

# Dental Crowns & Bridges Produced with Rapid Custom Manufacturing Technology

**Irvine, CA December 2, 2008** — Glidewell Laboratories, currently the world's largest dental laboratory, is manufacturing crowns and bridges with Roland desktop milling machines. The parts are milled in about eight minutes and then cast in gold or used to create tooth-colored crowns.

"Roland's Rapid Custom Manufacturing technology is changing our industry," said Jim Glidewell, president of Glidewell Laboratories. "Our crowns and bridges drop right into place and require little to no chair-side adjustment. Turnaround times are less than five days."

Glidewell starts with the physical model of a patient's teeth and, using a 3D scanner, creates a perfect digital replica. This allows technicians to design and manufacture models that can be cast in gold or ceramic for crowns and bridges with a perfect, custom fit.

## Rapid Custom Manufacturing

From prototype to final production, Roland Rapid Custom Manufacturing (RCM) technology makes it possible to quickly produce parts that are a custom fit for each patient. RCM enables medical manufacturers to customize their designs on a case by case basis. The technology offers a major improvement over current clinical processes, such as mass-producing one-size-fits-all parts or tediously hand sculpting unique parts. Roland RCM solutions offer the flexibility to choose from a wide range of FDA-approved materials.

### RCM Features:

- One machine does it all, from early prototyping to final production.
- Seamless workflow from prototype to production by using the same equipment.
- Add machines as production needs increase.
- Designed for ease of use, Roland products reduce labor costs.
- Wide range of FDA-approved materials available on the open market.
- Produce more parts in a smaller work area than traditional, room-sized CNC machines.
- Low energy consumption complies with green manufacturing practices.

## Roland Milling Machines

Roland MDX and JWX series milling machines produce highly detailed parts with smooth surface finishes and tight tolerances. They are ideal for producing prototypes, medical implants and other RCM parts from wood, brass, aluminum and a wide range of plastics. Roland RCM solutions come complete with CAM software, creating a seamless workflow with all major 3D CAD applications.

## Glidewell Laboratories

Glidewell Laboratories, founded in 1970, is currently the world's largest dental laboratory with seven separate laboratories. The company has developed new products, equipment and production techniques within its own Research & Development Department with the objective of keeping down dental laboratory expenses. For more information, visit [www.glidewell-lab.com](http://www.glidewell-lab.com).

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