

Pioneering Planmeca product innovations to King Saud University



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Planmeca, along with its distributor CARE, will deliver state-of- the-art dental teaching environments and solutions to King Saud University's girls' college and dental hospital, which is by far the largest in the region.



The first equipment delivery leaving the Herttoniemi factory for Saudi Arabia was signed by the Dean of King Saud University College of Dentistry, Professor Khalid Ali Al Wazzan, and the President of Planmeca, Mr. Heikki Kyöstilä.



Construction of the dental hospital is well underway.



Public Dental Services in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

Curative and preventive services in the field of oral and dental health are provided through 1,982 dental clinics annexed to hospitals and health centres spread throughout the Kingdom as follows:

- 1,138 dental clinics annexed to health centres.
- 449 dental clinics annexed to hospitals.
- 395 dental clinics annexed to specialised centres.
- 55 mobile dental clinics.

There are 12,234 dentists registered with the Saudi Dental Society (by June 2012), but not everyone is registered, so the approximate number could be around 13,000 dentists.

Advances in technology for the good of the Kingdom

The King Saud University College of Dentistry is investing heavily in the future. The boys' campus will get a brand new dental hospital building, and the girls' college will move to a brand new building on a new campus adjacent to the boys' campus. The equipment acquired for the two buildings is similar in order to standardise the clinical practice and its maintenance.

Professor **Khalid Ali Al Wazzan**, Dean of the King Saud University College of Dentistry, says: "We had a vision. We were looking for innovative methods to provide the highest quality education and research – to provide the best dental health care for the citizens of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

We chose the company that demonstrated commitment to the university's vision of excellence in dental education and that we believe is best positioned to serve the interests of the university, its faculty, and most importantly, its students – the dentists of the future in Saudi Arabia."



The Planmeca-CARE team visited the King Saud University College of Dentistry in September.

Preparing for these record-breaking agreements made the professionals on both ends think and rethink their options and possibilities. New innovations were taken into consideration and the solution was tailored so that it was optimal for both institutions. The result is a teaching environment that is modern and will carry dental education in Saudi Arabia into the future.

Thinking and rethinking to reach the optimal solution

Planmeca and its local distributor, CARE, first needed to convince the management and faculty of the university that the fully integrated solution that Planmeca provides for teaching institutions, especially large ones, had many clinical advantages and long-term cost savings in addition to being unmatched by any other manufacturer. In addition, direct and objective endorsements by dental schools around the world had an important effect on winning over the trust of the King Saud University.

"Many stumbling blocks were faced along the way, but the team worked in partnership

with the university project team and the contractor to come up with a win-win solution for everyone", says Mr **Eli Chedid**, CEO at CARE.

The Planmeca teaching environment was designed for the climate and environmental factors of Saudi Arabia. For example, the centralised water treatment system ensures a clean and safe water supply for treatment independently of local water conditions. Also, the dental unit infection control cycles are automated and centralised to guarantee the safety of the patients and the dental team.

The dental unit concept, based on **Planmeca Compact™ i** dental units, supports a seamless transition from pre-clinical simulation training to clinical training and actual patient treatment.

In this way, the students learn the efficient and safe use of real dental units and X-ray equipment already at early stages of their training, and will be able to easily adapt to the workflows of their future employers, whether private clinics or hospital annexes.