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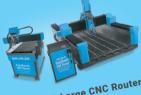
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GIVE YOUR BUSINESS A SUSTAINABLE EDGE WITH HP LATEX INKS BY MIDCOMP

Environmental considerations are becoming a critical business issue for printing companies. If you fail 32 $to\ meet\ the\ \underline{requirements}\ of\ environ\underline{m}\\ entally\ conscious\ customers,\ along\ with\ increasing\ government$ regulations, your print shop, and your business, could be in jeopardy. HP Latex inks and printers will help you turn sustainable business practices into business growth.

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THE BENEFITS OF DTF PRINTING

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The direct to film (DTF) printing technique involves printing a design directly onto a film, via a digital printer, and then transferring it to a substrate via a heat press. The design or image is sent to a computer.

MULTI-LAYERED PRINTING ADDS STYLE AND UNIQUENESS TO SIGNS AND DISPLAYS

BY MARC VERBEEM, SUPERVISOR PRODUCT MANAGEMENT, MIMAKI EUROPE An effective design is one that can catch the eye of the passer-by. However, the design or message can be missed if the final print is not dynamic and striking enough to draw the attention of the intended audience.

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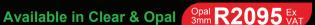
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EDITOR'S NOTE

BY MEGGAN MCCARTHY, EDITOR

Welcome to the Sign Africa and FESPA Africa
Johannesburg Expo! We hope you enjoy all the new
product launches as well as graphics, signage, digital
printing, branding, T-shirt printing, mug printing, vehicle
graphics, laser engraving, binding equipment, digital
packaging solutions and more. Read about some of
the highlights in this issue. The event is sponsored by
Platinum sponsors Roland and Stixo Signage Supplies.

The front cover article details how you can give your business a sustainable edge with HP Latex inks. Environmental considerations are becoming a critical business issue for printing companies. If you fail to meet the requirements of environmentally conscious customers, along with increasing government regulations, your print shop, and your business, could be in jeopardy. HP inks and printers will help you turn sustainable business practices into business growth.

Other features in this issue:

Direct to film (DTF) printing has many benefits. Even when stretched, the print does not crack. The wash durability on DTF prints is also excellent, with about 60 plus washes before you will even notice any fading or washing out on DTF transfers. DTF printing also allows you to print on any colour shirt. There is also no weeding, so what you print is what you get. You can do a single multi colour print, and you can do it in quantity. Print on demand (which is a manufacturing process where prints are made to order, in small batches or individual units, using digital print technology), is what a DTF machine is all about.

An effective design is one that can catch the eye of the passer-by. However, the design or message can be missed if the final print is not dynamic and striking enough to draw the attention of the intended audience. Advanced printing methods allow users to achieve striking results through special effects such as glossy or matt surfaces and glitter effects. When combining print layers with special textures, the results get even more eye-catching. Multi-layered printing can take your designs to the next level.

Being indispensable means being someone others can depend on. It means you are dependable, productive and reliable. It means you have a great attitude, go above and beyond to do the best job possible, have great communication skills, and are an integral member of the team. It means you don't wait for instructions or directions, you figure out what needs to be done — and then you do it. Being indispensable strengthens your self-esteem, your financial wellbeing, and your future.

Signing off
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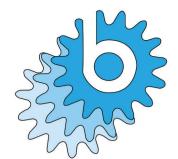
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865, New Germany



MAIZEY PLASTICS

Maizey Plastics is the largest Southern African supplier of signage materials/supplies, digital print media, modular aluminium signage and profiles, vehicle wrapping films, POP/POS displays and LED's - craft materials. Maizey has a number of export partners, providing convenient access of their innovative product range to international clients from African countries. Maizey products are sourced from leading international suppliers and comply with the highest quality standards whilst retaining a competitive price point. A national distribution network with 24 branches plus our online store ensures adequate supply and the convenience of daily deliveries and cutting to customer specifications

BRANDS: 3A COMPOSITES (HYLITE® DISPA®,KAPA®, FOAMALITE®, FOAM-X®, SMART-X®, IMPEX®, LUMEX® ABS, ACRIFIX® ASLAN (OUTDOOR FLOOR/WALL VINYL), AVERY DENNISON, CHROMADEK, CLEARSHIELD, CONNECT-IT, CORUPLAS, COSIGN (I-SIGN, STRATO. MODULE PLUS INDOOR/OUTDOOR, TOTEM, SIGN FIXATION, LIGHTBOX, STRATO, COVER STYL'. DIGI-WALL, DOMING, EZ-CLINGTM, EEZI-SLIDE, FLEXATHANE, GRAFITYP (GRAFITACK, GRAFIPRINT, GRAFIWRAP), GRIPPLE, HIPS, MBOND, KWIK-KLIK POSTER FRAMES LINK-IT, LUMILEDTM, MAGNETIC MAGMABOND, MEDIATEX® TECHNICAL TEXTILES (ALLEGRO, AIR, TROJA, COVERTEX, BOTTICELLI, GRANDFLEX), M-FOAM ARCHITECTURAL, MJETTM DIGITAL PRINT MEDIA, OMEGA-SKINZ, PLEXIGLAS® (GS & XT, SATINICE®, RESIST® HARDCOAT, RODS & TUBES, MIRROR®,) POLI-TAPE (POLI-FLEX®, POLI-PRINT, POLI-TACK, POLI-MOUNT, POLI-MELT®), POLI-CUT, ROWMARK, SIGN MAKING TOOLS, SPIRIT DISPLAYS (SPIRITFLEX, SPIRITTEX), STARFLEX, VINYLEFX®

TEL: +27 86 1100 420 EMAIL: nat.sales@maizey.co.za WEB: www.maizey.co.za HO: 18 Maltzan Street, Pretoria West PO Box 19502, Pretoria West, 0117



MAXIASER

MaxLaser is a leading wholesale distributor offering an extensive selection of laser machines, UV printers, DTF printers, heat press machines, and more. We specialise in providing comprehensive application solutions tailored to industry needs. Our product range extends to a variety of creative machines and accessories. available throughout South Africa. MaxLaser promotes a 'business in a box' environment, perfect for both home-based and online business ventures. Whether you're starting a new business or expanding an existing one, our professionally manufactured machines, crafted by top-tier tech enterprises, are designed to excel. We pride ourselves on supplying only globally recognised, reputable brands.

BRANDS: THUNDER LASER, XTOOL, ARTISJET,

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MEDIA FRENZY DIGITAL TEXTILES

Media Frenzy is a proudly South African supplier of print base media. Established in 2008 by Director, Ashraf Khan, Media Frenzy has established itself as a prominent and recognised supplier of print base textiles to the industry

Stemming from previously jointly involved, Luminex Manufacturers, Media Frenzy has gained an extensive market share and its customer base has established itself as a pioneer in the industry through innovative and creative customer solutions. Media frenzy offers a wide range of textile substrates, weights and widths suitable for sublimation, transfer, digital and screen printing. We can supply base fabric in either coloured, optically brightened or PFP state with a digital print finish if required to enhance colour rendition and clarity.

TEL: +27 11 886 1196 MOBILE: +27 73 469 0336 EMAIL: dion@media-frenzy.co.za WEB: www.media-frenzy.co.za 53 Bond Street, Ferndale, Randburg, 2194



MEGAJET SA (PTY) LTD

Megaiet SA is a distributor of large format printers and printing consumables including eco solvent printers, UV printers, DTF printers, sublimation printers, roll press machines, embroidery machines, laser engraving machines and many more.. BRANDS: LOCOR

MOBILE: +27 78 576 8556 EMAIL: info@mega-jet.com WEB: www.mega-jet.com Unit F1, Prospur Business Park, Oscar Road,

Hughes, Boksburg



MIDCOMP (PTY) LTD

Midcomp (Pty) Ltd is a 32-year-old company specialising in the sales, service and support of large format digital printing and finishing equipment. We have a full spectrum of solutions, from small print and cut systems capable of short-run production through to high volume printers. We also specialise in Zünd Swiss cutting systems for digital finishing with a high degree of automation, reducing both waste and reliance

Midcomp (Pty) Ltd offers world-class support, with a team of 13 factory-trained field service engineers that have the fastest measured response times in the industry. We also offer our customers a production backup facility at our Innovation Hub. In the event of a customer experiencing technical failure, they can continue production at our facility while a field service engineer resolves the problem, thus ensuring that deadlines are met.

Midcomp is the only company to offer a Pay Per Use (PPU) system where customers pay only for the square metres printed with all consumable costs included (excl. media). The PPU programmes allies to HP Latex printers. Another option is the world first PPUGRO programme that includes the cost of the equipment in the





square metres printed. As part of our 'Catalyst for Growth' promise we have evolved into a group of three focal companies, which include Midcomp Azero (large format printers and plotters) and Midcomp Consumables (digital print media)

With branches in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban, Midcomp (Ptv) Ltd sells to and supports the whole of South Africa, including neighbouring countries. We offer onsite and online demos.

HARDWARE & SOFTWARE BRANDS: HP. ZÜND, JHF, KLIEVERIK, FOTOBA, SUMMA, KALA, BARBIERI CALDERA SAL IDIGIT ONYX MEDIA BRANDS: HP, DRYTAC, CONTRAVISION, PALRAM, PLASTGROMMET

TEL: NATIONAL: +27 10 020 9999 EMAIL: sales@midcomp.co.za WEB: www.midcomp.co.za Unit 1, 4 Platinum Close, Phoenix, Cape Town



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TEL: JHB: +27 11 444 9288 / CPT: +27 21 511 5340 DBN: +27 31 502 6128

MOBILE: Robert Franco - Managing Director: +27 82 455 6333

EMAIL: marketing@gsw.co.za / CT: rfranco@gsw.co.za

WEB: www.gsw.co.za JHB: Unit 2, Olympia Gardens, Olympia Road, Eastgate Gardens, Marlboro, 2090, South Africa. CT HEAD OFFICE: 4 Gold Street, Northgate Estate,

Ysterplaat, 7405 DBN: Unit 2, 65 Marshall Drive, Mt Edgecombe Indust Estate, Mt Edgecombe, Durbar PO Box 371, Paarden Eiland, 7420



MIPS TECHNOLOGIES/MUTOH/ RAINJET

Master distributor for Mutoh products in Sub Saharan Africa. We strive to maintain only the highest standards from our wide range of printers, inks, materials and backup support. We are at the forefront of the printing industry constantly improving through technology, innovation and affordable prices. We offer a wide variety of printers and products from eco solvent, mild solvent, dye sublimation, UV printers, vinyl cutters, heat transfer presses and all the different types of ink required.

BRANDS: MUTOH, RAINJET, FLEXA, SAI RIP

SOFTWARE, AVERY

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MN GROUP

MN Group, a South African media and tech firm with 30 years of expertise, offers bespoke music and digital signage services for retail. Dominate, their next-gen content management software. empowers users with seamless control over business digital media **BRANDS: DOMINATE**

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EMAIL: david@mnsa.co.za / claire@mnsa.co.za WEB: www.dominateza.co.za

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EMAIL: mel@mr76.co.za WEB: www.mrplastic.com JHB: 13 Geldenhuis Road, Malvern East, Bedfordview, Johannesburg CT: Unit 3 Marconi Mews, 28 Marconi Road, Montague Gardens, Cape Town Po Box 289, Bedfordview, 2008



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BRANDS: WEIDLIO

MORILE: +86 15961133706 EMAIL: mandy@ntweiduo.cn WEB: www.ntweiduo.cn

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CT: No. 4, 7th Street, Montague Gardens, Cape

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TEL: +27 21 763 6990 EMAIL: info@nutecdigital.com WEB: www.nutecdigital.com

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ORAFOL SOUTH AFRICA

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BRANDS: ORALITE®, ORAJET®, ORACAL®,

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Federation of Printing, Packaging, Signage & Visual Communication

PRINTING SA

The official voice of the print, pack, sign and visual communications industries. We provide an array of services to members of the federation from conferring, consulting, training and campaigning for the long-term sustainability and future growth of the industry.

We represent our members on various statutory bodies, including: SACCI and Regional Chambers of Commerce, we are the official association for FESPA in Africa as well as the World Print Communication Forum (WPCF). Printing SA provides commercial, technical and legal advice, HR, IR and B-BBEE consulting services for our members. As the largest training provider for our sector, we offer an array of training interventions for those wanting to increase their knowledge, technical skills and expertise in the industry

BRANDS: PRINTING SA

TEL: +27 11 287 1160 FAX: +27 10 594 3299 **WEB:** www.printingsa.org 575 Lupton Drive, Halfway House, Midrand, 1682



PROJECT RHINO

Founded on World Rhino Day, 22 September 2011. Project Rhino is an association of like-minded organisations, facilitating rhino conservation interventions aimed at eliminating rhino poaching and securing the white and black rhino populations of KwaZulu-Natal. We recognise that the work in conserving and protecting rhinos from the threat of poaching is symbolic of the broader threat faced by all wildlife

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QINGDAO KERUN BIO-TECHNOLOGY

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REXX SCREEN & DIGITAL SUPPLIES

Rexx is a vertically integrated supplier and service provider to the screen and digital printing industry. We specialise in textile applications namely Direct to Garment, Direct to Film, Dye Sublimation, UV direct to textile and screen printing, offering full-service solutions including equipment, consumables, training, and support. We stock and offer a large range of ancillary equipment and products, including Caldera Colour Management and Workflow software solutions, heat presses, transfer films, sublimation paper, premium quality blank garments and speciality products. Our experienced technical team of Rexxperts offer world class support and solutions.

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ROLAND

We are a bunch of people who get excited about teaching digital technology to others. We eat, sleep and dream digital production solutions, be it for signwriting, digital dental milling, tool and die-making, fashion, you name it, we are dreaming up new and exciting ways for you to become proficient and self reliant with digital technology. **BRANDS: ROLAND**

TEL: JHB: 0800 ROLAND 765 263 / +27 11 875 9300 EMAIL: sales@rolanddg.co.za

WEB: www.rolanddg.co.za JHB: 306 Kvalami Boulevard. Kvalami Business Park.



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SHANGHAI HONGYUAN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD

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MOBILE: 86-13641848535

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Over the past 7 years, we have always regarded product quality as our lifeline. Among them, self adhesive vinyl stickers and waterproof PP account for 40% and 80% of the domestic shares respectively. We also provide OEM services for special needs in many fields. Shanghai Midiya aims to provide you with the best service with a professional team, and bring you a win-win value guarantee with high-quality products and very competitive prices. Looking forward to starting a wonderful cooperation journey with you. BRANDS: MIDIYA, SLD, VVF, J&PAID

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Head Office: 2 Wessex Road, Paarden Eiland, Cape Town

PTA: 104 Bessemer Street, Pretoria West

Industria, Pretoria DBN: 11-12 Flamingo Park, Intersite Avenue,



SKYCO TECHNOLOGIES

Skyco Technologies is a leader in large-format LED screens, video walls, commercial displays, AV integration, boardroom solutions, EVAC and PA systems, and smart security products. We supply and install custom-designed AV solutions tailored to our clients' unique needs, delivering immersive experiences that spark creativity and captivate the senses. As creative strategists, we are dedicated to pushing the boundaries of innovation, providing the latest in AV technology to bring our clients' big ideas to life. Skyco is the catalyst for reimagining creativity through cuttingedge AV solutions

BRANDS: ITC, HUAWEI, DAHUA TECHNOLOGY, UNILUMIN, LIANTRONICS, GLOSHINE, QS TECH, NOVASTAR

Tel: +27 11 026 7018

Email: malusi@skycotechnologies.co.za Web: www.skycomedia.co.za

Unit 8, Rambo Junxion, 400 Roan Crescent, Corporate Park North, Midrand, Johannesburg



SOUNDA NEW MATERIALS CO., LTD

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Our main products are: self adhesive vinyl and cold lamination film. Sublimation textile and canvas. PVC tarpaulin and PVC flex banner. BRANDS: SOUNDA

MOBILE: 8618101691090 EMAIL: maggieli@sounda.com.cn WEB: www.sounda.com.cn

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STIXO SIGNAGE SUPPLIES

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TEL: +27 11 830 1838 MOBILE: +27 83 950 6363 EMAIL: info@stixo.co.za WEB: www.stixo.co.za

3 Volans Street, Crown Mines, Johannesburg,

South Africa



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STUART & MARKS

Stuart & Marks has been operating for 35 years in the large format graphics media market and have grown into the largest graphics media supplier in South Africa, Stuart & Marks import selected quality media from mills around the world, specialising in dye sublimation, inkiet. solvent. eco solvent, latex, UV cured and CAD media. BRANDS: TRANSIFT

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SUZHOU ECO2 LASER CO., LTD

The company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of SUZHOU TIANHONG LASER CO., LTD (www. tianhonglaser.com), founded at the end of 2017, and is specialised in research, development and the production of CO2 laser tubes.

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SUZHOU SUNDLE TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD

We are a supplier and manufacturer of outdoor fabrics. We mainly focus on coated polyester/ nylon/cotton fabrics for tents, sleeping bags, camping hammocks, backpacks, advertising

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technology.

BRANDS: UPRINT

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Catalogue listings were correct at time of going to press. Updated product listings will be made online at www.signafricaexpo.com, www.africaprintexpo.com, www.modernmarketingexpo.co.za, www.graphicsprintsign.com and www.fespaafrica.com



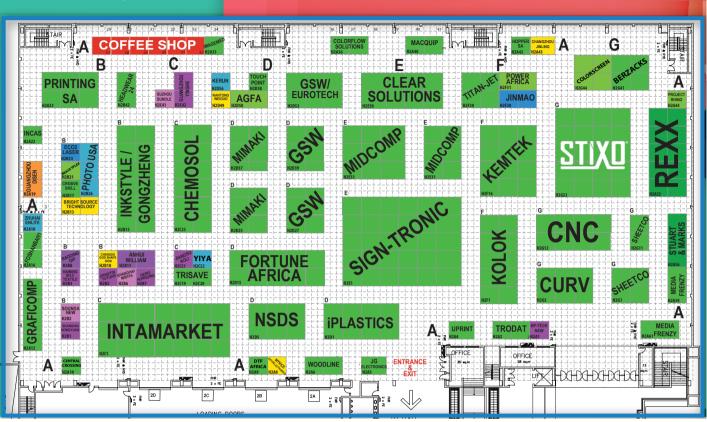








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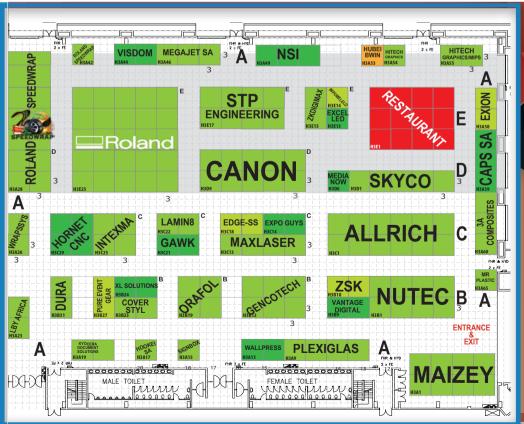












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www.gencotechlasermarking.co.za



CALDERA PRIMECENTER 3.2

This marks the arrival of a powerful Tiling Module, designed to facilitate how users prepare complex large format projects. The Tiling module provides a comprehensive experience for prepress operators, allowing them to import large format files, scale them to the desired size, create basic and advanced grids, manage overlaps, add annotations and export tiles with a naming template of their choice. Signage companies producing interior graphics, wall coverings and more will benefit.

www.midcomp.co.za



EFI PRO 16H+ HYBRID LED PRINTER

Designed to help sign and display graphics producers be more competitive and grow their business, the printer delivers high-quality imaging at production speeds and even more printing capabilities, all with a low total cost of ownership (TCO). It offers outstanding image quality with resolutions up to 1200dpi and true variable drop greyscale printing with a 5pL drop size. It features LED curing technology and comes with CYMK plus two white ink channels and up to five-layer printing in any colour in a single pass. www.efi.com



FLEXA XY AUTOMATIC CUTTER

This cutter is for digitally printed wallpaper. This cutter removes the need for touch-ups to eliminate unpleasant white lines during installation (which are very visible on prints with dark colours). Its advanced, patent-pending cutting system ensures perfect cuts, eliminating the 'white core' on the edges of patterns. The cutter provides high-quality productivity. There is no longer a need to check the cutting standards of finished wallpaper sheets manually. www.mipstech.co.za and

www.sign-tronic.co.za



NUTEC UV INK

The R10-RTR roll-to-roll low viscosity UV-curable ink range for Epson printheads, optimised for LED lamp curing, is the ideal choice for sign and graphics applications on flexible substrates and is engineered for long-lasting prints, with vibrant colours and sharp details that will withstand the test of time. Developed for rapid curing, this latest low viscosity addition to the Ruby range is designed for high-speed printing environments.

www.nutecdigital.com



ENFOCUS PITSTOP 24.07

This version introduces Resource Syncing, a powerful new feature built on Enfocus Cloud for PitStop Pro subscribers that expands PitStop Server's export capabilities to include TIFF format. PitStop Pro subscribers can now effortlessly synchronise their preferred Preflight Profiles, Action Lists, Variable Sets, and Colours through the Enfocus Cloud. This ensures that teams in separate locations always work with synchronised versions of settings, promoting consistency in job processing, as well as simplifying disaster recovery.

www.colorflowsolutions.co.za



AM.CO.ZA CNC PLASMA CUTTING TABLE

The MetalWise CNC Plasma Cutting Table is designed to meet the rigorous demands of modern metalworking projects. The control box is the central hub of the cutting table, where precision meets efficiency. This classic control box houses the software installation and is the primary interface for setting up cutting points, starting and stopping operations, and managing the overall workflow. The advanced system ensures that the arm and plasma extension maintain the correct working distance



STRATASYS DENTAJET XL SOLUTION

This is engineered for digital dental labs that must deliver high volumes of applications without sacrificing quality, helping them overcome significant challenges in finding and retaining qualified technicians as they work to meet growing market demand. The new PolyJet™ multi-material 3D printer is designed to run in a production setting with minimal human intervention. Labs can reduce up to 90 percent of their labour costs.

www.stratasys.com



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With a focus on DTG, breakthrough R&D chemists at Nazdar have produced a new fluid technology that can deliver clarity and high pigment loads with the use of innovative techniques and raw material selection. Vibrant, colour-rich textiles can now be achieved with vastly reduced ink usage and printhead passes while also reducing energy consumption in the drying process. This technology has the capability to make water-based inkjet a viable option in a host of sectors.

www.nazdar.com and www.xaar.com





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The SureColor SC-F500 is designed to help businesses expand their product offering, and is Epson's first 610mm, dye-sublimation printer.





Where space is limited, such as on shop counters, the small A4-sized footprint of the SC-F100 is the ideal choice, especially for start-up and smaller businesses.

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DTG-F2100 EPSON



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Create a range of professional-quality signage and displays with this superiorquality, precise and productive signage and display printer.

R215 000EX

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printer provides more bang for your buck with 2/4 i3200 print heads, longer service life, print head installation free and automatically moisturize online.

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SIGNINDUSTRY NEWS

Roland Announces July Wrap2TheMax Design Competition Winners

Roland DG South Africa has announced the July winners of the Wrap2TheMax Déjà Vu design competition. First place: Thuli Khumalo (R10,000), second place: Nicolette Human (R8000), and third place: Tracy Marshall (R5000).

Designers could let their imaginations run wild as they embarked on a journey with Roland to shape a brighter and more innovative future together. Entrants needed to choose one client brief, and using their artistic brilliance, transformed these into something ground-breaking.

www.rolanddg.co.za



UPrint Announces New Location

UPrint has moved to a new location to better serve its customers. The new address is: 4 Doreen Crescent, Glenashley, Durban North, South Africa,

New working hours are 08h30-16h00 (Monday to Thursday) and 08h30-15h00 (Friday). The company is closed on weekends and public holidays.

www.uprintglobal.com





SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Maizey Plastics Announces New East London Premises

Maizey Plastics has announced the relocation of its East London branch to a bigger location, just a five minute drive from its previous site.

The new address is: 10 Malcomess Street, Arcadia.

www.maizey.co.za



Intamarket Graphics Celebrated Christmas In July Open Day

Intamarket Graphics hosted its annual Christmas in July Open Day on 18 July 2024, bringing together industry leaders, customers and partners for a day of festive celebration and networking.

The event was marked by promotions, competitions,

giveaways and the grand prize of a Fulei BU 650II

The following winners were announced:

Hamper worth R1000:

- PLUS desktop cold laminator.
- Brand-a-Car. Gilly Sibambo Holdings.

Sign Co.

- Minuteman Press Boksburg.

Best Wrapping of an NP200 bonnet: Duvan Welman from Harrogate Plastics. Additionally, three customers received a roll of Avery Dennison 502 Gloss Black. This special giveaway was awarded to the 5th, 25th, and 40th customers through the door. The highlight of the event was the grand prize giveaway. The lucky winner of the Fulei BU 650II PLUS desktop cold laminator was Blazepoint.

Gavin Turner, Managing Director of Intamarket Graphics stated, 'We are thrilled with the turnout and the positive feedback from our attendees.'

'Our annual Christmas in July Open Day is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our clients and showcase the latest innovations in our industry. Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to everyone who joined us.'

In addition to the competitions, attendees' had the chance to engage with the latest products and solutions from Intamarket Graphics. The festive atmosphere and the opportunity to network with industry peers added to the overall success of the event.

Larèt Walkinshaw, Marketing Manager of Intamarket Graphics and the event organiser, said, 'Organising this event has been immensely rewarding. Witnessing our customers' enthusiastic engagement with our products and their enjoyment of the festivities truly validates our efforts. The competitions added an engaging and enjoyable element, and we look forward to hosting many more successful events in the future.'



www.intamarketgraphics.co.za

Midcomp Client's HP Latex Solutions Speed Up Production

South African full-service print provider
Centrepiece Printing Solutions (CPS) currently has
three HP Latex printers in place at its specialist
facility, namely two HP Latex 700 printers and an HP
Latex 335 machine – all of which were purchased
from approved HP distributor Midcomp. The
two HP Latex 700 machines are the most recent
addition to CPS' printing arsenal and were installed
in March 2024.

CPS has opened up about the impact HP Latex printing technology has had on its business, revealing its HP machines have helped the company to speed up production and take on more work as a result.

Based in Bloemfontein, CPS has been delivering commercial offset, digital and large format printing services to the South African market since 1999. Offering everything from business cards to banners, CPS works with clients across all manner of markets

Such a diversified service offering means it is crucial for CPS to work with the highest quality printing equipment. For this reason, CPS has elected to use HP Latex technology, which not only delivers stunning output on each job but, thanks to its use of water-based inks, offers an additional sustainable incentive to users.

Jannie Myburgh, Owner of CPS, explained why



working with the three machines offers several advantages to the company. 'We selected these three machines because of their production quality, speed and quick substrate drying time,' said Myburgh. 'We mainly use the HP Latex printers to produce poster papers, artist canvases, PVC banners and vinyl, with demand for these services having increased in recent years.'

Myburgh said while the quality of output and sustainable attributes of the HP Latex printers are hugely important to CPS, he said the stand-out

benefit of these machines has been their speed. The HP Latex 700 has a top speed of 105sqm/h in one-pass mode, while the HP Latex 335 can hit speeds of up to 50sqm/h.

'Since we began working with the HP Latex printers, our production speed has certainly increased,' he said. 'The sheer speed of the machines is the main reason why we decided to invest and add them to our production line-up.

www.midcomp.co.za

African Sun Media Spearheads Academic Publishing Growth With Xerox

When entrepreneur Nirode Bramdaw moved to Stellenbosch in 2017 to be closer to his family, little did he know it would be the start of a journey that would revitalise and revolutionise the academic publishing industry in South Africa.

Acting on advice from a reputable colleague, Bramdaw purchased African Sun Media, a wellestablished print and publishing company that was started in 2003. Like many small publishers in this part of the world, the company had found itself swimming against the stream when it came to challenging global publishers for a slice of the academic publishing market.

'One of the first things we did when I took over was take advantage of my relationships with Xerox,' said Bramdaw. 'African Sun was using a competitor's



African Sun Media Managing Director, Nirode Bramdaw, with his Colour Division Manager Ruben Ardendorff. (Pic: Arin Barry).



SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

inferior products, and I knew this was going to be a handicap for us if we wanted to grow.'

That relationship was started with Koos Ligtenberg, branch manager for Altron Document Solutions in the Western Cape at the time, and has since continued and expanded with Altron Document Solutions and Stuart Daniels, Sales Manager: Production Systems, Western Cape.

'Anyone can be successful, but lasting success takes partnerships, and that's probably the biggest credit I can give to Altron and Daniels,' he added. 'They have gone over and above what we needed as a business, even posting dedicated Xerox technicians onsite when they know we have particularly important periods or deadlines that can't be missed.'

The Xerox Versant 3100 Production Press is a highperformance, professional-grade colour printer designed to meet the rigorous demands of various industries, including academic book publishing. It features advanced colour management technology, ensuring accurate and vibrant colour reproduction crucial for producing detailed images, charts and graphics commonly found in academic publications.

'Academic publishing works on a print-on-demand model,' said Bramdaw. 'We don't keep a lot of stock, with a minimum of five copies of each title in stock at any point, so we need the right machines to print and bind as soon as new orders come in.'

'This means reliability and robustness are top of the priority list, because aside from books, you can imagine that official exam papers often come with a deadline which we aren't allowed to miss. Downtime is not a word we use in this business.'

Altron's Daniels concurred, 'In this industry in particular, our clients work to strict deadlines, and if we can't help them meet them, students can't sit their exams and professors lose their tenures, or worse. 'It's a high-pressure business and takes more than just the world's best printing technology to make it work,' said Daniels. 'It also takes reliability, consistency and world-class service, and that's our inb.'

www.altron.com and www.bdsol.co.za

DigitalView Announces First Investment Of Autura Ink Colour Quality Control Solution In Africa

DigitalView has announced that Van Son Inks and Graphics, a KwaZulu-Natal based supplier of offset inks, coatings and print consumables, which also has branches in Johannesburg and Cape Town, is the first client in Africa to invest in X-Rite's Autura Ink, a cloud-based ink formulation and quality control solution.

Leveraging X-Rite's proven technology from InkFormulation software, Autura Ink provides a secure and centralised platform for all formulation, storage, approval, retrieval, and quality control needs for offset, flexo, gravure, and screenprinting inks. Autura Ink enables ink suppliers, printers and packaging converters to accelerate ink development.

Autura Ink simplifies data sharing between formulation, quality control, and PantoneLIVE. Users will no longer need to switch between applications to validate formulas, which is now done seamlessly within the Autura platform.

Using Autura Ink, press operators can quickly identify variations in ink and minimise downtime due to mismatched colours. The integrated BestMatch™ feature allows operators to quickly determine if an ink is within specification or if the recipe needs adjustment. If the on-press colour fails to meet specification, Autura's Quick Correct feature facilitates the necessary ink formula additions to ensure that the press gets back on colour to resume operations quickly, reducing press returns. By promoting the reuse of materials, users can implement a more sustainable approach to print production.

'As a supplier of matched inks to the printing and



Lushan Moodley and Dr Suri Moodley, Van Son Inks and Graphics, with Danie Wessels and Laura Minter, DigitalView.

packaging industry, we are always looking at greater efficiencies that enable us to formulate colours faster and to the client's exact specifications. This has until now, been a time consuming process, affected by substrate changes, raw material consistency and lighting conditions. Autura immediately identifies the 'needle in the haystack', resulting in precise colour formulations in record time,' said Van Son Inks and Graphics' Managing Director, Lushan Moodley.

'With Autura, we are also now able to communicate digitally with our client or the brand owner. They simply send us a CXF file and we are able to formulate their exact requirement on any chosen substrate, so this has in essence digitised the art of ink formulation.'

Laura Minter, owner at DigitalView, addressed what

makes Autura Ink unique: 'Autura ink is a complete ink formulation and quality control solution. You are reducing the risk of error while avoiding downtime and press return waste. You can quickly share formulation and quality control data and identify ink colour variation without having to go back to a lab to check.'

'On top of that, you can use your leftover ink for new formulations, making it a green solution. We have found that the setup and training time is very quick.'

'Because it is a cloud based solution, there is no major hardware cost involved, except of course if you do not have an eXact Spectrophotometer,' added Minter.

www.digitalview.co.za

AM.CO.ZA Announces Upcoming Signage Industry Beginner's Courses

AM.CO.ZA has announced that its new training academy, Ambitious Academy, will be open to business owners, entrepreneurs and businessminded people from October, during which a course titled the 'Business Compass' will be introduced.

Company owner Eric Yin explained that the purpose of this particular course is to give learners a holistic understanding of the signage industry (and its respective elements such as CNC technology etc.) by teaching its history, from its beginnings right up until now in the age of artificial intelligence and computerisation.

Up to 40 students can be catered for at a time in a single lecture room. From February next year, the academy will then begin teaching hands-on machine training, which will be run during the day. It is believed that through learning history first, then hands on training, learners will acquire a holistic knowledge.

The benefits of the academy include career



advancement and networking opportunities, as well as training material.

The course in October will run consistently, from Monday to Thursday evening, each week. The same content will be taught on Monday and Wednesday,

and the same content will be taught on Tuesday and Thursday, so a participant will attend twice each week, and eight times a month, which is the complete course.

www.am.co.za

Sportswear Manufacturer Invests In HP Stitch S500 From Midcomp

Midcomp has installed a second HP Stitch S500 dyesublimation printer at Zak Sport (trading as Diski Sports). Diski Sports also opted for Midcomp's Pay Per Use (PPU) and PPUGRO® programmes, which give the company peace of mind and cost savings.

The S500 is an all-in-one dye-sublimation solution. With a single device, users can print on both transfer paper and direct to fabric with great results. The printer features reliable image quality with 2 x CMYK user-replaceable printheads and automatic compensation of up to 30% nozzles out. Without increasing production space, users can double their unattended printing capacity. They can also efficiently manage their fleet, and remotely monitor printer status and ink/substrate use with HP PrintOS.

Diski Sports specialises in branded sportswear, custom dye sublimation sportswear and sports equipment. Its range encompasses all types of sports including football, rugby, volleyball, netball and basketball. The company supply sports kits and sporting equipment for various schools, universities and sports clubs. Its in-house branding department offers custom branding for banners, flyers, T-shirt



The Diski Sports team.

printing, posters, dome stickers, corporate gifts and corporate clothing. Services include a variety of branding options such as full colour heat transfers, embroidery and dye-sublimation.

Afzal Sibda, Production Manager at Diski Sports, explained, 'We initially started off as a retail store business. We expanded from one store to five,

only dealing in sportswear, and it was more about selling the branded names and the branded items. Just prior to COVID, we started reducing our retail stores, and eventually decided to move out of the retail space and rather go into wholesale and manufacturing. We then shut down all the retail stores and created Diski Sports, which is a custom sportswear manufacturer.'



The first S500 was purchased just before the COVID lockdown of 2020, and the second was purchased midway through 2023, when the business realised that they needed to expand, as production was going well.

Midcomp showed Diski Sports a demonstration on the machine, and the company saw how it could benefit their business regarding sportswear manufacturing and custom sportswear. Initially, the first S500 was purchased by the company outright on its own, as there was no Pay Per Use option at the time. 'We were experiencing a lot of maintenance that needed to be done on the machine.'

'The cost of constantly buying ink, running short on ink, ensuring inks were in stock, and ensuring the printheads were always up to standard as they affect print quality, was all becoming very expensive for us. Then Midcomp launched the PPU and

PPUGRO® options. We looked into them and saw their benefits,' said Sibda.

The PPU comprehensive and customised programme, created by Midcomp, helps accurately calculate a company's costs per square metre. This ensures peace of mind that if something goes wrong with a machine, it can be fixed without having a huge bill to deal with.

The PPUGRO® solution offers a PPU Programme that gives customers the option of including a printing and finishing system as well as RIP Software, consumables (excluding media), service costs and insurance charged at a predetermined variable rate per square metre that the customer prints.

According to Sibda, when the business decided to go into manufacturing, they were limited, and just took different coloured fabrics and stitched them

together to make a product. The S500, however, enables them to offer fully customisable garments to their customers: 'No two sports teams want to look the same. The S500 allows us to produce custom sublimated garments for every team that we work with.'

He added that the S500 is almost double the speed of the company's other sublimation machines, and that the quality is unmatched. After extensive research, and considering all the machines that were available on the market, the business decided that HP is still number one when it comes to print speeds.

Sibda said that the main feature of the S500 is reliability, and he is confident that the business can take on certain jobs and not have breakdowns midway through.

www.midcomp.co.za

POLYVANTIS Celebrates Birth Of New Company To Serve Global Customer Base With PLEXIGLAS®/ACRYLITE® And LEXAN™ Solutions

SABIC's Functional Forms and Röhm's Acrylic Products have joined forces to form POLYVANTIS. The newly established entity offers a comprehensive, multi-material and industry-leading product portfolio, unique technical knowledge, and application-based expertise in sheets and films across various sectors, including building and construction, electrical and electronics, automotive, air and rail, healthcare and security, and lighting and signage.

Under the iconic PLEXIGLAS® / ACRYLITE® and LEXAN™ brands, POLYVANTIS delivers its solutions in polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) and polycarbonate (PC).

The organisation boasts a workforce of approximately 1500 employees and operates 15 production sites across the Americas, Europe. Asia and Africa.

As previously announced, a Board of Directors consisting of three functions will lead POLYVANTIS: Dr. Sandeep Dhawan as Chief Executive Officer, Peter Stubbe as Chief Financial Officer, and Dr.

POLYVANTIS

Wolfgang Pöffel as Chief Transformation and Integration Officer.

'The combination of coveted brands under one umbrella will enable growth for our customers. We will join forces to harness our innovative strength, build holistic solutions for our customers and create a stronger presence worldwide,' said Sandeep Dhawan, Chief Executive Officer of POLYVANTIS. 'With many years of experience in technology and product development, POLYVANTIS will provide unique and unparalleled technical and application-

based expertise.'

POLYVANTIS fosters a forward-thinking culture focused on continuous innovation and improvement. For decades, customers have relied on the comprehensive product portfolio, capabilities, innovative thinking tenacity of the people who make up POLYVANTIS.

www.polyvantis.com and www.plexiglas.co.za

EXION Corp Announces Johannesburg Headquarters Relocation

EXION Corp's Johannesburg headquarters has relocated from Lanseria to Eastgate. Sandton.

The new premises feature a 1400sqm warehouse, which includes ample office space. These facilities are well-suited for the distribution of a wide range of materials and machinery, enabling the business to operate more efficiently as a central hub.

'There was a lack of synergy in operating from three separate units. Now, with everyone under one roof, we can work more effectively. The central location offers easy access to the M1, N3 and N1 highways. With the relocation of our headquarters, our entire team is committed to working with renewed determination. We look forward to continued interest and support,' said Jay Kim,

Managing Director.

This area is home to several key suppliers in the signage and large format printing industry, 'We believe this will further establish Eastgate as a hub for the signage industry,' added Kim.

Kim also thanked the company's valued customers for their cooperation and support.

The new physical address is: Olympia Works, 11 Olympia Street, Eastgate Sandton, 2090, Johannesburg.

www.exion.co.za





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Two powerhouse organizations, SABIC's Functional Forms and Röhm's Acrylic Products, have joined forces to form POLYVANTIS, setting a global benchmark for innovation, quality and service.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Zünd Showcasing Cutting Solutions In Milan



Zünd will present innovative solutions for digital leather and textile cutting, including interactive nesting with mixed-reality glasses and a very compact Zünd G3 cutter equipped for processing leather.

These and the many other new production methods that will be displayed are laying the groundwork for the Smart Factory, during Simac in Milan, taking place 17-19 September.

For the cutting process, Zünd offers a compact cutting system ideally suited to the specific technical requirements of the leather-processing industry.

The Zünd G3 cutter with back extension offers a 227 x 280cm (89 x 110 inch) working area. This compact G3 configuration provides plenty of space for nesting, cutting, and removal of parts on a single cutter along with unparalleled production efficiency.

The working area is perfect for processing up to medium-sized hides and yet so compact that even small cut parts can be removed with ease. Cutter operation, hide infeed, and parts nesting are handled centrally from the front of the cutter for maximum user-friendliness. The cutting workflow goes from front to back and is divided into three sections for loading, cutting and parts removal.

This makes it possible to place and grade a new hide and remove finished cut parts, all while cutting is underway, which eliminates downtime and significantly boosts productivity. The Zünd cutter is controlled via the Mind production software and can accommodate three tools.

All steps in the cutting workflow are controlled with Mind software, as is the interactive nesting function, which is carried out using Augmented Reality glasses. This patented workflow enables software-aided nesting in addition to purely manual and fully automated parts placement. Using the mouse, the operator can turn, arrange, and place

parts on the leather or fabric as needed, according to specific nesting criteria.

www.midcomp.co.za

Mutoh Europe Announced New Managing Director



Mitsuo Takatsu and Frank Schenk, Mutoh Europe.

Mutoh Europe announced Frank Schenk as Managing Director of Mutoh Europe nv and Mutoh Deutschland GmbH. In this new role, Schenk will be overseeing all sales, pre-sales, logistics, marketing, product and application support as well as aftersales support activities for Mutoh throughout the EMEA business area.

Schenk, who has been General Manager Sales for Mutoh since July 2021, has taken over the role of Managing Director from Mitsuo Takatsu, who has been leading the company since 2020. During his tenure, Takatsu has focused on strengthening the company's existing sales and marketing framework and to prepare Mutoh for sustainable growth in the EMEA area.

Since the summer of 2021, Takatsu has been working closely with Schenk to implement further enhancements and drive the change process forward. Following the successful transfer of his current responsibilities to Schenk, Mitsuo Takatsu will be returning to Japan end of September 2024.

Schenk said, 'I am eager to continue the successful path set by Takatsu together with our newly formed management team and with the continued support of our experienced and dedicated Mutoh teams in Belgium and Germany. I am confident in the future business development of Mutoh in the EMEA region.'

www.bdsol.co.za and www.hitechgraphics.co.za and www.mipstech.co.za

Kongsberg Showcased Cutting Solutions In Nevada



Kongsberg Precision Cutting Systems (Kongsberg PCS) showcased the Kongsberg Ultimate alongside the MultiCam Apex3R and Kongsberg X24.

Visitors to PRINTING United, held from 10-12 September in Las Vegas, saw the solutions in action.

'Following its American debut at a special event at our Customer Experience Centre earlier this year, the Kongsberg Ultimate has not only been named Best Wide Format Cutting Solution in the EDP Awards announced at drupa, but it also recently received a prestigious PRINTING United Alliance 2024 Pinnacle Product Award.'

'We are incredibly proud of these awards, which are testament to the significant advances we have made in developing solutions that address the need for businesses to produce more, better and faster,' said Thackray. 'With its impressive acceleration rate of up to 2.74G and remarkable cutting speed of 168 metres per minute, the Kongsberg Ultimate truly addresses the unique challenges faced by corrugated converters involved in continuous high volume multi-batch production.'

'Renowned as the most versatile digital finishing device on the market, the X24 has the superior quality and wide range of specialty tools that combine to deliver the speed, power and flexibility businesses need,' said Thackray. 'It can handle a wide variety of materials, such as corrugated, folding carton, solid board, foam, coating blankets, wood and a long list of plastics.'

'Importantly, the versatility of the modular X range means tools can be added specifically to work with new materials, new applications or deliver more capacity,' he said. 'This enables business to add volume to production and gives them the tools they need to enter new markets.'

www.gsw.co.za

Durst Group Announces Long-Term Printing Technology Partnership



Peter Bray and Christoph Gamper, Durst with Nigel Brunt and Adrian Hallett, Titchfield Group.

Durst Group has announced a partnership with Titchfield Group that involves a multi-million pound investment planned for UK and international sites over the next three years.

The announcement was made during drupa. Titchfield Group is the UK's largest provider of Out of Home (OOH) advertising services. A major supplier of commercial property build and refurbishment services, with a dedicated media services division, a delivery and management business, it also supplies digital LED screens. With headquarters in Cuffley, Hertfordshire, Titchfield Group also has four other UK operations as well as international sites in France, Spain, Italy and Germany.

The first stage in the collaboration with Durst Group involves installing two industrial digital production machines going into the Titchfield Media production plant in Cardiff. One will be the Aleph Laforte 600 Paper printing system that achieves an output of up to 1000sqm/h and reaches a new level of quality in poster and billboard printing with six colours and 1200dpi. Using water-based and sustainable printing technologies, the Aleph installation was done in June. The Durst P5 350 HSR D4 3.5m roll-to-roll LED machine printing up to 670sqm/h will be installed later this year.

Titchfield founder, Nigel Brunt, said, 'Before committing to a partnership with Durst, which is highly regarded and respected in the industry, we did a lot of research. I visited many factories in China and across Europe, crawled all over FESPA and spent many weeks of trials and demonstrations. I analysed the total cost of ownership and Durst stood out as offering the

best solutions for our business, development and growth.'

'Hand on heart, I am a big fan of Durst because I am a big fan of printing. I am also impressed by the advanced software offering, enhancing the total solution. All these reasons made it a compelling choice to partner with Durst Group. It has incredible manufacturing facilities, plus it is the only factory I have ever known that cultivates its own honey and olive oil.'

Brunt added, 'Print is not in decline in out of home, it's just evolving. And I know there is significant growth in print for outdoor signage, which is environmentally friendly with the opportunity for direct sales to site owners as well. I am incredibly optimistic for the future. We have an £8 million (around R180 million) capital investment plan over the next three years on print with Durst.'

www.durstsa.co.za

UPM Raflatac Acquires Grafityp



Merging UPM Raflatac's existing graphics business with Grafityp will strengthen UPM Raflatac's overall competitive position in this attractive product segment, expand its portfolio and provide access to high-quality new technologies.

This acquisition offers significant opportunities to accelerate growth and increase business value through the expansion of Grafityp's customer base, production facilities and innovative product offering. Both parties have agreed not to disclose the purchase price or other details of the transaction.

'We eagerly look forward to the promising future this partnership will bring us. The UPM Group shares our commitment to human values and sustainability. The complementarity of our two organisations is truly remarkable and we expect significant synergies as a result of this collaboration.

It will accelerate our ambitious growth plans,' said Herman Bosman, owner of Grafityp.

'We are determined to become a complete supplier of products and services for graphics solutions. The merger of Grafityp with UPM Graphics accelerates our growth. Grafityp is a leading, innovative graphics company with a lot of know-how. We look forward to growing together and offering an even stronger product portfolio to our current and new customers,' said Timo Kekki, senior vice president, UPM Raflatac Films and Specials.

UPM Graphics is a new strategic self-adhesive business unit within UPM Raflatac. The business was established following the acquisition of AMC AG and its graphics business in 2022. UPM Raflatac's strategy is to grow the graphics business through organic and possibly inorganic measures to give it significant weight in the company's product portfolio. Typical graphic applications can be found, for example, in indoor and outdoor advertising, signage and vehicle wrapping.

www.maizey.co.za

Mutoh Client Invests In Direct To Object Printer



Graph!cD'SIGN owners Bart and Kirsten Leys next to the Mutoh XpertJet 1462UF.

With the recent purchase of a Mutoh XpertJet 1462UF, Graph!cD'SIGN entered the UV-Direct to Object (DTO) printing market. This not only allows them to print directly on a variety of materials and objects up to 15cm, but the investment also meant immediate independence from previous outsourcing.

Graph!cD'SIGN bvba was the first company in Belgium to install a Mutoh XpertJet 1462UF DTO flatbed printer. Graph!cD'SIGN was founded in 2012 and has been using Mutoh digital printing technology since the very beginning, initially with



Ecobond ACM panels are an excellent material for indoor or outdoor applications that require good dimensional stability, low weight, and



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

a second-hand Mutoh ValueJet 1614. Later, the company invested in a Mutoh ValueJet 1624X sign and display printer. In 2019, a new generation XpertJet 1641SR was added. To meet the growing demand for high-quality posters, banners and signs, they also invested in a Mutoh XpertJet 1341SR.

'After a convincing demonstration at Mutoh Europe in Ostend, we chose the XpertJet 1462UF because of its 700 x 1400mm print bed, the print height up to 15cm and the versatile possibilities with white and varnish inks,' said Bart Leys, director and owner of Graph!cD'SIGN.

'We use the printer for a wide range of applications, including printing rigids, personalised corporate gifts, all kinds of packaging mockups, small batch packaging, printing special effects on stickers and labels and last but not least, now we can print on objects up to 15mm, all printable objects our customers ask us for.'

'Our experience during the past five months with the XpertJet 1462UF has been very exciting. The 1462UF has significantly expanded our creative and operational capabilities. We really like the reliability and print quality of our Mutoh printers. They are machines you can trust blindly,' concluded Leys.

www.bdsol.co.za and www.hitechgraphics.co.za and www.mipstech.co.za

Color-Logic Showcased Metallic Colour Solution In Las Vegas



The Color-Logic Process Metallic Color System enables licenced printers to produce an impressive palette of 924 metallic colours.

Color-Logic's award-winning Process Metallic Color System was featured at the PRINTING United expo in Las Vegas from September 10-12, 2024. The event spotlighted the pioneering Color-Logic technology, which boasts a 15-year proven track record and is supported by more than 100 digital printing presses and printers, plus offset, flexographic, screen and gravure printing processes.

By combining silver ink or toner with CMYK on

paper, or using white ink or toner with CMYK on metallic stocks, printers can achieve a dazzling array of metallic colours and effects with a single pass of their press. The metallic colours are part of the Color-Logic Design Suite that integrates seamlessly with Color-Logic special effects, including Gradation-FX, Dimensional-FX, Watermark-FX, Watermark-FX Plus, 7 Volumes of Pattern-FX, and the newest Illustrator palette of Text-FX.

The Color-Logic Process Metallic Color System is a cost-effective solution with a lifetime licence, providing an exceptional return on investment.

www.altron.com and www.bdsol.co.za

Sun Chemical Exhibited Wide Format Solutions In Las Vegas



Visitors at PRINTING United Expo (September 10-12) in Las Vegas could explore the multitude of Sun Chemical's products and services designed to transform printing capabilities, including offerings for direct-to-film, wide and super wide format, digital printing and more.

Key among the products on display was Xennia Jade, Sun Chemical's groundbreaking pigment ink solution optimised for the direct to film (DTF) market. Tailored to meet rising demands while overcoming traditional challenges, Xennia Jade assures superior quality, stability and reliability, paving the way for a seamless production environment.

Sun Chemical also shone the spotlight on its Streamline series, an ensemble of inkjet inks developed for wide format printers, featuring low-odour chemistry and boasting GREENGUARD Gold certification. Complementing this range are the Streamline TVL 2 and TEL2 ink series, available in 500ml pouches and engineered to support ecosolvent inkjet printers.

To cater to the industrial 3.2m solvent inkjet presses market, Sun Chemical presented tailored Streamline ink solutions compatible with an array

of printheads, including Konica Minolta, Spectra Starfire and Epson i3200, with the Streamline SGR series for Ricoh Gen 5 printheads marking the latest innovation.

Sun Chemical's commitment extends to super wide format printing with the Streamline aqueous ink technology. The Streamline APY and Streamline APR series, tailored for Kyocera and Ricoh Gen 5 printheads respectively, exemplify high-colour strength, efficient drying and significant ink consumption reduction.

The company also introduced a variety of digital inks for textile decoration, encompassing sign and display, sportswear, fashion and home textiles with inks suitable for a full range of digital printer and printhead models. Highlights included the marketleading sublimation inks ElvaJet Opal SB and ElvaJet Topaz SC, alongside new pigment solution Xennia Sapphire, which provides exceptional colour and application performance.

The showcase featured SEPAREL® for inkjet applications, a significant advancement in degassing technology developed by DIC Corporation. These modules facilitate optimal ink performance by ensuring minimal pressure loss and compact size.

Sun Chemical also displayed an array of additional printing solutions including edible inks for direct food printing that enable customisation and enhanced consumer experience. SunJet, the global inkjet brand of Sun Chemical and DIC, exhibited its latest inkjet chemistry advancements.

www.sunchemical.com

SwissQprint Announces Milestone 2000th Printing Solution Sale



SwissQprint has sold its 2000th model worldwide to SuperGraphics.

SwissQprint has announced that the buyer of its 2000th machine worldwide, a Nyala model, is an American adtech company. Not only is this the

most popular model in the swissQprint range, it is also Europe's best-selling large format printer in its class – and has been for nine years in a row.

'We have sold our 2000th printer, a significant milestone in swissQprint's 17-year history,' enthused CEO Kilian Hintermann. This particular printer is going to America, destined for SuperGraphics in Seattle.

'SwissQprint won us over by combining the strength of the highest quality flatbed press on the planet with high efficiency production output, and it is an honour for SuperGraphics to be taking delivery of the 2000th swissQprint machine,' said Reid Baker, CEO of the established advertising technology company.

'We warmly welcome superGraphics to the swissQprint family,' said Hintermann, adding, 'North America is an important growth market for us.' The global community includes over 1500 companies in some 40 countries around the world. Out of the installed base of nearly 2000 printers, over 400 are more than 10 years old and still in daily use – a testament to the machines' longevity.

SwissQprint has always developed and built its products 100% at its Swiss headquarters, giving the company end-to-end control over the process. 'Thus, we can guarantee what swissQprint is reputed for, namely innovative strength, precision, quality and reliability,' explained Hintermann.

SwissQprint described the model's success as being based on its combination of high print quality, multifunctionality and efficiency. Carmen Eicher, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer at swissQprint, said, 'We are delighted that the 2000th machine is a Nyala. We are also very pleased that this best-selling model has gained us superGraphics as another new US customer.'

www.sign-tronic.co.za

Neschen Showcasing Self-Adhesive Products And More In Las Vegas



Darren Speizer, Neschen.

Neschen will demonstrate how its advanced selfadhesive media and laminators set new industry standards.

Neschen will emphasise its unique position as the inventor of the groundbreaking easy dot® technology, which revolutionises the application of self-adhesive media with its easy, bubble-free installation process. This technology, coupled with the broadest portfolio of dot-adhesive products on the market, positions Neschen at the forefront of sustainable innovation.

Addressing the increasing demand for environmentally responsible solutions, Neschen's PVC-free product portfolio not only meets but exceeds industry standards, making it the go-to choice for businesses aiming to reduce their environmental impact.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore Neschen's extensive range of PVC-free printing media, including the innovative easy dot® series and the newly launched easy dot® PET silver L-UV.

This PVC-free film, with its mirror effect, offers a unique combination of environmental responsibility and striking visual appeal, making it ideal for eyecatching displays and promotional events.

Additionally, Neschen will showcase the Neschen HotLam 1650 TH, a laminator designed for high-volume production environments.

Attendees are encouraged to engage with live demonstrations to see how the HotLam 1650 TH's dual heated rollers and advanced heating system deliver consistent, high-quality results across a variety of materials.

This hands-on experience will highlight how Neschen's laminators can optimise production workflows and meet the specific needs of large format applications.

Neschen will exhibit its solutions from September 10–12, 2024, in Las Vegas, at PRINTING United.

'Our PVC-free solutions, including the easy dot® PET silver L-UV, and our state-of-the-art laminators like the HotLam 1650 TH, reflect Neschen's dedication to innovation and environmental responsibility,' said Darren Speizer, Managing Director of Neschen Inc.

www.allrich-sa.co.za

SwissQprint Digital Printing Technology Continues With Drive Towards Sustainability



Users getting high value from swissQprint's large format printers is important to the company. But equal priority applies to its own value system: the health of users and end users as well as the protection of the environment all matter.

SwissQprint Greentech is the name for digital

printing technology that is committed to high customer benefit and environmental protection in equal measure.

The company's shipping distances are short: 80% of their suppliers, providing over 90% of all machine parts, are Swiss companies and many are located nearby. Moreover, the printers are 100% developed and produced at the swissQprint headquarters in Switzerland

The UV printing process requires neither heating nor ventilation, which keeps energy requirements low – LED lamps consume little electricity and have low emissions. The lifetime of swissQprint products is more than a decade; they are low maintenance, which minimises service calls and consumable parts that need replacing.

UV LED printing largely avoids ozone emissions; thanks to LED technology, mercury waste is eliminated. SwissQprint inks are also VOC-free and Greenguard Gold certified.

SwissQprint saves not only a user's budget but also natural resources. All of its current flatbed and roll to roll printers are highly energy efficient, as evidenced by their ISO 20690:2018 certification. SwissQprint is the first manufacturer of large format printers to put their machines through this test. UV LED large format printers from swissQprint consume an average of 2.2 kilowatt-hours of electricity, exactly the same as an average kettle. A two-hour video streaming session on a 65 inch 4K TV requires about the same amount of power, calculated from the data centre to the end device.

www.sign-tronic.co.za

Durst Group Announces 1000th Workflow Software Installation



Forge Graphics, renowned for its innovative and high-quality graphic solutions, joins a distinguished list of customers benefitting from Durst Workflow's advanced capabilities. Durst Group recently announced that Forge Graphic Works has become the 1000th customer to install Durst Workflow software.

This milestone marks a significant achievement for Durst Group, highlighting its rapid growth and dedication to providing cutting-edge solutions to the printing industry. Based in Portland, USA, Forge Graphic Works has a team of design and print experts specialising in large format printing and graphic manufacturing, installation and fulfilment services for retail, events, interiors and experiential marketing programmes.

www.durstsa.co.za



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COVER STORY ADVERTORIAL

GIVE YOUR BUSINESS A SUSTAINABLE EDGE

WITH HP LATEX INKS



Environmental considerations are becoming a critical business issue for printing companies. If you fail to meet the requirements of environmentally conscious customers, along with increasing government regulations, your print shop, and your business, could be in jeopardy. HP Latex inks and printers will help you turn sustainable business practices into business growth.

Why Should Your Business Care About Sustainability?

More and more customers, large and small, are requesting print campaigns with reduced environmental impact. In addition, customers are now supporting brands that meet compliance with legal regulations, including documented proof that environmental standards are met.

Brands are becoming increasingly aware of the need to incorporate sustainability in their company policy and adhere to the same. Sustainability has become a permanent fixture for 70% of CEOs.

Some projects, for example, those from the rapidly expanding interior decor segment, demand strict compliance including but not limited to: indoor air quality and display prints; and sustainable sourcing of printing materials.

The print industry is slowly but surely transitioning toward a circular economy. This is regenerative and restorative by design and will help organisations to create more value while reducing dependence on scarce resources. By adopting more sustainable business practices, your business can attract more consumers concerned about sustainability, and you can differentiate your business from competitors.



ADVERTORIAL COVER STORY

Move Your Business Toward A Sustainable Future With HP

HP is recognised among the 2020 Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World and has achieved multiple other sustainability awards year after year.

Water-based HP Latex Inks are designed to avoid the hazards associated with solvent and UV. With an end-to-end approach, HP continues to drive a greater sustainable impact in large format printing with each new generation of HP Latex Printing System. HP has the commitment and the scale to address current as well as anticipated environmental needs, and to continue leading the change in signage printing.

Lead With The Most Environmentally Certified Technology

HP Latex inks have qualified for certifications, which demonstrate that they meet some of the world's most rigorous and comprehensive standards for low chemical emissions into indoor air. These include GREENGUARD GOLD and UL ECOLOGO®. As a result, HP Latex inks allow print service providers to produce odourless prints for indoor displays in sensitive environments such as hospitality, schools and healthcare.

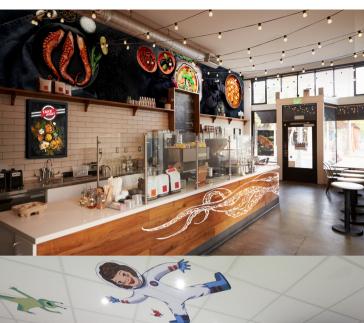
Additionally, the inks are durable in that they feature light-fade resistance, scratch and abrasion resistance, as well as water and chemical resistance, ticking off as many boxes as a user may anticipate during day-to-day operations. Also, while non-HP inks may cost less per litre, they can cause frequent printhead replacement, unsellable prints, and increased printer downtime and maintenance.

The fourth generation of HP Latex inks brings even more innovation than previous generations. HP Latex ink technology contributes to the wellbeing of your employees, customers and businesses and provides outdoor durability and versatility across all common media types used in sign and display applications, while newly expanding into white ink applications, to produce high-quality and odourless prints for indoor display in sensitive environments.

HP Latex inks are made in a factory that uses reclaimed water. In this way, HP contributes to water resiliency and protecting natural resources. The water HP uses has gone through multiple purification steps, providing a purity that is comparable to, or higher than, conventional tap water as confirmed by regular monitoring.

The latest generation of HP Latex inks contain no Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). Printing with HP Latex inks avoids the problematic reactive monomer chemistry and ozone generation associated with UV printing.







Containing up to 65% water, this ink has a flashpoint greater than 110 °C, making it non-combustible and non-flammable. In contrast, eco-solvent and solvent-based inks typically have highly volatile components in high concentrations with flashpoints around 60°C to 70 °C.

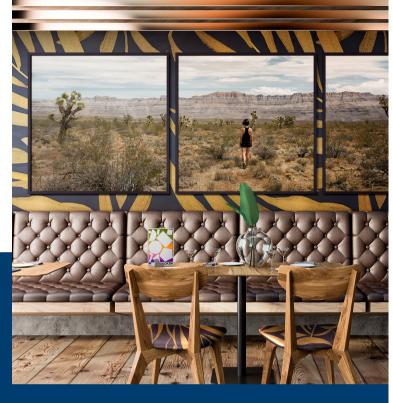
As with most cyan inks, the HP Latex cyan ink uses a copper-based dye that is present in a bound form as copper phthalocyanine. There are no other heavy metals present as intentionally added ingredients in these HP Latex inks and the inks are PVC-free.

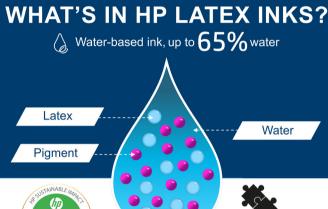
HP Latex ink is not classified as an eye irritant, and the latex polymer in HP Latex inks is not related to natural or synthetic latex, so it does not cause a latex-related allergic reaction.

An important component of total environmental performance is the recyclability of used consumables. HP printers and supplies contain recycled plastics designed with post-consumer electronics, soda bottles, UL-validated ocean bound plastics, coat hangers and empty original HP ink cartridges.

Rob Makinson, Group CEO at Midcomp, said that sustainability is very important to the company. 'For many years, Midcomp has promoted the fact that HP Latex inks are the most environmentally conscious inks in our industry. Competitors have sometimes comically tried to defend their position by spreading mistruths. Midcomp remains quite perplexed at the inaction of a majority of retailers to guide or steer their print service providers towards sustainable printing. Sustainable printing is a global trend and will eventually take hold in South Africa. We are well positioned to meet that challenge and work with customers to enable them to take advantage of those opportunities.'

Makinson also said that Midcomp is actively creating a more sustainable business, and the company has worked with HP to implement their guidelines with respect to sustainability. 'Certain applications are more suited to different ink technologies, so we do address those as necessary to round off our product portfolio. We are also a participant in HP's global Amplify Partner Programme and we have reached impressive accreditation. We have initiated, and we help manage, certain recycling





Inks comply with toy safety standards













programmes that are unique to HP ink and the media that we sell. This came at the behest of a large and well known retailer who recognises the benefits of using print service providers that can prove their sustainability not only in terms of print but also in terms of how waste is managed.'

'Midcomp works to educate and convince potential clients about the benefits of sustainability. For existing customers using HP Latex inks, we work tirelessly with brand owners and corporates to create awareness of the benefits of a sustainable print solution. We also fight against greenwashing, which is surprisingly prevalent.'

Makinson also explained how Midcomp can give printers a sustainable edge:



NICKLE-FREE





NO SPECIAL VENTILATION REQUIRED



NON-FLAMMABLE



NO HAZARDOUS









Ready to reinvent the future of sustainable printing with HP Latex inks and printers? Contact Midcomp today.





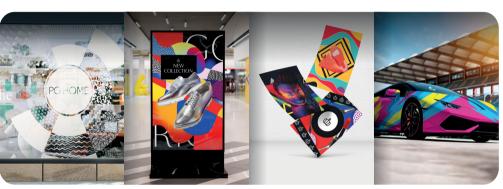
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SIGN AFRICA AN FESPA AFRICA EXPO PREVIEW PAI

BY MATTHEW WOOD

AI WORKSHOP

Learn how AI is transforming the way we conceptualise, create and produce design and content. Discover the AI tools that many are using to transform their work.

Place: Sign Africa JHB Expo. Dates: 11-13 September, 11am and 2pm. Cost: R200 per person per session. Address: Hall 2, Balcony, Gallagher Convention Centre.

Duration: 1 hour long workshop. Presented by Gerald Yapp,

Creative Director of In-Detail.



Book your spot here: www.signafricaexpo.com/ ai-workshop-jhb-2024/

The flagship Sign Africa and FESPA Africa expo is an opportunity to see the latest technology and solutions. View these highlights at the exhibitor's stands:

AGFA



The Anapurna RTR3200i LED is a heavy duty 3.2m wide roll-to-roll UV LEDinkjet printer. It prints top-quality indoor and outdoor banners and billboards at speeds up to 127sqm/hour. This dedicated roll-to-roll UV LED-curable printer, which comes in a six colour and a four colour plus white version, handles a broad scope of flexible media for indoor and outdoor applications. As the Anapurna RTR3200i LED is equipped with UV LED lamps, it enables users to print on a wide media mix and to save energy, costs and time.

The four colour plus white version stands out with its ability to print white in different modes, improving the opacity of the printed material as well as increasing colour contrast and readability. The Anapurna RTR3200i LED can also handle dual-roll printing. This option enables users to double their productivity when printing on smaller media — whether it is paper, vinyl or polyester.

www.agfa.com

ROLAND SPEEDWRAP CHALLENGE

Enter the Roland Speedwrap 2024 challenge at the Johannesburg Expo. Wrap a car door in 10 minutes and stand a chance to win cash prizes.

The Speedwrap Challenge is brought to you by platinum sponsor Roland, vinyl sponsors GrafiWrap (distributed by Maizey Plastics) and Fedrigoni (distributed by Red Hot Media), and expo sponsors Sign Africa and FESPA



The winner of the Speedwrap will get an entry to compete in the World Wrap Masters Series at FESPA in 2025 (Ts and Cs apply).

SPONSOR



VINYL SPONSORS

EXPO SPONSORS







In order to demonstrate how Enfocus Switch can help any printer improve

speed, efficiency, consistency and creativity in their business, Enfocus distributor and systems integrator, ColorFlow Solutions, will be creating a little bit of fun while addressing the serious subject of workflow automation and AI in print.



The company invites visitors to their stand to 'strike a pose', then watch how Enfocus Switch automates the entire prepress workflow to produce a replica 'Mini-Me' of themselves. The visitor will then move over to the Sign-Tronic stand (Stand Hall 2 E1), part of the Mini-Me friendship circle, and see how their Mini-Me comes to life on Sign-Tronic's high speed and high quality swissQprint printers, before being automatically cut out and ready for the visitor to take home.

The whole process starts with having your picture taken at the ColorFlow booth (Hall 2 A36-37) and then watching how the Enfocus Switch workflow handles everything from Web 2 Print, resizing, removal of the background, the creation of cut lines, logging of job data and status, approval process, ganging of jobs, and notification about when your Mini-Me is ready.

www.colorflowsolutions.co.za

FORTUNE AFRICA



The YF-2512F UV flatbed printer features print speeds of 40sqm/h (4 pass), 34sqm/h (6 pass) and 20sqm/h (8 pass), and can print on glass, acrylic, wood, ceramic, metal sheet, PVC sheet and plastic, to name a few substrates. Other features include a print width of 2400 x 1300mm, and it can accommodate a media thickness of up to 80mm.

The YF-6090 UV flatbed printer prints on glass, acrylic, wood, ceramic, metal sheet, PVC sheet, plastic and more. It also features an Epson 13200-U1 printhead (it can accommodate three), and is suitable for advertising, light boxes, art painting, vinyl and more. It has print dimensions of 600 x 900mm.

The YF-1702 dye sublimation printer's applications include: banners, flags, heat transfer paper, flex banner and more. It also features an Epson I3200 printhead (it can accommodate two), and a print width of 1600mm.

The YF-1704 UV inkjet printer's applications include vinyl, flex banner, mesh, one way vision, paper,

textile, wallpaper, coated banner, lint-free cloth, photo paper etc. The solution also features Epson UV ink. An overhead exhaust fan is recommended. The YF-3200D eco-solvent printer features a heating dryer and cooling fan, CMYK print mode, 1440dpi print resolution and can handle media with a thickness of up to 3mm.

The company's letter bender features a multi-tooth milling cutter for multi-angle precision cutting. Also being showcased is the A3 UV flatbed printer, which is ideal for smaller objects and promotional items.

www.fortuneprinters.co.za

GONGZHENG SOUTH AFRICA



The Gongzheng Asparas G2 sublimation solution features up to 95 sqm/h output, two Epson I3200 A1 printheads, an anti-wrinkle platen, an anticollision system and an efficient IR dryer.

The Gongzheng Apsaras G4-H sublimation printer features four Epson I3200 A1 printheads, a bulk ink supply system with ink cartridge, industrial feeder, anti-collision system and dryer.

The Gongzheng H2513GN UV flatbed printer has enhanced water-cooling LED UV lamps that cure ink quickly during high speed printing, auto height detector for material up to 100mm thick, up to eight Ricoh Gen 6 print heads, a precise vacuum table and more. Applications include: PVC, metal, wood, acrylic, glass and ceramic.

The Gongzheng Thunderjet AQ1602UV is a 1.6m roll-to-roll UV printer that features drop-ondemand piezo with variable dot, dual water cooling LED UV lamps, UV flexible ink and a bulk ink supply system with white ink recirculation system.

The Gongzheng HO906I high end small flatbed UV printer is ideal for customising graphics on various substates, features high resolution, high speed and high durability Epson I3200 U1 printheads, and can print on acrylic, aluminium, foam board, PVC, leather, glass and more.

www.gongzheng.co.za

HOPPER



Visitors can learn about the company's services

which include: wholesale clothing (golf-shirts, hoodies, trousers and T-shirts); DTF printing (with a printable width of up to 580mm); UV DTF stickers (with a printable width of up to 280mm); and vinyl printing (material width of 490mm).

www.hoppersa.co.za

KEMTEK



The SureColor SC-V7000 is Epson's first UV flatbed large format printer, offering exceptional image quality and flexibility across a wide range of media. Along with these qualities, its intuitive interface and convenient features make it easy to use, from beginners to experienced pros, while opening up coveted new business opportunities.

The widene R120 by widinovations is a precise, robust, reliable and technologically advanced cutting machine that is designed to respond effectively to the needs of an increasingly demanding market. The R120 comes equipped with all the tools necessary to perform even the most complex jobs, such as mist cooling, tool sensors and automatic linear rail lubrication, and four electrically operated vacuum zones.

The widlaser S600 from widinovations is designed to effectively respond to the needs of the laser engraving and cutting market, and is developed to be compact, fast, robust, reliable and technologically advanced. The compact dual-chassis design allows users to have all the necessary elements to properly function with the equipment in a single volume.

The widinovations widlaser F200 has been designed to effectively meet the needs of the laser marking market. The user-friendly software with powerful tools is suitable for beginners or professionals.

Visitors at the expo will also be able to see samples produced on the company's Canon, HP Indigo and Scodix solutions.

www.kemtek.co.za

KOLOK GRAPHIC SUPPLIES



Kolok's Stingray Vinyl products are renowned for their durability and versatility. These materials are perfect for a wide range of applications, from labels to window graphics, ensuring vibrant and longlasting results.

Kolok's PVC offerings are ideal for creating durable and visually striking signage. These materials provide excellent print quality and are suitable for both indoor and outdoor use, making them a staple for any signage professional.

The range of wallpapers combines aesthetic appeal with practicality. Perfect for interior design projects, these wallpapers offer a variety of textures that cater to both commercial and residential spaces.

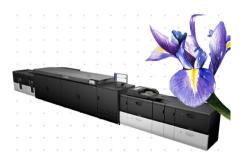
Discover Kolok's dye sublimation paper, engineered for high-quality transfers and brilliant colour reproduction. This product is perfect for producing vibrant prints on textiles and other sublimation-friendly substrates.

The company is proud to feature HEXIS, ORAFOL®, SIHL, HP and STAHLS' branded print media, known for its superior performance and reliability. These materials are perfect for high-demand applications, from T-shirt branding to vehicle wrapping, providing excellent print quality and durability, and offering solutions to a wide range of industries.

Kolok's range of Nutec Digital Inks for solvent, eco solvent and UV printers offers exceptional colour accuracy and consistency. These inks are designed for a variety of printing applications, ensuring high-quality results and compatibility with a wide range of substrates. Kolok also stock the Nutec Dye Sublimation range of inks, ensuring vibrant, rich and colourful results for dye sublimation transfers.

www.kolokgs.co.za

KYOCERA DOCUMENT SOLUTIONS SOUTH AFRICA



Printed samples from the TASKalfa Pro 55000c will be exhibited. The printer infuses the very best of Kyocera's innovative spirit with its dedication to excellence. With the ability to output vibrant and eye-catching colours onto a wide variety of offset coated media at high speeds, the most recent addition to the inkjet portfolio is set to make a splash in the demanding graphic arts space.

Similar to its predecessor, the TASKalfa Pro 55000c boasts energy efficiency and minimal maintenance. Its media versatility surpasses that of the TASKalfa Pro 15000c, ensuring no limits are imposed on the end user's productivity and creativity. With larger printheads capable of producing 1200×1200 dpi resolution and advanced edge smoothing technology, the 55000c promises unparalleled image quality.

Users can minimise downtime and optimise workflows with the high-speed TASKalfa Pro 15000c production inkjet colour printer. Enjoy unbeatable reliability, flexibility and consistency at 150 pages a minute. Finishing options include booklet finishing and a high capacity stacker. Other features include outstanding image quality thanks to proven Kyocera inkjet technology; Fiery System (optional) to optimise colour and boost productivity with advanced workflow options; and support for paper

sizes ranging from A6 to SRA3 and beyond from 56 to 360g/sqm.

Printed samples from the TASKalfa Pro 15000cB will be showcased. Users can minimise downtime and optimise workflows with this high-speed production inkjet monochrome printer. Enjoy unbeatable reliability, flexibility and consistency at 150 pages a minute.

Finishing options include booklet finishing and a high capacity stacker. Other features include outstanding image quality thanks to proven Kyocera inkjet technology; Fiery System (optional) to optimise ink consumption and boost productivity with advanced workflow options; and support for paper sizes ranging from A6 to SRA3 and beyond from 56 to 360g/sqm.

www.kyoceradocumentsolutions.co.za

MACTECH



The MT1325 laser machine can process wood and has a work size of 1300mm x 2500mm and laser output power of 100W, 130W or 150W, making it a versatile addition to your business.

The LF-3015EA economic fibre laser cutting machine is designed for low power (1100W-2000W) applications like cutting and marking thin metal sheets. It maximises cost savings for metal factory owners and can cut carbon and stainless steel.

The high quality MT1390 CO2 laser cutting and engraving machine can be used to create luxury packaging or packaging mock-ups to show clients what their businesses are capable of doing. It can also process paper products, so it makes an ideal addition to any printing business. Work size: 1300mm x 900mm. Laser output power: 100W. Locating accuracy: ≤+0.01mm. Engraving speed: 0-10000mm/min.

Use the MT-2030VP CNC router for routing or drilling wood, plastics and composites. It has a working area of 2000 x 3000mm and a maximum engraving speed of 20000mm/min. The spindle speed is 6000–18000rpm.

www.mactechequip.co.za

MEDIA FRENZY



The company is showcasing its cutting edge and top-quality print based textiles and locally crafted hardware.

Visitors can also see a fusion of tradition with futuristic fabrics for sublimation, setting a new standard of excellence. Included will be telescopic flags, sharkfin flags, gazebos, pop-up banners, pull-up banners, table cloths and fabric swatch books. Dye-sublimation ink and director's chairs will also be showcased.

The locally crafted Media Frenzy hardware for both indoor and outdoor settings will be displayed, showcasing its South African quality. Visitors will see wall frames in various sizes and gazebo frames in aluminium or steel, available in an array of sizes.

dion@media-frenzy.co.za

NATIONAL SCREEN & DIGITAL SUPPLIES (NSDS)



NSDS will showcase its DTF Textile, DTF-UV and DTF-flatbed solutions. NSDS supplies a premium brand of inks, film and hot melt powder with its DTF-textile solutions, enabling users to achieve more vibrant colours with excellent stretch and washability.

The DTF-UV printer outputs a sticker that can be applied to almost any surface and shape. It has good release and excellent wash and rub fastness. The DTF-flatbed is a versatile A3 printer and can print directly onto various substrates.

Textile screen printing solutions and various heat press options will also be exhibited and attendees will be invited to physically print onto fabric to improve their experience. Visitors will also be able to view different print techniques at the stand.

www.nsds.co.za

NSI LABEL

The NSI ASF420 flatbed cutter, which includes plug-in software and automatic camera scanning, is ideal for short-run and medium-sized production and samples of packaging, swing tickets and even labels.

It processes material including paper, card, carton, synthetics, corrugated board films and labels, up to 600gsm, and features QR code technology for mixed document cuts and precise corner mark points.

It handles print and craft paper stickers, cosmetics labels, A4 synthetic paper, wine labels and 200g cardboard. Using advanced digital contour cutting technology, the flatbed cutter follows artwork cut lines drawn in Adobe® Illustrator® or CorelDRAW®.



With no cutting dies required, the sheets are produced to any shape, instantly and directly from the desktop. It can handle full cutting, half cutting, creasing and even drawing. It also features fully automated, kiss-cutting of sheet label, full cut and crease production, with impressive accuracy. Additional features include smooth paper feeding. a high precision servo motor and fast speed.

www.labelandpack.africa

ORAFOL SOUTH AFRICA



ORAFOL® South Africa will showcase its wide range of high-quality materials, including ORALITE® Reflective, ORACAL® Vinyls, ORAJET® Digital Print Vinyl and ORABOND® High Performance Double Sided Tape. Company representatives will be on the stand to advise visitors on the ideal products for their projects.

www.orafol.com

REXX SCREEN & DIGITAL SUPPLIES

The Xinflying XF450 Pro 42cm compact DTF printer and shaker will be running with the company's Rexx DTF PRO inks using its PRO hot peel film. This is an ideal starter machine with quality delivered by two I1600 printheads.

The Xinflying 60cm (C602+C650H) compact DTF printing solution will be running with the company's exclusive Rexx Premium DTF ink and Premium instant peel film. This is an ideal unit for those needing greater capacity and speed from two 13200 printheads.



The Xinflying (C605+H6502) 60cm printing solution has printing speeds of 23 square metres per hour on 6 passes. This is currently the fastest machine in its class. Also showcased will be the new 1.2m 8 head Xinflying (L1208 + H1300) printing solution, and Mycolour 30cm UV DTF printer, which is a great addition to any versatile branding business.

Heat presses include a premium double heated cap press, Auto Open Manual heat press and the Twin Station Electric Shuttle heat press (with laser alignment and lifting movable stand with pedal).

Also at the stand will be speciality transfer films from SEF, including puff, flock, silicone, and others; an eco-friendly line of screen cleaning products from Easiway (Rexx have both direct application and dip tank systems, which are highly effective and drain safe); and RexxT apparel, which are premium quality combed cotton enzyme washed T-shirts. hoodies and sweats for the best garment printing

www.rexxscreendigital.co.za

SHEETCO



The Avanti i4 sublimation printer boasts a production speed of 120-160sqm/hour. The bulk ink system includes 3L ink tanks with a slow level alarm and syphon system subtanks. It also features the latest technology Precision Core TFP printheads with 12,800 active nozzles. The nozzle size is suited for sublimation print output demands. Print productivity: 2 pass: 720 x 600dpi, with estimated 120-160sqm/h production speed. 3 pass: 360 x 1800dpi, around 90sqm/h production speed. 4 pass: 360 x 2400dpi, around 60sqm/h production

The new Avanti i2 sublimation printer uses the same ink and paper as the i4, but has two of the same i3200 heads and prints slower. The ink comes in a 1 or 5kg bottle. Print productivity: 2 pass: 720 x 600 dpi, around 55 sgm/h production speed. 3 pass: 360 x 1800dpi, around 40 sqm/h production speed. 4 pass: 360 x 2400dpi, around 28sqm/h production speed. With 4 colours (CMYK), the Avanti Series CMYK inks ensure printability and the best colour gamut. Free colour profiling is provided with the printer. The purchase of the machine includes installation and three days of training, colour profile and print set-up, technical backup and support, and the first set of ink and paper free.

The Avanti DTF60i direct to film printer, which works together with the Avanti Shaker XL, can be used for digitally printed transfers to cotton, nylon and polyester, or any other blended textiles. Print, shake and dry in an easy inline process. There is no need for screens, cutting or coating with this process. The machine ensures high quality and low cost per unit.

Avanti Shaker XL's applicable media includes nylon, chemical fibre, cotton, leather, swimsuits, diving suits, PVC and more. Additional features include powder control, heat and dry function, new belt type media transmission and automatic take up function, to name a few.

www.sheetco.co.za

PLATINUM SPONSOR

STIXO



Stixo will showcase a world of solutions for visual communication supplies and highlight its commitment to innovation and excellence.

Visitors will have the opportunity to explore a wide array of products designed to meet the diverse needs of the visual communication market. The centrepiece of Stixo's showcase will be the highly anticipated launch of their brand new range of MONTANI® digital textiles. After months of dedicated research and development, Stixo will present this revolutionary line of textiles to the

The MONTANI® digital textiles range is set to redefine standards in the industry, offering premium quality fabric that ensures crystal clear, detailed and vibrant prints. This new range is perfect for a variety of applications, including flags, displays, gazebos and apparel. It promises



Eco Signage's Eco-Print digital media options encompass a diverse range of solutions such as a digital vinyl, laminates, One-Way Vision, floor laminates and printable wallpaper, catering to all of your

printing and signage requirements.



www.ecosignagesupplies.co.za

to elevate any product with its superior quality and versatile printing capabilities. Whether you're using paper or direct transfer methods, UV or latex printing, MONTANI® digital textiles will deliver outstanding results.

Stixo invites all expo attendees to visit their stand and experience the new MONTANI® digital textiles range first-hand. This is an excellent opportunity to see the full potential of these innovative textiles and understand how they can transform your visual communication projects.

Also on display will be Stixo's range of signage supplies, which include digital printing media, signage material, sign making tools and rigid substrates, as well as display supplies showcasing branding equipment and large format sublimation paper.

View the company's full range of sublimation supplies, which boasts the best in CAMEL® sublimation blanks and sublimation consumables, equipment which comprises a wide range of heat press machines as well as SAWGRASS® printers and inks.

www.stixo.co.za

STUART & MARKS



The company offer an extensive range of large format digital printing media, which include dyesublimation papers, tissue protection papers as well as DTF films.

The company's most recent addition to its dye sublimation paper range is its 29gsm and 42gsm printable paper for sublimation. Also included in the range is solvent, eco solvent, Latex and UV printable substrates such as vinyls, poster papers, canvases, photo papers and backlight films.

The 29gsm and 42gsm dye sublimation papers are coated sublimation papers tailored for high speed and volume based digital transfer printing. These ultra-light grammages are introduced specifically to enable reduced ink consumption, allowing higher productivity, faster drying times and reduced costs. The products have an excellent ink carrying capacity with bright, vivid colours that are uncompromised.

Whether you are producing promotional material, personalised apparel, or striking visual displays, the paper delivers consistent results that meet your demands. The dye sublimation papers are the go-to choice for professionals in the industry.

www.stuartandmarks.co.za

TROTEC SOUTH AFRICA

The Speedmarker 700 with Dynamic Shift makes engraving on a cylindrical item without the use of a Rotary Fixture a reality. Multiple items can be set up and engraved at the same time, saving time in production and setup.



In addition, the company's Ruby Software will be shown. This software is perfect for the production environment – importing information from Excel directly into an engraving job is just one feature. More than one user can send jobs to a laser from multiple computers, which is ideal for the education market as well as remote workers.

Engraving consumables such as a wide range of laminates and Trotec's one part resin that makes doming so quick and easy will also be showcased. Laser cutting of printed materials using a camera involves using a combination of digital imaging technology and a Trotec laser cutter to precisely cut out shapes, designs or patterns from printed materials.

The Vision Print&Cut camera system, mounted on the X-Axis of the Trotec laser, captures the image of the printed material. Ruby® laser software recognises the design's position, orientation and dimensions within the image using the camera. During laser cutting, Ruby® aligns the digital design with the printed material. The result is a precisely cut piece of material with the design or pattern the user originally intended. This is perfect for the printing industry, combined with the fastest CO2 laser machines on the market.

www.troteclaser.co.za

TWENTYFOUR STORE



Visitors can explore the company's diverse selection of branded headwear from its renowned Twentyfour and Uflex brands. Additionally, the company will unveil its new tourism range through collaborations with esteemed brands such as Whimsical Collection and Vents Brull, alongside its latest in-house designs featuring unique aesthetics.

To enrich the expo experience, Twentyfour Store is planning an engaging experiential component where attendees can witness its designs come to life in real-time. Stay tuned for more surprises.

This showcase not only highlights the company's commitment to innovation but also underscores its dedication to promoting high-quality and customisable headwear that serves as a powerful marketing tool for all brands.

www.twentyfour.store

UPRINT



The PRO860WT printer is designed to handle multiple jobs simultaneously, maximising a user's earnings per minute and boosting efficiency. UPrint's costing feature integrated into the software provides precise cost calculations for each job, ensuring competitive pricing and profitability. Visitors to the stand can also learn about UPrint's global support network, allowing instant access to a worldwide WhatsApp group of UPrint users.

With the company's inks, users can leave their printer standing unaffected for months, with no clogging up of pipes etc. UPrint is able to brand on any item imaginable, with no messy inks.

www.uprintglobal.com

WALLPRESS



Dubbed as the gold standard in vertical wall printing, the wallPen e2 can print on almost any vertical surface, even rough, textured surfaces. Built into the head are two laser sensors that scan the surface more than 500 times a second as they move up and down. If unevenness is detected, the head automatically retracts and moves closer to the wall in order to keep the nozzles the same distance from the surface as it sprays the ink.

The built-in laser sensors compensate for unevenness, up to a distance of 10cm, by measuring the largest and smallest distance to the wall. Using this information, the wallPen e2 optimally adapts the printing process to the conditions, and ensures seamless performance with impressive results, even on vastly uneven surfaces such as brick.

Still unrivalled in its build quality and reliability, the wallPen e2 recently underwent a major upgrade, which not only increases performance and productivity, but now also boasts its very own app, which is available for all platforms like Android, iOS, iPadOS, MacOS and Windows.

The new wallPen OS v3.0 sees a major increase in lightning-fast and extremely stable wireless data connection for a smooth and responsive creative workflow with its new 5 GHz Wi-Fi support. Moreover, the additional upgrade features include things like: OTA – over the air updates; SKIP SWATH – to reduce printing time by eliminating print head movement in empty areas of the print; and LASER LOOK AHEAD – improves laser distance control thanks to the ability to memorise the wall shape of previous printed paths.

www.wallpress.co.za



The direct to film (DTF) printing technique involves printing a design directly onto a film, via a digital printer, and then transferring it to a substrate via a heat press. The design or image is sent to a computer. You then do a colour separation on the computer and send the information straight to the printer. The design is then printed onto DTF media.

Once through the printer, it enters into a shaker unit. The shaker unit drops the powder onto the wet ink. The freshly powdered design is then heated in the machine and the powder melts onto the ink. Once the print comes through the machine, the print is cut out, placed onto the garment and transferred on with a heat press.

Wash Durability And Stretchability

Even when stretched, the print does not crack. The wash durability on DTF prints is also excellent, with about 60 plus washes before you will even notice any fading or washing out on DTF transfers. DTF printing also allows you to print on any colour shirt. There is also no weeding, so what you print is what you get.

Print On Demand

You can do a single multi colour print, and you can do it in quantity. Print on demand (which is a manufacturing process where prints are made to order, in small batches or individual units, using digital print technology), is what a DTF machine is all about. So a customer can request one image from your business. You can do a full colour print within 10 minutes and give the customer the garment. DTF has advantages when it comes to print on demand as it's not labour intensive. The machine does most of the work for you. The printer prints, and all you have to do is remove the media from the printer, cut it up, place it on your garment, put it into a heat press and you have a completed print.

Ease Of Use

Any person that can operate a computer can operate the machine, and the

operation is very basic. You can operate from your house or your garage as there are, for example, 220 volt systems available.

DTF Printing Vs Screen Printing

Screen Printing

Screen printing is a technique where mesh is used to transfer ink or dye onto a substrate, except in areas made impermeable to the ink by a blocking stencil. The process starts with a creative design, colour separations are done and then screens are created and exposed. Once a screen is exposed, it is then put onto a machine. A squeegee is then used to pull the ink through the screen onto a garment.

Benefits Of Screen Printing

Ink costs are low when volumetric. If you're doing thousands, perhaps two thousand prints using screen printing, your print cost works out to about one or two rand per print. Compare that to doing one single print on screen printing in full colour, which is going to be expensive. This is because you need to produce full colour screens at your CMYK if you need to do five screens, which is going to cost about one thousand rand to get one full colour print.

See the Sign Africa YouTube page for videos on DTF.

www.signafrica.com



An effective design is one that can catch the eye of the passer-by. However, the design or message can be missed if the final print is not dynamic and striking enough to draw the attention of the intended audience. Advanced printing methods allow users to achieve striking results through special effects such as glossy or matt surfaces and glitter effects.

When combining print layers with special textures, the results get even more eye-catching. Multi-layered printing can take your designs to the next level. By printing coloured, white, black and clear layers over the top of each other, it allows for more interesting textures and colours, allowing your signs to reach their full potential.

Efficiency is a key benefit of UV printing. UV LED ink cures immediately, so your sign and decorations will be ready as soon as you print them. By curing immediately, there is no need for a drying heater, which reduces energy consumption and makes it the more sustainable printing option. In addition to this, UV ink can be used on a wide range of materials such as cloth, paper without a receptive layer, and PET film, which are difficult to print on using traditional latex or solvent, making UV LED printing not only more sustainable and effective but also more versatile than traditional methods.

Printing on a single layer is the fastest method and works well for general signage. On a single layer, the print layer construction can only be colour, white or clear. Colours can still be vibrant and dynamic; however, this method has limitations.

Adding a layer can level up your backlit or window sign. When printing with one layer for a backlit sign, the colours look too dark when the backlight is

off, however, when printing on two layers, the quality of the print when the backlight is off is far better. It also allows you to add an additional clear layer, giving the sign more texture and a glossy effect.

For window signs, printing on just one layer will result in poor visibility due to the colour transparency, however with two-layer printing, having a white layer underneath will allow the colours to be more vivid, making the decoration more vibrant and brighter.

Printing on two layers can enhance the vibrancy of colours for signs and decorations, but you can achieve even more with three-layer printing. For backlit signs, two-layer printing keeps the sign bright with the backlight off, but some parts of the image appear clipped white when the light is on. Three-layer printing, which adds a white layer in-between two coloured layers, can maintain the beauty of the image even when the backlight is off.

Returning to window decoration, two-layer printing only gives great visibility from one side, with the back being all white. By having a colour layer under and on top of the white layer, window prints can be colourful and vibrant from both sides.

A feature that can be offered on three layers is watermark printing, allowing for two types of image expression on a single sign. Clear ink images and symbols appear when the backlight switches on because of the different densities in the white layer printed under the colour layer. This can give these images and symbols a stylish 'hidden' or 'invisible' effect that livens up your design.

Four Lavered Printing

By adding a fourth layer, you add a layer of black ink as well as white, colour or clear. This unlocks the eye-catching 'day and night effect', where the image can change appearance depending if the backlight is on or off. For example, you could display an image of a car, which once the light turns on can reveal the engine and the interior of the vehicle. Or, more literally, display a city or town during the day with the light on and at night with it off.

To achieve this, first print a coloured layer that displays when the backlight is on, known as the 'floating colour layer.' Then, print a black layer on top to hide the floating layer when the light is turned off. Next, a white layer is applied, increasing the density of the fourth and final layer — the coloured layer that will display when the backlight is off. While it may sound complicated, stunning day and night designs can be created easily.

Five Layered Printin

The primary objective of a sign is to display information, and standard signage can display a single message to a single audience at one time. However, what if you wanted to display different information, to different people, at the same time? For example, a café would want to display to passers-by that they are open or advertise their products to entice people to come inside. However, once they have entered, the café may want to inform them about the free Wi-Fi they have on offer.

Five-layer printing allows the printing of two different images on the front and back of the same sheet. Printing colour, white, black, white, colour, creates two high-quality images for the front and back. This is perfect for shop window stickers, as the side facing out can advertise the products, while the side facing in can display important information for customers.



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AGFA STRENGTHENS POSITION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA













Agfa is strengthening its position in the Southern African market with even greater commitment to providing inkjet solutions that empower printing companies to broaden their print application scope, enhance efficiency and reduce print production costs.

Distribution, service and support of the Agfa Graphics range will be provided to the company's strong user base in Southern Africa by their partner Thunderbolt.

Agfa has received prestigious Pinnacle Product Awards and EDP Awards for some of its latest solutions. Winning multiple awards once again reinforces Agfa's position as a forerunner in digital printing technology.

One of the award-winning products is the Onset Grizzly X3 HS series of flatbed inkjet printers, which is designed for high-volume graphics and packaging jobs. With its highest speed (1450sqm/h) quality adapted with multiple automation and configuration options, including a laytable, autoloader and robots, this product holds a unique position in the industry.

The new Jeti Condor RTR5200 is the latest addition to Agfa's inkjet printer lineup. This roll-to-roll inkjet printer with an impressive 5.2m wingspan sets the standard for both speed (up to 672sqm/h) and image quality in the roll-to-roll printer market.

The Anapurna Ciervo H3200, launched at FESPA Amsterdam 2024, is a versatile hybrid wide format inkjet printer. The 3.2m printer approaches any printing job with great agility, ready for whatever crosses its path, and proves a perfect fit for printing companies that are looking for a versatile printer to tackle a wide range of print jobs.

With the introduction of the hybrid Jeti Bronco H3300, Agfa adds another power horse to its assortment. Building on the proven reliability of the Tauro hard and software, this swift 3.3m high-end UV LED inkjet printer prints a variety of sign and display jobs in six colours plus white, with optional primer.

Sign Africa And FESPA Africa Showcase

Agfa will exhibit the Anapurna RTR3200i LED at the Sign Africa and FESPA Africa event, taking place from 11-13 September at Gallagher Convention Centre.

The Anapurna RTR3200i LED is a heavy duty 3.2m wide roll-to-roll UV LED-inkjet printer. It prints top-quality indoor and outdoor banners and billboards at speeds

up to 127sqm/hour. This dedicated roll-to-roll UV LED-curable printer, which comes in a six colour and a four colour plus white version, handles a broad scope of flexible media for indoor and outdoor applications. As the Anapurna RTR3200i LED is equipped with UV LED lamps, it enables users to print on a wide media mix and to save energy, costs and time.

The Anapurna RTR3200i LED can also handle dual-roll printing. This option enables users to double their productivity when printing on smaller media — whether it is paper, vinyl or polyester.

Expo visitors can also speak to Agfa representatives about other cutting edge solutions:

The flagship Jeti Tauro H3300 UHS/HS/S and H2500 model's rugged reliability enables 24/7 print production of superior quality at up to 3.3m wide and maximum speed of 905sqm/h, while its multiple automation options boost production efficiency even more. Capable of printing corrugated cardboard in one pass, as well as applying varnish, the Tauro H3300 is ideal for both packaging and display needs.

The Oberon RTR3300 is fitted with high quality Kyocera print heads and is an outstanding ease of use printer and perfect for a wide variety of sign and display graphics.

The Anapurna series of printers consists of hybrid, flatbed and roll-to-roll printers targeted at medium-sized printing companies. The sizes ranges from 1.6, 2, 2.5 and 3.2 metres wide, perfect for a wide variety of sign and display graphics, panels, boards and textiles.

Last but not least, the award-winning Avinci CX3200 textile printer is a dedicated dye-sublimation printer with a speed up to 250sqm/h. It is perfect for polyester based fabrics used for banners, displays, flags, wall graphics, POS, interior decoration and sportswear.

www.agfa.com



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Being indispensable means being someone others can depend on. It means you are dependable, productive and reliable. It means you have a great attitude, go above and beyond to do the best job possible, have great communication skills, and are an integral member of the team. It means you don't wait for instructions or directions, you figure out what needs to be done — and then you do it.

Being indispensable strengthens your self-esteem, your financial wellbeing, and your future. But it doesn't just happen. You must identify what you can do differently that will make a huge impact on you, your work and your life.

Most employees are held back by self-imposed limitations. Fear is, in many cases, at the top of this list. Fear of failing can paralyse you. It can keep you from taking chances and, in the process, strip you of power. You must step out of your comfort zone. If you want to get promoted and make more money, it's imperative that you put your ego aside and take risks.

The first step in becoming indispensable it to set goals. I've been setting goals annually for the past 50 years. They are the road maps that take me from where I am to where I want to be.

Your goals need to be challenging, and they need to be put in writing. They also need to be specific. Vague goals produce vague results. Look at where you are today in your career and identify the steps you need to take to move up. Include a timeline for each goal so you can track your progress.

Identify the skills you need to have, or improve, to move ahead. That involves education, but it doesn't have to be formal or cost a lot of money. Take online leadership and management courses; enrol in seminars on those two topics and on customer service. Many companies offer tuition reimbursement for employees who want to further their education.

Read at least one self-improvement book a month. Those books will not only inspire you, they will guide you by sharing the challenges others have faced and

the steps they took to overcome them. Also, learn everything you can about your industry as well as your company and its products and services.

Learning is a fundamental activity to realising success. If you fail to learn, you will fail to grow.

You must also assess your customer service skills. How do you interact with internal and external customers? Do you actively listen to what those customers have to say? Are you empathetic? Do you offer solutions?

Talk to your boss. Ask, 'What can I do to become more successful? What skills am I lacking? How can I help lessen your work load?'

Push yourself physically and mentally. Take care of your health because, if you're not healthy, nothing else matters.

I must also add a warning: don't sacrifice your family or relationships as you pursue your goals. Becoming indispensable at work and making more money should not come at the cost of ignoring, or losing, your family and friends. Maintain a balance between your goals and your relationships.]

Believe in yourself. Be focused. Take chances. Become indispensable.

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PROJECT PROFILE

BY MATTHEW WOOL

Retail Signage

SIGNS360 recently completed a signage project for Seven Seas Fisheries Food Emporium, based on 14th Avenue in Fairlands, Randburg. The company was tasked with cladding the entrance portal for Seven Seas Fisheries. The project consisted of structural cladding, followed by 3D fabricated letters onto the cladding.

The cladding was an intricate job that required a lot of planning, measurements, and design work. The design work was done in Adobe Illustrator.

'We then proceeded by installing an aluminium sub-frame structure all around the areas we were to clad. Once we were happy with the overall sub-structure, we took final measurements and tweaked the design files where necessary,' said the company's Mario Combrink.

The materials used were ACM/Dibond sheeting. The cladding consisted of 30 sheets of ACM. All panels were V-Cut via the company's CNC router, then bent into panels used for cladding. They reinforced the panels with aluminium angles. The cladding and sub-structure took them about two weeks from manufacturing to installation.



Custom Tables Produced With CNC Router

RAW Modular, a prominent furniture and workspace design company in Pretoria, was approached by Advanced Machinery (AM.CO.ZA) to assist in developing furniture for their new training facilities. The result is a series of wedge-shaped training tables designed for optimal functionality in a training environment, and produced with AM.CO.ZA's EasyRoute CNC Router.

'We were excited about the new training products and offerings that Advanced Machinery was designing,' said a representative from RAW Modular. 'When they told me about these, I offered to look at the furniture that was going to be used in the training facilities.'

The collaborative effort produced training tables that are designed with a unique wedge shape, enhancing their functionality in training settings. To ensure durability and stability, the tables feature standard off-the-shelf hairpin legs in black, which provide both sturdiness and the ability to withstand rigorous use in a training facility.

The representative added, 'We went for a standard off-the-shelf leg, a hairpin leg in black, to finish off the table, and to make it very sturdy and also heavy enough to withstand the rigorous use in a training facility.'



Creative Designs Using Acrylic

Metro Plastics recently showcased different items produced from its ACRYLUX cast acrylic product for display purposes at a locally-held exhibition. The company's kuben Pakkri explained that ACRYLUX's most common applications are for sign manufacturing, and the fabrication of point of sale (POS) items.

'Our inspiration and designs are based on regular questions asked by sign manufacturers and inspired by international trends where acrylics are used in creative marketing and design concepts,' he said.

He added that the use of LED lighting with ACRYLUX 'smart colour' enhanced acrylics create striking, vibrant and bold three-dimensional signs, and are particularly popular designs. 'ACRYLUX cast acrylic is versatile and designs are limitless based on one's imagination and creativity.'







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Federation of Printing, Packaging, Signage & Visual Communication



Printing SA Hosts Another Inspiring Women In Print Series

The theme for this year's Women in Print events was 'Printspired' and attendees were left feeling inspired by the stellar line up of speakers and panel discussions about how to thrive in the industry. The events were held in Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg during Women's Month. Sign Africa, Africa Print and Modern Marketing were proud media partners of the event

The Women in Print series has become a trusted platform for women not only in the printing, packaging, signage and visual communications sector but across all allied industries, affording the opportunity for women to be celebrated, recognised, inspired, motivated and encouraged to continue aspiring for greatness in every aspect of their professional, personal and social philanthropic journeys.

Some Advice From The Speakers And Panellists:

Heilet Grobler, Northern Chamber Co-Chairperson at Printing SA, said, 'There are a lot of opportunities in this industry, including for those who want to start their own printing business. For those already in this industry, keep believing and don't give up. It's not just the printing industry that is going through difficulties - many industries are affected. We need to stand together.'

Grobler gave a few pointers to succeed in the industry: 'Firstly, develop a strong foundation. Then stay updated on industry trends, and do your research. It's also important to build a strong online presence. Seek out mentorship, be proactive and take initiative - don't wait for opportunities,' added Grobler.

Dr Felleng Yende, CEO of FP&M SETA, addressed the importance of training and skills development. 'We've seen the evolution of printing, not from just analogue to digital, but also the evolution in terms of embracing many more women. In the world of technology, women have not only been instrumental in the innovation of the industry, but have also paved the way for future generations. The importance of skills development in printing and the need for highly skilled individuals has never been greater. With advancements in technology, such as digital printing, automation and softwar innovation, comes the necessity to equip the workforce with the proper skills to thrive in this dynamic environment. Continuous learning and skills development empower our professionals, especially women, to confidently navigate these challenges.'

Tiffany Fernandes, brand and marketing at FUJIFILIM, spoke about how print provides a tactile experience. 'We live in a digital world that brings about digital clutter, confusion and complexity. We crave something tactile. We crave something tactile we crave something we can touch, feel and see. One of my branding principles is to create a sensory branding experience that touches the five senses, which helps the brand connect more with consumers.'

What trends do you predict for the future of the print industry in relation to digital media?

Jean Lloyd, Global Principal Analyst – Digital Labels and Packaging at Keypoint Intelligence, said





Tiffany Fernandes, Sonto Pooe, Michaela Franco, Kamo Modisakeng, Diane Bada, Camryn Meyer and Lerai Rakoditsoe.





Dr Felleng Yende.

that the future of the print industry is closely tied to the integration of digital media, creating a hybrid landscape where both mediums complement each other.

'One significant trend is the increasing use of personalised print, driven by data from digital platforms. Variable Data Printing is far from new in digital printing, but it was never the success we expected; it appears the world is ready for it now. As consumers demand more personalised experiences, print will adapt by leveraging digital insights to deliver customised content in packaging, marketing materials, and other

printed communications,' said Lloyd

Heidie-Mari Middel, Production Team Leader, Production Print at KYOCERA Document Solutions South Africa, said it is increasingly catering for the 'niche' market in the form of shorter runs of very personalised and individual printing of content. For example, wine labels and the packaging that goes with it. 'We see this a lot in the liquor industry. Educational books, coupled with the story and illustration of the book based on the area and language of where the children are being taught, will be easier to facilitate. The use of QR codes and the integration of digital

tools, together with the physical print, will become more advanced and will be used more to leverage both advertising on print media and digital media platforms. This will be done where you can scan a barcode and access the digital media site that offers videos and different types of information to engage with your consumer more.' said Middel.

What advice would you give to young women entering the print industry?

'First, let me say welcome. This industry needs your creativity, passion, and perspective more

than ever! My advice? Don't let the 'old boys' club' mentality discourage you. Print might have a reputation for being traditional, but that's exactly why it needs fresh voices like yours to push boundaries and innovate,

'Secondly, become a hybrid professional.

Master both print and digital. The future of marketing is in knowing how to weave these two together seamlessly. You'll stand out if you can speak the language of both offset printers and digital marketers,' added Mhlongo.

Ilisna O'Reilly, Sales Manager at NUtec Digital Ink, said: 'Always be a follow-through person,

make sure you are keeping yourself relevant, and embrace an ever-evolving industry. Show up every day, and don't be afraid to voice your valuable opinions. Use the correct social media platforms like LinkedIn to show your ideas, your achievements and successes. Take constructive criticism, and don't be afraid to learn and to share what you have learnt with others.'

Diamond sponsors of the event: Canon South Africa and Kyocera Document Solutions South Africa. Event partners: Impuls Radio; Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities; Graphix Supply World; Vukani Fashion Creations; South African Fashion Designers Agency and the FP&M SETA.









Jean Lloyd, Lee Ann Saunders, Claudette Spider, Justine Bufe, Michaela Franco, Ruth Shogoe and Ilisna O'Reilly.



Heilet Grobler.



Debbie Simpson, Charnia Yapp and Meggan McCarthy.



Ayanda Shabangu, Kitty Mhlongo, Claudette Spider, Ilisna O'Reilly, Charnia Yapp and Lerai Rakoditsoe.



Cindy Norcott.

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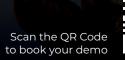
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Cape Town

1 JULY

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31 IULY

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WIDE FORMAT DIGITAL

30 JULY

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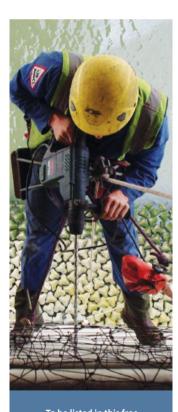
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