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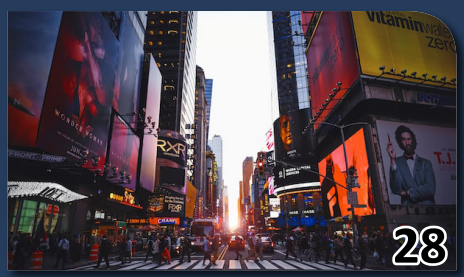


Eco Signage Supplies has a wide range of Paint Protection Films (PPF), including gloss, matt, and the new TPU Sunroof PPU film. These products are complemented by the PPF knifeless tape, which makes installation quicker and easier.

COVER STORY PAGE 24



How To Design A Vehicle Wrap



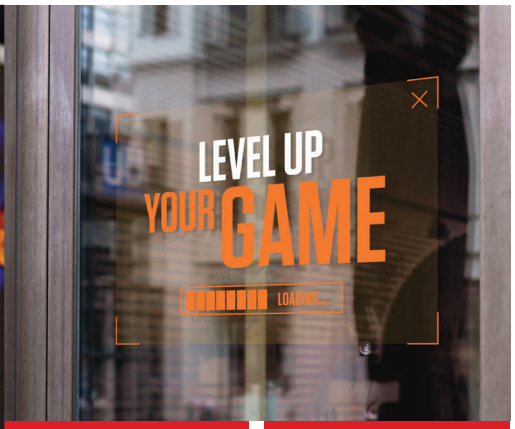
The Potential Of AI In Digital Signage Is Vast



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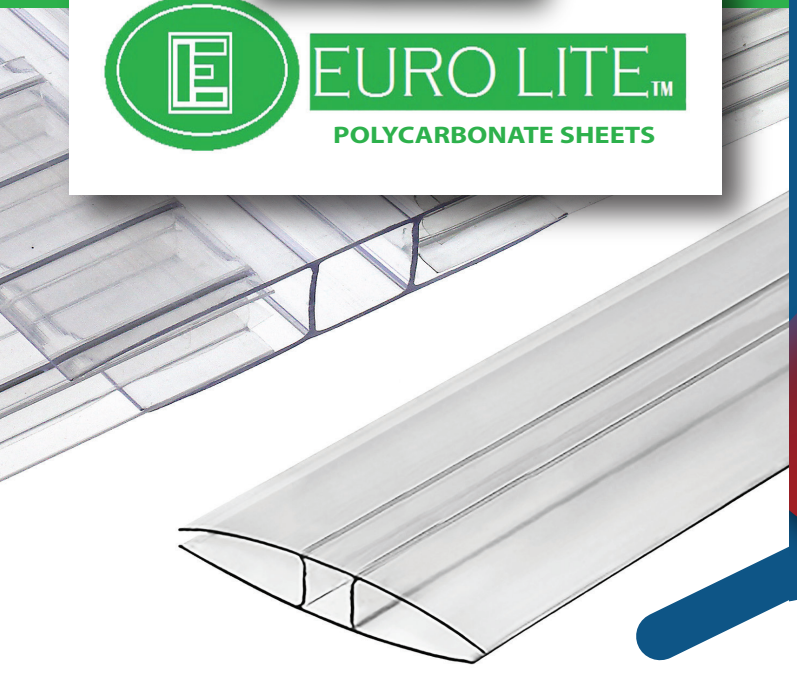
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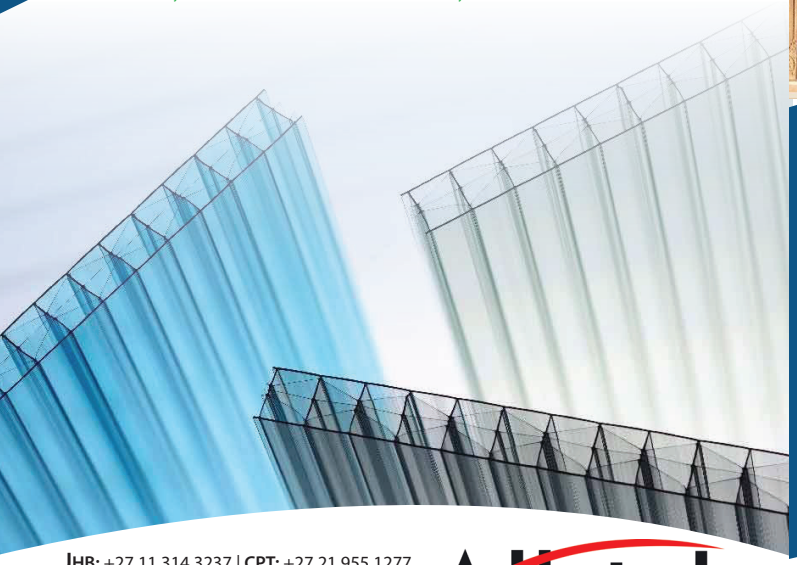
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EDITOR'S NOTE

BY MEGGAN MCCARTHY, EDITOR

Our front cover focuses on Eco Signage Supplies' wide range of Paint Protection Films (PPF), including gloss, matt, and the new TPU Sunroof PPU film. These products are complemented by the PPF knifeless tape, which makes installation quicker and easier. PPF improves and protects the vehicle's paint, and prevents paint damage when driving.

Other features include:

Africa's largest dedicated signage and printing exhibition, Sign Africa Expo 2023, is taking place 13-15 September at the Gallagher Convention Centre. See the latest trends, network with like-minded industry professionals, witness exclusive product launches and live demonstrations, and connect with the printing community on a truly international level. Register online for free entry. We hope to see you there.

A vehicle wrap makes use of a number of graphic design disciplines. You need to look at a vehicle wrap as a moving billboard. But at the same time when you are behind the car in slow moving traffic or when it's parked, look at it as a brochure. A vehicle wrap is not a flat area, it has shape and style, and the design needs to accent the shape and form of the vehicle to be effective. Get tips on how to design a vehicle wrap.

Retaining employees who perform poorly is expensive both financially and emotionally, and it costs a lot of money to repair the damage they do. This includes the time it takes to correct mistakes they've made, dealing with a significant number of customer complaints, creating friction, and in-fighting. It also has an impact on morale and results in an increase in employee turnover.

As we move more and more towards a 'Do It Yourself' model, the printing industry is gaining all sorts of new customers. From labels on demand for bespoke honey through to ambitious party signage and sportswear, print volumes are rising. Perhaps one of the biggest categories is book printing, as the world of self-publishing explodes. But rarely is the environmental dimension considered in any of these categories of print.

Industry 4.0, also known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, is a term that embodies the dynamic technological advancements across many sectors. From hardware, cloud connectivity, AI, and manufacturing, Industry 4.0 touches seemingly everything. Manufacturers in particular are embracing this exciting era, one that holds immense potential for them, with additive manufacturing, also known as 3D printing, leading the way as one of the most transformative technologies in Industry 4.0.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has a multitude of uses, but one of the strongest is its potential to enable businesses to connect with their customers in new ways. From personalised ad targeting based on data-fed AI models to streamlining content creation processes and maintaining harmonious messaging, the potential of AI in digital signage is vast.

Direct-to-film (DTF) technology opens up opportunities for digital print service providers (PSPs) to expand their product offerings in the textile industry, their network of potential customers, and thanks to the versatility of the process, expand the wide range of fabrics they can print on.

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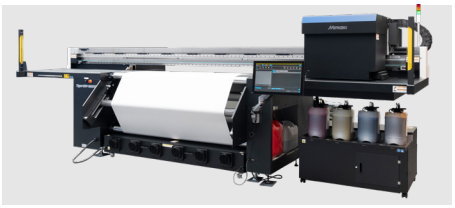
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www.gsw.co.za



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www.graficomp.co.za



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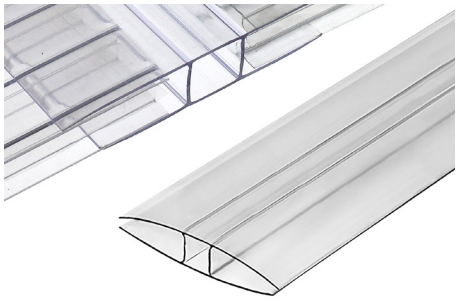
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SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS

Win Your Share Of R1 Million In South Africa's Biggest Design Competition

Roland DG South Africa has launched the Wrap2Max Déjà Vu design competition, which will run for 13 months, starting in August 2023. Enter now for a chance to win monthly cash prizes and your share of the R1 million total prize pool. This is South Africa's biggest design competition in terms of prize money. Don't miss the Wrap2Max 'Let's make magic' party at Sign Africa and Modern Marketing Expo on 13 September 2023. Sign Africa and Modern Marketing are proud media partners of the Wrap2Max design competition.



Why is this Déjà Vu? The design briefs are similar to the original Wrap2Max competition 15 years ago, and nothing has changed. What is the purpose of this design competition? Approach the problems of our times and start a conversation with your art. Get ready to unleash your creative superpowers and join Roland DG South Africa in their mission to create a profound impact on the world through groundbreaking designs. Roland wholeheartedly encourages every graphic designer who dares to question conventions and break free from traditional norms to blow us away with your art and make us stop and stare at your magic.

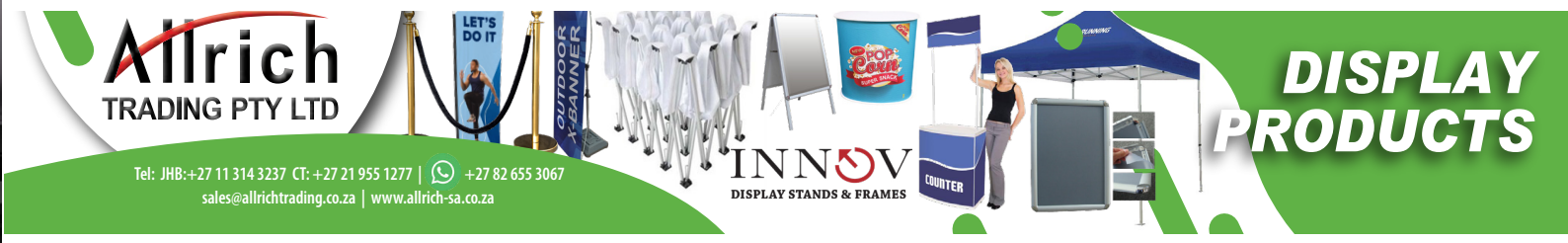
Designers can let their imaginations run wild as they embark on a journey with Roland to shape a brighter and more innovative future together. Entrants will need to choose one client brief, and using their artistic brilliance, transform these into something that is ground-breaking. Once the brief is chosen, entrants will need to submit a logo that screams 'wow!', a vehicle wrap that turns heads on the road, a T-shirt that inspires everyone who lays eyes on it, and an advertising poster that will make jaws drop.

Each month, three designers will win the following cash prizes: R10,000, R8000 and R5000. The best overall designer will be crowned the Designer of the year, and their designs will feature on the Roland Road Show vehicles in 2024. First place will win R210,000, second place will win R105,000 and third place will win R60,000. There is no limit to how many times you can enter.

Students will be competing with all designers, and your college or school wins if you win. R6000, R4000 and R2000 goes to your institution if you win first, second or third prize respectively for the month you win. If the top students qualify for the grand overall prizes for first, second and third place, their institutions will get: R40,000, R30,000 and R20,000.

All proceeds from the entries will be collected by the Hamba Phambi Trust and distributed to Roland DG's chosen organisations, including: React19, Faustman Lab, Front Line COVID-19 Critical Care Alliance and Brownstone Institute for Social and Economic Research.

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SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Graphix Supply World Prints For A Purpose On Mandela Day

Graphix Supply World (GSW) were a proud print sponsor of the 'Ladles of Love' charity. The charity organised three Mandela Day community events, bringing together over 5000 volunteers, feeding over 67,000 people, donating thousands of food packs, school supplies, clothing, blankets and raising over R2 million for South Africans in need.

As a proud print sponsor, GSW used the Mimaki JV and UJV printers to produce posters, pull-up banners, PVC signage banners and more on a wide range of media like paper, canvas, PVC and vinyl.

The company also printed thousands of stickers for food jars and labels for seed planting packs on their Mimaki CJV and UCJV print and cut machines. Using their smaller print solutions to make meal vouchers and the large Kongsberg cutter allowed them to create fun Correx board cut outs for children to colour in and decorate the ECD school classrooms.

Using textile and DTF solutions, the GSW team branded volunteer and kids clothing for the charity. Additionally, they asked their customers to join in.

ActionPrint.co.za, a loyal GSW client in Pretoria, kindly printed all the Correx directional signage, posters and custom bunting flags. They are constantly giving back to their community and can print anything. GSW asked the Digital Express team in Cape Town, which used their textile printer, to create and generously donate 3 x 3m banner wall fabrics for each event.

Lastly, 24 Media, which is a new GSW customer that specialises in a wide variety of print solutions, helped print over 20,000 book covers, which were made into colouring-in numbers and letters for the schools. 'Thanks to Ladles of Love for doing so much good; we are grateful to have been a small part of their giant efforts to help feed, educate and give back to the South African youth,' stated GSW.

www.gsw.co.za



Fortune South Africa's Cutter And Flatbed Printer Increases Business's Production Speed

Visual Exposure, a specialist in signage and Perspex manufacturing based in Centurion, installed an Aristo GL2032 cutter and a Fortune YF3220 flatbed printer, purchased from Fortune South Africa.

The cutter features a 3.2 x 2m working area, dragknife, variations of blades, creasing wheel and plotting pen to name a few, while the flatbed printer features a 3 x 2m working area and 8 printheads (double white and double CMYK).



Dylon Schutte, Francois Jiyana and Ronaldo Rautenbach, Visual Exposure.

Ronaldo Rautenbach, operations manager at Visual Exposure, expanded on the benefits of the machines: 'We used to process 100 Correx boards in 2.5 hours, now with these machines we can do 100 A1 Correx boards in less than an hour, so it's more than double the speed. We used to run one of our flatbeds 24 hours a day, Monday to Sunday, non-stop, but now we don't even need a night shift anymore because the Fortune model is so quick. We have a full sheet ready in 2 minutes and 30 seconds. The cutter helps a lot as well with the bigger bed size, so we can do a lot more, quicker.'

Rautenbach also said that both machines allow the company to process larger sized jobs, particularly kiosks, pop-ups and 'standees' that are usually found in shopping malls. With the Rugby World Cup approaching, the company has been particularly busy.

'The service from Fortune South Africa was great. They flew up from Cape Town to get us familiar with the machines, and offered support on how to use them,' added Rautenbach.

www.fortuneprinters.co.za and **www.visualexposure.co.za**

Maizey Plastics Announces Branch Relocation

Maizey Plastics announced the relocation of its Bellville branch. The branch became fully operational in July.

The new address is: 9 Cecil Morgan Street, Stikland.

Contact the branch manager, Marius van der Sandt, for any queries: +27 82 657 4063.

www.maizey.co.za

Canon South Africa Highlights Technologies To Enhance Print In The Architectural Industry



Canon South Africa invited those in the architectural industry to attend their Architects' Day, which featured engaging sessions and exclusive showcases held at the company's Customer Experience Centre.

Hosted by Pieter Pieters, Business Development Manager for Production Printers and Large Format in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands, the event sought to unveil the latest cutting-edge features and functionalities designed to future-proof a business, ensuring its continued success.

Pieters touched on several insights, such as the reduced printing cost to an architectural firm or company that produces their own prints in-house (as apposed to outsourcing the job at a mark-up). Pieters also mentioned the Canon printing range's versatile ability to produce anything from technical Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CAD) prints to five colour photographic image quality posters.

Also highlighted was the overall industry trend of the drive towards sustainable, eco-conscience products and practices, and the evolving state of the printing industry that has seen a rise in the use of smaller machines designed for variable, more personalised printing.

The Equipment Highlighted And Displayed Included:

Canon imagePROGRAF TM-300

The mid-range range, 91,4cm (36 inch), five colour, large format printer has Canon Bubblejet on-demand, 6 colours, integrated type print technology and a print resolution of 2400 x 1200dpi. 'Think of it as the typical A0 printer that you'll find in an engineering or architectural environment. It comfortably runs 100 to 1000 A1's a month, but more importantly, it's at a very cost effective price point with regards to total cost of ownership,' said Pieters.

Canon imagePROGRAF TX-2100

The imagePROGRAF TX-2100 is a 61cm (24 inch), five colour, large format printer. It has a print speed of 2.8ppm (A1) and a maximum print resolution of 1200dpi. It is a higher volume device which can be fitted with bulk ink tanks and can house larger roles of paper, which in turn drives the cost of price per print down. 'This also means higher volume printing can be reached per month,' explained Pieters.

Canon imagePROGRAF TZ-30000

The imagePROGRAF TZ-30000 is a five colour, large format printer more suited for 'the bigger corporate environment of engineers and architects', added Pieters. It has a print speed of up to 4ppm (A1), a 700/330ml ink tank and can produce 100 A0 stacked print outs. It is designed for high speed, high volume production printing, fast-tracking CAD and poster production. 'When looking at about four and a half A1's per minute, it's all about printing fast, it's all about printing projects, and it's all about printing as quick, but as cheap, as possible,' concluded Pieters.

www.canon.co.za



SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Signs-R-Us Produce Road Signage Using ORAFOL Films



ORALITE® reflective films are being used for signage that is being produced by Signs-R-Us. Their latest project includes new street name signs and high visibility warning signs that will soon replace the old ones in various places in South Africa.

Meticulous attention to detail and craftsmanship goes into creating these signs that meet the highest standards of quality and durability.

'ORAFOL®'s ORALITE® reflective films have become a household name in the safety, mining and manufacturing industries, and incorporating them into our signs ensures optimal visibility, both day and night,' said Anton Duvenhage of Signs-R-Us.

ORAFOL® offers a complete product range for the manufacture of traffic signs. The range includes all grades in both prismatic and glass bead materials.

www.orafol.com/en/south-africa

Rexx Screen & Digital Supplies Announce New Online Store

Customers can browse Rexx Screen & Digital Supplies' wide range of product offerings and purchase products directly from its new online store.

Solutions include: garments, direct-to-film equipment and consumables, screen printing equipment, heat transfer films and much more.

www.rexxscreendigital.co.za

NUtec Digital Ink Staff Create Colourful Blankets For Mandela Day

In preparation for this month's Mandela Day, NUtec Digital Ink's staff have been keeping busy knitting over 2000 Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black squares to create 67 colourful blankets for the elderly.

The company congratulated all who helped achieve this ambitious target. Team Cyan (pictured) knitted the most collectively and were treated to pizzas for lunch for their efforts.

www.nutecdigital.com



Fujifilm South Africa Announces African-First Installation Of New Wide Format Model

Fujifilm Graphic Communication South Africa has announced the first installation in Africa of the Acuity Ultra R2 roll-to-roll press at FTC.

The Acuity Ultra R2 is part of Fujifilm's new range of wide format printers. Engineered from the ground up, with the operator in mind, it has won Red Dot, Good Design and iF awards for its impeccable design features.



The Acuity Ultra R2 wide format printer is a high quality, high productivity super wide platform, available in UV and LED configurations, designed with specialist inks to support the printing of exceptional near-photographic interior graphics and the high speed printing of banners and PVC signage.

It is renowned for its ultra-low ink consumption for low cost-in-use and exceptional ROI, is capable of producing ultra-high quality print at the highest production speeds, and incorporates advanced operator features for ultra-reliable and profitable printing.

www.fujifilmgraphicsystems.co.za

Kemtek Imaging Systems Introduces New Head Of Print Division

Following the unfortunate passing of Carl Zerle, Kemtek has announced the appointment of Mags Govender as the new Head of the Print Division. Govender's depth of experience and leadership skills in guiding teams to achieve business objectives were key factors in his selection for this role.



Govender joined the company 18 months ago to head up its Marketing Division and has since been closely involved with the print team, workshopping strategies, attending various industry expos and marketing various products relevant to the print market.

His previous experience includes serving as Managing Director, Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Chief Operations Officer, and Sales Director within various organisations and industries, where he successfully led teams and implemented strategies that resulted in quick business turnaround and sustainable growth. Govender has also been involved in several start-ups and has spearheaded transformative changes within existing teams.

'We are confident that his expertise will greatly contribute to the success and growth of our Print Division, as well as our overall company goals,' said the company's Managing Director, Graham Comins.

'In the coming weeks, I will be returning to South Africa to facilitate a seamless transition and conduct a thorough handover of all current matters within the print division. My primary objective during this period will be to assist Govender in settling into his new role as quickly as possible and ensure a smooth continuation of our business operations.

'Govender is excited to move into this role and work closely with each of you. His focus will be on building strong partnerships, understanding your unique needs, and working with yourselves in crafting innovative solutions that drive mutual success. The aim is to further enhance the value we bring to you as our partners and vice versa.

'We kindly request your support and cooperation during this transition period. Govender will be reaching out to you individually to introduce himself personally and to gain a deeper understanding of your business requirements. We encourage you to share your insights, challenges, and expectations, as we believe open communication is crucial in forging successful collaborations.'

'At Kemtek, we remain committed to providing you with the highest level of service and maintaining the trust you have placed in us over the years. We are confident that Govender's appointment will strengthen our ability to meet your evolving needs and deliver exceptional value.'

www.kemtek.co.za



SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Exion Corp Installs CNC Machine

Following the Sign Africa Expo in Cape Town, Exion Corp installed a 2500 x 1300mm Black Rhino CNC machine, with mixed servo motors and a 4.5kW air cooled spindle, at PSS Sev7n Signs & Branding.

Exion's Black Rhino CNC machine can be customised according to the client's specifications and requirements. It is useful for signage companies and also for furniture and shop fitting industries. The Black Rhino cuts and engraves with ease on a number of different materials such as acrylic, ACM, aluminium and more.

Installation and training took place within three hours. The company's co-owner, Eugene Knoetze, and his team were quick to learn the operation of the machine, which went into action almost immediately. 'Usually, in this machine's size and price range, the spindle motor is cooled by water cooling, but our machine is equipped with an air-cooled spindle motor to relieve anxiety by replacing and managing water leaks periodically,' said Exion Corp managing director, Jay Kim.

www.exion.co.za



Kemtek Announces New Marketing Manager

Kemtek Imaging Systems' new Marketing Manager, Kethabile Mhlongo, brings a wealth of experience, having worked in marketing for over 10 years.

Her passion for creating captivating marketing campaigns, combined with her strategic mindset, will further enhance Kemtek's marketing efforts.

Her deep understanding of customer behaviour and market trends will drive the company's brands' success and foster meaningful connections with its partners.

Mhlongo will work closely with Mags Govender, Kemtek Imaging Systems' Head of Print and Marketing, to continue growing the marketing portfolio.

www.kemtek.co.za



Kolok Graphic Supplies Stocks Graphics Products At Mbombela Branch

Kolok Graphic Supplies has announced that its Mbombela branch now stocks graphics products.

According to the company's sales executive, Francois Badenhorst-Roussouw, a wide range of new media is available spanning digital printable media, vinyls, PVC's, papers, backlit films, as well as the entire Hexis range, which includes general short-term signage materials, pigmented vinyls, vehicle decals, full wrap vehicle vinyls, as well as digital vinyls.

'We are also pushing stock limits up on our NUtec ink systems and inks within the branch as well,' he said.

Badenhorst-Roussouw highlighted the benefits of these products to the Mbombela market: 'There is now quicker access to stock, so customers won't have to wait for courier deliveries, which might take up to two days currently. Customers can now walk into the branch, collect their orders or have them delivered on the same day.'



Kolok Mbombela branch staff: Ellen Bekker, Lindokuhle Ngwenya, Nozipho Mashele, Thomas Culu, Sipho Mdaka, Sharin Kunene, Bhekumuzi Ndhlovu and Nosipho Mkhabela.

www.kolokgs.co.za

Midcomp Showcases Large Format Technology And More At Open House Events

Midcomp invited interested parties to register for their free access to its Open House events at the Midcomp Innovation Hub in June. Presentations were featured on the latest technology in large format digital printers, finishing systems, media and workflow solutions from its leading brands.



Visitors could get advice from the industry experts on how to grow their margins and gain more market share by expanding into trending applications with the right solutions. Equipment demonstrated included: the new Canon Colorado M-series, HP Latex 800W print and cut, HP Latex 2700W, HP PageWide Pro XL 5200, HP S500, HP R2000, JHF F3900, Compress iUV1200 and Zünd G3. Visitors could also explore media and workflow solutions from Drytac, HP, Palram, Contra Vision, 3A, ImagePerfect, Caldera, SAi and Onyx.

Canon Colorado M-Series

The new Colorado M-series is a modular 1.6m roll-to-roll printer with two speed configurations and also features Canon UVgel white ink, boosting the printer's unmatched productivity and substantially expanding the range of applications that customers can create.

The introduction of a white UVgel ink maximises the scope for customers to benefit from UVgel's renowned performance advantages for a full spectrum of premium graphics and décor applications – for example window graphics, labels and wallpaper.

HP Latex 800W Print and Cut

With HP Latex simultaneous printing and cutting with a dual-device solution, users can stay ahead of the competition and grow margins with white ink, which delivers superior results and is the preferred choice for the industry's high margin applications. It allows PSPs to offer high-impact graphics, which earn higher margins and make them a go-to destination for anyone who needs a valuable large format printing partner. Users can produce output twice as fast and deliver the same day as HP Latex technology ensures that prints come out dry so users can cut/laminate immediately.

HP Latex 2700W

HP's roll-to-roll wide format printers are designed to tackle high-volumes of large format signage and decorative applications, ensuring high-quality printing at a pace that is difficult to match. Users can extend their offerings with the whitest white and grow into high-margin jobs with 30% wider colour gamut and choose from a wide range of signage and décor applications.

HP PageWide XL Pro 5200

Transition from short-term poster jobs to technical prints is faster with the HP PageWide XL printer family, now also available on single and dual side boards and sheets. Experience speeds up to 20 D/A1 pages/min. Deliver full large format printing projects twice as fast by printing mixed outputs.

HP Stitch S500

This is an all in one dye-sublimation solution. With a single device, print on both transfer paper and direct to fabric with great results. Get 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. Users can also efficiently manage their fleet, and remotely monitor printer status and ink/substrate use with HP PrintOS.

HP Latex R2000

HP's Hybrid Latex R Series delivers print excellence in vivid colours and achieves consistency across rigid and flexible substrates. The series pioneers white ink capabilities with the introduction of HP Latex White Ink, which allows users to print the glossiest of whites with no yellowing over time.

JHF F3900

This modular 2.5m UV flatbed printer is equipped with Ricoh Gen6 industrial-grade heads and UV LED curing lamps. Multi-head configurations allows for scalability from 2 to 8 printheads. Print multiple layers with white ink capabilities. The variable ink droplet technology allows for printing on a variety of media that covers a wide range of applications such as metal processing, architectural ceramics, decorative flooring, packaging, paperboard and others.

Compress iUV1200

The direct to substrate Compress printer range can print to virtually any substrate and was developed for use in promotional, signage and industrial decoration market segments. With a wider print width of 1150mm and a media height thickness of 300mm, the iUV1200s LED UV printer is truly a game changing UV printing solution. In addition, the iUV1200s LED UV printer is packed with 14 industry leading features including dual third generation LED UV lamp arrays with liquid cooling system, and uni and bidirectional printing and a White Ink Management System for automated ink re-circulation and filtration.

Zünd G3

Featuring uncompromising performance and precision, the Zünd G3 flatbed cutter is extremely flexible thanks to a modular cutter concept. Whether for digital print on vinyl, POP made from corrugated cardboard, or textiles for soft signage applications, Zünd's extremely versatile cutting solutions meet the many and varied needs of the advertising industry. Zünd cutters are high-precision machines. All components, from drive system to cutting blades, are designed and manufactured to work together perfectly. This lets users produce efficiently and wow their customers with perfect results.

www.midcomp.co.za



SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

GSW Host Open House Events

Graphix Supply World (GSW) hosted open house events at its Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town branches from 12-15 June 2023. Visitors could see the latest print and cut technology in action, including open house exclusive sales.

Mimaki Solutions

JV100-160

The Mimaki JV100-160 adopts the recently developed, fast drying eco solvent ink, which reduces graininess and allows for fine details even when printing images with high volumes of ink. Additionally, this new CS250 eco-solvent ink has superior scratch resistance and outdoor durability that allows printers to create a multitude of applications, whether they are for indoor or outdoor use.

UJV100-160

The UJV100-160 is a competitively priced UV-LED roll-based printer with all the productivity features of higher-end models. It features Mimaki instant-dry UV-LED inks that adhere to a variety of media, including paper, PET Film, fabric, vinyl and more, making post-printing handling and finishing effortless. Create fashion, soft signage, home and interior, sportswear, promotional products, metal sublimation and more.

TS100-1600

The TS100-1600 is an affordable, professional grade sublimation roll-based printer. Consistently and expertly print highly detailed photographic quality graphics for small to large production runs with a maximum print speed of up to 70sqm per hour.





Create fashion, soft signage, home and interior, sportswear, promotional products and more.

CJV150-160

The Mimaki CJV150-160 is an integrated printer/cutter that provides high performance, creativity and versatility with vibrant ink types, including new Silver, Orange and Light Black, in a cost effective package for sign makers, display graphics professionals and print shops.

CG-130SRIII

The CG-SR III Series (two variations available) Mimaki vinyl cutter machines offer fast and accurate contour cutting plus half-cut functionality. These affordable cutting plotters also boast a variety of applications.

CJV300-130 Plus

The CJV300-130 Plus Mimaki printer boasts ID Cut functionality, environmentally-friendly and silver ink options, and image quality control for a wide range of signage applications from labels to car-lapping films.

3DFF-222

The 3DFF-222 system prints on Poly-Lactic Acid (PLA) material. Using easy-to-load filament cartridges, it prints parts up to 210mm x 200mm x 195mm (W x D x H), and offers remote monitoring of each print job through a Mimaki app.

SWJ-320 S4

Mimaki's SWJ-320 S4 offers speed, quality and operability. The 4-head model focuses on high speed printing. It realises speeds up to 83sqm/h.

EFI Pro 30h

The EFI™ Pro 30h production printer brings a whole new meaning to the word 'wide'. It prints on a wide variety of substrates for a wide variety of applications, all with superior image quality and environmentally friendly benefits.

DTM LX610e Pro

The DTM LX610e Pro colour label printer has the unique feature to print and cut any label shape with just one device in seconds. It combines colour inkjet label printing with a built-in digital die-cutting mechanism.

Kongsberg

Kongsberg Precision Cutting Systems ('Kongsberg PCS') delivers the most robust and reliable digital cutting solutions to packaging, signage, display and manufacturing markets worldwide.

www.gsw.co.za

South African Business Amongst Winners Of 2023 FESPA Awards

CGI Creative Graphics International received a gold FESPA Award in the 'Decals and Printed Labels' category. The winners of the FESPA 2023 Awards were announced during a VIP ceremony at the FESPA Global Print Expo in Munich, Germany, held from 23-26 May.

Across the categories, this year's awards received 210 entries from print service providers (PSPs) and sign makers looking to showcase outstanding examples of print and signage.

Winners Of The Following Categories Were Also Announced During The Ceremony:

The Innovation Award was presented to Atelier fuer Siebdruck - Lorenz Boegli in Switzerland, for its entry into the Functional Printing category titled 'Station of Lucerne'.



The People's Choice Award, which is voted for online by the FESPA global print and signage community, was this year won by Iwaarden in the Netherlands for its entry titled 'REVU' which was submitted to the 'Non-Printed Signage category'.

The Young Star Award welcomed entries across all categories from junior employees, trainees, and students aged 16 and 25. This year's winner was Léa Saint-Jeveint, student at SEPR in France, for her entry 'Lueur abyssale'.

The Best In Show award, which is selected as the most outstanding example of print, was awarded to All about Graphics in Australia for their 'Daniel Johns: Past, Present and FutureNever' exhibition entry in the Printeriors category.

New to 2023, the Sustainability Award was presented to The Look Company from Qatar for their Printed Fabrics for the FIFA World Cup 2022 entry in the Roll-to-roll printed textiles category.

www.fespaglobalprintexpo.com

NUtec Digital Ink Reports Growing Range Of Products With Environmental Certifications

NUtec Digital Ink recently attained GREENGUARD GOLD status for its Amethyst A50-RIG range of UV-curable inks, adding to its growing list of accredited inks and further demonstrating its commitment to finding production inputs that are safer for the environment.

GREENGUARD certified products need to meet some of the world's most demanding chemical emissions standards for interior use. The GREENGUARD GOLD certification standard is the highest level achievable and ensures that products are acceptable for use in sensitive environments such as hospitals and schools.

'PSPs searching for safer input alternatives need look no further as NUtec Digital Ink's GREENGUARD GOLD environmental credentials ensure peace of mind when choosing sustainable printing inks,' said Darren Claassens, head of sales and marketing at NUtec Digital Ink.



Designed for rigid substrates, the Amethyst A50-RIG UV-curable inks offer excellent media adhesion and are suitable for use without primer, on a large variety of materials, including among others, polycarbonate, melamine, glass, wood, acrylic and ceramics.

The newly certified range is offered in various packaging configurations and was developed for both conventional and LED UV lamp curing. The formulation is designed for compatibility across a broad range of print head types from Fujifilm, Konica Minolta, Xaar, ToshibaTec, Ricoh and Seiko.

Available in CMYK, lights, white and varnish options, the Amethyst A50-RIG range features a superior colour gamut for bright, vivid images and eye-catching prints.

www.nutecdigital.com

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- # Better software compatibility.
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Powder Shaker/Fusing unit B301
Flat plate stainless steel without air suction platform. Features a uniform tunnel drying temperature.

Most Advanced DTF Technology | Stronger performance | Better software compatibility | Faster printing speed

HANRUN PAPER **DTF PRO-A600**

Hanrun paper® PRO-A600 2 head or 4 head printers are specially developed for customers who want high quality and mass production.

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- # Higher continuous printing stability and fine detail.
- # Larger width, 30%-50% better productivity than EVO series.
- # Better software compatibility.
- # Longer warranty time and more gift accessories.



Powder Shaker/Fusing unit B602 (2 Heads)
The Arch bridge stainless steel air-free platform effectively extends the heating duration of the medium in the tunnel.



Powder Shaker/Fusing unit B603 (4 Heads)
Automated track advancement, based on the air suction platform. It's flexible, and is suitable for single cutting and roll baking.

Most Advanced DTF Technology | Continuous printing stability | Better software compatibility | Better productivity



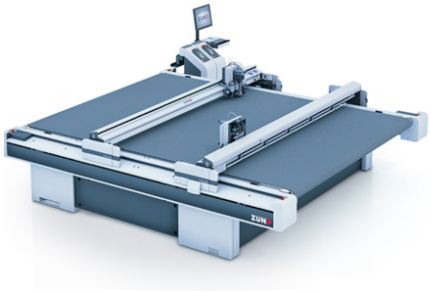
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Zünd Showcasing Innovations For Leather Cutting Solutions



During live demonstrations, Zünd will be presenting various software features together with its partner MindCUT. MindCUT is an integrated, modular software suite for automating and optimising leather cutting.

Zünd will showcase a wide range of technological innovations for leather-cutting applications and visitors will have the opportunity to experience end-to-end production firsthand and under real-life conditions.

Key components of these presentations include a Zünd D3 cutter with dual-beam technology for highly productive cutting of half hides of leather and an L3 cutter for efficient production of high-quality leather goods, accessories and shoes. Zünd will also be showcasing a Diva digitising system, an offline solution for digitally capturing, grading and marking leather hides. All phases of the workflow are managed using MindCUT.

These cutting solutions are the answer to the growing demand for customised leather goods. Digital cutting allows leather-goods and shoe manufacturers to cut prototypes and very small quantities just as economically and with the same high quality as large production runs. The company will exhibit at the upcoming SIMAC exhibition in Milan, which will take place from September 19 to 21, 2023.

www.midcomp.co.za

Mutoh Appoints Managing Director

Holding a Master Degree in Economics obtained in 1982 at Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan, Akihisa Ogawa joined Mutoh Industries Co. Ltd. in February 2019. Before joining Mutoh, he built up a proven track record of success and experience in overseas sales at Panasonic®.

Ogawa's appointment as Managing Director, Chairman of the company, was a strategic decision driven by Mutoh's strong commitment to accelerating its growth in the Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) business area.

Ogawa will combine this new role with his existing role as Managing Director in charge of overseas sales at Mutoh Industries Co. Ltd, Japan. Mitsuo Takatsu, Mutoh Europe's Managing Director, will continue to oversee Mutoh Europe's daily operations and the execution of the company strategy. Ogawa will be determining – in direct sync with the board of directors of Mutoh Industries Co. Ltd in Japan – the long term business objectives of Mutoh in the EMEA business area and the overall strategy and direction of the company towards achieving sustainable growth and expanding its footprint as a trusted and preferred provider of innovative digital printing solutions.



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

SwissQprint Installs 1000th Nyala Flatbed Printer



To increase print production capacity and quality, De Resolutie / Van Zijderveld, based in Rijswijk near The Hague, opted for a Nyala 4 flatbed printer. SwissQprint delivered and installed it in mid-June 2023, marking this model's 1000th field deployment.

Jeffrey Vermaat, one of the company's four owners, explained, 'Our delivery deadlines are tight as well as binding, so reliability is paramount.' Various brands were evaluated to replace the previous UV printing system. 'We could have bought on the cheap side, but we consciously opted for quality,' he said, referring not only to the high print quality but also to the swissQprint machine's robust and well thought-out design. Low power consumption (2.2 kWh average) and criteria related to environmentally conscious production were further persuasive points, joined last but not least by a service life expectancy of more than 10 years.

Vermaat is relieved now that the production team needs less overtime working to meet deadlines. These are sacrosanct and production is completely in-house as a point of principle. 'Nyala delivers the perfect quality/productivity balance and brings us a significant capacity boost'. The maximum output is 206sqm/h, and the highest print resolution is 1350dpi.

Whereas printing rigid media used to be a sideline, De Resolutie / Van Zijderveld now aims to actively promote the service based off their Nyala's great flexibility in terms of the applications it can handle. Typical substrates are rigid foam board, aluminium composite panels, wood and acrylic glass. With Nyala, the choice of media expands. Any format is accommodated on its 3.2 × 2 metre flatbed, aided by the swissQprint registration pins. A CMYK ink configuration supplemented with light colours and white delivers a wide range of print qualities that includes fine art and special applications.

He concluded by saying that swissQprint was on the company's radar for some time but that they had long underestimated the added value these printers generate. Meanwhile, they were working with a variety of machines from another manufacturer. 'The differences compared to swissQprint are enormous. What they showed us back at the demo was stunning and now we are seeing the same (results) in our own production.' He is confident of the company's healthy, organic growth with assistance from Nyala.

Wim Vandendriessche, Managing Director of swissQprint Benelux, added, 'We look forward to supporting De Resolutie / Van Zijderveld on the road ahead.' And he is proud that he and his team had the honour of delivering the 1000th swissQprint Nyala.

www.sign-tronic.co.za

Epson Announces Design Partnership Using Textile Inkjet Technology And More

An Epson partnership has combined digital textile inkjet and dry fibre technologies to create

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

new clothes from recycled, re-fibreised fabrics. Epson has further progressed its partnership with renowned Japanese fashion designer Yuima Nakazato and his eponymous YUIMA NAKAZATO brand that aims for better sustainability in fashion and has now resulted in the creation of a new couture collection displayed during Paris Haute Couture Fashion Week at the Palais de Tokyo.



Image credit: Luca Tombolini x Yuima Nakazato.

The new collection has been created, in most part, using a combination of Epson's more sustainable digital textile printing technology and a new fabric production process that has the potential to transform the fashion industry, contributing significantly to the creation of an innovative, colourful and ground-breaking collection of beautifully designed couture pieces.

Epson's dry fibre technology, which is already used commercially to recycle paper and requires virtually no water to produce, has been adapted to produce new non-woven re-fibreised fabric from used and discarded garments.

This experimental fabric production process was first revealed in January this year as part of a three-year collaboration between Epson and YUIMA NAKAZATO. Now, for the show, Epson has made further significant advances to the quality of the fabric, making it thinner, more flexible and much easier to print on using Epson's sustainable Monna Lisa direct-to-fabric digital textile printing technology.

As the new collection is revealed, Epson and YUIMA NAKAZATO will raise awareness of the water and material waste associated with traditional and excessive garment production. The Paris Show will illustrate how switching to digital textile printing using more sustainable pigment inks offers the fashion industry a less wasteful and more environmentally responsible means of textile printing. Digital textile printing using pigment inks offers a more sustainable approach to the fabric production process compared with traditional analogue methods. In addition to pigment inks requiring significantly less water, the digital process requires far fewer stages and is less complex. Unlike analogue, it requires no plate production, washing or storage, results in little disposal of used inks, and allows on-demand production that contributes to less waste.

www.epson.co.za

Mimaki Printer Improves Business's Productivity



When Eurotipo decided to invest in digital printing technology, they turned to Mimaki and Bompan, an exclusive importer of Mimaki for Italy, and purchased a JV300-160 print system through Camatech, a Bompan dealer in the Liguria region.

The Mimaki printer immediately had a positive impact on the business and enabled the company to efficiently produce a wide array of applications, ranging from printed labels on a roll and stickers using a variety of materials and sizes, for posters and signage.

'The printing sector is very competitive, and one cannot stand still. This is why we have expanded and strengthened our production printing equipment, with the aim to address the ever-evolving requirements of the market and keep our equipment and production process as up to date as possible. And with Mimaki as our main provider, we have always been able to find the most appropriate solution for each specific production requirement,' said Daniel Valente, owner at Eurotipo.

Most recently, Eurotipo was searching for a large format printing system featuring larger print size, but still providing top print quality and speed. After exploring a number of options, the company identified the Mimaki JV330-160 eco-solvent inkjet printer as the right solution. The JV330-160 has been working at full capacity ever since its recent installation.

'It's fast, flexible and productive. The minute we installed it, we immediately saw improvements in terms of productivity and delivery/time to market. And the superior quality achieved has enabled us to explore new application opportunities.' Eurotipo uses the JV330-160 to produce custom signage, in-store large format printed displays, as well as blown-up prints, high-end stickers, window displays and all kinds of decor for supermarkets, GDO shops and other retailers. In addition, thanks to the quality provided by the new printer, the company is also addressing new market segments, including perfume shops and boutiques, as well as restaurants.

'I believe that the JV330-160 was the perfect choice for us. The printer is extremely efficient and productive, as well as easy to handle, meaning that we can reduce the overall production time. Likewise, the superior quality delivered has opened up new opportunities in different market niches, which is instrumental to the company's present and future growth,' said Valente. According to him, there is more added value to be explored. The Mimaki digital printing equipment at Eurotipo perfectly fits the other flagship technologies in use, including pad printing and digital embroidery printing. 'We have always focused on advanced, cutting-edge technologies and we can now combine them to achieve superior results in different applications addressed to different markets.'

www.gsw.co.za

Drytac Material Used In Athletics-Themed Wall Graphics Project



Winnipeg-based professional print provider, Lea Marc Inc, has been working with the University of Winnipeg on a wide range of projects for more than 17 years. The latest project celebrated the success of the Winnipeg Wesmen sports teams, with wall graphics being produced to decorate surfaces inside the university.

The Canadian company recently used Drytac Polar Grip and Drytac ReTac Smooth 150 to create a series of striking wall murals for the university's athletics department. Having worked with Drytac materials for over five years, Lea Marc was already up to speed on the benefits of using these materials for both interior and exterior graphics. However, the challenge in this project was to account for the different surfaces that the murals

would be applied to. Lea Marc selected Drytac Polar Grip for the graphics on brick walls and ReTac Smooth 150 for murals that were placed on concrete walls inside the university building. The company purchased both of the materials from approved Drytac distributor, ND Graphics Winnipeg Manitoba.

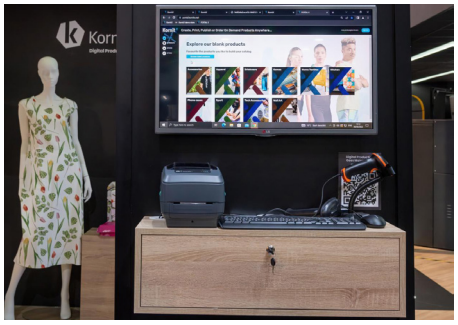
Working with the marketing department at the University of Winnipeg, the graphics were prepped and printed in-house using an HP Latex 360 before being applied to the walls, covering what were previously dull and plain surfaces with eye-catching images of the university's sports stars in action.

'The university was looking for images to cover brick and concrete walls that would include both inclusivity and newer images in high traffic areas,' Lea Marc Principal Brian Matychuk said. 'We were selected based on our ability to provide a finished product that would enhance the images.'

Staff at the athletics department were delighted with the end product, with Matychuk saying that Lea Marc is now looking forward to working with the university and its Winnipeg Wesmen teams on future projects.

www.midcomp.co.za

Kornit Announces Collaboration To Bring On-Demand Production To Social Media Creators



Amaze Software, Inc. is an all-in-one, end-to-end commerce solution for any creator looking to generate sustainable monetisation and depth of community connection. Kornit Digital announced that Amaze Software, Inc. has selected KornitX Workflow Solutions and Kornit MAX digital on-demand fabric and textile decoration technologies as the platform to deliver their vision.

Combined with the Amaze Creator Commerce Platform, the companies will jointly bring the power of on-demand production and fulfilment to new and existing social media creators, enabling them to better monetise branded products.

Kornit's Global Fulfilment Network helps companies like Amaze Software connect creators with high-quality garment and textile production fulfillers across the globe. The platform is backed by the KornitX workflow engine, seamlessly integrating across industry-proven Kornit MAX technology-based fabric and textile decoration systems for end-to-end production, visibility and control.

'The social commerce market is growing rapidly, but creators struggle to capitalise on delivering branded products, as typical production cannot meet the expectations of brands and consumers for greater sustainability, creativity, agility, and market reactivity. Our flexible Global Fulfilment Network and proven on-demand digital textile technologies are designed to tackle those complexities,' said Ronen Samuel, Chief Executive Officer at Kornit Digital. 'Combined with Amaze's significant market reach and focus on creators, we're enabling branded collections to be delivered without production limitations, wasted inventory, or minimum order requirements, connecting with fans in-market to build tomorrow's brands while driving price-competitive revenue opportunities.'

Amaze Software's Spring platform is at the forefront of social commerce and revolutionises the way creators monetise content and engage with their fans. With seamless integration across renowned social platforms including Instagram, TikTok Shops, Twitch, and more. The Springplatform offers an unparalleled opportunity for fans to conveniently make purchases directly from where they consume the creator's content. This allows creators to significantly enhance engagement and cultivate a more profound brand presence. Moreover, the user-friendly experience and no cost of entry attracts thousands of aspiring creators to join the Spring platform daily, further fuelling its exponential growth.

'There are more creators on social platforms than ever before. Our vision is to translate these voices into enduring brands by allowing virtually anyone to create and capitalise on their ideas,' said Aaron Day, Chief Executive Officer at Amaze. 'Kornit is key to making this possible, allowing us to enter new markets faster, offering better fan experiences and remaining nimble in this ever-changing market.'

www.rexxscreendigital.co.za

EFI Showcases Roll-To-Roll And Hybrid Display Graphics Printers

Joined by distribution partner Changyin Technology, EFI featured the VUTEk Q5r roll-to-roll and the high-productivity VUTEk h5 hybrid display graphics printers.

The 5.2 metre EFI VUTEk® Q5r roll-to-roll LED printer goes beyond printing to provide a complete print-to-finished-graphic workflow, from RIP to finished product, all on the same platform. The VUTEk Q5r features productivity speeds up to 672 square metres per hour and features true resolution up to 1200dpi.

The VUTEk Q5r printer is available with CMYK plus optional LC, LM, LK, white and clear inks with the option to run white and clear together. The clear ink, EFI's UltraClear Coat, can be used for decorative applications as well as for a final protective coating. UltraClear Coat prints inline, simultaneously with the image, saving time versus using a separate offline coating system, and can achieve a gloss or matt finish.

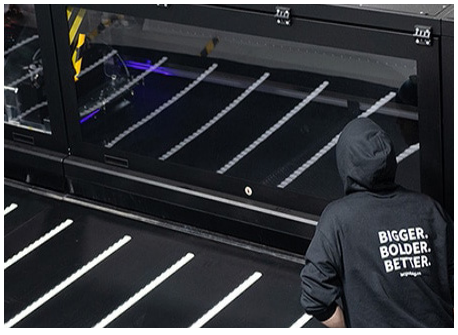
The printer handles a wide variety of flexible substrates with 300% better media utilisation, only requiring 40cm of media to load a new roll, and is available with inline slitting and cutting, Roll and Tape, double-sided printing and other value-added workflow and media handling options to drive efficiencies into the production process.

'The VUTEk Q Series printers are gaining popularity amongst our customers globally and we have just sold our 100th Q series roll-to-roll printer to Swiss-based printing firm, Richnerstutz AG. This printer series is one big competitive edge for our customers, bringing unprecedented speed to our portfolio and a host of valuable features and options that take profitable roll-to-roll print production to a new, higher level,' said Paul Cripps, EFI Vice-President of Sales, EMEA and Asia-Pacific. It was exhibited at APPP EXPO 2023 in Shanghai.

Also on display at the Shanghai APPP Expo, was the high-productivity 3.2 metre EFI VUTEk h5 hybrid roll/flatbed LED printer, which delivers top-tier image quality up to 1200dpi and high throughput at speeds up to 109 boards per hour. With its automated media handling options, including a ¾ automated media loading and stacker systems and super duty winders, the VUTEk h5 printer is ready to meet customer's needs. In its 30th year, APPP EXPO 2023 took place in June, 2023, at Shanghai's National Exhibition and Convention Centre.

www.gsw.co.za

Agfa Installs LED Printer



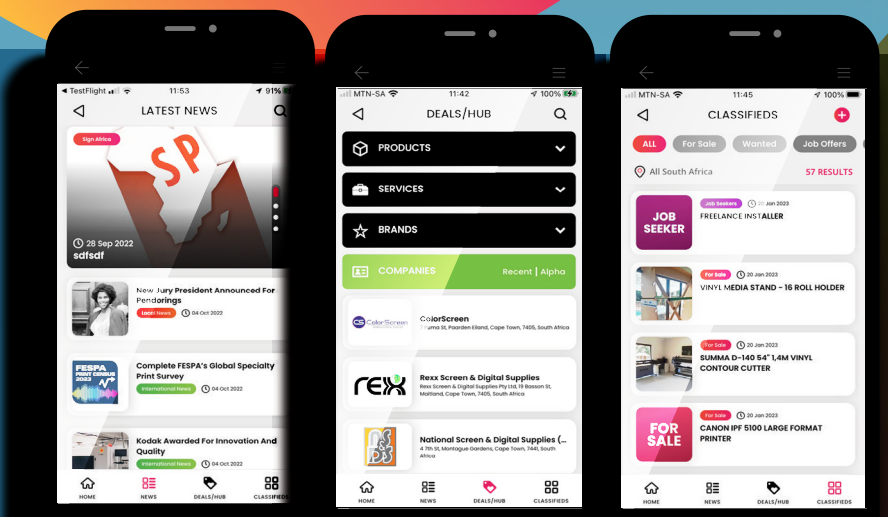
Imaged Advertising Creations (IAC) has invested in a Jeti Tauro H3300 HS LED with spot varnish capabilities. The press combines vivid print quality with extreme productivity, cutting-edge

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automation, and low ink consumption. This ruggedly built hybrid press offers the distinctive ability to add a layer of high-gloss or satin varnish to wide format prints.

IAC is one of the leading visual solutions providers based in Toronto, Canada serving the North American market. This printer will allow them to produce high-speed output at near-litho quality.

'We imagined the stunning visuals we could produce on the Jeti Tauro with varnish and recognised that it would be a great fit for our higher-end clientele,' said Sean Sadhoo, COO at IAC. 'This is another first in the industry for us. We are known as pioneers that are always pushing the limit. The new Jeti Tauro press will complement our 5m dye sublimation offerings, turning us into a one-stop shop.'

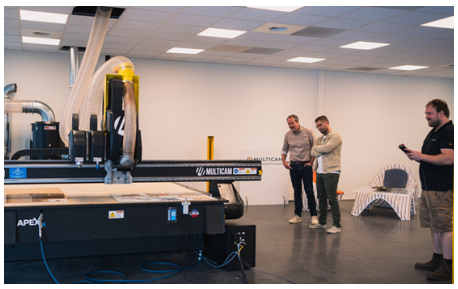
IAC is an innovator in wide format printing, helping brands enhance their vision through distinctive visual communication offerings. Its knowledgeable team of industry experts takes pride in creating an unsurpassed customer experience while bringing its vision to life. IAC's 'figure-it-out-mentality' has grown the business across retail, event marketing, corporate interior design, and other segments.

The unique gloss and satin finish produced by the Jeti Tauro Varnish enhances prints with a premium and refined look that cosmetic and apparel industries desire, two verticals that IAC has experienced exponential growth within the last two years.

Fred Clemente, VP Sales and Innovation, explained, 'We recognised during Covid that we can no longer be a one-trick pony serving just one market segment. Diversification of accounts is paramount to our success. Markets such as cosmetics and apparel are hungry for customer-focused companies that have innovative solutions.'

www.thunderbolt.co.za

Kongsberg PCS Unveils Customer Experience Centre



With spindle speeds ranging from 5.5-13.4 HP, the Multicam Apex3R can cut a variety of materials including plastic, aluminium, wood, high-density foam, and composite materials. Kongsberg Precision Cutting Systems ('Kongsberg PCS'), has unveiled a brand new customer experience centre at its headquarters in Belgium, dedicated to its MultiCam range of advanced routing and CNC cutting systems.

Kongsberg PCS installed the flagship MultiCam Apex3R at the new demo centre. 'The Apex3R sets the standard for routing capabilities with its perfect balance between performance and precision,' said Chris Rogers, International Sales Manager with Kongsberg PCS. 'As we throw the doors open to our newest demo facility, adjacent to our Kongsberg customer experience centre, we wanted to demonstrate not only the power and capabilities of the MultiCam machines, but also show how they support our objective of making automation easy.'

'The heavy, stress relieved, all-welded 9.5mm steel tube frame is milled in-house with parallel datums to within 25 microns, offering true perpendicular and parallel cuts,' said Rogers. 'This also makes the CNC machine more rigid, which reduces vibration and improves routing quality. The Operator Station interface, included as standard, ensures businesses can start routing right away and have minimal interruption in work processes, while a three-axis motion control system gives tight control over routing quality for precision and quality cutting.'

The opening of the demo centre is the latest stage of Kongsberg PCS' planned growth, further expanding the MultiCam brand into Europe following its acquisition in late 2021.

'The MultiCam CNC cutting systems open up a huge new market to Kongsberg PCS, with customers across a range of different sectors, (including) everything from sign making to digital finishing, aerospace to automotive, hardwoods to cabinet making and even thermoform trimming to plastics fabrication. We are excited to use the new demo centre to highlight how MultiCam supplies such innovative solutions for a multitude of industries and applications, and the Apex3R is a fantastic machine with which to start this journey,' said Rogers.

www.kongsbergsystems.com/en

Zünd Cutter Unlocks More Possibilities For Company's Customers

The Zünd S3 cutting table is extremely fast thanks to smart technology. Stickers4 has digitised its cutting process with a Zünd S3 L-1200 for increased speed and quality. Fuelled by a passionate team, cutting-edge technology, and impeccable design,



Stickers4 have been at the forefront of delivering seasonal window graphics for independent retailers, cafes, and restaurants. The company specialises in short-run custom printing of stickers, labels, and business parking permits, and that's just the beginning. Fuelled by owner Dan Rye's unwavering passion for sportscar racing, the journey continues with the birth of a sister company, StickeredUp4LeMans Ltd, as the sole licensed supplier of stickers and decals for the illustrious 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race held each year in France.

Rye said, 'At Stickers4 we're obsessed with quality and always looking at improving our manufacturing process. Since our stickers were traditionally cut manually using cutting rules and guillotines, the next step in our evolution was to digitise our cutting process. I didn't have to look far because I always knew Zünd would be a great investment. The brand held mythical status within our industry. However, I still did my due diligence and looked at other brands because this was a big investment for our business. After making enquiries, I quickly understood why the Zünd brand is held in such high regard. Right from the first contact, we were very impressed by the level of attention and care given by everyone at Zünd UK.'

Reflecting on a successful demonstration, Rye said, 'When we eventually travelled to the Zünd UK demonstration centre in St Albans, we instantly saw the added value and decided it was a worthwhile investment. The difference in build quality, material handling and speed compared to other manufactures was like night and day. Following our demonstration, we proceeded with ordering the Zünd Digital Cutter S3 L-1200.'

Stickers4 took delivery on their Zünd cutter at the end March 2023 and spared no time in integrating their new digital cutter into their workflow. Rye said, 'We are so excited that our Zünd cutter is now fully operational. This amazing piece of technology has enabled us to increase the speed of our production and quality of our end products, which is great news for us and our customers.'

Since the installation, Sticker4 has seen a 400% increase in productivity and the finish quality has been 'game changing,' Rye said, 'The Zünd cutter has really revolutionised our business and we can't wait to unlock more possibilities for our customers.'

www.midcomp.co.za



PROFLEX PPF FILM PROVIDES THE ULTIMATE VEHICLE PROTECTION

BY ECO SIGNAGE SUPPLIES

Eco Signage Supplies has a wide range of Paint Protection Films (PPF), including gloss, matt, and the new TPU Sunroof PPU film. These products are complemented by the PPF knifeless tape, which makes installation quicker and easier.



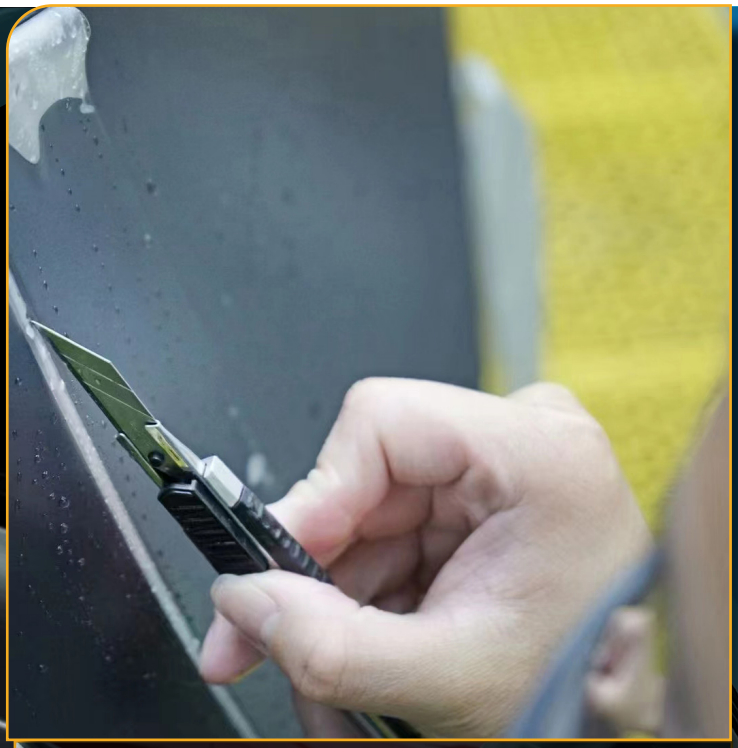
PPF improves and protects the vehicle's paint, and prevents paint damage when driving. PROFLEX PPF-Tpro offers breakthrough technology for paint protection applications using an advanced, self-healing and solvent resistant top-coat formulation that allows for easy installation as well as increased longevity.

It provides invisible protection from damage caused by rocks, salt, insects, and other road debris. The proprietary, self-healing top-coat is scratch and crack resistant with a high-gloss finish. It transforms the appearance of traditional paint to a matt finish when using PPF Matt. It also features superior optical clarity.

The Product Is Constructed With:

- A flexible, self-healing polyurethane coating.
- Impact-resistant 6 mil urethane formulated for excellent UV, heat and water resistance.
- Self-crosslinking acrylic copolymer adhesive formulated for balanced tack, adhesive and cohesive properties.
- Matt, polyester release liner.

PROFLEX is a premium brand focusing on high quality digital printing material. With 19 years of experience in the market, the company offers suitable products and solutions for customers all over the world.







Sunroof PPF Film

The product is heat-proof and features HD vision, as well as UV-block and scratch self-healing properties. Users can bid farewell to ultraviolet rays with this thermal insulation upgrade, featuring healthy materials, and thereby improved family health.

The product also features a UV blocking rate of 99%, IR blocking rate of 92% and visual light transmission of 70%. It is time-tested, tops heat-proof performance, and is green and environmentally friendly.

Sunroof PPF Film is made of American high-quality TPU base material. It has passed the international certification of puncture resistance, has excellent yellowing resistance, and the perfect combination of low initial tack and high lasting tack to ensure that the product is easier to construct.

The film also features an excellent self-cleaning and anti-permeability heat-insulating patented coating (Carbon crystal coating), patent number: ZL201710873570.5, to improve the continuous weather resistance of the product and provide stable quality assurance.

The film features: a protective film, functional coating, TPU substrate material, a glue layer and a release layer.



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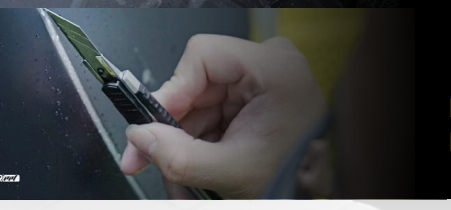
*Scratches while parking *Flying rocks
*Acidic corrosion from bird droppings and tree gums
*Fine lines from improper car washing
*Darkening and yellowing of the car's paintwork



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Bundle includes: 1 roll PPF Matt or Gloss, PPF squeegee 3 pack, Microfibre Towels 3 pack, 100g clay bar & 50m roll knifeless tape.





Proflex GRAPHICS

Why use PROFLEX PPF:

Unlike traditional paintwork products (waxing, plated crystal), PROFLEX paint protection film is a physical protection that does not generate chemical reactions on the paintwork and is easy to remove. Warranty covers your investment in PROFLEX PPF so you can wash, wax, and drive your car worry-free. No need for expensive resprays or stone chip repairs.

PROFLEX G3: 1.52×15M • Total thickness(HC+TPU+Adhesive): 7.5 mil • TPU material: Lubrizol • Warranty: 7 years
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HOW TO DESIGN A VEHICLE WRAP



BY ROLAND DG SOUTH AFRICA

A vehicle wrap makes use of a number of graphic design disciplines. You need to look at a vehicle wrap as a moving billboard. But at the same time when you are behind the car in slow moving traffic or when it's parked, look at it as a brochure. A vehicle wrap is not a flat area, it has shape and style, and the design needs to accent the shape and form of the vehicle to be effective.

If the vehicle is a van, you can pretty much approach the design as flat sides or flat sheets of artwork area, but if it's a shapely sports car, then you need to adjust your design to suit how the graphic areas will be presented to the reader. When you design a vehicle wrap, it makes use of page layout, packaging, advert design, logo design and presentation skills.

Assess The Design

Just as you design an advert, you need to assess the weighting of importance of the elements in the design. What do you want seen and read first and what should the reader move to next? On a flat sheet of paper this principle can be followed easily as you simply apply the rules of reading left to right (in the Western world) and use colour, layout and size to ensure the reader absorbs the message in the correct reading order. On a vehicle, you need to look at the elements needed to present and place them in the best possible way to achieve the marketing goal. But it is complex as you don't have a simple flat square surface to work with, and the viewer may not see the part of the car you want them to first.

Mirror Mirror

Designers often make the mistake of simply mirroring the design on one side to the other, and not taking into consideration that this often does not work. You can't mirror the logo, but you could mirror the template shapes and angles and then apply your artwork according to that. Often a grid applied to one side should be applied to the other side and the elements rearranged. But this doesn't always compute, as you have doors, handles, windows and beading to contend with. It's a nice challenge to your design creativity.

Flat Or Round

Do you design on flat sheets or do you design the car as a real 3D mockup with shadows and lighting? This really depends on what you are comfortable with or what your expertise level is. In most cases, all you need to do is take photos of the car from the sides, front and back, then redraw the car template in a drawing package like CorelDRAW or Illustrator.

Once you have a nice clean template you can design your graphics, and scale them according to the size of the vehicle right in the design package. This will ensure you scale your graphics to the correct size and import images and pixel independent graphics at the right resolution for print. A rule of thumb for large format printing is to provide your graphics at a resolution of 150 pixels per inch. This is half the resolution required for normal litho printing. Most designers prefer designing flat as this is how you need to supply the artwork to the sign shop in the end.

Room To Move

When designing flat, remember that you are also designing in a flat space for something that has curves and a lot of shape, edges, handles and joins. Your artwork must be designed to be easily applied. If you have created a design that has exact spacing around a handle and to the edge of the car, then bear in mind that the wrap is like a massive sticker and no matter how skilled the applicator is, there will often be a couple of millimetres here and there that do not line up. So design your vehicle wrap to be forgiving and give the sign shop some space to move in when applying your design.

Vectors Vs Pixels

A key consideration when designing a vehicle wrap is that you are designing large format graphics and your graphics need to be at the right resolution. Vectors are often best for logos and text as they scale perfectly with no resolution issues. But photos, textures or special effects needs to be done at the right resolution to ensure crisp and clean graphics. Ensure that you actually measure the car you're designing for beforehand to design for the final print size. If you can't measure the vehicle, then simply judge from the photo you have to estimate the sizes, and the sign shop can always scale accordingly for you.

Sending To Print

So now you have designed the wrap and the client has signed off. What is the best way to supply the files and the artwork? Provide printouts of what was presented to your client to approve, all the artwork files at the right size and right resolution. You want to be friends with your sign shop, so give them everything they need to get your job done right.

www.rolanddg.co.za



THE POTENTIAL OF AI IN DIGITAL SIGNAGE IS VAST

BY CHRIS KEEFE, POPPULO

Artificial intelligence (AI) has a multitude of uses, but one of the strongest is its potential to enable businesses to connect with their customers in new ways. From personalised ad targeting based on data-fed AI models to streamlining content creation processes and maintaining harmonious messaging, the potential of AI in digital signage is vast.

In the era of data-driven decision-making, businesses are constantly seeking ways to harness the vast amounts of information at their disposal. When it comes to digital signage, AI can transform static displays into dynamic marketing powerhouses capable of delivering highly relevant and targeted content.

AI algorithms can curate and display content that resonates with viewers; on demand or timed perfectly to the hour, day, week, and even season. But AI's capabilities extend far beyond targeted content delivery, with continuous learning and adaptation to drive improved engagement. AI can use vital demographic and audience information, including sentiment, age, attention time, and more. This valuable data further refines the content generation process, ensuring that every piece of displayed information is tailored precisely to the preferences and characteristics of the viewers.

1. Demographic-Level Personalisation

By tapping into ongoing data sources, including the local neighbourhood, social media trends, traffic patterns, weather, and buying behaviour, AI algorithms gain a deep understanding of audience characteristics and preferences. Gone are the days of one-size-fits-all advertising. With AI, businesses can craft highly targeted messages that speak directly to specific and segmented demographics. Imagine a retail store that can predict which ad will resonate most with a customer based on their previous buying habits. This level of precision ensures that the right message reaches the right customer at the right time, significantly enhancing the likelihood of conversions and customer satisfaction.

2. Predicting And Tracking Buyer Behaviour

Understanding buyer behaviour is the Holy Grail of marketing. Through continuous learning, AI algorithms become adept at predicting buyer behaviour associated with specific content items, content formatting, or entire campaigns. With AI prediction, companies can launch campaigns that they know have high odds of succeeding rather than relying on trial and error. Plus, with ongoing data tracking and analysis, marketing teams can react in real time, making data-driven adjustments to further increase ROI.

3. Streamlining Content Creation And Management

Companies strive to deliver compelling messages and captivating visuals to their target audience, but the process of content creation and management is time-consuming and resource-intensive. Leveraging AI can help streamline these processes, maximise efficiency, and ensure impactful messaging.

4. Content Creation Assistance And Automation

With AI in digital signage, businesses can tap into a wealth of automated tools

and content creation assistants that streamline the creative workflow and amplify productivity. AI-driven automation can generate supporting media content, including videos, imagery, and even digital signage templates. This automation not only saves valuable time but also ensures consistency in visual branding across multiple platforms.

Additionally, AI can transform data-driven insights into impactful digital signage messaging without having to pre-create content logic for every scenario. For instance, if a point-of-sale system indicates low stock levels for a specific item, AI algorithms could automatically generate a new promotion, reorder menus, and display relevant information to customers in real time.

5. Harmonious Messaging And Standards

Maintaining a consistent and harmonious messaging strategy across various communications channels is crucial for developing a consistent brand identity. By training AI algorithms with the company's specific guidelines, values, and tone of voice, businesses could create customised content that aligns with their brand identity. This tailored approach enhances brand recognition and fosters a sense of familiarity and trust among customers.

6. Relevant And Impactful Internal Communications

Just as AI algorithms can be used to understand customer preferences and behaviours, the same is true for businesses with internal audiences. Knowing how your employees prefer to receive messaging, when they are most receptive to messaging, department-specific needs, and more, improves internal communications and employee engagement. Whether it's sharing company news, important announcements, or training materials, a tailored approach makes employees feel valued and connected.

Additionally, AI-backed digital signage messaging serves as a powerful tool for



recognising employee achievements, milestones, and contributions. Publicly acknowledging and celebrating employee successes not only boosts motivation but also reinforces a positive company culture.

7. Revolutionising Device Management And Issue Remediation

In the realm of digital signage, maintaining a seamless display experience is paramount. Companies invest significant resources into deploying and managing multiple content players across various locations. AI is revolutionising device management and issue remediation to ensure optimal performance and operational efficiency.

This article was originally published in Digital Signage Today.

www.digitalsignagetoday.com



AFRICA'S FLAGSHIP SIGNAGE AND PRINTING EXPO

KICKS OFF IN SEPTEMBER

The region's largest dedicated signage and printing exhibition, Sign Africa Expo 2023, is taking place 13-15 September at the Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. The expo is sponsored by Roland and Stixo Signage Supplies.

Sign Africa 2023 is set to be bigger and better than ever, and the place to see the latest innovations in wide format digital printing, flatbed printing, signage, digital signage, laser cutting, routers, engraving, laminating, finishing, textile printing, vinyls, substrates, 3D printing, colour management, LEDs and neon, T-shirt printing, directional signage systems, banners and flags, vehicle wrapping, screen and pad printing, and software.

See the latest trends, network with like-minded industry professionals, witness exclusive product launches and live demonstrations, and connect with the printing community on a truly international level.

According to Printful, 'Direct-to-film (DTF) printing is a great choice for designs that include intricate details and different elements. Plus, it's a versatile print method that can be used on a variety of fabrics for vibrant designs that are sleek and resilient.'

Digital media is one of the fastest growing sectors in the marketing and signage industry. Location, environment, compiling the correct content for a target audience and being aware of trends will help users implement a successful digital signage strategy. The Sign Africa Expo will showcase the latest LED displays and digital signage solutions to take your marketing and branding to the next level.







There will be new perspectives awaiting inside the Gallagher Convention Centre, home to Sign Africa for the past 11 years, with visitor badges also giving attendees access to co-located shows Africa Print, FESPA Africa, Modern Marketing, and Graphics, Print & Sign. Don't miss out on this exciting event. Register online for free entrance.

www.signafricaexpo.com

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HOW CHALLENGES IN 3D PRINTING PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES

BY MASSIVIT 3D

Industry 4.0, also known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution, is a term that embodies the dynamic technological advancements across many sectors. From hardware, cloud connectivity, AI, and manufacturing, Industry 4.0 touches seemingly everything. Manufacturers in particular are embracing this exciting era, one that holds immense potential for them, with additive manufacturing, also known as 3D printing, leading the way as one of the most transformative technologies in Industry 4.0.

Additive manufacturing plays a pivotal role in Industry 4.0 by enabling the production of complex and customised products on demand, reducing material waste, and streamlining supply chains. This technology allows for rapid prototyping, mass customisation, and the integration of advanced materials, driving significant improvements in efficiency, cost reduction, and innovation across various industries.

Additive manufacturing also aligns with the growing global focus on sustainability in the manufacturing sector, as it offers opportunities to minimise environmental impact through reduced waste, lower energy consumption, and the use of eco-friendly materials.

Key Advantages Of Additive Manufacturing In Industry 4.0

Customisation and on-demand production: additive manufacturing enables manufacturers to create bespoke products tailored to individual customer needs, providing greater flexibility and enhancing customer satisfaction.

Reduction of material waste: by using only the required material for each part, additive manufacturing significantly reduces material waste, contributing to more sustainable and cost-effective production processes. Complex geometries and lightweight components: the technology allows for the creation of intricate designs and lightweight parts, which can enhance product performance, optimise fuel efficiency, and reduce energy consumption.

Shortened lead times and reduced inventory: additive manufacturing can accelerate production processes, enabling faster response times to changing market conditions and reducing the need for large inventories, thus lowering costs and increasing efficiency.

Localised and decentralised production: by enabling on-demand production closer to the end-user, 3D printing can reduce transportation emissions and promote more sustainable supply chains. This approach not only benefits the environment but also allows manufacturers to respond more quickly to market demands and changing customer needs.

Additive Manufacturing In Key Industries

Automotive

Additive manufacturing has gained significant traction in the automotive

industry due to its ability to produce complex, lightweight components and enable customisation. Car manufacturers such as BMW and Audi have adopted 3D printing technologies for producing bespoke parts, prototypes, and even entire vehicles.

These advancements have allowed for reduced lead times, increased fuel efficiency, and more streamlined production processes, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and innovative automotive industry.

Aerospace

The aerospace industry has been an early adopter of additive manufacturing, leveraging its capabilities to create lightweight, complex components that can withstand extreme conditions. The technology allows for the production of parts with optimised geometries, leading to increased fuel efficiency and reduced emissions.

Companies like Boeing and Airbus have integrated additive manufacturing into their production processes, from prototyping to manufacturing critical components, resulting in cost savings and improved overall performance.

Marine Manufacturing

In the marine industry, additive manufacturing is being used to create more efficient, lightweight, and durable components for boats, ships, and submarines. The technology allows for the production of customised parts that can withstand the harsh marine environment, leading to longer-lasting and more reliable vessels.

Additionally, the ability to create complex geometries enables the development of more efficient propulsion systems, reducing fuel consumption and lowering the industry's environmental impact.

Architecture And Design

In the realm of architecture, additive manufacturing is revolutionising the way architects and designers conceive and execute their projects. The technology enables them to create intricate, bespoke designs that were previously impossible or too costly to produce using traditional methods.

By 3D printing building components, facades, or even entire structures, architects can explore new design possibilities, pushing the boundaries of creativity and functionality, while ensuring a more sustainable building process.

Construction

The construction industry is also beginning to explore the benefits of additive manufacturing, with the development of large scale 3D printers capable of producing entire buildings and infrastructure elements. The technology can be used to create complex architectural designs that would be difficult or impossible to achieve using traditional construction methods.

By reducing material waste, construction times, and labour costs, additive manufacturing has the potential to revolutionise the construction industry, making it more sustainable and efficient.

Challenges And Opportunities In Additive Manufacturing

Despite its many advantages, additive manufacturing still faces technical challenges and limitations, such as size constraints, material compatibility, and post-processing requirements. There is a growing need for larger machines capable of producing bigger parts or even entire structures.

However, these challenges present opportunities for further innovation and development in the additive manufacturing field, with researchers and companies continually working to improve the technology and expand its capabilities.

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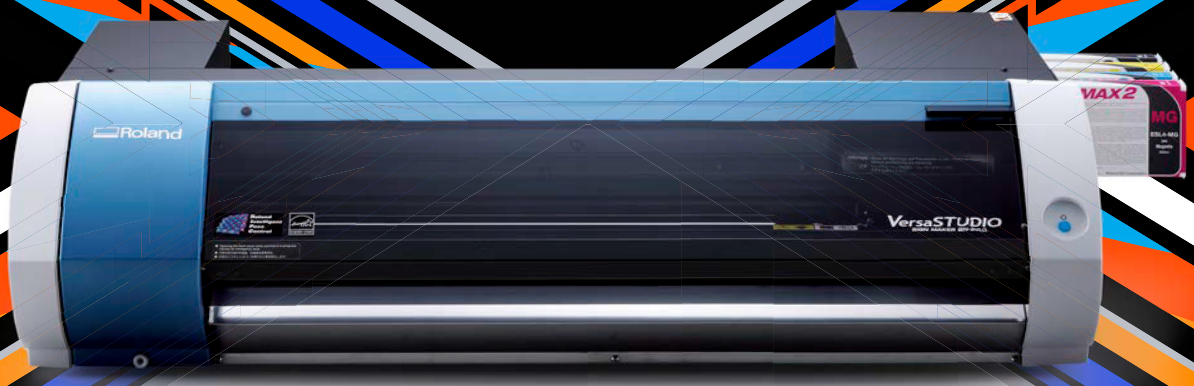
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AT THE SIGN AFRICA EXPO







Marc Verbeem, Supervisor Product Management, Mimaki Europe, says that direct-to-film (DTF) technology opens up opportunities for digital print service providers (PSPs) to expand their product offerings in the textile industry, their network of potential customers, and thanks to the versatility of the process, expand the wide range of fabrics they can print on.

'In the printing industry, DTF technology is having a transformative impact on the apparel decoration space. It provides a simple and affordable garment printing process that facilitates vibrant, dynamic and full-colour designs with a durable print.'

'DTF printing is the process of digitally printing directly onto a special transfer film sheet. This is subsequently applied to fabric choices with a hot-melt powder and heated. Once the transfer sheet is cured and dried, it can be heat-pressed onto a variety of fabrics to create premium transferred designs for customised merchandising, sportswear, and an array of other promotional applications for the textile market,' said Verbeem.

At the Sign Africa Expo, visitors will be able to see the latest DTF technology offerings, as well as new products and business opportunities in the world of graphics, signage, digital printing, branding, T-shirt printing, mug printing, vehicle graphics, laser engraving, binding equipment, digital packaging solutions and more.

Registration is open for the region's largest dedicated signage and printing exhibition, taking place 13-15 September at the Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa. The event is co-located with Africa Print, FESPA Africa, Modern Marketing, and Graphics, Print & Sign. The event is sponsored by Stixo Signage Supplies and Roland DG South Africa. Register today.

www.signafricaexpo.com

DON'T RETAIN POOR PERFORMING EMPLOYEES

BY JOHN TSCHOHL, THE SERVICE QUALITY INSTITUTE



Image credit: JP Valery, www.unsplash.com

Retaining employees who perform poorly is expensive both financially and emotionally, and it costs a lot of money to repair the damage they do.

This includes the time it takes to correct mistakes they've made, dealing with a significant number of customer complaints, creating friction, and in-fighting. It also has an impact on morale and results in an increase in employee turnover.

There's a term ranchers use when they are reducing the size of livestock by removing weak animals from the group. That term is 'thinning the herd'. It could also be used in the workforce in relation to terminating non-performing employees, something most organisations don't do nearly as often as they should.

High achievers, those employees who show up on time every day, work hard, and do more than is expected of them, won't want to stay with you. They won't respect you and will soon be heading out of the door to work for someone who doesn't tolerate bad employees.

They notice when you give poor performing employees a pass and will start to question your ability to lead and to make good decisions. They will also resent you for relying on them to pick up the slack. You should do everything in your power to keep high-achieving employees.

Keeping employees who perform at substandard levels can also impact you personally and professionally. So, how do you go about letting those employees go? First, you must realise you can't save them from themselves. They simply don't care about their performance, you, or your company. Cut them loose.

Good managers can identify the negative traits of an employee within the first 30 days. That includes job knowledge, job fit, and performance. At year one, you should have a clear record of performance reviews. Take notes, document problems, and track corrective action. Make sure employees understand what is expected of them and why.

If you expect an employee to improve, both of you should understand what that improvement should look like. Schedule a time to review those expectations and benchmarks. If they haven't been met, it's termination time.

Firing someone can seem heartless at times but, actually, continuing to employ people who routinely fail is a disservice to them and to your organisation. On the positive side, it might serve as a wake up call to those employees and spur them on to improve their skills, their attitudes, and their performances.

It can take some time to recover and rebuild your team spirit after terminating bad employees. It can leave you feeling empty and exhausted, but you can turn things around by quickly getting back on track and doing whatever it takes to build a strong, cohesive team of employees who respect you for 'thinning the herd'.

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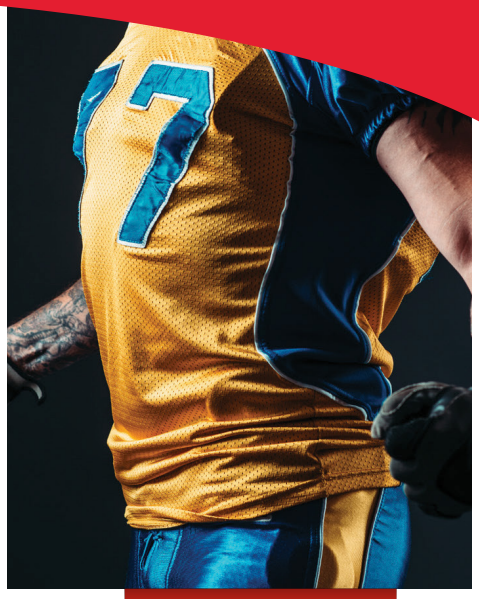
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ASK PRINTERS THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

ABOUT SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS AND OFFERINGS

BY LAUREL BRUNNER, VERDIGRIS PROJECT

Image credit: Noah Buscher www.unsplash.com

From the artisans with their sustainably harvested honey to producers of handmade kitsch, we should all be asking our partners and supply chains for details of environmental aspects and impacts.

As we move more and more towards a 'Do It Yourself' model, the printing industry is gaining all sorts of new customers. From labels on demand for bespoke honey through to ambitious party signage and sportswear, print volumes are rising. Perhaps one of the biggest categories is book printing, as the world of self-publishing explodes. But rarely is the environmental dimension considered in any these categories of print.

The questions to ask is not always obvious and print providers are probably as much at a loss as print buyers. Here are some suggestions to ask of your print service providers whether you are self-publishing your literary opus or ordering leaflets and signage for the local car dealership.

The most basic questions relate to the state of their operations in terms of energy efficiency, age of printing systems, error rates, use of colour management and so on. A more ambitious approach would be to also ask your print service provider if they measure their carbon footprint. These calculations should include both the enterprise and individual print runs, using tools such as ISO 16759 (calculating the carbon footprint of print). Find out if they have set emissions targets with a goal to achieve net zero, and if so, when. Targets create a clear path towards continuous improvement and are the obvious way to get emissions down over time.

Questions about substrates can be a bit of a minefield but at least establish what your service provider's policies are regarding the use of recycled materials and their sources and composition. They should also have a policy in place for waste handling and packaging preferences, such as moving away from plastic packaging. The same goes for special finishes and lamination: the print service provider should at least have considered their environmental aspects and impacts. The use of complex materials in print media production can often be reconsidered for instance with more sustainable designs. Design can make a big difference in energy usage, production efficiencies and recyclability.

There are wider policies to ask about the organisation's commitments to sustainability, such as certification for ISO 14001 environmental management or use of the ISO 12647 series for process control on press. Some print service providers put sustainability training and education to the fore. They may also have made public environmental commitments and have policies in place to support those obligations. Clearly such companies are to be preferred over print service providers who haven't made such an effort.

Sustainability is a supply chain issue, whether we're talking packaging and its disposal or signage and exhibition collateral. All parties should at least be aware of the sustainability of the print they commission, produce and use. And customers should reward those organisations committed to sustainability with their business. It's the only way things can change for the better.

This article was produced by the Verdigris Project, an industry initiative intended to raise awareness of print's positive environmental impact. Verdigris is supported by: FESPA (www.fespa.com), Fujifilm (www.fujifilm.com/sustainability/), HP (www.hp.com), Kodak (www.Kodak.com/go/sustainability), Practical Publishing (www.practicalpublishing.co.za), Miraclon (https://miraclon.com), Unity Publishing (http://unity-publishing.co.uk) and Xeikon (www.xeikon.com).

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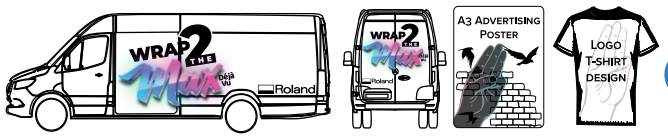
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NEWS

Printing SA Hosts Women In Print Event For Its Northern and Central Chambers

Printing SA hosted its annual Women In Print Luncheon on Thursday, 3 August 2023, for its Central and Northern Chambers. The event featured keynote speakers, panel discussions and a fashion show, and brought women in print together to uplift, empower and celebrate their role in the printing industry. Sign Africa, Africa Print and Modern Marketing are proud media partners of the event.

The event provided community, leisure and a chance to connect with other women in print at a beautifully decorated conference venue in Midrand, Johannesburg. It also served as a launch pad for the guest speakers and panellists to motivate and mentor the women who attended. The event led to discussions around sisterhood, the issue of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and living and leading with purpose. There were over 200 members in attendance with more tuning in, including international participants, via the live stream.

Sylvia Tsunke, Skills planning research and reporting manager from the FP&M Seta, gave a moving keynote address on GBV and what government and communities can do. Guest speaker, Alinah Fosi, CEO of Government Print Works, gave useful tips for success and peace of mind for women looking to rise and grow in the printing industry. Fosi's one liners packed as much punch as her overall message, and she made statements such as: 'Surround yourself with good company', 'Pick your battles, not all of them are worth fighting', 'It's important to be assertive without being aggressive…disagree with the viewpoint without disrespecting theirs', and 'Never argue with a fool, people won't see the difference'.

The first panel discussion was themed around the idea 'She is my sister,' and dealt predominantly with issues surrounding GBV. The panel was moderated by Sonwabile Ndamase, Founder and CEO of Vukani Fashions and SAFDA. Panel members included Dr. Criselda Kananda, 3sixty Global Solutions Group; Bulela Dumzela, Asante; and Raesetja Legodi, Gauteng Dept of Economic Development.

The panellists discussed the fact that everyone has the responsibility to speak out against GBV, to ensure that women and children are safe. Dumzela said, 'Women often get into and then stay in these (abusive) sorts of relationships for a reason, whether it's financial reasons or dependency. The only way we can help these women is through love.'



Bulela Dumzela, Asante; Dr. Criselda Kananda, 3sixty Global Solutions Group; Raesetja Legodi, Gauteng Dept of Economic Development and Sonwabile Ndamase, Vukani Fashions and SAFDA.



Thuli Zulu, Crea8international; Colleen Zimmerman, Renform; Aziza Mahomed, Kemtek; Arethur Molefe, Canon; Heidi-Mari Middel, Kyocera and Anja Kirton, Fujifilm.

Legodi spoke about the need for eduction and communication surrounding protection, perception and safety when it comes to sexual activity among the youth. Speaking on a personal matter that had recently occurred with her son, Legodi stated, 'This situation opened the door to speak about topics that we usually would not talk about in our house. We are now providing condoms in school bathrooms, but are they really using them?'

The second panel discussion was chaired by Abisha Katerere from Printing SA and Charnia Yapp, publisher of Sign Africa, and focused on living and leading with purpose. The panel was made up of inspiring women who have shattered their own glass ceilings, including: Thuli Zulu, Crea8international; Colleen Zimmerman, Renform; Aziza Mahomed, Kemtek; Arethur Molefe, Canon; Heidi-Mari Middel, Kyocera; and Anja Kirton, Fujifilm.

On mentorship and support being crucial for career growth, panellists were asked if they have had any mentors who significantly influenced their career. Kirton said there are many people that she looks up to including her boss, Grant Potgieter. 'His advice is to try be 1% better every day, that is a significant 365% better in a year.' Middel said, 'I was very fortunate, because there were one or two men and

one or two ladies all with different views and ways of approaching business. For me, it is important to be humble, be quick to listen and slow to react and speak. Sometimes when you do get feedback from that mentor, decide what will work for you and what is in line with your personality and work ethics.'

Molefe draws support and learns from her Mom, grandmother, friends and colleagues. 'I really do take from everyone and I can't forget my MD, who almost forced me to take this position.' Molefe credited him as well as 'being surrounded by a group of friends who are smart and beautiful'.

Another question asked was: How do you handle personal setbacks and turn them into opportunities? Mahomed said, 'You need to look for those opportunities. You need to be focused and make sure that you are getting support. Don't take a setback as the end of your career – you need to pick up the pieces.

They say it's a glass ceiling. Don't look at your glass ceiling, because if you break it, the glass will cut you. So rather see it as no ceiling, see it as an opportunity that you take on and that makes you better. It is so much better to empower everyone else and empower ourselves. There are going to be days where you feel like: why am I doing this? You need to have a goal and work towards it.' Yapp said, 'Every setback is an opportunity to learn, for you and your team, there is something to be improved on.'

How do you encourage a sense of respect and equality within in your teams in your organisations? Zimmerman said, 'If we want to encourage a sense of respect and equality, we have to look at ourselves. It is so important as women that we hold each other up and support each other more. And my staff know from experience that (if there is) any kind of fighting at work, I call a meeting to resolve the issue. We need to start with respecting each other. We can't get men to respect us if we can't even respect ourselves and each other first and foremost. Own your authority ladies, we made it, we are sisters.'



Charnia Yapp, Practical Publishing and Abisha Katerere Printing SA.



Dr Abdool Mahomed and Maria Silveiro from Printing SA.



Alinah Fosi, Government Print Works, Heilet Grobler & Lana Human from the Northern Chamber.



Bulela Dumzela from Asante, Charnia Yapp from Practical Publishing and Sylvia Tsunke from FP&M Seta.



Left to right: Maria Silveiro, Vanashree Pinto, Romy Engelbrecht, Khanyi Ntanzi & Lana Human from Printing SA.

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marcocronje@gmail.com
Johannesburg

MIMAKI 3.2M PRINTER — 26 JULY

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ROLAND SP-540I — 18 JULY

Print and cut. 1.37m wide. Has bulk ink system. R75,000.
+27 12 804 0726
info@gravitylab.co.za
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MIMAKI CJV30-130BS — 18 JULY

Large format print and cut. R8000. Not working. Power supply/PC board is a problem. Can be used for parts or repair. Has heater, vacuum and uptake roller.
+27 83 378 9561
julianchpp9@gmail.com
Cape Town

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VINYL APPLICATOR — 8 JULY

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Graphic designer with experience needed.
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tebogo@maakemedia.co.za
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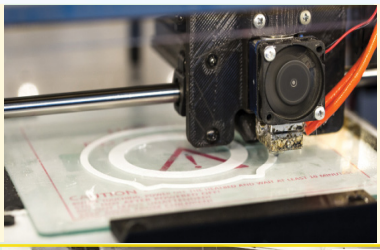


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