

THE SCOOP

THE OFFICIAL VERTUAL NEWSLETTER

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CONTENT

A Message from the CEO 2

Arab Health 2

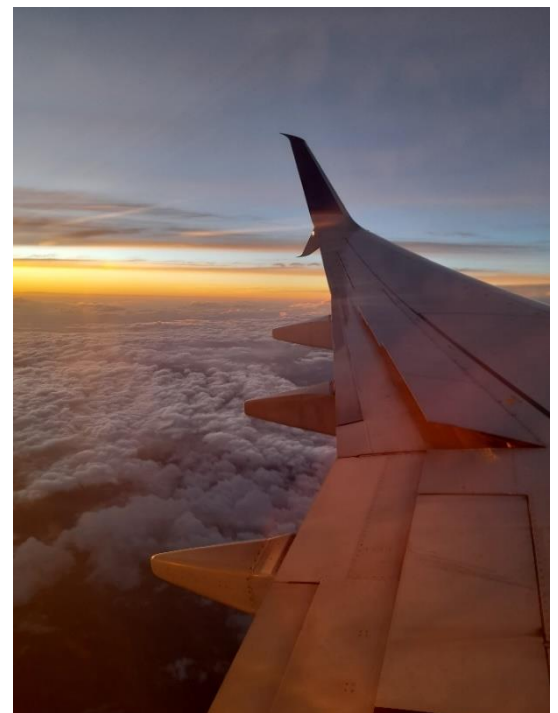
Vertual Spotlight C4Di 3

Vertual's New Website 3

Potsdam New Customer 4

CARTI VERT 6 Experience 4

Founders Corner - Interns 5



Message from the CEO

by Debra Leeves, CEO

The start of a new year is always a busy time at Vertual, and this year was no different. We travelled to Dubai for the Arab Health Conference and were able to meet our distributors (TechFlow, CH Consult and Varitron) for the region, as well as meeting many new customers who came to watch a VERT demo and learn about how VERT products could be used in their universities and hospitals. We were able to showcase our growing range of products ranging from the VERT systems, which you know and use, along with Compact VERT and our newer subscription based products; VERT on Demand, VERT Flex and Physics Flex.

Now that we have rolled out VERT 6 it has been wonderful to get your feedback on the software features you like to use and how VERT 6 is making a difference to the way you teach your students. Please keep sending the feedback so we can continue to develop the products you want and need.

The number of universities requesting a Compact VERT is starting to increase, as more customers are looking for a compact and mobile version of the VERT system for teaching. The latest Compact VERT left our offices last week to be shipped to Spain, representing the first VERT system in the country.

This newsletter, as always, is packed with interesting features from around the world, along with some future plans for VERT products, I hope you enjoy this edition.



Arab Health 2023

by Honey Ayeni

Vertual were able to attend Arab Health 2023 in Dubai with our distributor CH Consult and their partners in Kazakhstan. The conference was a great opportunity to our distributors including TechFlow and Varitron and connect with new potential distributors to expand Vertual's reach across the globe. We also delivered several in-person product demonstrations and show how VERT can be used to enhance student's learning experience to people from more than 15 different countries. While at the conference we filmed a new promotional video – make sure you keep your eyes on our social media!



Vertual Spotlight C4Di

by Jan Antons.

Vertual moved offices in December 2021 to the Centre 4 Digital Innovation (C4Di) complex on Hull's waterfront. The team at Vertual was delighted to be invited to showcase Vertual, as part of the first ever Company C4Di Spotlight event.

The spotlight event was a chance to share an overview of our company, our products, and our customers. It began with an introduction from Jan Antons, Business Development Manager at Vertual. Jan introduced the benefits of simulation and how it can bridge the gap between theory and practice. An introduction to radiotherapy followed. This included the size of the global market and how radiotherapy has progressed over the years. This was illustrated by an image of Jan as a junior radiographer practicing with a colleague during her training on a treatment machine much less advanced than the technology used today! Jan explained that VERT is like a flight simulator, applied to radiotherapy. It allows learners to see the patient virtually on a treatment couch, to learn experientially, and to make mistakes in a safe environment.

Once the scene was set, James Ward, Chief Technical Officer, and co-founder of Vertual talked about the Company's history, and how the founders have been pleased with the progress made with the installed base for VERT. James also talked about a willingness to collaborate with members of the C4Di community and shared that Vertual is actively recruiting software engineers.



Daniel Owen, a product specialist, and therapeutic radiographer who until recently was treating cancer patients at the Christie hospital gave an entertaining and insightful presentation of VERT, the flight simulator for

radiotherapy. Dan explained how radiotherapy is delivered and how VERT can be used to inform patients about their treatment.

The event was well attended, and the audience appeared fascinated by the technology and were invited to have a first-hand demonstration with the Compact VERT system. There were lots of interesting questions about radiotherapy and our solution and some new ideas were generated as a result of the discussions.

It was fantastic to share our technology that has transformed the way educators teach, the way therapists are trained across the globe and it is demystifying the radiotherapy treatment process for patients in radiation therapy clinics.

Vertual ended the event with a huge thank you to the C4Di team for the invitation. The team is looking forward to attending events featuring other members of the community.



Vertual's New Website

by Claire Hardie.

Vertual are excited to be working with Blink to develop a new website. We are well underway with new imagery and video content, 3D modelling, new navigation and much more. Our aim is for it to be more focused on our customer groups; educators, clinicians and physicists with a more modern and techy vibe. We can't wait to see the final product and hope everyone will love the new look as much as we do.

Thank you to all our reference sites who have provided valuable input on the look and flow. Watch the space for more news as we launch the site at the end of March!



CARTI – VERT 6 Experience

by Tiffany Young.



Potsdam, New Customer

by Tamsyn Vivian

In January we completed VERT training for our new customers at The Potsdam School for Radiology, Germany. The training was done by our Product Specialist Tammy Vivian and Jonas Schaper who is the lead lecturer in Kiel. Jonas as a VERT super user offered to lead the training in German and did a fantastic job. The team in Potsdam were happy with the seamless install process courtesy of WE Are XR and were very pleased they could begin using their system straight away.

During the time spent in Potsdam, Stephen from the school took Jonas and Tammy on a sightseeing tour of the city which was a great experience. Thank you to the customers in Potsdam for your hospitality and we hope you love your new system 😊. Thank you very much to CH consult for their continued hard work and dedication to our German customers.

Even the schools cat was keen to be involved with the VERT training. He is a regular in lecturers, comes in through the window and perches on an empty chair....



The CARTI Radiation Therapy Program mission is to provide competent and compassionate entry-level radiation therapists to meet the needs of today's changing healthcare community in an educational atmosphere of distinction. VERT (Virtual Environment Radiotherapy Training System) has been an amazing addition to our program, allowing us new and innovative ways to educate our students.

While our hope is to keep as many students as possible here at CARTI post-graduation, we know that we are also educating future Radiation Therapists to begin their career in other clinics across the country. The two primary radiation treatment machine vendors in America are Varian (which CARTI has) and Elekta. An integration of the Elekta hand pendant and software for our VERT system, allows an opportunity for students to familiarize themselves with a different configuration they do not have access to in our CARTI clinics with the intent to make them more marketable by improving their comfort level in an Elekta environment for an immediate impact on patient care.



Founders Corner - Interns

by Andy Beavis

Feedback from the user base has been very important to us over the years and we have often added new features and the strength of discussions and requests. We have even added functionality following discussions with prospects. We have always felt that such avenues are so important to keep the feel of VERT vibrant, acknowledging that we are sometimes maybe too close to see 'obvious opportunities'.

In the last year we have tried something new that we believe has been very successful. A conflict we often face is balancing our full work programme with the needs to quickly explore further developments. In this case, as we had some obvious Physics developments we wanted to progress, we looked towards the Physics department at the University of Hull and took an opportunity to recruit two Interns to work directly in the company. Ellie and Craig picked up the challenges very quickly and 'sparked off' each other, teaching each other and debating the best way to achieve that which we asked. The project was to help us 'prototype' the American TG51 dosimetry protocols, evolving existing implementations in VERT (IAEA TRS398), to provide the additional functionality. The way that we develop the code for the Physics modules lends itself very nicely to this type of approach and we were hopeful they would make some progress. We were not anticipating just how successful Ellie and Craig would be and we ended up with a prototype that we have been able to use of a basis for release.

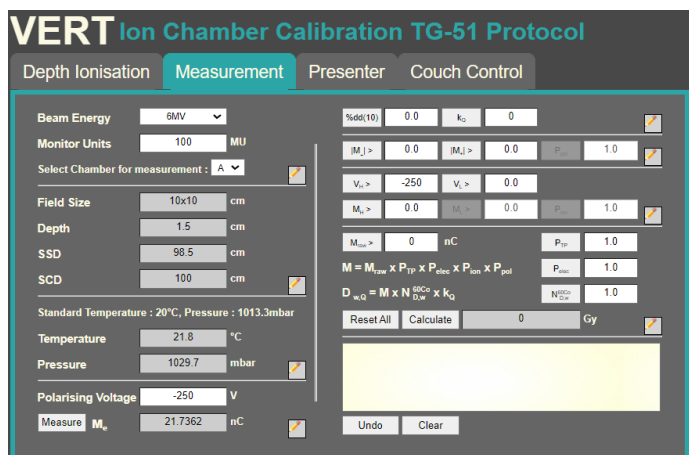
Practice for Photon dosimetry and provided us with a plan to implement it, again using the TRS398 implementation as a basis. She also visited the department and had an opportunity to see how ideas are progressed from 'back of an envelope' to a design specification. This shorter project has now been built upon further with an undergraduate Physics student at UCL being supervised by us and Andy Nisbet. She has been provided with a development environment and has very quickly learnt how to contribute very effectively and by the end of her project we hope that we will be very close to having a finished implementation of the updated Dosimetry Code of Practice.



These projects and more importantly the students we have had the pleasure of working with, have proven to us that this type of collaborative research and development is an extremely viable way to involve users, future potential health care professionals, but also to progress and test out new ideas for the VERT system.

As we write, we are planning out an Internship project for this summer and have high hopes for that work. We have also just started discussions with another VERT user who is interested to help develop workbooks and teaching strategies for Dosimetrists' training programmes. We expect this to also yield some publications as well as material to share amongst the user base.

Having read this if you have any ideas for similar types of projects, development of the 'electronic work books' or to just contribute to helping describe a potential future feature or module for VERT then we would, as ever, love to hear from you. Of course, if you'd just like a chat to debate the international state of radiotherapy then shout out!



Around the same time we had some conversations with Prof Andy Nisbet at UCL in the UK about potential collaboration and the Interns were discussed. He was keen to do something similar and we set another project with an MSc Medical Physics student from UCL. Oreeditse did a remote project to look at the new IPEM 2020 Code of