

VERTUAL VOICES

AUTUMN 2024



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Vertual's CEO Update

It was lovely to see so many of our customers and distributors this month at the ASTRO and ASRT conferences in Washington. It's Vertual's biggest event of the year and gives us the ideal opportunity to show you the full range of VERT products, get your feedback and make plans for the new features you want to see in our software in the next release. We were joined this year by a new Product Specialist and Territory Manager, Sarah Motherway, who comes to Vertual from a health service background where she was a senior radiographer and education lead. Sarah will be the Product Specialist and Account Manager for 'the Americas' region and parts of Asia-Pacific, so if you didn't get a chance to meet Sarah in Washington, then I'm sure she will be introducing herself to you soon.

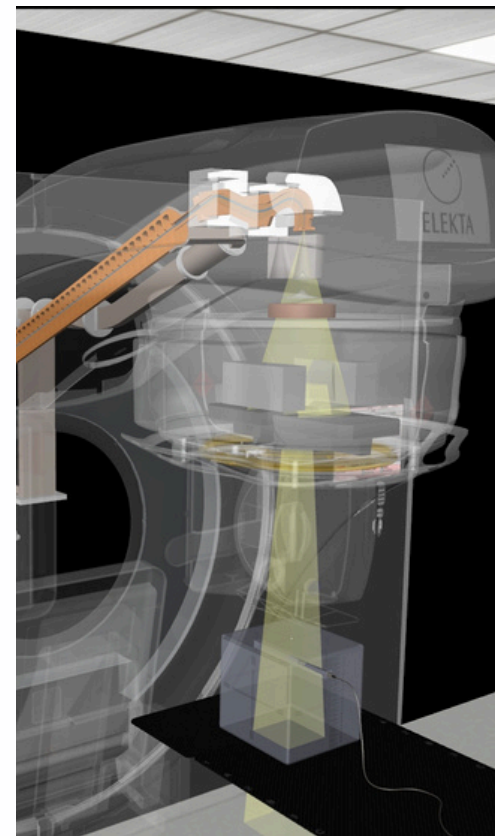
VERT 8 is about to be launched and it's our largest software release to date, with so many new features for you to use. Our latest subscription based products, VERT on Demand and VERT Flex, are beginning to be used at universities across the world, and we will continue to look at ways we can offer these products to best suit you and your student's needs. On a final note, you'll have noticed we've changed the design of this newsletter, with shorter articles with links to longer versions on our website. We hope you like it.

As always, if there is anything you need or want to discuss, then please get in touch with me at Debra@vertual.co.uk

In this newsletter

Latest updates, VERT
8.0 and more!

Thank you for reading,
from the Vertual Team



Our Customer's Voice

**Lauren Fantham,
Senior Lecturer, Radiotherapy and Oncology,
St. George's, University of London.**

I was delighted to accompany the Vertual team to ASRT in Washington D.C. in September. It was exciting for me to meet radiotherapy clinicians and educators from across the USA. I learned a lot about current teaching trends in America and was interested to note many similarities and some great new ideas.

At St. George's University of London, we run an innovative virtual placement, which has allowed us to increase our student numbers.

We have a variety of engaging and challenging activities that extend and enhance the clinical experience and encourage students to improve their problem-solving, communication, and teamwork. Mutually exchanging ideas at ASRT, has contributed to my practice in very tangible ways. One presentation discussed an escape room idea, where students had been locked in a treatment room by an angry physicist (choose your antagonist!) and they had to escape by answering clinical questions. Inspired!

Well, of course, I am now adopting this—it will be our VERT room, and students can only escape when they have demonstrated various clinical techniques, completed daily QA, or worked out a separation and set up a patient for treatment to midplane. The ideas are flowing!

In discussions with a few attendees after a lecture session, I floated the idea of an online community of practice for educators to share our various ideas. I had a lot of positive responses, and this is something that I will take forward in the coming months that will benefit students internationally—a really valuable outcome in promoting our profession.

I am very grateful that I had this opportunity; I got a great deal from it. Thank you, Vertual.

Global VERT Validation

The VERT software undergoes a validation process when new software is released, and the commercial team starts to evaluate each software build. The benefit is that we can share sneak peeks of planned features and get your valuable feedback as we build the software for you and to help you. Once the commercial team validates the software, it's sent to identified customer sites globally for testing.

For the first time for the VERT 8 release, in addition to our valued reference sites, we appointed an advisory board.

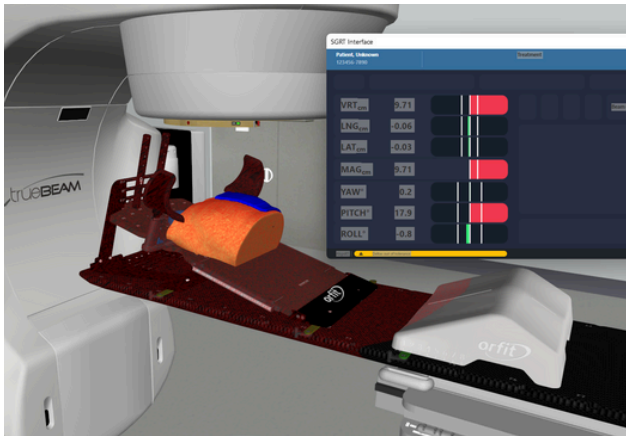
Our advisory board started collaborating with us even before the release of VERT 7 to review the specifications for the VERT 8 software.

It's important to us that we understand how software features will be used and the way they are implemented, as well as the design. As part of the VERT 8 testing program, our advisory board have put the software through its paces, reported back on the new features, and reported any issues seen during testing.

Thank you to all customers who have helped us with VERT 8. Our development team has found the information and the testing evidence to be extremely useful, and the whole team at Vertual is excited to receive feedback on VERT 8 once finalised.

For all our customers who have a software support contract, watch your inbox for the VERT 8 release email arriving soon!

If you wish to reinstate your software support contract, please reach out to [**sales@vertual.co.uk**](mailto:sales@vertual.co.uk)



SGRT Module

CONTACT OUR PRODUCT SPECIALIST TEAM FOR A DEMONSTRATION OR FURTHER INFORMATION

[**sales@vertual.co.uk**](mailto:sales@vertual.co.uk)



OUR TEAM HAS BEEN BUSY ATTENDING CONFERENCES WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING ESTRO, ESTRO MEETS ASIA, ASTRO, ASRT, AND AAPM.

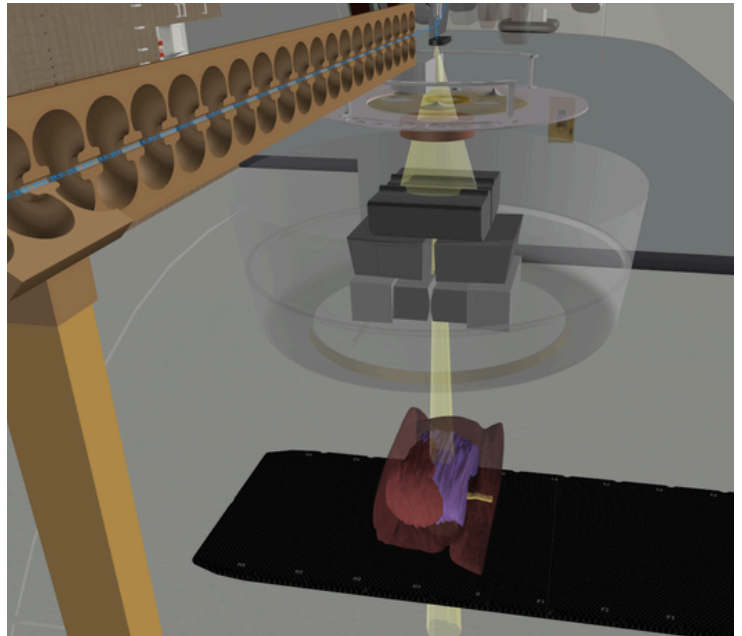
MEETING OUR CURRENT AND POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS AT THESE EVENTS HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY REWARDING.

THANK YOU FOR THE MEANINGFUL INTERACTIONS AND VALUABLE INSIGHTS.

Software Development Update: VERT 8.0!

We are putting the finishing touches to the latest version of our software, VERT 8. This release has several fantastic new features, but the one that excites me the most is the new “**Anatomy of the Linac**” feature said James Ward, Chief Technical Officer and founder.

The covers of the Varian TrueBeam and Elekta Versa HD can be made transparent, revealing the major internal components within. We trust students will benefit from this visualisation of the Klystron or Magnetron, Electron Gun, waveguide, bending magnets, target, flattening filter(s), monitor chamber, jaws, and the MLCs



We chose to show the waveguide in a cutaway view, to show the cavities and, when delivering a plan, **the electron beam travelling down the waveguide** and being deflected by the bending magnets. The jaws and MLCs physically move, to demonstrate their role in beam shaping. For TrueBeam we've also modelled the filter carousel, and you will see it automatically rotate to select an appropriate filter or foil for the current beam energy. This has been a much-requested feature over the years, and I am looking forward to seeing how people will put it to use.

For TrueBeam, it's also now possible to deploy or retract the kV and MV imager from the pendant, and you will see them smoothly move into position. We have also begun our work to implement the Linac console. Limited, for now, to TrueBeam and its onboard imagers, we plan to develop further and extend it to Elekta machines in future.

There are over **20 new features in VERT 8**, which you will find listed in the Release Notes. Of course, if you have any questions or need help, you are very welcome to get in touch. We're already hard at work planning the next release, **VERT 9**. If you do have any suggestions for the software, I hope you will let us know, as we always appreciate your feedback - **James Ward**.

Product Specialist and Territory Managers



TOM NETHERWOOD

In September, I had the pleasure of attending an engaging, hands-on teaching session at the VisionRT training center in Basingstoke. Over two days, we showcased the VERT software alongside our VisionRT module, with a special focus on how VERT enhances the understanding of the comprehensive AlignRT systems—a truly enjoyable experience.

I want to extend sincere thanks to Wesley Naidoo and Lorna Wood for organising the VERT software trial within customer training sessions. Special appreciation goes to Kate Connaughton and Shea Simpson, who flawlessly demonstrated the software and were exceptional hosts throughout.

At Vertual, we're thrilled by the growing interest in our SGRT module and are eager to offer demonstrations to our customers. As SGRT technology sees worldwide adoption, we're confident our VisionRT module will support an even deeper comprehension of this impressive technology.

For those interested, I oversee the EU/UK and share Asia-Pacific responsibilities with Sarah.

Feel free to reach out at tom.netherwood@vertual.co.uk

SARAH MOTHERWAY

I'm thrilled to take on the role of Product Specialist and Territory Manager for the Americas and the Rest of the World, with additional shared responsibilities alongside Tom in the Asia-Pacific region.

Before joining Vertual, I built a solid foundation in radiation therapy, diagnostic imaging, and education. My clinical background spans a range of technologies, including Varian, Elekta, proton therapy, CT, MRI, mammography, and VERT, enabling me to bring valuable expertise to our work together.

This year's ASTRO/ASRT in D.C. was an amazing experience, where I had the pleasure of connecting with many VERTUAL customers, distributors, and new contacts. Thank you to everyone who visited our booths for demos, discussions, and conversations on how VERT can elevate your training needs.

Please feel free to reach out at sarah@vertual.co.uk for more information

Vertual's Founders Letter

It was with incredible sadness that we found out about the recent passing of an old colleague, Mike Meyer. Mike worked with us in the early days of establishing VERT in North America and was part of the organisation of the now infamous party at the English Attaché's residence in Chicago at our first ASTRO meeting in 2009.

Mike was an extremely well-known and liked character in radiation oncology. Before working with Vertual as 'our man' in North America, he worked for Siemens and Varian before creating his consultancy business. He joined Vertual in 2009 and was a guiding voice in establishing ourselves in the USA and Canada.

As well as 'the party', I have fond memories of our road trip earlier in 2009 in the New York area going on up to Toronto via Niagara Falls. Knowing my obsession with music, when in New York he made sure I got my picture underneath the sign for Joey Ramone Place in the Village and the John Lennon memorial in Central Park. After the 2010 AAPM conference, we went to see Rush in Philadelphia.

Though his time with Vertual was quite short, we remained friends and in later years would often meet up for dinner wherever we found ourselves in the same part of the world.

Mike was clearly a popular guy. I have lost count of the people I have now shared the sad moment with, discussing his passing; immediately countered with a mutual smile recalling happy memories about the big guy.

Fly High and True Old Friend.

Love and peace.

Andy (Jan and James).

