless.

**7** CAD/CAM **MATERIALS** included plenty of aesthetic zirconia solutions, IPS e.max CAD and competitor copies, PEEK in its various forms, through to consumable manufacturers offering composite or hybrid materials on either a stub or puck. The message is still to assess the clinical and technical situation best suited to the technique (milling or printing) and communicate the material available to the end user.

That's a very quick summary of what I saw at IDS and I'll keep you informed about when these solutions are available and how local laboratories and dentists are using them. The take-home message from IDS 2017 overall was "look global, act local" as that is where the support will be for most of your technology solutions. Have a plan and review those stages and that is how DDC will engage with you at the level that matches your need and where you want specific advice or support. So call me!

*Geoff Staples can be reached at the DDC on 0466-788-797, email [enquiry@digitaldentistryconsultancy.com.au](mailto:enquiry@digitaldentistryconsultancy.com.au) or visit [www.digitaldentistryconsultancy.com.au](http://www.digitaldentistryconsultancy.com.au).*