Autoclavable Thermoplastic Rods Are an Industry First

ClikTech Inc

ClikTech Inc., **[1] a leading manufacturer of dental sensor and x-ray film holders, has launched the industry's first use of thermoplastics in multiple rod dental x-ray holder systems. The company's new Litening RodsTM, made of Radel® polyphenylsulfone (PPSU) resin from Solvay Specialty Polymers USA, LLC, replace metal rods which are labor intensive and more costly. The new product made of Radel PPSU is light, autoclavable, reusable, and less costly.**

ClikTech developed Litening Rods in a close collaboration with XDR Radiology, Los Angeles, and its co-owner Dr. Adam Chen, DDS.

Metal rods have been used for decades in dental offices. Although effective, they are costly and prone to breakage, according to Thomas Gillen, president of ClikTech Inc. Metal rods require labor-intensive manufacturing steps including steel forming, bending, and pin insertion. "We have reached a time when we can combine both new and old technologies to produce the best available products at the most reasonable cost to the dental profession," explained Gillen. "These innovative rods serve as the bridge to make the transition from older to the newest technologies significantly easier for the dental office; they provide enhanced performance at a

lower cost."

Thermoplastic rods made of PPSU are stiff like metal but are 75% lighter, according to Gillen. The rods also offer easier handling due to an integrated handle grip design. They have the added benefit of incorporating a wire clip to accommodate the latest in digital sensors and work with any standard anterior, posterior, or bitewing ring. The rod attaches to a bite block receptacle which in turn holds the digital sensor.

Radel PPSU is a super-tough thermoplastic with high heat resistance, exceptional hydrolytic stability and excellent chemical resistance. It can withstand over 1000 cycles of steam sterilization without significant loss of properties. It is inherently flame retardant and is resistant to bases and other chemicals. Radel PPSU is also compliant with ISO 10993-1 for limited exposure, non-implantable applications.

Litening Rods are 1/8-in square and five inches long and meet ISO 10993 and FDA requirements for intraoral use. They are commercially available through national dental distribution dealers.

Solvay Specialty Polymers [2] is a global leader in the development of sulfone polymer technology, launching Udel® polysulfone nearly 45 years ago. In addition, Solvay's experience as a key materials supplier in the healthcare field spans more than 20 years. The company is a leading manufacturer of high-performance plastics, offering a broad range of materials for healthcare instruments and medical devices. More recently, Solvay has successfully introduced its line of Solviva® Biomaterials and offers them for use in a range of implantable devices.

About ClikTech Inc.
ClikTech Inc., Buffalo Grove, Ill., is an ISO 9001:2008 certified company and leading provider of digital sensor holders, serving the design, engineering, and production needs of companies and partners throughout the U.S. ClikTech Inc. supports its operations with a highly reliable infrastructure of design and development expertise and provides engineering solutions to customers and partners in the U.S

About Solvay Specialty Polymers
Solvay Specialty Polymers manufactures more products with more performance than any other polymer company in the world. The company supplies over 1500 products across 33 brands of high-performance polymers – fluoropolymers, fluoroelastomers, fluorinated fluids, semi-aromatic polyamides, sulfone polymers, aromatic ultra polymers, high-barrier polymers and cross-linked high-performance compounds – for use in Aerospace, Alternative Energy, Automotive, Healthcare, Membranes, Oil & Gas, Packaging, Plumbing, Semiconductors, Wire & Cable, and other markets.

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