With participation by 28,000 dental professionals, the 2012 UAE International Dental Conference and Arab Dental Exhibition (AEEDC) is the largest dental meeting ever held in the MENA region. The 17th show, scheduled for the next three days, is expected to attract even more visitors, the organiser said.

According to Executive Chairman Dr Abdul Salam Al Madani, over 1,000 dental equipment suppliers from 70 countries in the region and around the world have already registered for the industry exhibition. To accommodate the increase in numbers, the exhibition space in the Dubai World Trade Center has been expanded this year to over 30,000 square metres. Increasing interest in the show by companies operating in countries outside the region is particularly noteworthy, Al Madani said.

Last year, the show saw participation by slightly more than 900 companies. In addition to a number of pre-conference and specialty courses, AEEDC will be offering an extensive programme of clinical presentations with a special symposium focusing on the new field of rapid orthodontics, as well as a full-day session on Wednesday, 6 February, dedicated to different aspects of aesthetic dentistry, including the use of dental CAD/CAM. Over 130 clinicians from around the globe will be presenting the latest research and treatment concepts in different fields of dentistry. New concepts and ideas are also expected to come out of the tenth Global Scientific Dental Alliance Meeting, which will again be held in conjunction with the AEEDC this year. Furthermore, oral health prevention and treatment concepts in the region will be presented at the GCC Preventive Dentistry Conference, chaired by Prof. Abdullah R. Al Shammery, Dean of the Riyadh Colleges of Dentistry and Pharmacy in Saudi Arabia.

“Keeping dental professionals and related personnel updated is one of the important issues that have an impact on the quality of the services provided to the public by dental specialists,” commented Conference Chairman Dr Nasser Al Malik. “AEEDC Dubai has become an effective platform for providing continuing education in the dental field through lectures, advanced workshops, posters and a specialised dental exhibition, which all play a major role in dental education.” AEEDC is currently recognised as a Continuing Education Recognition Program provider by the American Dental Association. Organised annually in cooperation with the Dubai Health Authority, the Dubai equivalent of a health ministry, it is part of the World Dental Exhibitions Alliance, an international network of dental trade shows having originated at AEEDC Dubai in 2010 in order to promote dental business throughout the world.

Last year, deals worth at least US$1.7 billion were concluded during the show, according to Dr Al Madani.