**Press Release**

GC Corporation and GC America (GC) prevail in patent dispute with Ivoclar Vivadent in the U.S.

**International Trade Commission rejected Ivoclar Vivadent’s request for exclusion of GC’s Initial LiSi Press from U.S. market**

**18 December 2018 – GC is happy to announce that the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) has ruled in its favour in Inv. No. 337-TA-1050, finding that the importation and sale of GC’s Initial® LiSi Press lithium disilicate ingots does not violate Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930. This significant ruling by the full Commission affirms the result of an earlier decision by the ITC’s Chief Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). The ITC decision is now final and legally binding. The parallel patent infringement lawsuit against GC in the U.S. Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois has also ended.**

In March 2017, only some days before the IDS 2017, the Liechtenstein based company Ivoclar Vivadent AG (Ivoclar) requested an ITC investigation and exclusion order in the USA against GC Corporation and GC America, Inc. for alleged patent infringement. This procedure is a sharp sword to quickly prevent the import of patent infringing products and therefore is sometimes misused for unfounded attacks to exclude competitors’ products from the U.S. market. Ivoclar originally based its request on various claims of four different U.S. patents. Even before a full hearing in March, Ivoclar voluntarily withdrew all claims regarding two of those patents.

The Chief ALJ concluded that all remaining outstanding patent claims were either invalid or not infringed by GC and thus, Ivoclar’s allegation of a violation of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 was unfounded. Following extensive briefing by the parties, the Commission has upheld the Chief ALJ’s determination of no violation. Ivoclar has not appealed against the ITC decision and Ivoclar also withdrew its patent infringement law suit against GC in the U.S. Federal District Court for the Northern District of Illinois as consequence of the clear ITC ruling in favour of GC.

“We consider this ruling to be a complete vindication for GC and its development team,” said Mr. Makoto Nakao, Chairman and CEO of GC. “This is good news for dentists and dental labs, and for their patients, who will now continue to have access to GC’s high-quality restoration materials. We have never wavered from our position that these allegations were without merit, and we are deeply gratified that the Commission has agreed. We respect the intellectual property rights of our competitors, as we expect our competitors to respect ours, but we will aggressively defend GC against unfounded allegations of infringement.”

The High Density Micronisation (HDM), used for Initial LiSi Press, is a proprietary technology of GC that renders a refined microstructure different from the classic lithium disilicate structure. Due to this technology, the crystals in LiSi Press are smaller and more equally and densely dispersed throughout the entire glass matrix.

In an independent study, Hallmann *et al*. pointed out that the microstructure has a fundamental effect on the mechanical properties of lithium disilicate glass ceramics1. The authors stated that microstructure plays an important role in determining the flexural strength, flexural toughness, elastic modulus and optical properties. In another independent study by Ohashi *et al.*, it was concluded that Initial LiSi Press had better mechanical properties and chemical stability than the other tested materials2.

Initial LiSi Press is enormously stable, even after several firing cycles, and has a high flexural strength of 500 MPa. The physical properties of Initial LiSi Press make the restoration highly antagonist-friendly and resistant to abrasion. Its high colour stability and fluorescence also ensure the natural aesthetics of the pressable ceramic material.

The Initial LiSi family will soon be expanded with a new CAD/CAM block, Initial LiSi Block. This block will be based on advanced HDM technology.

More information about Initial LiSi Press can be found at [https://www.gceurope.com/](https://www.gceurope.com/%20) .

1. Hallmann L, Ulmer P and Kern M. Effect of microstructure on the mechanical properties of lithium disilicate glass-ceramics. *J. Mech. Behav. Biomed. Mater.* 82, 355–370 (2018).

2. Ohashi K, *Kameyama Y, Wada Y, Midono T, Miyake K, Kunzelmann K-H, and Nihei T.* Evaluation and comparison of the characteristics of three pressable lithium disilicate glass ceramic materials. *Int. J. Dev. Res.* 07, 16711–16716 (2017).

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