

New products of 2018

go-tec GmbH

Trying shoes on before the last is made: 3D printing for orthopaedic footwear technology



Go-tec GmbH (Münster, Germany) will be providing details at OTWorld of their completely digital manufacturing process for orthopaedic footwear technology – including 3D printing. To start with, measurements are taken with the help of a 3D scanner and the shoe last is then designed in the CAD programme, including all corrective features. That way the shoe can be ‘tried on’ before the last is made – quite the reverse of the procedure used hitherto.

An integrated onboard slicer makes for a user-friendly, automated printing process. The slicer, which is essential software for 3D printing, splits 3D objects into numerous thin slices, which are then printed layer by layer. Integrated dryers ensure continuity and stability in the printing with a consistent end result. This is monitored via a smartphone. When the product is ready, an email message is sent.

To make trial shoes and lasts, a specially developed material is used. This material has properties that make it particularly easy to bend, shape and stick. The trial shoe is almost transparent. Manufacturing the trial shoe before making the last saves time. The GP manager stores the individual steps all together and collates the customer’s data. The company’s motto is: ‘One-stop guarantee – including materials’.