

THE SCOOP

THE OFFICIAL VERTUAL NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Vol. 11



CONTENT

A Message from the CEO 2

Customer Experience
Keiser University 2

VERT world partner in
Portugal 3

London Southbank
University Testimonial 4

Women in Tech/ ASTRO and ASRT 5



Message from the CEO

by Debra Leeves, CEO

Winter has finally arrived and as we start to put the Christmas decorations up in the office we look back on the year and reflect on the big moments. It was lovely to see so many of our VERT users at ESTRO in Vienna in the Spring and catch up with your news about how you are using VERT for teaching and training. We welcomed your feedback on our new products, and we noted your recommendations for new features in the VERT software for the future. Later in the year we were able to meet even more of you at ASTRO in San Diego, who could forget the 'VERT User Meeting' at the Garibaldi Restaurant and the magnificent views from the hotel roof top overlooking the water. This year we've seen an increase in the number of universities and teaching hospitals purchasing the Compact VERT system, to use either in addition to their installed VERT system, or as a replacement for old VERT hardware, or for new customers as a standalone teaching and training system. Compact VERT systems have been purchased by teaching institutions across the world including The Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust in the UK, Nottingham University Hospital, UK, Galveston College, Texas, Cambridge Health Education, Florida, Calasanz Santazuri, Spain and more recently IES Martinez Urubarrri, Salamanca. Thank you for your support throughout the year, we couldn't do it without you, and we hope to see you again in 2024.

Our offices will be closed from 22nd December 2023 through to 2nd January 2024.

Customer Experience

Keiser University
by Erin Hardin

When I took over the radiation therapy program at Keiser University Lakeland, we had very few clinic sites to send students to. Of the small list of sites, we had some that refused to take freshman students. After collecting feedback and understanding why, I found the freshman students were being sent to clinic with not enough preparation. The therapists disliked the extra time it took to train the freshman students. This was time taken away from their patients and other duties.

We put a plan in place to improve the way we prep these students. The plan came down to using our VERT to its full potential. We scheduled labs every Friday that are all hands on starting with introductory concepts all the way to a full treatment walk through. We changed the project of the last didactic class before clinic to be a hands-on project using VERT. The students need to pass a CT simulation and treatment competency as part of their project.



The group we made these changes with are on their second clinic rotation now. The feedback from our clinic sites has been phenomenal! They are telling us these students are performing better than all the ones they had from us in the past. We have more clinic sites than we ever have as a program! And these sites are now willing to take students at any level.

Thank you for all the fantastic training and support you have provided our team.

Tampa Bay 9 did a segment on my podcast and breast cancer awareness. The interview includes a nice picture of our VERT machine, so I wanted to make sure to share that with you. <https://baynews9.com/fl/tampa/news/2023/10/05/study-radiation-therapy-podcast>

VERT World Partner in Portugal

by ABGT.

ABGT® is committed to provide reliable and state-of-the-art solutions in the areas of Radiotherapy, Radiology and Nuclear Medicine in Portugal. We see VERT™ as an innovation that revolutionizes radiotherapy training. It allows overcoming barriers in educational institutions, contributing to the entire multidisciplinary clinical team and patient concerns. From the moment we joined VERTICAL™, our commitment has been clear: to introduce VERT™ to the Portuguese market in a relevant way. We provide presentations and demonstrations at conferences, congresses, radiotherapy departments and health schools, showing the transformative potential of this technology.

Testimonials:

“Simulation-based teaching is a method we apply in the Medical Imaging and Radiotherapy Course at IPSN-CESPU. The VERT™ software allows students to practice procedures and define treatment plans according to the techniques learned. Different clinical scenarios can be recreated and discussed in the classroom, which enhances the acquisition of skills and student safety during Clinical Teaching in a Hospital environment.”

Sofia Brandão - Coordinator of the Degree in Medical Imaging and Radiotherapy Vale do Ave School of Health, Polytechnic Institute of Health of the North, IPSN-CESPU

“Teaching radiotherapy in a school is a constant challenge. It's not feasible to take students to radiotherapy departments and teach them practical radiotherapy techniques on site. However, virtual reality fills that gap in our schools by bringing a radiotherapy department into the classroom. This is where a dream begins - the dream of being able to teach using virtual reality, the VERT™ System

Isabel Faria - Adjunct Professor, Coordinator of the technical-scientific radiotherapy area School of Health Sciences - Polytechnic of Porto

“Vert is a very useful teaching and learning tool that mimics a scenario that allows students to learn and acquire skills in various aspects of radiotherapy.”

Serafim Pinto, Adjunct Professor. School of Health Sciences - University of Aveiro.



“As a Radiation therapy lecturer, it’s very important to provide students with the best tools to stimulate theoretical knowledge, but it’s by practicing in a clinical environment that we assure that knowledge is correctly acquired. In this matter, VERT system was a pleasant surprise as it allows, in real-time, to address and simulate contexts and concepts that are difficult to explain in a classroom, especially concerning the Linear Accelerator and patient planning. The key features of the VERT system, in my opinion, include the option for real manual control and visualization of the patient’s interior, which facilitates comprehensive knowledge enhancement, making it an ideal tool for the learning experience of radiotherapy students.”

Isabel Pereira Lobato - Radiotherapy Specialist, Adjunct Professor Radiotherapy, ESALD President Alentejo Oncological Association, AOA

ABGT® is celebrating its 10th anniversary. During this decade, we have strengthened our relationships as a reliable and dedicated distributor. We are certified by ISO 13485, which reinforces our commitment to our customers and suppliers. Through our partnership with VIRTUAL, we are committed to bringing VERT™ technology to all those who, during their training or already in professional practice, consider it essential to improve their skills to provide excellent patient care. We congratulate VIRTUAL for the excellence of its products and constant improvement. We thank VIRTUAL for their trust in ABGT® as the distributor in Portugal and also to all our customers and friends who have given us a warm welcome.

ABGT® CEO

Rogério Roda



London Southbank University feedback

by Sophie Davis LSBU

At LSBU we use VERT regularly to support student’s skills and learning. VERT is used to guide students before they go out on clinical placement, to consolidate knowledge gained clinically and to provide students with an environment to practice difficult techniques. For example, not all clinical sites carry out superficial electron treatments, VERT provides the students with the platform to be able to practice this technique so that they feel confident going into the working world. In this picture VERT is being used to teach students how to make a thermoplastic shell, the 2nd year students were able to make shells on the lecturers with guidance. On clinical placement, it can be hard for students to be fully involved in this process due to this, students often don’t have the confidence to lead this process. Having the VERT environment allowed the students to make mistakes, ask questions and to understand how the service user feels during the process of mask making. The students thoroughly enjoyed this session, it allowed them to gain a deeper perspective of the patient pathway and allowed them to reflect on patient centred care.

Once the masks were made the learners were then able to use the VERT system to practice the set up and imaging matching process, allowing them to complete the whole patient pathway. This session is just one of many completed at LSBU using VERT. Students report feeling more assured in their skills and knowledge, leading to a more successful clinical placement.



Women in Tech

by Fiona Law

After a very early start we arrived in London for 2 fantastic days at the Women of Silicon Roundabout conference at the Excel.

It was filled with inspiring talks, panel discussions and workshops and such a great opportunity to hear from so many women in the tech industry.

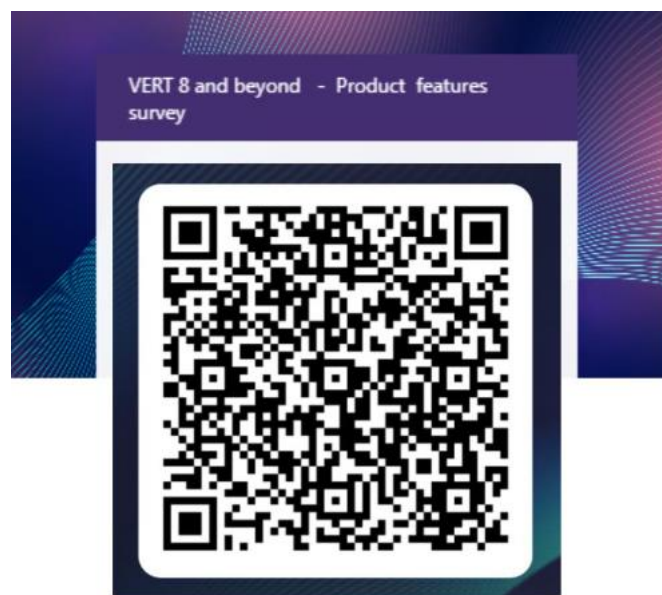
Our very own Jan delivered a fantastic hour long workshop on public speaking, the session was filled to capacity and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, great job Jan!



Your feedback is important to us, to help us to shape the product roadmap.

We are still accepting feedback. If you wish to participate in the VERT 8 survey, please click the link below, or use the QR code

<https://forms.office.com/e/Z7NKTWcVFW>



Features requested as part of the survey included 2D imaging improvements, anatomy of a Linac, and Linac console features. Our development team is using this information to plan the scope of VERT 8 and our future releases to deliver the tools you need for your training and educational programmes.

VERT 8

by James Ward and Jan Antons

With the release of VERT 7 now imminent, we are now focussing on the future of VERT which includes VERT 8 and beyond. We recently sent out a survey to ask for your opinion. We received a good number of responses and requests, a huge thank you to our customers who took part.

ASTRO/ASRT 2023 & VoD

by Daniel Owen

This year, ASTRO took the team at Vertual to sunny San Diego! From Petco Park to the Gaslamp district, the team had a brilliant show. It was fantastic to connect with new customers, distributors and people looking to join the VERT community. The team went with the aim of showcasing our brand new products, such as VERT Flex and VERT on Demand to the world. Vert on Demand is

Vertual's new Cloud based system that allows students a didactic approach to learning. They are able to access the VERT software anywhere, anytime with access to 40+ workbooks created by Vertual's product specialists. The team had a great response from a range of different areas including, educational institutions, Clinical Institutions, and Industry partners. ASTRO was a great Success.

Vertual were also exhibiting at the ASRT conference. Dan, Tammy, Jan and Honey were able to connect with so many of our customers and discuss how they are using their VERT systems to better educate the next generation of Radiation Therapists. They were also able to discuss the advantages of the VERT software with educators who have not used VERT previously and are looking to incorporate VERT into their programs. They also spoke to clinical RT's who want to use our software to improve patient education and information. It was fantastic to meet so many new radiation therapists who used the VERT software during their training and who have been trying to take what they learnt into the clinical environment.

Vertual hosted the annual US user meeting at ASTRO this year. With a view of the sun going down over the beautiful San Diego Bay and the USS Midway in the background, the stage was set for a great evening. The team were all there to greet and welcome a mix of new and old customers for a lovely evening of food, drinks, and VERT! There were some great discussions on VERT between colleagues and friends and some great ideas on how to utilize VERT to its full potential. It was fantastic to see so many people so enthusiastic about their VERT systems. What a great way to round off an amazing show!



VERT on Demand is only a short time away from being released. The VERT team have been working tirelessly to ensure that everything is perfect for the big release. VERT on Demand is Vertual's newest and most advanced product ever. It is a cloud-based system that allows students / staff / patients to access the VERT software anywhere, anytime. The system comes with 40+ workbooks created by the team at Vertual which cover various topics including IGRT, Treatment techniques, anatomy, case studies and much more! We are incredibly excited to release VERT on Demand and we cannot wait for our customers to start utilizing all of its advantages.