

Brief information about Atlantis Components, Inc.

Individually adapted abutments

Atlantis Components, Inc. fabricates individually adapted abutments for dental implants using a patented CAD/CAM method. The company, which was founded in 1996, has had positive development and is now the leading producer in the United States with a market share of approximately 40 percent of the segment for individually adapted abutments.

An abutment is the component that is anchored to the implant (the titanium screw that replaces the tooth's root). The crown (the visible part of the reconstructed tooth) is then attached to the abutment. Atlantis' patented method means that the abutment's connection to the soft tissue (the gum) is optimal, making it possible to achieve the best possible esthetics and stability.

The individually fabricated abutment fits perfectly without the dentist having to make adjustments or send it back to the laboratory for additional modifications. For the patient, this means fewer visits to the dentist. For the dental laboratory, this makes their work easier and more profitable thanks to the digital process.

Atlantis abutments can be used for most of the major implant systems on the market.

Computerized process

When an abutment is produced using Atlantis' unique method, the appearance of the completed tooth is used as the basis for fabrication. The dentist takes an impression of the patient's gum, which is scanned into a software program. The new tooth is designed there, and using this model, the abutment is also designed digitally.

Production of abutments is done in computerized milling machines controlled by CNC (Computer Numerical Control). This control system makes it possible to produce complicated, individually adapted components in an efficient manner. The abutments are made of titanium and zirconium. Zirconium is a ceramic material that is used primarily when esthetic demands are particularly high.

Astra Tech new owner

The Swedish medical technology company Astra Tech acquired Atlantis Components Inc. on September 26th, 2007 from a number of private American venture capital companies. This acquisition gives Astra Tech access to unique know-how and the most advanced digital CAD/CAM technology for manufacturing abutments. This will result in making Astra Tech even more competitive. Astra Tech will reach a greater number of dentists and dental laboratories, thereby strengthening its position in the North American market. For Atlantis, the acquisition means that their operations can continue to expand through Astra Tech's global presence and its focus on dental R&D.

Integration and expansion

Atlantis Components, Inc. has its offices and production facilities in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The company has 100 employees. In conjunction with Astra Tech's acquisition of Atlantis, operations will be integrated into Astra Tech Inc., which is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. During the first half of 2008, both companies, with a total of 300 employees in the United States, plan to consolidate operations under one roof in Massachusetts, where a Center of Excellence for esthetics will also be developed. In the future, digital technology may also be used for producing crowns and bridges.

In 2008, Astra Tech will also begin producing Atlantis' abutments for the European market at its headquarters in Mölndal, Sweden.

The launch and sales in Europe will be handled by Astra Tech's existing sales organization.

Market for abutments

The global market for abutments was valued at approximately USD 600 million in 2006, of which the United States accounted for approximately 180 million and Europe for just over 300 million. Growth on the global market is approximately 20 percent a year. The North American market accounts for the greatest annual increase, which is approximately 25 percent, while the increase in Europe is approximately 15 percent.

The demand for individually adapted abutments has grown sharply in recent years along with the development of implant systems and increased demand from patients for good esthetic results. Therefore, this segment of the market is expected to show considerably faster growth than the total market.

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