

D T S

15-16 MAY, NEC BIRMINGHAM

DORA RODRIGUES

BEYOND THE BASICS

TWO INSPIRING HEADLINE SPEAKERS

PIERS LINNEY AND ELIZABETH DAY

TRANSFORMING DENTAL LAB WORKFLOWS

AMBRIDGE CERAMICS

PRODUCTS & SERVICES GUIDE
DISCOVER WHAT THE TRADE ARE BRINGING TO DENTAL TECHNOLOGY FOR 2026

WHAT THE NEW GDC SCOPE REALLY MEANS

ANDREA JOHNSON

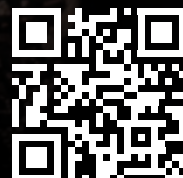
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 **Dental Technology Showcase**
15-16 May 2026 | NEC

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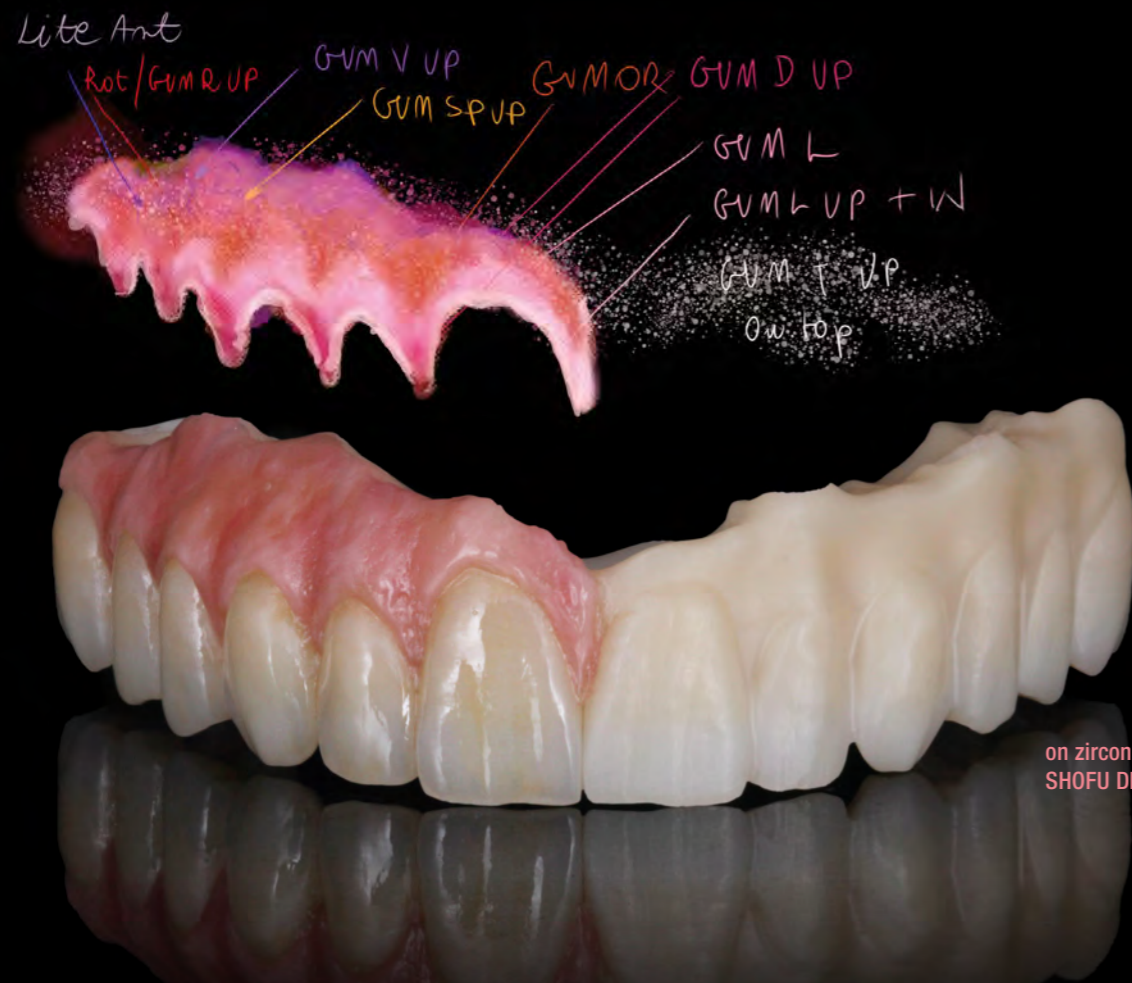
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CO-LOCATED WITH THE BRITISH DENTAL CONFERENCE & DENTISTRY SHOW



THE microhybrid veneering concept



CERAMAGE
meets digital



on zirconia, created with SHOFU DISK ZR Lucent Supra

The concept with CERAMAGE, CERAMAGE UP and LITE ART offers countless options to aesthetically enhance all types of restorations – no matter what material is used or whether it is fabricated using analogue or digital methods. The key to success is the reliable bonding system: CERARESIN BOND or SHOFU Universal Primer.

MORE INFO



www.shofu.co.uk

Dental Technology Showcase
Stand A30
Live demos: Bracon stand B14

Restoration: DT Inga Potoczna, Saarbrücken/Güdingen, Germany

dts

WELCOME

A NOTE FROM ALEX HARDEN, PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR...

The 2026 Dental Technology Showcase (DTS) is fast approaching, and we're excited to welcome you to another unmissable event dedicated entirely to the dental laboratory profession. As technology, materials and workflows continue to transform the lab landscape, DTS remains the place where innovation meets expertise.



In this pre-event magazine, you'll find everything you need to plan your visit and make the most of your time at the show. This year's educational programme brings together leading technicians, clinical partners and industry specialists to deliver practical insight across digital workflows, advanced materials, business development and laboratory growth. Expect inspiring keynote sessions, technical demonstrations and hands-on learning designed specifically for today's modern lab.

The exhibition will showcase the very latest equipment, CAD/CAM solutions, materials and laboratory services from the sector's most

trusted suppliers and emerging innovators. Whether you're investing in new digital systems, refining your production processes or exploring ways to strengthen your clinical partnerships, DTS provides a unique opportunity to see, test and compare solutions all in one place.

Just as important, DTS is where the laboratory community connects. It's a chance to exchange ideas, share challenges, build new partnerships and celebrate the craftsmanship and expertise that define dental technology. Make sure you register early and download the official show app to plan your schedule, arrange meetings and select the sessions you don't want to miss.

We're proud to champion the dental technology profession and the vital role it plays in patient care. We look forward to welcoming you to DTS 2026 for two days of innovation, collaboration and inspiration as we continue to shape the future of dental technology together.

Warm regards,

Alex Harden

Portfolio Director
Dental Technology Showcase

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stratasys

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The Dental Laboratories Association at the DLA Lounge at DTS 2026 15th & 16th May.

Over the two days, the DLA will have representatives from a number of member benefit providers who will be available to chat with our members and answer any queries they may have. In addition to these providers, DLA Board members will be also present throughout the show.

From MHRA guidance to online members resources, we will be happy to discuss all of your concerns and needs as a dental laboratory owner.



DLA Website: www.dla.org.uk

Email: info@dla.org.uk

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TWO INSPIRING HEADLINE SPEAKERS
PIERS LINNEY AND ELIZABETH DAY

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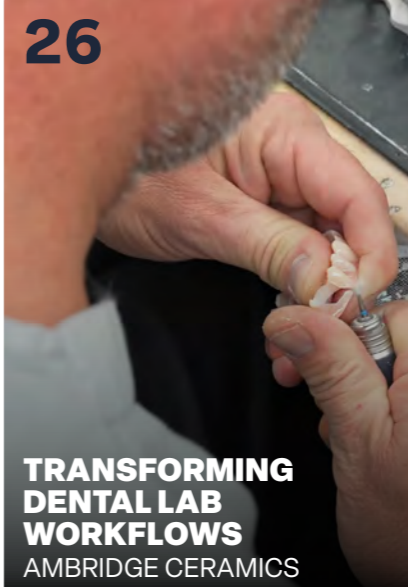
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TRANSFORMING DENTAL LAB WORKFLOWS
AMBRIDGE CERAMICS

WHAT'S BACK/ WHAT'S NEW?

Dental Technology Showcase (DTS) evolves and expands each year to mirror the dynamic shifts within the dental technology sector. Building upon the successes of 2025, this year's edition of DTS integrates your valuable feedback to introduce fresh enhancements and enriching experiences for all attendees.

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

Future-focused content exploring AI, digital workflows and next-gen materials

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Three dedicated conference streams

World-class speaker line-up

60+ leading exhibitors





LOOKING AHEAD FOR DENTAL TECHNICIANS AT DTS 2026

The future of dental technology is being reshaped by AI, evolving workflows and the growing need for strong, strategic leadership.

Running a dental laboratory in 2026 requires more than technical expertise alone. As digital workflows continue to evolve and artificial intelligence becomes increasingly integrated into everyday lab work, the ability to adapt, lead and think strategically will be essential to success.

In 2025, the focus centred on leadership and team management within the lab. That focus remains, but the landscape is shifting. AI is no longer a distant concept; it is already shaping decision-making, reducing remakes and enhancing communication between dental technicians and dentists. Understanding how to harness these technologies effectively will be key for laboratories looking to stay ahead.

For this reason, we are delighted to welcome Piers Linney MBE, who will examine why AI differs from previous waves of technology, how it is reshaping patient care and commercial strategy, and what leaders must do now to remain competitive.

Leadership however, extends beyond systems and software. Dental labs are shaped by people, and in a high-pressure profession, resilience and emotional intelligence matter more than ever. Elizabeth Day will bring a powerful perspective in a fireside chat exploring the connection between success and failure.

We are pleased to once again partner with the DLA to deliver the DTS Lecture Theatre, offering a diverse range of sessions. If you are looking to deepen your expertise in digital workflow, don't miss 'Mastering the full arch digital workflow: a complete guide for modern dental technicians' with Dora Rodrigues. For those interested in education and the future of the profession, David Smith will present on designing new courses for training registered dental technicians.

The Dental Technicians' Hub, supported by OTA, Den-Tech, Nightshift and the DTA, will bring you focused, practical learning. Sessions include 3D virtual surgical planning in orthognathic surgery with Chris Keating, as well as 'From pixels to patients: how AI is transforming CAD design and real-world cases' with Kristina Vaitelyte and Caroline Kirkpatrick. If you are thinking about your long-term career, Dr Raya Karaganeva will explore progression pathways, technology and future challenges within the profession.

Meanwhile, the Digital Dentistry Theatre will deliver a dynamic programme of sessions, including 'The digital denture myth: why technology still depends on good clinical records' with Emily and Eleanor Pittard. As AI continues to embed itself within the dental lab, Sean Brett will present 'From flasking pots to AI trays: bridging the knowledge gap in dental technology', offering valuable insight into the evolution of the profession.



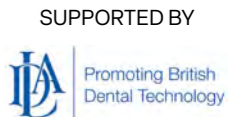
We're delighted to share this year's programme with you and would like to thank everyone who has contributed, including our advisory board, partners, speakers and sponsors. With such a broad range of topics on offer, there is truly something to support every member of your team.

Océane Amoa-Thompson
Senior Content Producer

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DTS LECTURE THEATRE



FRIDAY 15 MAY

- 10:45 - 11:45 **Digital dentures- a frank discussion, where they are and where they're going** **stratasys**
Antony Wainwright, Opdadent Solutions
- 12:00 - 13:00 **The changing landscape** **Promoting British Dental Technology**
Jack Marrano, President, Absolute Dental Services
- 13:15 - 14:15 **Beyond the bench: what it really takes to reach tech of the year** **bredent**
Deepa Bharakhda, Dental Technician, Dencraft Leicester
- 14:30 - 15:30 **Mastering the full arch digital workflow: a complete guide for the modern dental technician** **Promoting British Dental Technology**
Dora Rodrigues, Owner ID Dental Studio, Independent Certified Exocad Trainer, Certified Dental Technician, ID Dental Studio
- 15:45 - 16:45 **Designing a new course for education and training to be a registered dental technician** **Promoting British Dental Technology**
David Smith, IQA Assessor, Lecturer, Yeovil College

SATURDAY 16 MAY

- 09:15 - 10:00 **Beyond the eye: photographic vs digital pathways to precise restorations** **Promoting British Dental Technology**
Alina Ceclan, MIYO Instructor and Ceramist, Alina Ceclan
- 10:15 - 11:15 **Advancing digital dentures: truVoxel technology and multilayer printing with the stratasys J5 dentajet** **stratasys**
Lino Adolf, Managing Director, Majestic Smiles
- 13:00 - 14:00 **Introduction to GuidedSMILE Full Arch Solution** **Promoting British Dental Technology**
Lola Welch, RDT, DTG, Senior Dental Technician
- 14:15 - 15:15 **Medical emergencies and CPR in the dental environment** **Promoting British Dental Technology**
Joy Botfield, Resuscitation Officer, Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Teaching Hospital



DENTAL TECHNICIANS' HUB

FRIDAY 15 MAY

09:15 - 10:00 **From student to lab owner: building the next generation dental laboratory**
 Noumaira Slamani, Founder (in development), Ameri Dental Lab (Incubator Project)

10:15 - 11:00 **The cost of inconsistency**
 Eleanor Pittard, Trustee, Den-Tech

11:15 - 12:00 **Training into practice: early career learning through complex prosthetic case studies**
 Ella Cook, Prosthetic Dental Technician, University Hospitals Bristol & Weston NHS Foundation Trust

12:15 - 13:00 **3D-virtual surgical planning in orthognathic surgery: improving clinical efficiency and treatment outcome**
 Chris Keating, Head of Technical Production Laboratories, University Hospitals Bristol & Weston NHS Foundation Trust, Bristol Dental Hospital

13:15 - 14:00 **Design like a boss, finish like an artist: exocad + miyo from start to smile**
 Alina Ceclan, MiYO Instructor and Ceramist, Coros
 Dora Rodrigues, Owner ID Dental Studio, Independent Certified Exocad Trainer, Certified Dental Technician, ID Dental Studio

15:15 - 16:00 **Who let me in here? Chronicles of an imposter**
 Nina Frketin, Dental Technician, Queensway Dental Laboratory

SATURDAY 16 MAY

09:30 - 10:15 **Different clocks, shared careers: understanding gendered career pathways in dental technology and dentistry**
 Jenny Cartwright, Clinical dental technician and owner, JC Dentures
 Dr Pilar Fukushima

10:30 - 11:15 **From pixels to patients: how AI is transforming CAD design and real-world cases**
 Kristina Vaitelyte, CAD/CAM Dental Technician, Avart Garde Dental Laboratory
 Caroline Kirkpatrick, Clinical Dental Technican, OTS Dental Laboratory

12:45 - 13:30 **Custom-made medical device legislation: where are we following Brexit and COVID-19?**
 James Green, Maxillofacial and Dental Laboratory Manager, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

13:45 - 14:30 **The GDC revised scope of practice for dental technicians: what's changed and why?**
 Andrea Johnson, Chairperson, Den-Tech

14:45 - 15:30 **Train your dentist to send you the best clinical work**
 Mike Gregory, Clinical Director, Deo-Dental

15:45 - 16:30 **Dental technician career pathways: progression, technology and future challenges**
 Raya Karaganeva



DIGITAL DENTISTRY THEATRE

SPONSORED BY

FRIDAY 15 MAY

13:30 - 14:15 **The bio-ceramic revolution: rethinking CAD/CAM restorations in digital dentistry**
 Desigar Moodley

14:30 - 15:15 **Don't be a temu Technician**
 Kash Qureshi, Clinical Dental Technician and Managing Director, Bremadent

SATURDAY 16 MAY

09:15 - 10:00 **The digital denture myth- why technology still depends on good clinical records**
 Emily Pittard, CDT and Clinical Director, The Hive Dental Lab and Clinic
 Eleanor Pittard, Director, The Hive Dental Lab and Clinic

12:45 - 13:30 **The bio-ceramic revolution: rethinking CAD/CAM restorations in digital dentistry**
 Desigar Moodley

13:45 - 14:30 **From flasking pots to AI trays: bridging the knowledge gap in dental technology**
 Sean Brett, Dental Laboratory Technician, Dental Technology Services



SHAPE THE FUTURE OF DENTAL TECHNOLOGY
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BDCDS & DTS 2026 ANNOUNCES TWO INSPIRING HEADLINE SPEAKERS

CO-LOCATED WITH BRITISH DENTAL CONFERENCE & DENTISTRY SHOW



PIERS LINNEY AND ELIZABETH DAY

The Dentistry Show & DTS are proud to unveil two exceptional headline speakers for its 2026 programme, bringing powerful insight from the worlds of technology, business, media and personal development to the dental profession.

Friday Headline Speaker: Piers Linney MBE



Kicking off the Friday programme, entrepreneur, investor and former Dragons' Den star Piers Linney MBE makes the case for urgent, decisive action on AI. In this no-nonsense session, Linney will draw on his experience advising firms across sectors and explore why a cautious, 'wait and see' approach isn't just risky, it's fatal.

Piers Linney MBE is an entrepreneur, investor, a 'top artificial intelligence voice' on LinkedIn and the co-founder of next generation technology partner, Implement AI, which supports businesses of all sizes to understand and implement AI-related technologies.

With AI moving faster, scaling wider, and rewriting the rules of business in real time, Linney will share insights on how AI is already transforming dental practices, clinical decision-making and business strategy from the inside out.

Expect a hard-hitting, forward-looking take on:

- Why AI is different from every wave of tech that came before it
- How it's already reshaping patient care, practice management and commercial strategy
- What leaders must do now to stay relevant and competitive

THIS SESSION WILL CHALLENGE YOUR ASSUMPTIONS AND HELP YOU TAKE ACTION BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Friday 15 May **Implement AI**
BDA Theatre
10:25-11:10

Saturday Headline Speaker: Elizabeth Day



Elizabeth Day is an award-winning author, broadcaster and founder of Daylight Productions. She is the author of 10 books, spanning both fiction and non-fiction and is a Sunday Times Number 1 bestseller. Her chart-topping podcast, How To Fail With Elizabeth Day, is a celebration of all of the things that haven't gone right. Every week, in a one-on-one interview, a guest discusses what they have learned from failure. Previous guests of How to Fail include Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Kate Winslet, Jon Bon Jovi, Michelle Yeoh, Kazuo Ishiguro, Malcolm Gladwell, Stanley Tucci, Jamie Dornan, Gloria Steinem, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Andrew Scott and Simon Cowell.

As leadership and entrepreneurship continue to thrive across the dental profession, this headline session will focus on resilience, growth and the strength gained through failure. Day will explore ambition, vulnerability, leadership and the power of learning from failure, themes that resonate strongly with today's business owners navigating change, expansion and professional growth. This inspiring session will connect with those building, leading and growing modern dental practices and is not to be missed.

READY TO RETHINK FAILURE? BE PART OF THIS UNMISSABLE SESSION AND LEARN HOW RESILIENCE AND VULNERABILITY CAN DRIVE REAL SUCCESS

Saturday 16 May
BDA Theatre
11:30-12:30

On Saturday, Elizabeth Day, will take part in an inspiring and thought-provoking fireside chat exploring the powerful connection between success and failure.

“Together, these two headline sessions reflect our commitment to delivering a programme that goes beyond clinical excellence – addressing the technological, emotional and strategic realities of contemporary dentistry. We are confident these personalities will not only offer fantastic insight, but will inspire the whole dentistry community,”

Stewart Turner, Event Director

DON'T MISS IT! REGISTER NOW: [THE-DTS.CO.UK](https://www.the-dts.co.uk)



LINO ADOLF
Managing Director
Majestic Smiles



DEEPA BHARAKHDA
Dental Technician
Denkraft Leicester



JOY BOTFIELD
Resuscitation Officer
Doncaster and Bassetlaw
NHS Teaching Hospital



SEAN BRETT
Dental Laboratory Technician
Dental Technology Services



CRAIG BROUGHTON
Clinical Dental Technician
and Director
CMB Dental Laboratory



STEVEN CAMPBELL
Dental Technician
Nexus Dental Laboratory



JENNY CARTWRIGHT
Clinical Dental Technician
and Owner
JC Dentures



ALINA CECLAN
MIYO Instructor and Ceramist
Alina Ceclan



ELLA COOK
Prosthetic Dental Technician
University Hospitals Bristol
& Weston NHS Foundation
Trust



NINA FRKETIN
Dental Technician
Queensway Dental
Laboratory



PILAR FUKUSHIMA
Associate Dentist
543 Dental Centre



JAMES GREEN
Maxillofacial and Dental
Laboratory Manager
Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children NHS
Foundation Trust



SPENCER GREENING
Clinical Dental Technician
Smilecraft Studio



MIKE GREGORY
Clinical Director
Deo-Dental



ANDREA JOHNSON
Chairperson
Den-Tech



RAYA KARAGANEVA
Lecturer in Dental Technology
University of Greater
Manchester



CHRIS KEATING
Head of Technical Production
Laboratories
University Hospitals Bristol
& Weston NHS Foundation
Trust, Bristol Dental Hospital



CAROLINE KIRKPATRICK
Clinical Dental Technician
OTS Dental Laboratory



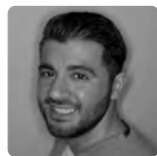
JACK MARRANO
President
Absolute Dental Services



ELEANOR PITTARD
Trustee
Den-Tech



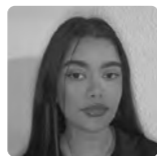
EMILY PITTARD
CDT and Clinical Director
The Hive Dental Lab
and Clinic



KASH QURESHI
Clinical Dental Technician
and Managing Director
Bremadent



DORA RODRIGUES
Owner ID Dental Studio,
Independent Certified
Exocad Trainer, Certified
Dental Technician
ID Dental Studio



NOUMAIRA SLAMANI
Founder (in development)
Ameri Dental Lab
(Incubator Project)



DAVID SMITH
IQA Assessor, Lecturer
Yeovil College



KRISTINA VAITELYTE
CAD/CAM Dental Technician
Avant Garde Dental
Laboratory



SEAN WARD
Clinical Dental Technician
Echo Dental Solutions



LOLA WELCH
RDT, DTG
Senior Dental Technician

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DLA AWARDS

EXCLUSIVE DEMOS ON STAND D16 DTS 2026



MARK BLADEN



LISA JOHNSON



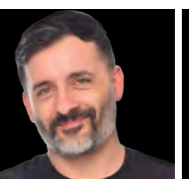
JOAO P MARTINS



KARL DEAKIN



TANJA SEWELL



BOGDAN PETRE



CRAIG SMITH

FRIDAY'S DEMOS

09:30 - Bogdan Petre - Noritake MiLai on Zirconia
MiLai microlayering on zirconia crown, flat cutback design.

10:30 - Lisa Johnson - X-Treme Aesthetics
See how Lisa creates high-impact aesthetics on PMMA and composite All-on-X frameworks using GRADIA Plus Paint & Microlayering Set for efficient characterisation and micro-layered effects.

11:30 - Bogdan Petre - MiLai on Lithium Disilicate
Same case (as above) on a lithium disilicate substructure, full contour design and anatomical cutback on the bench.

13:30 - Craig Smith - FC Paste Stains on ArgenZ
Monolithic Masterclass - simple, predictable, aesthetic results using ArgenZ HT+ Zirconia and Kuraray Noritake FC Paste Stains.

14:30 - Mark Bladen - The MC Revo-lution
Discover a simplified approach to metal ceramics with GC's Initial Revo MC. Mark demonstrates a reduced-inventory, recipe-style workflow that delivers natural, colour-accurate results quickly and consistently, regardless of experience.



KARL JENSEN will be demonstrating various products, techniques and tips & tricks at Skillbond's stand throughout the two days.

SATURDAY'S DEMOS

09:30 - Karl Deakin - Vita Lumex Unique
This innovative Liquid Ceramic system consists of fluorescent ready to use pastes used to achieve 3D depth and natural lustre efficiently and predictably.

10:30 - Tanja Sewell - Kuraray Noritake EX-3
Tanja will demonstrate metal/ceramic, opaque, build-up, layering

11:30 - Craig Smith - FC Paste Stains on ArgenZ
Monolithic Masterclass - simple, predictable, aesthetic results using ArgenZ HT+ Zirconia and Kuraray Noritake FC Paste Stains.

12:30 - Lisa Johnson - Vital Veneers in Focus
Live preview of Lisa's Vital Veneers Course, demonstrating a single streamlined workflow for zirconia and lithium disilicate veneers. Learn key layering, morphology and surface characterisation techniques using GC Initial LiSi, Zr ML Elite and IQ ONE SQIN.

14:30 - Joao Paulo Martins - Genius or Madness?
Colouring Liquids on ML-Zr: Genius or Madness?. Find out for yourself in this live demo with João Paulo Martins Esturado as he shows when, why and how GC Initial Zr Coloring Liquids can enhance multilayered zirconia.

15:30 - Tanja Sewell - Kuraray Noritake MiLai
On our final demo of the show, Tanja will give a demonstration of micro-layering / multi-layering on zirconia or lithium disilicate.

MARK BLADEN GC

With over 30 years experience as a dental technician, Mark specialises in advanced ceramics and digital workflows. He has trained technicians across the UK and internationally and consults on GC innovations, including Initial MC Revo. Through practical, hands-on teaching, he shares expertise and tips participants can immediately apply in labs.

LISA JOHNSON GC

With over 30 years as a dental technician and 10 years as GC UK's Key Opinion Leader, Lisa delivers demonstrations and courses across the UK and internationally. Known for simplifying complex ceramic and composite techniques, she shares practical hints and tips that make learning clear, accessible, and immediately useful.

JOAO P MARTINS GC

João focuses on creating predictable, natural results by combining streamlined CAD/CAM processes with refined craftsmanship. He has trained technicians across Europe, sharing practical, repeatable methods that improve consistency and productivity in everyday lab work. His clear, hands-on teaching ensures participants gain skills they can apply immediately.

KARL DEAKIN VITA

Karl Deakin has over 30 years experience in dental technology, starting in his father's laboratory. He has worked in commercial labs and dental hospitals and taught Crown and Bridge at three institutions. Trained at VITA Zahnfabrik in Germany, he now delivers technician-focused courses on VITA LUMEX® UNIQUE.

TANJA SEWELL KURARAY

Tanja Sewell qualified in Germany and has over 30 years experience as a dental technician. She has worked in multiple laboratories specialising in crowns and bridges and has focused on Noritake materials for the past 15 years. She presently works at Elite Dental Restorations in Sittingbourne, England.

BOGDAN PETRE KURARAY

With almost 15 years experience across full analog dental workflow, Bogdan has spent the past seven years specialising in aesthetics, particularly layered ceramics. He brings strong expertise in colour, light, and digital dentistry, and holds a degree in Dental Technology from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Craiova.

CRAIG SMITH ARGEN ZR

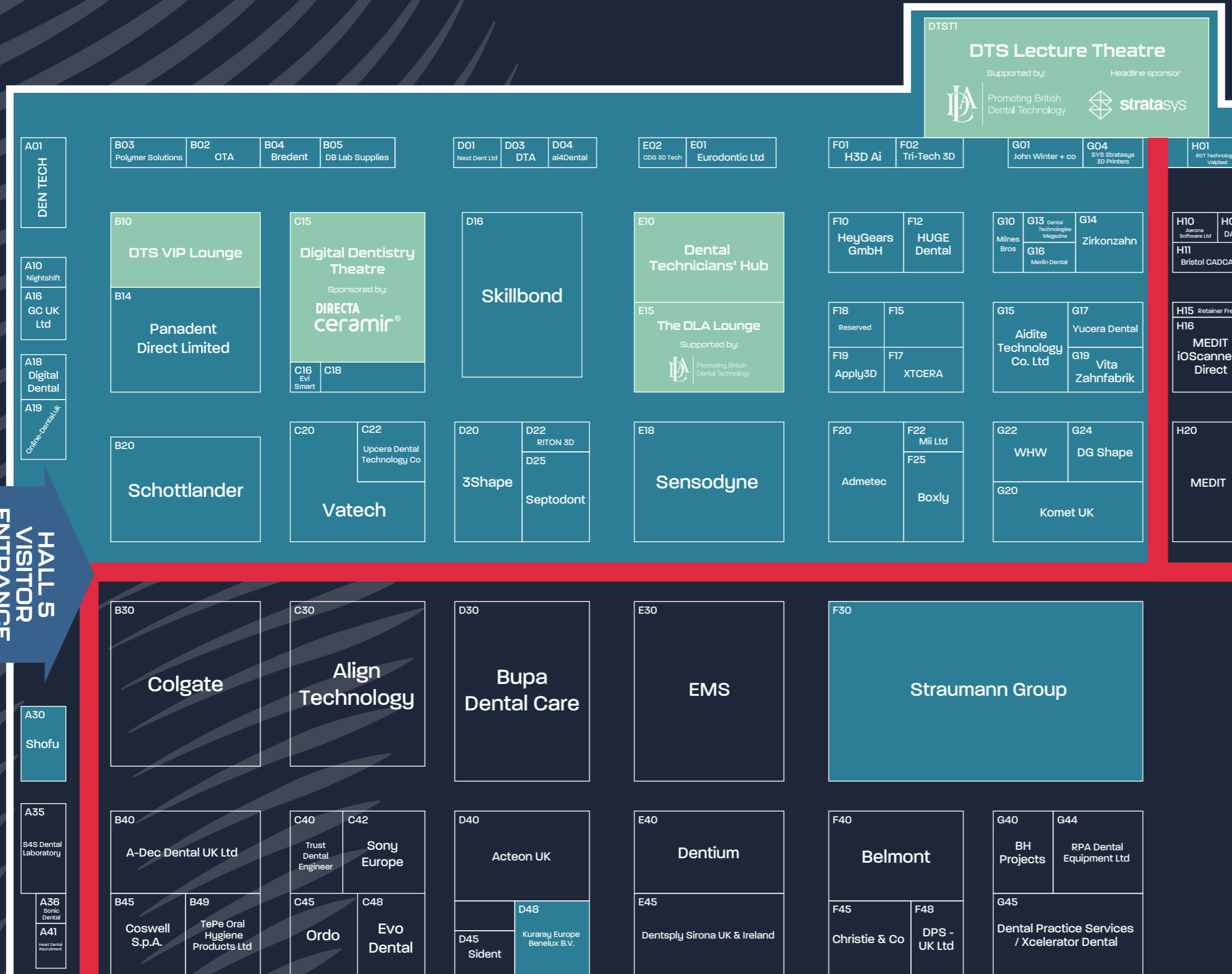
Craig has 30+ years experience, including 20 years in labs and 11 years working directly with dentists and patients, focusing on personalised care. He specialises in crown and bridge work and implant restorations, combining technical precision with a strong understanding of clinical outcomes, delivering high-quality, patient-focused results.

KARL JENSEN SKILLBOND

Karl is a third-generation dental tech with over 20 years of experience. Over 12 of those years have focused on the digital advancements in dental technology, relating to scanners, software, 3D printers, and milling machines. Karl is an accredited trainer of 3Shape and exocad dental software.



FLOORPLAN 2026



COMPANY	STAND	COMPANY	STAND
3Shape	D20 ✓	Mii LTD	F22
Admetec	F20	Milnes Bros	G10
Ai4Dental	B13	Nightshift	A10
APPLY3D	F19	Online-Dental.uk	A19
Bredent	B04	Orthodontic Technicians Association	B02
CDG 3D Tech	E02	Panadent	B14
DB Lab Supplies	B05	Polymer Solutions	B03 ✓
Den-Tech	A01	RDT Technology - Valplast	H01 ✓
Dental Laboratories Association	The DLA Lounge	Riton Additive Technology Co., Ltd	D22 ✓
Dental Technologies Magazine	G13	Schottlander	B20
Dental Technologists Association	D03	Septodont	D25
DGSHAPE	G24 ✓	Shofu	A30
Digital Dental	A18	Skillbond	D10
Eurodentic Ltd	E01	Straumann Group	F30
EviSmart	C16	SYS Stratasys 3D Printers	G04
GC UK Ltd	A16	Tri-Tech 3D	F02
H3D AI	F01 ✓	Upcera Dental Technology Co	C22
HeyGears GmbH	F10	vatech	C20
HUGE Dental	F12 ✓	VITA Zahnfabrik	G19
John Winter + Co	G01	WHW	G22
Komet UK	G20	XTCERA	F17 ✓
Kuraray Europe Benelux B.V.	D48 ✓	Yucera Dental	G17 ✓
Merlin Dental	G16 ✓	Zirkonzahn	G14

✓ Distributors wanted

DOWNLOAD THE DENTISTRY SHOW & DTS EVENT APP

- ✓ Start planning your day at #DTS26
- ✓ Network with your peers
- ✓ Set up meetings with Exhibitors
- ✓ Bookmark your favourite sessions

Floorplan and exhibitor list correct at time of print

WHAT THE NEW GDC SCOPE REALLY MEANS FOR DENTAL TECHNICIANS

Andrea Johnson shares her journey from an unconventional start to becoming a leading voice in dental technology, driven by a deep commitment to accessible patient care and professional inclusion. She offers a clear, reassuring perspective on the GDC's revised scope of practice, encouraging technicians to embrace change, trust their judgement, and feel empowered in a rapidly evolving, digital-first profession.

FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT KNOW YOU BEYOND YOUR FORMAL TITLES, COULD YOU SHARE A LITTLE MORE ABOUT WHO YOU ARE PERSONALLY AND WHAT HAS SHAPED YOUR JOURNEY IN DENTAL TECHNOLOGY?

I have always been motivated by a desire to assist others. My decision to join the NHS stemmed from previous experience in a private laboratory, where I found it difficult to reconcile charging high prices for essential services. While additional enhancements are valuable for those who can afford them, my priority always is to ensure that everyone receives the care they need, when needed, irrespective of their financial means.

My introduction to dental technology was unplanned, as it is for many others. It followed a career spanning various sectors including retail, management, manufacturing, and even a brief stint in milk delivery – that wasn't for me, although

interesting to try. I am adaptable and willing to undertake any employment until I discover a role that is fulfilling, hence the reason I have had a real mixed bag of employment sector experience. I also value challenging work and become restless and bored in stagnant environments.

Whilst looking for a new challenge, I discovered a dental laboratory nearby and approached them out of curiosity. I was fascinated by what I saw in their lab and immediately applied and got the job. I attended college one day a week and ultimately completed a BSc (Hons). What I appreciate most about my profession is the opportunity to enhance an individual's quality of life, particularly by helping them regain their smile. This positive impact is what continues to motivate me. You have a huge impact on someone's quality of life, and that is what keeps me going. It is also what led me to co-found my charity Den-Tech.

In addition to my commitment to patient care, I am deeply passionate about breaking down barriers and creating pathways in healthcare leadership for all healthcare professionals, not just clinicians. This dedication and drive led to my recent appointment as a Senior Manager, Cohort Director and Leadership Mentor at the Healthcare Leadership Academy, where I continue to empower colleagues and promote inclusive advancement across the field.

YOUR TOPIC AT DENTAL TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE IS AN UPDATE ON THE GDC'S REVISED SCOPE OF PRACTICE. FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES DENTAL TECHNICIANS NEED TO UNDERSTAND?

The most important thing to understand is that the scope of practice itself has not really changed. What has changed is the way it

Andrea Johnson is the Chair, CEO, and co-founder of the dental charity Den-Tech. She is a highly specialised dental technician and orthodontic/maxillofacial laboratory manager at Doncaster & Bassetlaw NHS Teaching Hospitals, where she also serves in multiple leadership and ambassadorial roles.

A fellow and senior management team member at the Healthcare Leadership Academy, Andrea is also a cohort director, leadership mentor, academic tutor at Medics Academy, and Chair of Governors at her local primary and nursery school. She holds a PgCert in Charity Management and a First-Class BSc (Hons) in Dental Technology.

Her previous leadership positions include Chair of the Orthodontic Technicians Association and council member of the Dental Technologists Association, alongside various roles in university and college teaching and STEM outreach. She has been featured in the Dentistry Top 50 (2025) and the Laboratory Leading 20 for three consecutive years and has received several awards, including a Star Award, Pride of Derby Award, and the OTA Aldridge Medal.

Outside her professional work, Andrea enjoys sporting and ultra events, walking her dogs, and adventure travel.



is presented: barriers have been removed, the structure has been modernised, and professionals are now encouraged to use their judgement more confidently.

Some people fear that major changes have been made, but in reality it is mostly clarification. The removal of a hard prescriptive list feels unsettling for some, and there has been some scaremongering online, which is why I want to address it.

ARE THESE CLARIFICATIONS REFLECTIVE OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS, WORKFORCE PRESSURES, OR SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS?

It's really about modernising the profession. Life is constantly changing—technology, materials, workflows. The GDC wants regulation that can future-proof the profession without needing constant list updates every time something new comes along. The new structure allows for growth within the role without being tied to specific materials or equipment.

WITH DIGITAL DENTISTRY ACCELERATING AND WORKFLOWS BECOMING MORE COMPLEX, HOW DOES THE REVISED SCOPE ALIGN WITH THE MODERN LABORATORY?

It allows us to adapt to new technologies and use our professional judgement more confidently. It also reinforces our role as authorities on materials, processes, and digital tools. Our expertise is essential, and this framework allows that expertise to be properly utilised.

WORKFORCE SHORTAGES IN DENTAL TECHNOLOGY HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISCUSSED. DO YOU THINK THE REVISED SCOPE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION AND CAREER PROGRESSION?

Workforce issues have been building for a long time, and COVID had a significant impact. Hopefully, modernising the way we work and how the profession is regulated will help people feel more valued and respected. It might also encourage people who never considered dental technology to enter the profession.

DO YOU THINK AI HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DECREASE IN PROFESSIONALS IN DENTAL TECHNOLOGY, OR IS IT AN OPPORTUNITY?

AI is here whether we like it or not. We need

to embrace it or be left behind. It's simplifying workflows, which worries some people, especially with manufacturers creating systems designed to bypass labs. This could reduce workload in some areas, but it also opens opportunities for those who engage with it.

People who focus on the negatives may see it as a threat. People who embrace it can carve out a niche and thrive.

HOW IMPORTANT IS COLLABORATION BETWEEN DENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS?

It's absolutely critical. Poor communication makes life harder for everyone and reduces patient satisfaction. Good communication, written or verbal allows us to produce the best possible work. Technicians need confidence in their knowledge, and dentists need confidence in the technician's expertise.

Understanding each other's scope of practice is also essential. You can't work effectively as a team if you don't understand each other's roles.

WHEN YOU LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEXT DECADE, WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR DENTAL TECHNICIANS AND THE DENTAL TECHNOLOGY FIELD?

Dentistry will continue becoming more digital. It's exciting and a bit scary for some, but the potential is huge. For decades, nothing changed: textbooks from the 60s and 70s were still relevant in the 2000s. Then suddenly everything changed quickly: workflows, materials, software.

I'd love to see technology evolve to reduce waste, for example, printing appliances without single-use plastic models. I'd also like to see printing evolve to create moving parts within appliances. There's still artistry required in denture work, crown and bridge, even with printing and milling.

It's an exciting time with lots of possibilities.

WHEN WOULD YOU SAY THE SHIFT TOWARD DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY STARTED?

It was a gradual move. Like all new technology, it was expensive at first and some people didn't think it would take off. As price points dropped, people started taking chances. Probably around five or six years ago, it became more accessible and more widely adopted. And now it's moving at 100 miles an hour.

WHY DO YOU FEEL IT'S IMPORTANT TO BRING THE REVISED SCOPE TOPIC TO THE AUDIENCE IN BIRMINGHAM, AND WHAT DO YOU WANT THEM TO TAKE AWAY?

I want to explain what the GDC intended, what has actually changed, and most importantly—what hasn't changed. It's a confusing concept for people, so talking through it helps.

A live conversation lets people ask questions or just listen if they're nervous. I want people to leave feeling confident, empowered, and reassured—less intimidated and more ready to use their professional judgement.

There's been a lot of misunderstanding and scaremongering online, so addressing that is important.

DO YOU ANTICIPATE FURTHER REGULATORY CHANGES SOON?

As far as I'm aware, no big changes are planned. The aim is for the revised scope to last a few years without needing constant updates. The GDC doesn't want to rewrite things endlessly because it's expensive and time-consuming. They want to get on with other regulatory work too.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE BEFORE YOUR PRESENTATION IN BIRMINGHAM?

I'm excited to see everyone. DTS always gets incredible footfall from technicians and it's a wonderful place to network and chat. I encourage everyone to come along, ask questions during or after my talk, or find me on the Den-Tech stand. Bring your questions and your enthusiasm!

DON'T MISS

ANDREA WILL DELIVER A PRESENTATION ON 'THE GDC REVISED SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR DENTAL TECHNICIANS - WHAT'S CHANGED AND WHY?' AT 13:45 ON 16 MAY IN THE DENTAL TECHNICIANS' HUB

BEYOND THE BASICS: FULL ARCH DIGITAL WORKFLOW

Dora Rodrigues reflects on her journey from the birthplace of All-on-4 to building a specialised full-arch practice in the US, highlighting the precision, planning, and teamwork required for success. She offers a practical, experience-led guide to digital full arch workflows, empowering technicians to embrace evolving technology while maintaining clinical excellence and patient-centred outcomes.



Originally from Portugal, Dora Rodrigues graduated as a Dental Technician in 2004, at the Faculty of Dentistry -University of Lisbon, Portugal. She worked for the Malo Clinic Group (pioneers on the A04 treatment concept) for 16 years, until she opened ID Dental Studio, a laboratory dedicated exclusively to full arch restorations and AOX conversions.

She specializes in chairside assistance in both analog and digital AOX workflows.

She is a KOL for several companies, an independent certified exocad trainer, ambassador of the NightShift group and DTG official member.

DORA, YOU HAVE BUILT AN IMPRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL CAREER IN FULL ARCH RESTORATIONS. COULD YOU SHARE A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY FROM GRADUATING IN PORTUGAL TO SPECIALISING EXCLUSIVELY IN FULL ARCH AND AOX CONVERSIONS?

Yes. I graduated as a dental technician in 2004 and started working at the Malo Clinic in Lisbon, Portugal immediately afterwards. The Malo Clinic is where the All on 4 treatment concept was developed, so I was fortunate to start my career working directly with Dr. Paulo Maló.

I was in the acrylic department, so I began supporting surgeries right from the start. Two years later, I had the opportunity to move to the US.

We (a team of 3 technicians) were supposed to set up the lab, hire and train staff, and then return. I ended up meeting my husband, got married and never left.

We have been living in New Jersey since then with our almost 15 y old twin boys Jake and Matthew.

After 10 years working for the Malo Clinic in the US, I decided to leave and open my own lab, focusing exclusively on full arch restorations and chairside assistance. My entire professional life had involved working and supporting surgeries, so it was a natural progression.

FULL ARCH DIGITAL WORKFLOWS ARE OFTEN SEEN AS COMPLEX AND HIGH-RISK. WHY IS MASTERING THIS WORKFLOW SO IMPORTANT FOR THE MODERN DENTAL TECHNICIAN TODAY?

There is a growing trend towards investing in full arch workflows, especially now that digital

technology allows us to be more efficient and practical. But that doesn't mean we can just treat them like any other type of work. These cases are complex and high risk. Poor planning can have serious consequences. We must understand that we are working directly with patients and a good outcome is only as good as the initial planning.

Full arch work requires a true team effort. The dental technician, restorative dentist, surgeon, clinical staff, and often the anaesthesiologist all play a role. Treatment must be planned thoroughly in advance, with every parameter understood, including bone reduction, the transition line, and restorative space. Our ability to make changes after the surgery is done and implants are placed, is extremely limited. These are prosthetic driven cases, so the ideal tooth positioning must be planned through, along with the correct restorative space, vertical dimension, occlusion scheme and such. All the necessary steps in the surgery and implant placement will follow that design, so if not planned correctly, long term complications can arise and some of those can be very difficult to correct.

IN YOUR SESSION, WHAT DOES A "COMPLETE GUIDE" TO THE DIGITAL FULL ARCH WORKFLOW REALLY MEAN FOR DELEGATES? WHAT STAGES WILL YOU COVER?

We will cover every stage of the full arch workflow. That includes treatment planning and key planning considerations, capturing accurate data and photos, the limitations of IO scanners, systems to capture implant passivity digitally and how to correct or remove those errors to compensate poor or insufficient data.

We will also look at the different immediate load workflows, including how to transition from the analog to the digital world, and how to efficiently use design software's like exocad to ensure predictability and speed from planning to final restoration. My hope is that delegates can leave with a clear roadmap they can apply immediately at their practices.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON TECHNICAL OR COMMUNICATION ERRORS YOU SEE IN FULL ARCH DIGITAL WORKFLOWS?

The biggest issue is lack of communication between all parties. As technicians, we plan the case, understand tooth position, evaluate restorative space, and know the limitations of various materials, whether the final will be a titanium bar with zirconia, monolithic zirconia, or PMMA. But that does not guarantee the surgeon will follow the same parameters unless we communicate clearly.

We must ensure everyone, including the surgeon and restorative dentist, are aligned before the surgery. Once surgery is done, we are limited with adjustments, and restorative space is one of the most common constraints. I am very comfortable working with new dentists and 'hold their hand' through the process but I am always hesitant when I don't know any of the clinicians involved. When this happens, I communicate extensively in advance and share my thoughts and any comparable cases to ensure the best outcome to the patient.

FROM YOUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE, ARE THERE DIFFERENCES IN HOW FULL ARCH WORKFLOWS ARE APPROACHED? WHAT CAN UK TECHNICIANS LEARN FROM THIS?

Most of my lecturing is based on the workflows we use in the United States, but I can say they all pretty much follow the same parameters and concepts. That is how to capture accurate data, follow proper planning protocols and eliminate errors with implant passivity to avoid breakages and remakes.

In terms of treatment planning, countries like Brazil, tend to have a more conservative approach, especially regarding bone reduction. Many clinicians there are more inclined to FP1 or FP2 type restorations to preserve more natural bone.

Obviously, every case is unique and the All on 4 is mainly reserved for terminal dentition, poor bone quality, or severe periodontal disease, but I tend to see dentists here more inclined to FP3 than other countries.

HOW CAN TECHNICIANS BETTER COLLABORATE WITH CLINICIANS TO ENSURE PRECISION, EFFICIENCY, AND FEWER REMAINS IN FULL LARGE CASES?

Digital technology has transformed communication and accuracy. We can now align duplicate and superimpose data from multiple appointments and different stages, allowing us to validate accuracy at every stage.

Tools such as smile design, intraoral scanners, photogrammetry (for implant position and passivity), face scanning and bite registration devices, they all contribute to greater precision. We can provide a tooth proposal or ai generated videos to the clinician and patient before they even commit to treatment. If scans do not have enough data or align correctly, we can immediately let the clinician know to redo the scans in no time. Technology is advancing quickly, and if we use it properly, it significantly enhances the efficiency and predictability of these cases.

FOR LABORATORIES LOOKING TO GROW OR SPECIALISE IN FULL ARCH WORK, WHAT MINDSET OR STRUCTURAL CHANGES ARE REQUIRED TO SUCCEED?

You must be extremely knowledgeable about treatment planning. These cases are prosthetically driven, so tooth position, occlusion, function, and aesthetics must all be planned before surgery. Surgeons rely on us heavily, especially restorative dentists who may feel less comfortable with full arch cases.

This cannot be approached with the mindset just for profit. We are changing people's lives with these workflows. If you do not fully understand the process, and/or do not have a knowledge team at surgery, you can negatively impact the patient's outcome and happiness. I've seen those patients, and it's heartbreaking. The combination of their distress and your own sense of limitation can really weigh on you, because you know there's nothing you can do to make it better, unless they go through a whole

new surgery with the right team. No one should go through that.

You also need to understand not all clinicians are ready for full digital adoption. Some will prefer to stay on their comfortable analog way, and that's ok. Your job is to adapt or better yet, present digital options in a simple, supportive way so clinicians can transition at their own pace.

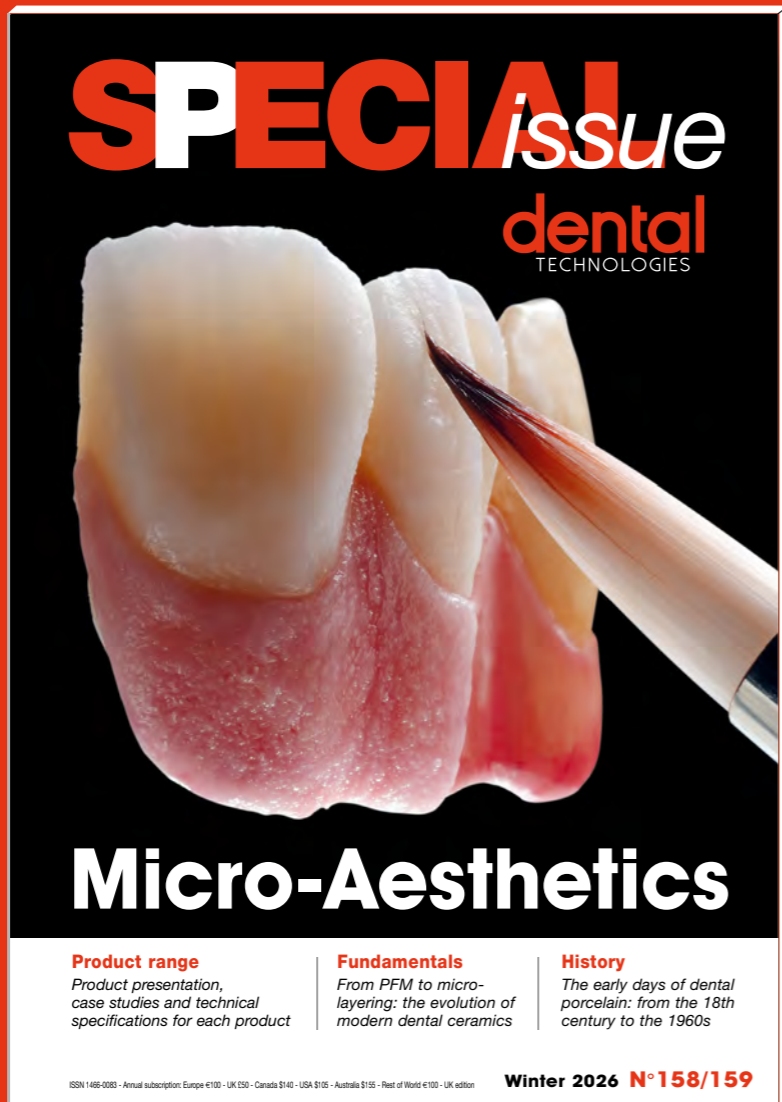
FINALLY, WHAT DO YOU HOPE DELEGATES WILL FEEL MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT WHEN THEY LEAVE YOUR SESSION AT DENTAL TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE?

I hope they leave with a clear understanding of every stage of the full arch workflow, especially the digital pathway, and confidence in navigating the various techniques and systems available. There are many workflows, design software's, IO scanners and many other digital tools the market, and heavy marketing can make some appear superior, but technicians must choose what works best for their lab and their clinical partners.

Five years ago, photogrammetry was the gold standard for digital implant workflows, that's why I invested in those back in 2020. But today, you no longer need to invest in the most expensive equipment. New systems are incredibly advanced and eliminate many of the challenges associated with intraoral scanners. We now have a range of accessible options, and labs can select the workflow that best fits their needs without being limited by cost. And that's the beauty of digital technology. Options!!!



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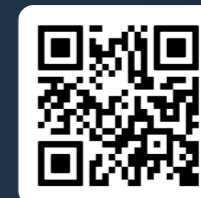
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The newly appointed Advisory Board has been instrumental in shaping the 2026 programme, helping to focus the agenda on the issues that matter most to clinical, operational, and system leaders. Their insight has informed content for both the British Dental Conference & Dentistry Show and Dental Technology Showcase, ensuring a relevant and well-balanced programme.

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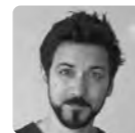
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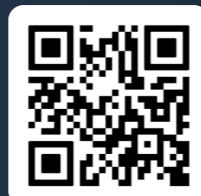
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CASE STUDY: AMBRIDGE CERAMICS

How SYS UK and Ambridge Ceramics Are Transforming Dental Lab Workflows with Advanced Printer Technology



At SYS UK, we are committed to helping dental laboratories adopt advanced technology that improves accuracy, reduces manual labour and strengthens collaboration between labs and clinicians. A strong example of this is our partnership with Ambridge Ceramics, who have successfully integrated next-generation 3D printing into their daily workflow with measurable results.

PRECISION PRINTING THAT SAVES TIME AND LABOUR

Ambridge Ceramics had previously worked with traditional DLP printing systems, but after upgrading through SYS UK to the Stratasys J5 DentaJet, their workflow evolved significantly. While the printer delivers exceptional dimensional accuracy, the most noticeable improvement has been in efficiency and labour savings.

Parts are produced fully cured and highly accurate straight off the build tray, meaning technicians no longer need to spend time adjusting or refining components. This has dramatically reduced manual finishing. For applications such

as stackable surgical guides, components fit precisely with minimal intervention. Supports are easily removed and parts are ready for use without extensive post-processing.

BRINGING COMPLEX SURGICAL PLANNING IN-HOUSE

One of the most valuable advantages of the technology is the ability to replicate complex surgical anatomy within the laboratory. Ambridge Ceramics has been able to produce highly detailed multi-material models that clearly distinguish between bone, soft tissue, teeth and nerve pathways.

For complex mandibular cases involving extractions and bone reduction near the nerve canal, these printed models allow clinicians to physically handle and assess the case before surgery. Instead of relying solely on digital scans, dentists can examine guides and anatomical models in three dimensions. This enhances communication, improves treatment planning and strengthens professional relationships between the lab and the clinician.

A MORE STREAMLINED WORKFLOW

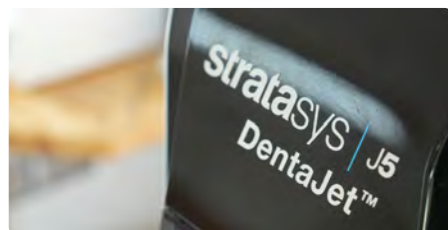
Although careful CAD design remains essential, the manufacturing stage has become far more streamlined. Overnight prints typically complete within four to five hours, and components are ready for use the following morning with minimal handling required.

This reliability has enabled Ambridge Ceramics to provide more predictable turnaround times and manage workloads more efficiently. Reduced reprints and adjustments have freed up technician time, allowing the team to focus on higher-value tasks and take on more complex cases that might previously have been outsourced.

A STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN DIGITAL DENTISTRY

For SYS UK, providing advanced printing solutions is about enabling laboratories to elevate their services and remain competitive in a rapidly evolving market. By integrating high-precision, multi-material 3D printing into their workflow, Ambridge Ceramics has improved efficiency, reduced labour demands and enhanced clinical collaboration.

Modern dental printing technology is no longer simply an added convenience. It is becoming central to streamlined, accurate and scalable digital workflows across the UK dental laboratory sector.



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