

Giessen, Germany

Interview with Professor Joachim Klimek and dentist Tobias Winterfeld

“We now have considerably more time for teaching.”

Prof. Dr. Joachim Klimek, Director Polyclinic for Restorative and Preventive Dentistry at the University Hospital of Giessen, Marburg UKGM.

Tobias Winterfeld, dentist Polyclinic for Restorative and Preventive Dentistry Course assistant in the phantom course, 21 simulation workstations, 1 master workstation. 30 students per semester, a total of approx. 350 students.

What made you invest in new equipment and workstations?

Tobias Winterfeld: “The technology of the old simulation units was out-of-date and this equipment was no longer in great condition. The units had been built at the end of the 1980s and indeed I myself had trained on them during my degree. Repairs, if at all possible, were very costly. Continuous course supervision for the semester had become impossible. Particularly when it came to exam questions, practical tests and exercises on the units were only possible to a very limited extent. We invariably had to move students to other workstations due to some technical fault or another. In addition to the limited or lacking functionality, the positioning of the old units was also not ideal. Students always had the table of the person behind them to their rear; exercises in the 12 o'clock position were not possible with most units.”

Why was Dirona chosen as the equipment provider for this project?

Prof. Dr. Joachim Klimek: “Sirona offered the best product compared to the competition - both in terms of price and actual equipment. The operating concept and features of the workstations from Sirona meet the demands of clinical training and considerably facilitate work for students. Sirona was also able to satisfy individual equipment wishes without any problems and the multimedia feature offers numerous options for the future.”

What was your experience with Sirona during project planning?

Tobias Winterfeld: “I joined this project at the end of the planning process. During this time, everything went according to plan. The schedule was met and

things advanced quickly. Sirona satisfied a number of customized wishes, for example the lamp settings and the additional x-ray device. There was a dedicated contact at Sirona for the integration of the existing technology.”

Did you have to overcome any obstacles during this project?

Tobias Winterfeld: “The only obstacles I am aware of where the structural restrictions of our facility. A solution had to be found for connection to the vacuum system and questions had to be clarified with respect to, for example, which amalgam separator the units were to be connected to and whether the suction capacity was sufficient for all workstations. As far as I know there were no other problems.”

What are Sirona's weaknesses, what could it do differently?

Prof. Dr. Joachim Klimek: “I have not yet noted any weaknesses.”

What is your experience today with the new equipment and workstations – have your expectations been met?

Tobias Winterfeld: “I was previously faced with problems on a daily basis; these ranged from water damage to complete failure. In contrast, there was not a single technical fault during the first semester with the new equipment. We now experience the odd fault, for example a light doesn't work but that has nothing to do with the actual units. They always function reliably. We are particularly pleased with the height-adjustment feature. Here Sirona really has provided us with a large range of adjustability.”