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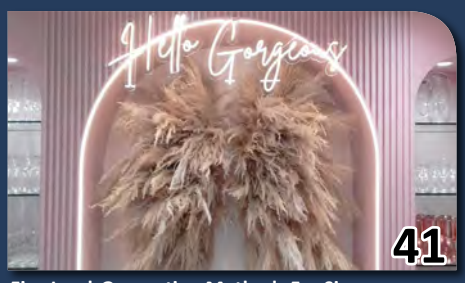
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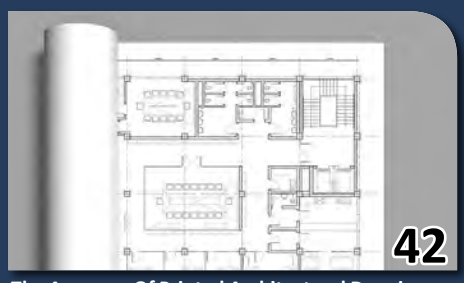
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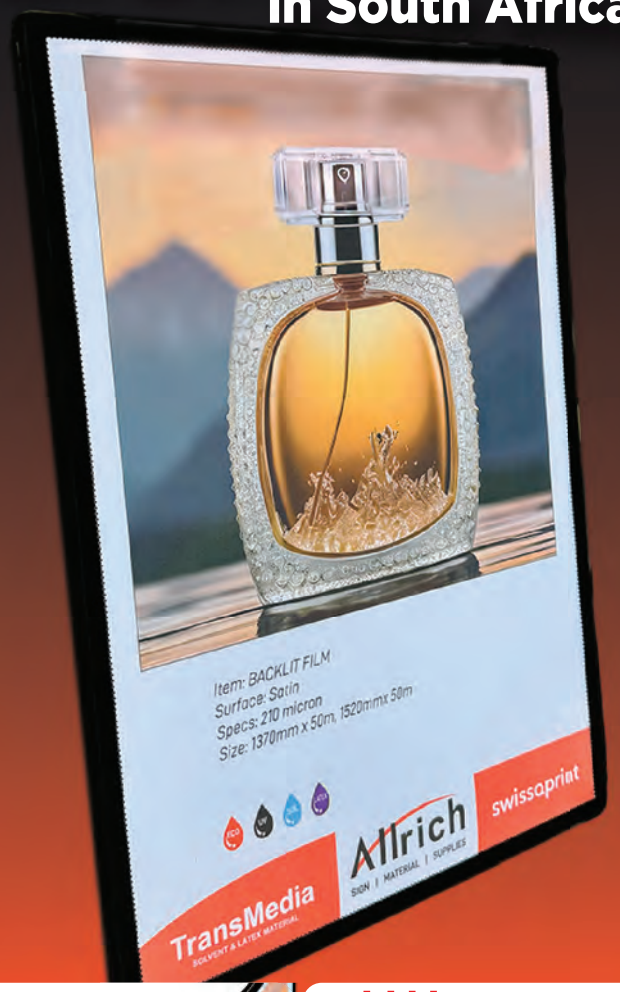
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EDITOR'S NOTE

BY MEGGAN MCCARTHY, EDITOR

We were excited to host the first Africa Wrap event. Visitors looking to transform their vehicles, protect their surfaces, or elevate their brand's visual identity attended this niche event for all things film to surface, which took place at the Focus Rooms in Sandton, Johannesburg, on 15 and 16 April 2025. The event was sponsored by Roland DG South Africa, Kolok Graphic Supplies, Allrich Trading and Eco Signage.

Our front cover article features IMPEX® Extruded polycarbonate sheets, which encompass a wide range of large format, extruded and virtually unbreakable polycarbonate sheets with excellent optical and mechanical properties. The product range is available in different surfaces, versions and patterns. Eco Signage Supplies is an official distributor of IMPEX® Polycarbonate sheets.

Other Features

In today's hyper-connected digital environment, it can be easy to overlook some of the traditional methods that have successfully generated leads and sales for sign businesses. While online marketing and digital advertising are powerful tools, relying exclusively on them can mean missing out on substantial opportunities that traditional marketing methods still offer. Kurt Tyack from Signarama Southern Africa discusses five tried-and-tested lead-generation methods that have worked in every sign company he has visited in more than 20 years.

Digital printing is redefining the future of décor in Africa. Walk into any high-end hotel lobby, a chic restaurant, or a contemporary home in Africa today, and you'll notice something striking — the walls, floors, and furniture are no longer just functional; they tell a story. The demand for personalised, high-quality interior décor is surging across the continent, driven by a new generation of designers and homeowners who want spaces that reflect individuality, culture, and artistry.

In an era where digital communication reigns supreme, printed signage has proven its resilience as a crucial tool for businesses worldwide. Despite the rapid adoption of digital alternatives, the printed signage market continues to thrive, underpinned by its cost-effectiveness, durability, and ability to deliver impactful visual communication. This article looks at why printed signage still endures in a digital world.

For architectural firms, investing in reliable printing solutions offers more than just convenience, it is essential for maintaining project integrity and efficiency. This is because high-quality prints ensure that every detail, from initial designs to final plans, aligns accurately with the architect's vision. In architecture, precision isn't just a preference, it's a necessity.

Business owners in the print, sign and packaging industry realise the shortage of trained staff in the industry while understanding the importance of high-quality products, cutting-edge technology, and customer satisfaction. However, one of the most critical investments they can make for long-term success is in their team's career development. Training your employees ensures they stay ahead of trends and can adapt to new technologies, giving your business a competitive edge.

The recent Sign Africa Durban Expo held at the Durban ICC 5-6 March saw over 520 companies visit from KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Free State to explore the diverse opportunities that were exhibited. Visitors flocked from towns such as Ballito, Richards Bay,

Signing off
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Kolok Graphic Supplies (KGS) is a large format media supply division within Kolok. Kolok is a proudly Bidvest company with Level 2 BBBEE certification. We supply the South African printing and signage industry with the best quality products sourced internationally. Kolok have branches throughout South Africa: Jhb, CPT, Dbn, Gqeberha, Mbombela, Polokwane and Bloemfontein. KGS offers a wide range of digital print media that will meet all your printing needs, from vinyls, PVC's, backlit films, wallpaper, canvas, photo and poster papers, and lamination with various finishes. KGS is also a distributor of NUtec Digital inks. The range includes the D10 Diamond Eco Solvent inks, AQ10 Dye Sublimation inks, A20 Amethyst UV inks and the Topaz full solvent Inks. KGS are a proud supplier of the Hexis product range, which includes digital print media, sign vinyls: Microtac, Ecotac and Suptac, cast vinyls: Skintac HX20 000 and HX30 000, a vast variety of colours and finishes, Bodyfence Paint Protection Film (PPF) ranging from the normal Bodyfence Gloss and Matt and also the Bodyfence X and Bodyfence Black, crystal vinyls and frosted vinyl for window applications and translucent vinyls for lightboxes. KGS also imports and distributes the STAHLS' Heat Transfer Vinyls and STAHLS' Magic Mask application tape for T-shirt designs and decoration. We also stock the RTAPE 4075RLA Conform application tape with Release Liner adhesive.
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MOBILE: +27 82 3225 966
EMAIL: salesgs@koloksa.co.za
WEB: www.kolokgs.co.za
31 Gold Reef Road, Ormonde, Ext 32, 2091

MEDIA FRENZY

As an industry leader, we don't just supply media, we ignite possibilities. Step into our exhibition space at this year's conference and immerse yourself in a showcase of light, colour, and innovation. The brilliance of our stand reflects the vibrancy we bring to your business, illuminating creative solutions that push boundaries in textile and media supplies.

Beyond quality materials, we are a partner in progress, offering cutting-edge tech support and hands-on training to empower our clients. Our expertise extends beyond products: we build knowledge, confidence, and long-term success.

More than a supplier, we are a trusted resource. Whether you're searching for the perfect print media or exploring advanced techniques, our team ensures you have the tools, insights and support needed to excel. Experience the future of media and textile solutions with us, where creativity drives success, and every innovation brings new opportunities. Let's shape the industry together. Visit us and discover the difference.

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

MIDCOMP (PTY) LTD

Midcomp (Pty) Ltd is a 34-year-old company specialising in the sales, service and support of large format digital printing and finishing equipment. We have a full spectrum of solutions, from small print and cut systems capable of short-run production through to high volume printers. We also specialise in Zünd Swiss cutting systems for digital finishing with a high degree of automation, reducing both waste and reliance on resources.

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

Midcomp is the only company to offer a Pay Per Use (PPU) system where customers pay only for the square metres printed with all consumable costs included (excl. media). The PPU programmes allies to HP Latex printers. Another option is the world first PPUGRO programme that includes the cost of the equipment in the square metres printed. As part of our 'Catalyst for Growth' promise we have evolved into a group of three focal companies, which include Midcomp Azero (large format printers and plotters) and Midcomp Consumables (digital print media).

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

BRANDS: HP, ZÜND, HANDTOP, KLIEVERIK, FOTOBA, SUMMA, KALA, BARBIERI, CALDERA, SAI, IDIGIT, ONYX, DRYTAC, CONTRAVISION, PALRAM, PLASTGROMMET

TEL: NATIONAL: +27 10 020 9999
EMAIL: sales@midcomp.co.za
WEB: www.midcomp.co.za

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POLYCARBONATE, MULTIWALL, PETG, UHI, ABS, PST, POLYPROPYLENE, HDPE

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MOBILE: +27 83 654 1441
EMAIL: mel@mr76.co.za
WEB: www.mrplastic.com
JHB: 13 Geldenhuis Road, Malvern East, Bedfordview, Johannesburg
CT: Unit 3 Marconi Mews, 28 Marconi Road, Montague Gardens, Cape Town
Po Box 289, Bedfordview, 2008

NSI-4-AFRICA

Leaders in fabricated LED letter bending equipment, expertise, materials, tools, and adhesives to the African market. Comprehensive installation and training provided by factory certified technicians. Your success is our success.
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WEB: www.nsi4africa.com
Midrand, Gauteng, South Africa
Postnet Suite 55, Postnet Grey Owl, Louwlardia, Centurion.

NSI LABEL

African Excellence 2024 award winners for exceptional digital label and packaging solution installations throughout Southern Africa. Offering outstanding digital printing and finishing equipment and service thereof for the roll-to-roll and sheets market.
BRANDS: LABELSMART, VALLOY, DARIU, SAGA, VIP COLOR, OKI, EPSON

TEL: +27 11 050 6600
MOBILE: +27 82 467 4694 / +27 83 774 5292
EMAIL: shawn@labelandpack.africa
WEB: www.labelandpack.africa
Midrand, Gauteng, South Africa
Postnet Suite 55, Postnet Grey Owl, Louwlardia, Centurion.

ORAFOL SOUTH AFRICA

ORAFOL® Europe GmbH is a global leader in the manufacture of innovative self-adhesive graphic films, reflective materials and adhesive tape systems. Our international headquarters is in Oranienburg north of Berlin Germany, and is the hub of our organisation. We strive for best products, best service, and the best employees, which are complemented by environmental responsibility.
BRANDS: ORALITE®, ORAJET®, ORACAL®, ORABOND®

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WEB: www.orafol.com

PRINTBASE TEXTILES (PTY) LTD

Printbase Textiles has been the leading distributor and manufacturer of digitally printable textiles on the African continent over the last 15 years. We are the only vertically integrated textile mill that knits, coats and finishes from yarn to roll purely for the digital print industry. Printbase Textiles offers an extensive range of fabrics in finishes suitable for Eco Solvent, Full Solvent, Latex, Dye Sublimation Paper Transfer, Dye Sublimation Direct and UV Cure printing options. We are a proudly South African company.
BRANDS: PRINTEX

TEL: +27 21 551 1321
EMAIL: info@pbtex.co.za
WEB: www.pbtex.co.za
1 Cochrane Avenue (off 144 Gunners Circle) Epping 1, Cape Town, 7530

PRINTING SA

Federation of printing, packaging, signage and visual communication. Printing SA is the official voice of the print, packaging, signage, and visual communications industries in South Africa. As the preferred supplier for regional government printing organisations, we offer unmatched expertise and support to our members.

We provide a comprehensive array of services, including: conferring, consulting, training and campaigning.
BRANDS: PRINTING SA

TEL:+27 11 287 1160
EMAIL: info@printingsa.org
WEB: www.printingsa.org
575 Lupton Drive, Halfway House, Midrand, 1682

REXX SCREEN & DIGITAL SUPPLIES

Rexx is a vertically integrated supplier and service provider to the screen and digital printing industry. We specialise in textile applications, namely direct to garment, direct to film, dye sublimation, UV direct to textile and screen printing, offering full-service solutions including equipment, consumables, training, colour profiling and technical support.

We stock and offer a large range of ancillary equipment and products, including Caldera Colour Management and Workflow software solutions, heat presses, transfer films, sublimation paper, premium quality blank garments and speciality products. Our experienced technical team of Rexxperts offer world class support and solutions.
BRANDS: KORNIT DIGITAL, REXX EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLES, XIN FLYING, SEF HEAT TRANSFER FILMS, REXX-T GARMENTS, VASTEX, MAGNA COLOURS, EASIWAY, ADELCO, AFFORD SPECIALITY INKS, REXXPLAS, FIMOR, SAATI, CHIOSSI E CAVAZUTTI, CALDERA SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

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JHB: Units A08 Galaxy Avenue, Linbro Business Park, 2065, Johannesburg
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PLATINUM SPONSOR

ROLAND / TELPRO

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

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DBN: +27 31 705 5530
EMAIL: sales@rolanddg.co.za
WEB: www.rolanddg.co.za
JHB: 306 Kyalami Boulevard, Kyalami Business Park, Midrand 1684
DBN: Derby Downs Office Park, Unit 2, Berkeley Square, 8 Sookhai Place, Westville

ROLAND SPEEDWRAP CHALLENGE

Enter the Roland Speedwrap 2025 challenge at the Cape Town Expo. During every round, the top wrapped car door gets cash. Contestants can test their wrapping skills and see if they can beat the clock. Wrap a car door in 10 minutes and win cash prizes.

The Speedwrap Challenge is brought to you by platinum sponsor Roland, media sponsor Sign Africa, and expo sponsor Sign Africa.

TEL: JHB: 0800 ROLAND 765 263 / +27 11 875 9300
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DBN: Derby Downs Office Park, Unit 2, Berkeley Square, 8 Sookhai Place, Westville

SIGN-TRONIC

Suppliers of swissQprint UV printers, Colorate waterbased printers and Monti Antonio heat transfer machines in Southern Africa.
BRANDS: SWISSQPRINT, MONTI ANTONIO, COLORATE, OCE, FLEXA

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PTA: +27 12 386 0358
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Head Office: 2 Wessex Road, Paarden Eiland, Cape Town
PTA: 104 Bessemer Street, Pretoria West Industria, Pretoria
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WEB: www.signbox.co.za
192 Immelman road, Immelman park, Wadeville, Germiston
PO Box 267, Germiston, 1400

PLATINUM SPONSOR

STIXO SIGNAGE SUPPLIES

Stixo Signage Supplies offers a world of solutions for visual communication supplies. The company caters for printing, signage, branding and architectural businesses as well as resellers. Being a solitary owned and managed company, they ensure swift decision making and individualised service to their clients.

The company has come a long way since establishment and are proud to have reached many key milestones along the way and have cemented the path to achieving their vision of becoming a one stop shop, by being in a position to meet their clients' demands.

Stixo's always ready to service sales and logistics team is made up of competent and efficient staff with excellent product knowledge and technical expertise to guide and assist their customers where needed.

Visit their website or contact their sales team today to explore everything they have to offer and discover why they are proudly Africa's Preferred Partner.

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EMAIL: capetown@stixo.co.za
17 Bofors Circle, Epping Industria 2, Cape Town, South Africa, 7460
WEB: www.stixo.co.za

STUART & MARKS

Stuart & Marks has been operating for 35 years in the large format graphics media market and

have grown into the largest graphics media supplier in South Africa. Stuart & Marks import selected quality media from mills around the world, specialising in dye sublimation, inkjet, solvent, eco solvent, latex, UV cured and CAD media.
BRANDS: TRANSJET

TEL: +27 11 807 6301
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HO JHB: 120 Capricorn Road Paulshof
CT: Unit 6 Stanford Park, 24 Assegaai Street, Parow Industria
KZN: Unit 9, 5 Sneezewood Lane, Glen Anil, Durban

TITAN-JET AFRICA
Titan Jet Africa is one of the largest suppliers of large format printers, sublimation and engraving products in South Africa. We strive to supply quality and value for money products.
BRANDS: TITAN JET, COOOL, MCSQR

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WEB: www.titanjet.co.za
APP: Titan Jet Africa
238 Dewar street, Derdepoort, Pretoria, 0035

TROTEC LASER
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MOBILE: +27 81 039 2815
EMAIL: martin@trodat.co.za
WEB: www.troteclaser.com
3 Appel Road Kramerville Sandton Johannesburg

TSHIRTS SOUTH AFRICA / CHINA DIRECT SOURCING
T-Shirts SA is a wholesale T-shirts supplier in Johannesburg, South Africa. We offer our services to a variety of industries and provide quality T-shirts and other apparel to customers at the most competitively priced prices. Whether you're looking for cheap T-shirts for your company or for your next event, T-Shirts South Africa has what you need. You can also find golf shirts and hoodies here as well.

Our manufacturers only use the finest 'A Grade' fabrics and materials, when making our products. Manufacturing gets done in accordance to international standards and our products go through several quality checks before they arrive at our warehouse.

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MOBILE: +27 82 396 4866
EMAIL: info@tshirtssouthafrica.com
WEB: www.tshirtssouthafrica.com
5A Main Road, Eastleigh, Edenvale, Gauteng 1609

WIDEFORMAT PRINT SOLUTIONS
Wideformat Print Solutions (WPS) is Africa's provider of wide format solutions.

WPS offers solutions unlike any other supplier of digital printing, cutting and finishing products as the company provides solutions based on customers' needs and has multiple brands, unlike other suppliers that only have one or two brands.

WPS offers top solutions for customers needing 24/7 production from companies like Agfa and Kongsberg. WPS also offers lower end and more affordable print and cut solutions at more affordable prices.

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WEB: www.wideformat.co.za

XL SOLUTIONS / STS INK
Your partner in large format printing solutions. Established in 2002, XLS has proudly positioned itself as a specialist large format distributor and reseller. Over the years, we have grown to become a formidable force in the market, providing exceptional products and support services tailored for large format printing needs. In recognition of our excellence and commitment, we have achieved GOLD partner status with Canon South Africa. This partnership enables us to sell and support an array of Canon's advanced products, including Large Format, Pro Print, and IR products. We have entered into an exclusive agreement with STS INKS to distribute and resell their full range of compatible inks. This agreement covers ink solutions for Mimaki, Roland, and various other alternative machine brands, offering customers high-quality alternatives to OEM inks.

We understand the critical importance of robust after-sales support. Our Full Technical Department is devoted to providing comprehensive support and maintenance services for all the products we sell. Our team of experienced technicians ensures that your printing operations run smoothly and efficiently, minimising downtime and maximising productivity.

Why Choose XL Solutions? Expert knowledge: with over two decades of industry experience, our expertise allows us to provide insightful advice and solutions tailored to your specific needs. Unrivalled quality and reliability: we offer only high-quality products from reputable brands, ensuring you receive reliable and effective solutions.
BRANDS: CANON, HP, SEIKO, OKI, COLORTAC

TEL: +27 11 822 3550
MOBILE: +27 83 399 8898
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Unit 16, Sunnyrock Close 3, Corner North Reef Road and Sunnyrock Close Road, Germiston

ZIMSTONE (PTY) LTD
For over 35 years, Zimstone has grown to become Africa's largest manufacturer and distributor of a wide range of portable display equipment for indoor, outdoor events and commercial advertising. We produce and market a wide range of Commercial Grade Bannerwalls, Gazebos, Parasols, Flag Systems and Portable Display Items. Our factory produces the majority of our portable display range in SADC.

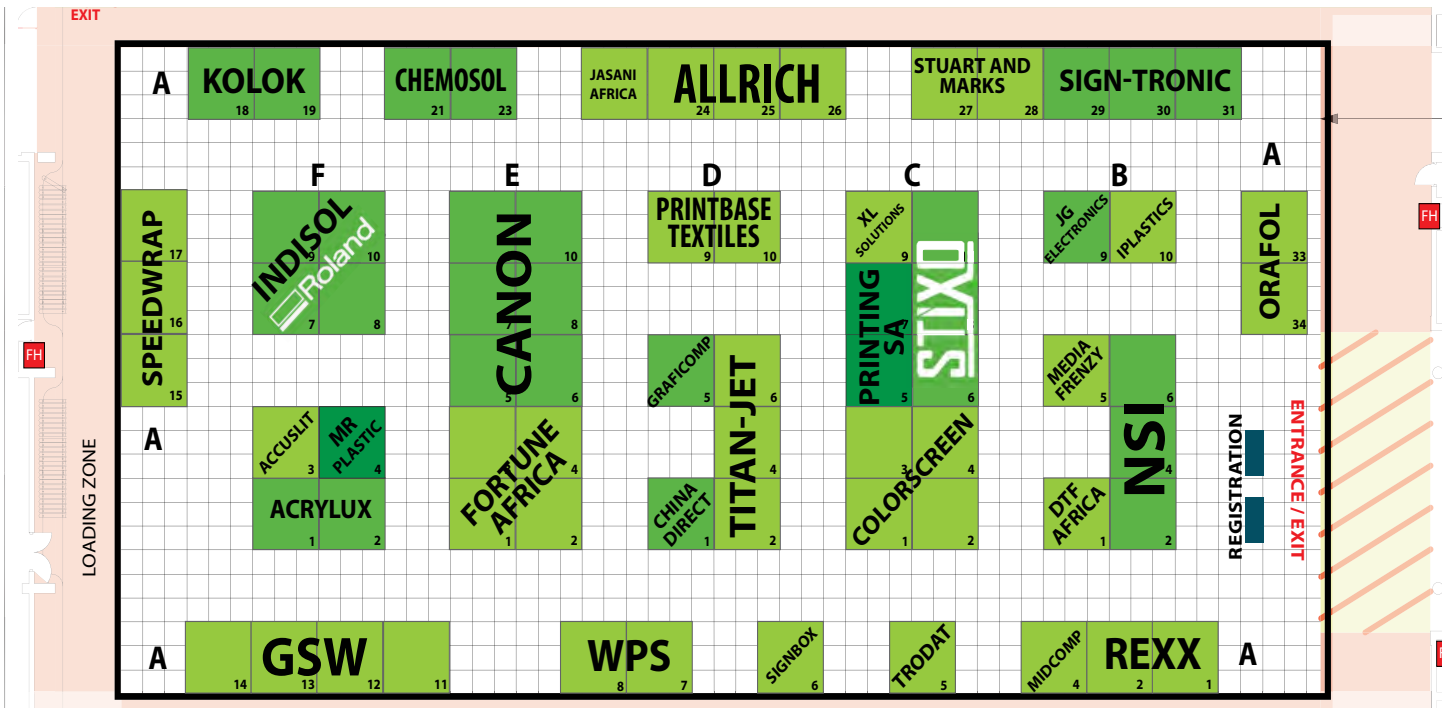
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EMAIL: sales@zimstone.co.za
WEB: www.zimstone.co.za
3 Robertson St, Observatory Ext, Johannesburg, 2198

AFRICA PRINT CAPE TOWN 14-15 MAY 2025
THE COMMERCIAL DIGITAL PRINT EXPO

SIGN AFRICA CAPE TOWN 14-15 MAY 2025
THE SIGN, DISPLAY AND DIGITAL GRAPHICS EXPO

#GPS GRAPHICS/PRINT/SIGN
14-15 MAY 2025
CAPE TOWN

Catalogue listings were correct at time of going to press. Updates will be made online at www.africaprintexpo.com, www.signafricaexpo.com or www.graphicsprintsign.com



HOT NEW PRODUCTS

Mimaki Printers

Combining advanced eco-solvent printing technology with cost efficiency, the new CJV200-160B and JV200-160B models, additions to the CJV200 series, feature a high-capacity ink bottle system, reducing printing costs while ensuring continuous operation. Designed with sustainability in mind, the CJV200-160B and JV200-160B use Mimaki's GREENGUARD Gold-certified CS250 eco-solvent ink and enable more efficient ink usage, minimising waste. The JV200-160B is a dedicated eco-solvent printer, while the CJV200-160B offers an all-in-one print and cut solution. **www.gsw.co.za**



Stuart & Marks DTF Film

The new 80-micron hot peel DTF film features vibrant colour transfer, exceptional durability and effortless application. It is available in 600 x 100m, or 1200 x 100m rolls. The products are available now and are being dispatched daily. Due to Stuart and Marks importing jumbo reels, they are able to produce the stock in longer rolls up to 200m in length. This eliminates the time-consuming process of setting up new rolls into the machines and customers can continue with higher production. **www.stuartandmarks.co.za**



Summa Vinyl Cutter Bundle

The dedicated vinyl cutter for DTF print and cut workflow is designed to prevent the scratches or roller marks that typically occur when transporting PET film. The new Summa bundle includes a frictionless roll feed to level up the DTF print and cut workflow. The dedicated DTF bundle features Summa's proprietary tangential cutting technology, camera technology and the GoSign production software. The bundle includes the S3 TC75 vinyl cutter, equipped with a frictionless roll feed, a roll-up system, and the advanced GoSign Pro Pack. **www.fujifilmgraphicsystems.co.za**



Drytac Polar Frost Air

Suitable for use in both indoor and outdoor applications, Polar Frost Air features a subtle embossed finish that replicates the elegant look of etched glass but at a more affordable price point. Polar Frost Air is a new translucent matt polymeric PVC film with an embossed pearl finish that becomes the latest addition to the Polar product range. Coated with a clear permanent adhesive that is protected by a two-sided PE coated release liner with bubble-free technology, this makes installation both simple and clean. **www.midcomp.co.za**



AGFA Anapurna Ciervo H2500

The inkjet printer features six-colour plus white inks and UV LED curing. With a redesigned print engine and shuttle, the Ciervo H2500 achieves impressive productivity levels – up to 59sqm/h in Production Mode, an increase by nearly 70% compared to its predecessor – and delivers vibrant, high-quality results on applications ranging from banners and vinyl to corrugated cardboard and coated textiles. Its continuous board feeding capability allows efficient printing on up to four boards simultaneously, making it ideal for printing companies looking for agility and performance. **www.agfa.com**



GZ Technology Apsaras G4

The sublimation printer features an output up to 185sqm/h and features four Epson I3200 A1 printheads. It also features GS High Density Sublimation Transfer ink certified by OEKO TEX with 'ECO PASSPORT', a bulk ink supply system with ink cartridge, and it can handle transfer paper between 35-100gsm. **www.gongzheng.co.za**



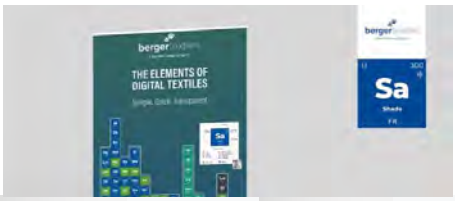
AM.CO.ZA Automatic Mug Press

The press features easy operation that makes it ideal for entrepreneurs looking to scale their operations quickly and effectively. Whether working with custom designs for mugs, shirts, or other products, this press is designed to handle it all with minimal effort and maximum output. It offers a seamless experience that lets users focus on building a business rather than managing complicated equipment. With the new Automatic Mug Press, all it takes is a simple switch-on, setting the desired time and temperature, and pressing the start button. **www.am.co.za**



Berger Textiles Soft Signage Products

Ghost is a 100% PES white back blockout fabric, engineered for simple and effective backing of freestanding backlit displays such as backdrops, frames, and pop-ups. Shade is an opaque, PVC-free banner solution with an acrylic coating for durability and easy cleaning. Barrier is a 100% polyester textile with a uniform distribution of holes for excellent ventilation. The EVO range offers a complete set of textiles produced using GRS-certified recycled yarn. **www.bergertextiles.com**



HP LATEX R530

This is the only all-in-one compact HP Latex printing solution, allowing seamless adaptation between rigid and flexible applications. It delivers consistent, high-quality output across various media types, enabling PSPs to tap into new markets and expand their print applications. With automatic recirculation and printhead cleaning, businesses can enhance uptime and reduce maintenance costs. The single-phase power system provides effortless installation in limited spaces. **www.midcomp.co.za** and **www.graficomp.co.za**



TEXTILE PRINT COMBO DEALS

EPSON SC-F9400 + TTM1732 + CMA1810 LASER



COMBO **R1 050 000** EX VAT

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\+ G3 Heat Press

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COMBO **R305 000** EX VAT

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SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS

Stixo Signage Supplies Exhibited New Print Vinyl And Mug Press At Sign Africa Durban Expo



Stixo Signage Supplies showcased Jetbest® print vinyl at the Sign Africa Expo in Durban. The event was held from 5-6 March at the Durban ICC. Jetbest® print vinyl is set to redefine digital printing. Engineered for professionals who demand the best, Jetbest® delivers vibrant, ultra-clear prints with unmatched durability.

Crafted with a 100 micron soft PVC film and a 120gsm CCK liner, this premium vinyl ensures precision and longevity. Choose between Jetbest®4801 with clear permanent adhesive or Jetbest®4901 with grey permanent adhesive, depending on your application needs. Both are available in gloss or matt surfaces with 1370mm and 1520mm roll widths on a standard 50m roll length. Jetbest®is designed for seamless inkjet printing with solvent, eco-solvent, UV, and latex inks. The company also showcased its state-of-the-art CAMEL 5-in-1 Mug Press.

Renowned for bringing you a world of solutions for visual communication supplies, Stixo also showcased the MONTANI range of digital printable textiles/fabrics, the Flame Banner, CAMEL Desktop sublimation paper and much more. Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.stixo.co.za

Intamarket Graphics And Mactac Announce Car Competition Winner

Wrap-My-Ride Cape Town are the lucky winners of a new Nissan Magnite in Intamarket Graphics' and Mactac's competition. The draw was held at Intamarket Graphics' head office in Sandton on 18 March, and the car keys were handed over to Wrap-My-Ride at Africa Wrap, which took place from 15-16 April at The Focus Rooms, Johannesburg.

The competition gave Intamarket customers the chance to enter one ticket into the lucky draw every time they spent R5000 or more on Mactac products. Thousands of tickets were entered into the draw.



Gavin Turner, Intamarket Graphics and Lindy van Moerkerken, Avery Dennison, with Tim Barnard and Byron Summers from Wrap-My-Ride.

The draw was overseen by Gavin Turner, Managing Director at Intamarket Graphics, and conducted by Benjamin Carreira, Head of Finance at Intamarket Group. Carreira drew the number 1002, which saw Wrap-My-Ride Cape Town as the ultimate winners.

Intamarket Graphics contacted Wrap-My-Ride Cape Town and asked them for a design. Intamarket then printed that design on their GZ Gongzheng eco-solvent printer on Mactac JT10 700 Cast print media with LF 10 700 Cast Laminate.

The vehicle was wrapped at the Africa Wrap event, where Intamarket exhibited, and the keys were handed over to Tim Barnard and Byron Summers from Wrap-My-Ride.

www.intamarketgraphics.co.za

SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Roland DG Showcased Wide Format Print Innovations At Sign Africa Durban Expo

The VersaSTUDIO BD-8 makes it quick and easy for anyone, even those with no prior experience, to print vibrant and detailed graphics on a wide range of objects. The printer fits on the user's desktop, making it ideal for use in home businesses, small offices, retail spaces and classroom settings. With a BD-8, adding value and appeal to items like phone covers, cosmetic cases, fashion accessories, sports memorabilia, gifts, bottles and more is a breeze.

The TrueVIS MG-300 series features ECO-UV inks and premium UV print technology, which makes the series ideal for branching into professional UV print and cut. High-quality components, time-saving RIP features and simple media handling make the MG perfect for printing short runs, long runs, print/cut and much more.

The VG3-540 models feature up to eight colours of ink. This is the professional's choice for building brand consistency, and building the highest quality print output. Building confidence in your business, the VG3 is designed for passionate professionals who need quality, dependability, and versatility to achieve new levels of success.

Available in two sizes to fit a business and its budget, the latest SG3 series of large format graphic printer/cutters have been enhanced to answer the ease and productivity needs of sign and graphics providers. Expand current operations or provide the right start in sign and graphics with superior colour and performance.

The VersaSTUDIO BN-20A and BN2-20A series is one of the most compact, easy-to-use, and affordable desktop inkjet printer/cutters available for professional use. BN2 series devices are perfect for creating prints, posters, and stickers as well as on-demand heat-transfer custom graphics for T-shirts, hoodies, bags, and many other popular and profitable items.



With the VersaSTUDIO GS2-24 desktop vinyl cutter, users can create professional quality graphics from a huge range of materials and take their business to the next level. With everything one needs to get started, this solution is the only choice for serious entrepreneurs.

The ER-642 brings all the quality and reliability of Roland DG, with exceptional print speeds. Thanks to its staggered heads and dual CMYK ink configuration, users can achieve productivity that will accelerate their business.

The CAMM-1 GR2-540 series of large format cutting plotters is built to fit seamlessly with a print-then-cut workflow and deliver fast and flawless results from day one.

The DE-3U desktop engraver is the result of over 30 years of innovation in engraving technology, delivering impressive versatility and fast, user-friendly automated production. With laser-pointing technology, ethernet connectivity, automatic depth regulation and other intelligent features, the DE-3 is the ideal turnkey engraving solution for producing precise text and graphics onto a huge range of materials and objects.

Perfect for gift personalisation, the metal engraving machine is a cost-effective, user-friendly way to mark gold, steel, silver, titanium, brass and aluminium.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.rolanddg.co.za

UPrint Showcased DTF Laser Printing Systems At Sign Africa Durban Expo

Elevate productivity with UPrint's innovative PRO860WT DTF laser printer. Maximise earnings per minute, and brand on any item imaginable. The company's advanced costing feature provides precise costs for each order.

There are no messy inks: with UPrint's inks, users can leave their printer standing for months with no side effects. Users can also boost efficiency by producing multiple jobs with one powerful printer, and enjoy brighter whites.

Clients can also benefit from access to a global support network, such as a worldwide WhatsApp group of UPrint users, weekly newsletters and updates via email marketing, the company's own Bot on Telegram, and a USB training manual.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.uprintglobal.com



Metro Plastics Showcased ACRYLUX Premium Cast Acrylic Range At Sign Africa Durban Expo

ACRYLUX is a premium cast acrylic range used by top acrylic fabricators, signage companies and shopfitters around the world. Distributed in KwaZulu-Natal by Metro Plastics, this top-quality range includes clear, opals, colours, 'twin colour', high-impact, aquarium grade and many other new products which are already making a big impact in the South African market. ACRYLUX products carry the highest international UV warranty.

ACRYLUX can also be used for unique applications, such as aquariums, frontals for rimless swimming pools and point of sale (POS) signage, as well as for the furniture and balustrade industry.

Cast acrylic is very versatile and because it's rimless, users don't see any joins. There is a 30 year warranty on clear ACRYLUX and a 10 year warranty on the colours. Colours are consistent for light box applications, and can be printed on directly, as well as routed and can be cut, engraved, laser cut and plasma cut.

There are many product options for those in the professional DIY, fabrication, building and glazing industries. Many big brands are using the product



too. The 'twin-colour' product for example is black at face value, but turns white when lit up at night, giving users a day-night function.

ACRYLUX is very commonly used with all flatbed printers as it prints perfectly. With ACRYLUX, colours are more vibrant. Most other products contain recycled components whereas ACRYLUX is a virgin material. It is also backed by all the necessary warranties and is currently being tested with SABS to get South African accreditation.

Metro Plastics has a showroom at 43 Livingstone Road in Pinetown, which is open to the public. Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.metroplastics.co.za

GZ Technology Opens Durban Branch

GZ Technology, the main agency of Gongzheng, has opened a dedicated Durban branch. The new premises will feature the company's sublimation, eco-solvent, textile, roll-to-roll UV, flatbed and UV printing solutions.

Professional trainers will guide the company's staff personally, using practical scenarios and hands-on operations, and ensuring staff can confidently handle various situations throughout the sales and service process.

'We opened the premises because we wanted to ensure our customers in Durban have access to local technical and customer support,' said Leo Chen, general manager.

Address: Unit 4 Greystones Heliport, 135 Old North Coast Road, Glen Anil, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, 4000.

www.gongzheng.co.za





SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Curv Signage Systems Showcased Versatile Product Portfolio At Sign Africa Durban Expo



Curv Signage Systems has been locally manufacturing and supplying signage kits to the signage industry since 2009. Its signs are innovative, lightweight, robust and economical. Their curved signs create a modern, elegant and corporate look. These solutions were exhibited at the Sign Africa Expo in Durban, which took place at the Durban ICC.

The signage kit comes completely assembled with substrates included (as per customer specification). However, they can also be flat packed for ease of transportation. Wayfinding signs, door signs, outdoor and indoor signs, indoor and outdoor posters (stationary or on wheels), projecting signs, hanging signs, light boxes, menu stands and slimmer frames are all part of the company's signage inventory.

In an effort to keep businesses up to date with the latest advancements, Curv has introduced new merchandise and equipment, such as CNC cutting, 3D printing and DTF printing.

Sign Africa Durban was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.curvsignage.co.za

Accuslit Showcased Paper Range And More At Sign Africa Expo In Durban



Wesley Snyman, Accuslit.

Accuslit, supplier and converters of paper and board, exhibited at the Sign Africa Durban Expo. The event was held from 5-6 March in Durban at the Durban ICC.

The company showcased a versatile range of media, including dye sublimation paper, newsprint paper, tissue paper, bond paper, Brown Kraft Paper, as well as single side coated white and white gloss media.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

wesley@accuslit.co.za

NSDS Exhibited DTF Solutions And More At Sign Africa Durban Expo



NSDS is a one-stop solutions company to the printing industry and has staff with decades of printing experience. The Epson L1800 and XP600 DTF printer bundles were promoted and clients were welcome to enquire about show specials at the stand.

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

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.nsds.co.za

Epson South Africa Unveils First Innovation Centre In Africa

Epson South Africa held a ceremonial ribbon cutting for its new Innovation Centre and Johannesburg Office on 10 April, demonstrating the company's commitment to its customers and partners across the region. The company will host regular workshops, seminars, training sessions and industry events at the centre.

The venue will also showcase the latest printing, visual display, manufacturing, scanning and lifestyle solutions for key target sectors including retail, healthcare, logistics and hospitality, which are experiencing key growth.

It will also serve as a platform to provide direct feedback to the company's product designers and engineers in Japan, helping to shape the next generation of tailored technological solutions that address the unique needs of the region.

'This facility is a great environment for the team to operate and collaborate,' said Timothy Thomas, country manager, Epson Southern Africa.

The Epson Innovation Centre will leverage Johannesburg's strategic location. Johannesburg has been identified as the second regional hub for the EME region and this has resulted in Epson investing in South Africa. Epson has also invested in a new regional office in Cape Town.

Technological Innovation

'South Africa is looking after English-speaking territories for us. We also have an office in Casablanca, Morocco which is looking after French-speaking Africa,' said Suat Ozsoy, VP commercial operations for Epson META-CW Asia, adding that



the company have a lot of projects in different countries around Africa, and are working with local governments, with Johannesburg and Casablanca at the centre of it all.

He added that among the different technological markets, new label printers have been launched, from desktop to industrial applications, 'Our goal is to make it easy for customers to choose depending on their requirement or demand. We have a lot of partners that we've signed contracts with, who will be selling those industrial label printers for us in South Africa.'

'It's about shortening the production process and making it more bespoke,' added Neil Colquhoun, President, Epson EME, emphasising on the high speeds of the technologies, and decentralising some of the labelling processes, as some of these labels come from different continents and different cities. 'So it's about about bringing it closer to home.' Ozsoy added that in terms of the signage market, there are new products that the company is working on: 'There will be some introductions here as well, and there are products in the innovation centre that visitors can see. For us, signage quality is important, our head design is key for us and we invest a lot in it to get the maximum quality.'

Since Epson's recent acquisition of Fiery – a leading provider of digital front end servers and workflow solutions for the print industry – the company has been able to enhance the production process, enabling a strong focus on consistency of production, as well as head monitoring, colour quality, and the ability to make smaller adjustments to the printing process.

www.epson.co.za

ORAFOL South Africa Exhibited Vinyls, Tapes And Films At Sign Africa Durban Expo

ORAFOL South Africa showcased its wide range of high-quality materials, including ORALITE® Reflective, ORACAL® Vinyls, ORAJET® Digital Print Vinyl and ORABOND® High Performance Double Sided Tape at the Sign Africa Expo.

Company representatives were on the stand to advise visitors on the ideal products for their projects. Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.orafol.com



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JG Electronics Launched DTF Printer At Sign Africa Durban Expo

The Prestige R1 DTF printer is an ideal entry-level A3 machine for garment printing enthusiasts who are starting out and looking to enter the DTF market on a budget. Featuring a single semi-industrial XP-600 printhead, this compact, direct-to-film desktop station provides the ideal balance of affordability, performance and reliability.

This system is perfect for smaller businesses and print shops. Like all DTF printers, it must be used for at least an hour daily. The printer has automatic cleaning, intelligent ink level monitoring and white ink circulation systems included. To make this unit more affordable than its bigger brothers, it uses a XP-600 semi-industrial printhead.

DTF is the best technology for printing non-synthetic white fabrics and all dark fabrics. The print is detailed with good colours and excellent wash durability. It is even being used to replace heat transfer vinyl because there is no cutting, no weeding, no tracing of images and it's much cheaper to do, even counting the maintenance these printers require.

The printer takes eight minutes to print a full colour, full coverage A3 page, while adding of the powder, curing and transferring takes a maximum of two minutes in total. The systems include the best quality inks and film that the company can get along with a high definition powder with a particle size of under 80 microns to ensure all the fine detail in the print transfers. Fiery Cadlink DTF raster image processing (RIP) software is included with this system.



The automatic shaker oven is perfect for production volumes. If users are going to do small volumes, they can shake the powder onto the print by hand and use the infrared curing oven (optional extras) which is essential to ensure even curing. Some people put the print into an oven or heat press to cure but results are unpredictable and can result in the shirt being rejected. The beauty of using the automatic shaker and curing unit is that the user can set the printer to print and do something else while the print is being made ready for transfer.

Miro 13 Max is the DTF Station's newest automatic DTF powder, shaker and dryer, developed specifically to pair alongside DTF Prestige A4, R1, R2 and R2 Pro DTF solutions. With bottom platen heating for even, consistently cured transfers and a built-in air purifier for safer, more eco-friendly powdering, this shaker helps make powdering your DTF transfers a breeze. Plus, at just 1170W (1.17KW), this shaker requires no special electrical adjustments to install or use. Coupled with its intuitive interface for easy operation, users will be printing and powdering transfers in no time.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.jgelectronics.com

Media Frenzy Showcased Textiles, Hardware And More At Sign Africa Durban Expo



Media Frenzy showcased its cutting edge and top-quality print based textiles and locally crafted hardware at the Sign Africa Expo in Durban, which took place 5-6 March at the Durban ICC. Visitors could also see a fusion of tradition with futuristic fabrics for sublimation, setting a new standard of excellence.

Telescopic flags, sharkfin flags, gazebos, pop-up banners, pull-up banners, table cloths and fabric swatch books were showcased. Dye-sublimation ink and director's chairs were also exhibited.

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

Media Frenzy contributed to an event that promised not only product quality and innovation, but an unforgettable experience, where success, innovation and luxury converged to set a new standard in the industry.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

dion@media-frenzy.co.za



SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

IPlastics Exhibited Reflective Material At Sign Africa Durban Expo



Lee-Ann Dunnercliffe and Thomas Smith, IPlastics.

IPlastics exhibited DM7600 high-intensity prismatic grade reflective material at the Sign Africa Expo in Durban. The event was held from 5-6 March at the Durban ICC.

DM7600 is SABS approved for road signs and vehicles. The durable, high-performance, weatherproof and self-adhesive retroreflective film has outstanding corrosion and solvent resistance.

Features: sealed air-backed microprisms for maximum reflectivity; smooth PMMA surface for superior scratch and impact resistance; excellent printability for customisation, and it is perfect for high-visibility signage, safety applications, and more.

The company also highlighted its display stands, gazebos, banners and digital media.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.i-plastics.co.za

Fortune Africa Opens Showroom And Demonstration Centre In Cape Town



Visitors can experience Fortune Africa's UV, DTF and flatbed printing solutions at its new showroom and demonstration centre in Cape Town. The address is: 58 Tanzanite Crescent, Kraaifontein.

'Our bigger showroom was officially opened in October last year,' said director Eckhardt Kröhnert. 'Since then, we've been dedicated to showcasing the latest in large format machinery to our valued customers, which span DTF, UV, dye-sublimation, heat press and solvent printers. We also can do texturised print with our UV machines. Come and see.'

He added that visitors to the demo centre and showroom can experience a range of benefits, including:

- Hands-on demonstrations: get a real feel for their machinery with live demonstrations.
- Expert guidance: Fortune's knowledgeable staff are on hand to provide detailed explanations and answer any questions.
- Interactive experience: engage with the machinery and see its capabilities in action.
- Informed decision-making: gain confidence in purchase decisions by experiencing the machinery first-hand.

www.fortuneprinters.co.za

Red Hot Media Launches Vehicle Wrapping Material At Open House Event



Red Hot Media recently hosted a successful open house event that was held on 6 February at Randburg Raceway. The new Fedrigoni Ultimate Wrap (Slide & Tack) Series, which includes PPF films and is available in numerous colours, was launched.

Highlights of the event included the presence of distributors from SADC regions, as well as Lee Ward from Ritrama representing the new Fedrigoni series. The event included live demonstrations and prize-giving, and lots of fun was had by attendees.

www.redhotmedia.co.za

Sign-Tronic Showcased New DTF Transfer Press At Sign Africa Durban Expo

Sign-Tronic exhibited the new T02-1800-DTF transfer press at the Sign Africa Expo, which took place 5-6 March at the Durban ICC. An innovative and versatile printing calender developed for DTF placement prints, it features a high speed transfer of 180sqm/hour.

The machine reduces labour – increasing speed dramatically. It is supplied complete with a front preparation table. Position your transfer and off you go.

Also showcased was the ColoRate 3200 large format dye-sublimation digital printer, which combines outstanding print quality, speed and performance. The automatic feed and take up system provides stable media support and easy loading. This uniquely allows printing on 29 gram dye-sublimation paper – a major cost-saving benefit.

The company also showcased pigment printing direct onto paper, giving customers cost savings and high speeds.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.



www.sign-tronic.co.za

NSI-4-Africa Showcased Channel Letter Bending Machine At Sign Africa Durban Expo

NSI-4-Africa exhibited the aluminium profile Auto Channel Letter Bending Machine at the Sign Africa Durban Expo. The machine is ideal for making different kinds of aluminium profiles, sign letters and boundless letters.



Features include a slotting mechanism with dual guide device for more stable operation, external stand-alone encoder with flexible coupling to ensure longer life, and Omron high-performance sensors.

Additional features include a servo bending system for fast bending speed; a rolling bending system that features a higher speed, with smooth bending curves; all-in-one aluminium die casting feeding rack, for more stable and higher accuracy; double-side swing milling cutting; and high bending precision for flat aluminium strips, profiles, trim cap coils and more.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.nsi4africa.com

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SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Newly Launched FESPA Foundation To Channel The Power Of Print For Positive Change

The FESPA Foundation, guided by its new slogan 'Print For Good', is a global initiative dedicated to transforming the specialty print and visual communications industry through sustainable practices, community support, and educational outreach.

By diverting printed exhibition sample materials that would ordinarily be wasted towards meaningful community support projects, the FESPA Foundation's work aligns clearly with FESPA's ISO 20121 Sustainable Event Management System standards, reducing event waste and maximising the positive legacy of FESPA exhibitions.

Under the strapline 'Print for Good', the principal activities of The FESPA Foundation are: reducing printed waste from FESPA exhibitions worldwide by encouraging exhibitors to produce print applications that can enrich educational environments for children in underprivileged communities; facilitating the collection, transportation, distribution and installation of these print materials in the beneficiary communities, via international and local partners; and collecting in-kind and monetary donations that further support the beneficiary communities, for distribution via credible local charities and community outreach programmes.

Transforming Evane Intermediate School In South Africa

Illustrating the initiative's transformative potential, the FESPA Foundation has revitalised Evane Intermediate School, a rural school serving 90 children in KwaZulu-Natal. This project was overseen by FESPA Foundation associate Steve Thobela ka Mdlalose in South Africa, with active



support from the FESPA Africa team and partners, and using funds and in-kind donations from FESPA.

A print business owner, former CEO of Printing SA, and founding General Manager of The Mandela Rhodes Foundation, which develops young leaders across Africa, Thobela coordinated resources and directed a local project team to repaint and decorate the school, upgrade decrepit toilet blocks, and deliver a range of printed educational posters and creative materials to provide a more functional and inspiring learning environment.

Dyelan Copeland and Rae Lee Du Plooy from Practical Publishing, which organises the Sign Africa and FESPA Africa expo, were recently onsite at the school to assist with upgrades and showed learners the screen printing process.

Practical Publishing assisted the FESPA Foundation by organising and sourcing local products such as wallpaper, floor graphics, posters, caps, bags, school shoes, books, pens, shirts and treats for the children. Practical Publishing extends a special thanks to Midcomp, Chemosol and Titan-Jet for their contributions. Additionally, Practical Publishing will incorporate 'Print for Good' in all of its expos in Southern Africa.

The FESPA Foundation's first major initiative will be to collect printed materials and in-kind donations at FESPA Global Print Expo (6-9 May 2025, Messe Berlin, Germany), for distribution to community projects in southern Africa.

www.fespa.com/en/about/foundation

Fortune Africa Showcased Printing Solutions At Sign Africa Durban Expo

Discover a world of endless possibilities with the state-of-the-art YF1610 UV flatbed printer, which is designed to transform the user's ideas into stunning, high-quality prints on virtually any media. Elevate a business with vibrant, durable prints that capture attention and leave a lasting impression.

Enjoy unmatched versatility: print on acrylic, glass, metal, wood, ceramics, plastics, leather, PVC and much more. Boost productivity with fast, high-resolution printing and user friendly design – start using it almost immediately with an intuitive interface.



Print custom designs on glass panels, windows and décor items. Personalise metal sheets, signs and promotional products. Add intricate designs to wooden panels and furniture and crafts, and customise tiles, mugs, and ceramic items. Print on various plastics including phone cases and packaging. Users can design unique leather products such as bags and wallets, and create stunning signage, display and decorative pieces on acrylic.

Elevate a printing business with the 3.2m YF3204 UV roll to roll printer. Designed for high volume, high quality output, this versatile printer is perfect for banners, signage, vehicle wraps and much more. Create eye-catching, raised textures that add depth and dimension to the designs – ideal for tactile and visually striking prints. Deliver high resolution printing with vibrant colours and durable finishes that captivate, and engage with, customers.

The YF1702 dye-sublimation printer's applications include: banners, flags, heat transfer paper, flex banners and more. It also features an Epson I3200 printhead (it can accommodate two), and a print width of 1600mm.

Experience vivid colour and colour accuracy with the Fortune DTF 702 – perfect for textiles, promotional items and endless possibilities.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.fortuneprinters.co.za

Hitech Graphics Showcased Large Format Sign And Display Printers At Sign Africa Durban Expo



Creating durable prints on coated and uncoated substrates up to 162.5cm (63.97"), Mutoh's 8-colour XpertJet 1682SR solvent printer has been developed for high quality volume production of sign and display graphics. The printer produces posters, backlit signage, wall coverings, point of sale displays, fine art reproductions, vehicle graphics, stickers and much more. The XPJ-1682SR can be configured in both 2 x 4 CMYK or in an 8C (C, M, Y, K, Lc, Lm, Lk, Or) setup.

While the 2 x 4 setup is oriented at volume/speed production, the 8C set-up will allow users to say yes to a wider range of applications. The orange ink will allow users to produce a new range of reds, oranges and yellows. Thanks to the Lc and Lm inks, the lighter colours, especially skin tones and colour gradients, will come out perfectly. The Light Black ink offers the advantage that grey gradients are printed much better and without any colour shift. This machine delivers 66sqm/h – top speed.

XpertJet 1641SR

The 163cm (64") wide XpertJet 1641SR Pro sign and display printer will deliver everything a user has come to expect from a Mutoh wide format printer: a robustly built and dependable printer that delivers high quality output. The successor to the XpertJet 1641SR model, the XPJ-1641SR-P has Mutoh's new AccuFine extra wide piezo printhead on board, delivering best in class drop placement accuracy and i-screen, the new weaving algorithm that suppresses banding even further. The VerteLith RIP integrates Mutoh proprietary Clear Tone Screening, delivering the best gradients and skin tones that are free of any noise. The XPJ-1341SR Pro is also available.

XpertJet 461UF-UV Desktop

Suited for personalised one-off print products and small lot production, the high quality XpertJet 461UF tabletop inkjet printer will deliver exceptional print quality onto a wide variety of materials, including three dimensional objects up to 15cm thick. The printer offers a print area of 483 x 329mm and can be set up in either CMYK or CMYK + White + Varnish.

Think of prints on phone covers, gifts, photo products, promotional items such as pens, lighters and USB sticks, souvenirs, awards, small signs, small series production or prototyping of packaging samples, decorative tiles, etc.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.hitechgraphics.co.za

GZ Technology Exhibited Sublimation And UV Printers At Sign Africa Durban Expo



GZ Technology showcased its range of printing solutions at the Sign Africa Durban Expo, which took place from 5-6 March at the Durban ICC. The Apsaras G4 sublimation printer features an output up to 185sqm/h and features four Epson I3200 A1 printheads.

It also features GS High Density Sublimation Transfer ink certified by OEKO TEX with 'ECO PASSPORT', a bulk ink supply system with ink cartridge, and it can handle transfer paper between 35-100gsm.

Also showcased was the H0906E1 high end small flatbed UV printer for customising graphics on various substances. Features include three Epson I3200 print heads, white ink recirculation system, and four water-cooling LED UV lamps. Applications include phone covers, door plates, labels, souvenirs etc.

The company has also launched the Apsaras G4D MAX 3.2m hybrid sublimation solution, for direct printing for soft signs and sublimation printing in one. Features include a sublimation speed of 150sqm/h, an adjustable guide shaft to ensure the same tightness for both ends, a working temperature of 180-280°C, and 3L bulk ink supply system with ink cartridge.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.gongzheng.co.za

SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Macquip And Screenwise Exhibited Direct To Film And Sublimation Solutions At Sign Africa Durban Expo

Solutions included the DTF PRO-A600 (4 head, 600mm wide) and PRO-A600 (2 head, 600mm wide). Users of the equipment can print on any substrate – they are not limited to fabric. Any colour and type of fabric can also be used.

Also showcased was the H6042UVA UV flatbed DTF solution, as well as the Epson SureColor SC-F100 A4 dye sublimation printer. With the footprint of an A4 desktop printer, the SC-F100 is perfect for producing promotional goods and personalised gifts such as mugs, key fobs, phone covers and other small merchandise items, when space is limited.

The company's DTF PRO inks, powder, cleaning solutions and film were also shown. The DTF inks feature quick drying time, ensuring no clogged heads and high resolution after printing. The DTF film comes in both 75 and 100 micron matt with easy peel, and features good ink absorption and sharp colour performance.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.macquip.co.za



GSW Showcased Mimaki Solutions At Sign Africa Durban Expo



The Mimaki TxF150-75 Textile DTF printer is packed with Mimaki technology, and has been designed to overcome the common ink ejection and ink sedimentation issues of current DTF printers in the market. The solution comes with a shaker and curer.

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.

The Mimaki JV100-160B makes high quality solvent printing available at an entry-level price, and features exceptional increase in speed and up to 30% lower operating costs. It is also up to 25% more efficient than previous models.

The Mimaki 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. Users can create fashion, soft signage, home and interior, sportswear, promotional products, metal sublimation and more.

The TS100-1600 high performance dye sublimation printer has a maximum speed of up to 70sqm per hour and features low ink cost, minimal maintenance and precision Japanese engineering. It is designed to produce a wide range of materials and applications, including fashion, soft signage, home and interior, sportswear, promotional products and more.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.gsw.co.za

Trotec Showcased Laser Engraver And Consumables At Sign Africa Durban Expo



The Speedy 100 is an ideal laser engraving machine, whether one wants to start a laser engraving business or speed up production. High quality components from the CO2 laser engraver ensure minimal maintenance requirements. The patented InPack Technology provides a higher laser lifetime.

Trotec's Ruby software enables a smoother and simpler operation of laser engraving and cutting, covering management, design, placement and job queue/running. Practically any file can be imported and facilitated through the software, and edited according to the user's desire.

The company also showcased its full range of consumables for laser cutting and engraving, such as: wood, plastic, foil/sticker, acrylic sheets, metals and leather.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.troteclaser.co.za

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SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Allrich Exhibited Africa's Slimmest Lightbox, Neschen Specialty Vinyls And Signage Materials At Sign Africa Durban Expo

The lightbox comes in A2, A3 and A4 sizes and features even distribution of lighting, with no hot spots. Allrich's lightbox backlit film print can easily slide into the frame from the top. The lightbox has no unsightly wires and transformers, and adjustable holes for mounting are available.

Neschen's easy dot® products include: easy dot® matt, glossy, transparent; easy dot® whiteout (high opacity); UV dot print 'n' walk floor vinyl (R10 rating); performance wall-grip high-tack wall vinyl; and filmolux® easy protection film (lamination – gloss and matt). Neschen Coating GmbH is renowned worldwide as an experienced manufacturer of self-adhesive films and printable media.

Neschen's easySTYLE is a paper-based self-adhesive film with a variety of decorative styles. easySTYLE is an ideal solution for keeping up with shorter advertising cycles, changing interior trends and seasonal promotions. From woodgrain to concrete or marble – the innovative product transforms furniture into a whole new look. It is suited for applications on nearly all flat and smooth surfaces like Plywood and MDF boards, solid wood, plastics, metal and lacquered surfaces.

ORACAL® 970RA Premium Wrapping Cast is developed for long-term, complete wraps of fleet and motor sport vehicles in solid and opaque colours. It conforms over curved surfaces, rivets and corrugations; does not require overlaminate; and is available in 80 colours, including gloss, matt, and metallic finishes.



For brilliant and colourful outdoor digital large format prints for short and medium-term applications, ORAJET® 3651RA's RapidAir® technology enables easy and rapid application without air inclusion, especially of large-sized decals. Entrapped air can be easily removed by simply smoothing it out under the film.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.allrich-sa.co.za

Midcomp Exhibited HP Latex Print And Cut System At Sign Africa Durban Expo

The HP Latex 630 printer series completes HP's Latex range and makes white ink technology available to Print Service Providers (PSPs) of all sizes. White ink allows users to produce a more impactful range of signage and décor jobs with stunning image quality and colours that jump off the page, creating attention-grabbing campaigns for end-customers. The HP Latex 630 family also provides the HP Latex 630 and 630 W Print and Cut option, giving customers the option of upgrading to a dual-device solution, with print and cut functionality.

Midcomp also showcased its range of media and textiles from renowned brands such as: Drytac vinyl, wallpaper, backlit film and floor vinyl; HP vinyl and wallpaper; Contra Vision® original one-way vision perforated window film; Palram rigid Palboard and Palfoam; Viking digital textiles, gazebo and umbrella



fabric; MC Xtreme rigid range Correx and PPH, as well as PolyXtreme, a new ABS alternative available in semi-gloss, non-reflective and prismatic finishes.

Pay Per Use (PPU) Programme

With this comprehensive and customised programme, users can enjoy peace of mind with no unexpected costs and subscribe to a fixed monthly cost per square metre based on their location. There is no minimum print volume required. PPU covers a user's ink supplies, printheads, cleaning cartridges, service maintenance kits, labour and spare parts, and is an ideal solution for cost-efficient printing.

PPUGRO

Midcomp representatives will also be available to explain the benefits of the PPUGRO solution in which Midcomp offers a PPU Programme that now gives customers the option of including a printing and finishing system as well as RIP Software, consumables (excluding media), service costs and insurance charged at a predetermined variable rate per square metre that the customer prints. At the end of every month, a customer will be sent a spreadsheet detailing the jobs they have printed in that month as well as the total square metres printed. Midcomp applies the variable rate per square metre and sends a customer one invoice.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.midcomp.co.za

Kolok Graphic Supplies Exhibited Premium Product Line At Sign Africa Durban Expo



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

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

Kolok's range of wallpapers combines aesthetic appeal with practicality. Perfect for interior design projects, these wallpapers offer a variety of textures that cater to both commercial and residential spaces. Visitors could also discover Kolok's dye sublimation paper, engineered for high-quality transfers and brilliant colour reproduction. This product is perfect for producing vibrant prints on textiles and other sublimation-friendly substrates.

Kolok was proud to feature HEXIS, ORAFOL®, SIHL, HP and STAHLS' branded print media, known for their superior performance and reliability. These materials are perfect for high-demand applications, from T-shirt branding to vehicle wrapping, providing excellent print quality and durability, and offering solutions to a wide range of industries. HEXIS pigmented vinyls are designed to deliver rich and consistent colours, and outstanding durability. These vinyls are suitable for a variety of applications, from decorative graphics to detailed signage and vehicle wrapping.

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

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.kolokgs.co.za

Titan-Jet Showcased Sublimation Blanks At Sign Africa Durban Expo



Visitors could see a wide range of sublimation items such as ceramic mugs, stainless steel tumblers and bottles.

Also on display was sublimation glass products, aluminium water bottles, and neoprene printable blanks, in addition to the company's range of T-shirts, caps and textile products.

Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

www.titanjet.co.za

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SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Avery Dennison And Maizey Plastics Launch New Vinyl Range

Maizey Plastics and Avery Dennison held a joint event to launch Avery Dennison's Ultimate Wrapping Film™ on 13 March. The event took place at the Red Star Raceway in Delmas and attendees were given the chance to take a lap in a Lamborghini Super Trofeo race car.

Attendees gathered on the racetrack's grandstand to witness the unveiling of the Ultimate Wrapping Film™. Lindy van Moerkerken, Business Manager Graphics Solutions at Avery Dennison for Sub-Saharan Africa, gave the go-ahead to remove the cover off of the car, which was wrapped in Gloss Fantasy Sparkling Grey and Gloss Metallic Black Rose. Rikki Maizey, Executive Chairman at Maizey Plastics, said, 'The target market for this film is the everyday person who wants to pimp his ride.'

Avery Dennison Ultimate Wrapping Film™ is a calendered PVC film designed for vehicle and object wraps. It offers durability, conformability and easy application for both full and partial wraps. It is 130 microns thick with a removable, easy apply acrylic adhesive and is available in high gloss, matt or satin finishes. It has good conformability and adhesive with air egress channels for fast and easy removal of entrapped bubbles. It also features UV, temperature and humidity resistance and its removable adhesive lasts for up to two years.

Sarel Kruger, Technical Marketing Manager at Avery Dennison Graphics Solutions, gave an in-depth look at the features of the new film. Kruger said that the film is calendered and not cast vinyl, so it is a thicker film. The vinyl is for shorter term applications with an estimated two years of use. The vertical warranty of the wrap is one year, while the horizontal is six months.

Several benefits that were highlighted include the ultra-smooth PET embossed liner for better stability and removability, the cap sheet for increased protection and the affordability of the product. Kruger concluded by mentioning the product's matt, satin, gloss and fantasy ranges that are available, as well as some of the colour highlights, including Gloss Fantasy Pink, Snowy Rose, Metallic Pearl White and Deep Black.



A competition was held during the event. By selecting their five favourite colours in the new range from a display board, attendees could stand a chance to win a roll of Avery Dennison's Ultimate Wrapping Film™.

www.maizey.co.za and **www.averydennison.com**

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Flexa Laminator Chosen For Efficiency



Fotoreklame has chosen a Flexa Easy Plus laminator for enhanced efficiency. Based in Berlin, Fotoreklame is an advertising and print company known for delivering, assembling and installing high-quality visual communication solutions. Specialising in large format printing, banners, and custom advertising technology, the company serves a diverse clientele across Germany.

Before investing in the Easy Plus laminator, Fotoreklame faced several challenges in their workflow. The existing laminating equipment was nearing obsolescence, leading to inefficiency and occasional material wastage. This not only slowed production but also increased costs and negatively impacted overall operational capacity. Finding a reliable, user-friendly solution capable of handling high-volume demands became a top priority.

Fotoreklame trusted Lynks, Flexa's authorised distributor in Germany, for their expertise and exceptional customer service. Lynks offered personalised consultations and recommended the Easy Plus laminator as the ideal solution for the company's needs, which included: outstanding quality for the best possible results; a compact design to minimise space usage; easy and efficient usability to ensure seamless production continuity.

The proven reliability of Flexa products and Lynks' strong reputation for after-sales support were also decisive factors in their choice.

According to Fotoreklame, there is a plethora of features they benefitted from, including: the ability to pause the laminating process at any point; enhanced precision compared to previous laminators; savable settings for repeatable processes; safety features for employee protection; compatibility with both big and small projects; a signal alert when an obstruction affects the lamination process; and a wider build, allowing for larger prints.

The standout feature of the Easy Plus laminator is its precise temperature control, ensuring flawless lamination every time. The machine significantly reduced errors, cutting down on material waste and speeding up production. With the Easy Plus, Fotoreklame can now deliver high-quality finished products to their clients faster and more cost-effectively.

'The Easy Plus laminator has transformed our workflow in that area,' said Fotoreklame CEO Robert Glöckner. 'Its reliability makes it a must-have for any company with a high print demand aiming to improve efficiency and product quality.'

www.sign-tronic.co.za

Agfa Large Format Printer Boosts Operation Speed



The Jeti Tauro H3300 large format system is available in multiple configurations each with different roll and rigid automation options, combining award-winning print performance with extreme productivity and low ink consumption. This hybrid produces detailed prints up to 3.3m wide at speeds up to 905sqm/h. Ruggedly built to perform under extreme workloads, the heavy-duty Jeti Tauro H3300 family easily handles multiple shift operations and 24/7 printing of both rigid and flexible media, including corrugated.

Midwest Graphics, Inc., a leader in the production of quality promotional displays, printing plates, and cutting dies, invests in state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment. Headquartered in Indianapolis, Midwest Graphics serves brokers, big box shops and end-users around the globe with high-quality, cost-effective, speedy solutions, and personal client attention. It services multiple industries from the Indiana Department of Transportation, for which it created all the state road signs, to high-end graphics for the liquor industry.

'My digital department has nearly doubled since we purchased Tauro. It's a great piece of equipment. It's built like a tank,' said John Belden, CEO, Midwest Graphics, Inc.

Just over eight years ago Belden recognised the value and importance of digital printing. He purchased four flatbed printers and a die-cutting shop, but couldn't get material to his die-cutting equipment fast enough. 'And then we dipped our toe into Agfa's Jeti Tauro H3300,' said Belden.

This hybrid engine would bring Midwest Graphics into the future. After researching options, Belden decided, 'Tauro made more sense by being able to run 330.2cm (130 inch) sheets through it because we do a lot of oversized jobs.'

Ninety percent of what Midwest Graphics runs is mostly corrugated and the company deals with a lot of recycled material. The first printer to buy a digital engine in Indianapolis, Midwest Graphics started with four single flatbeds which could manage five boards an hour.

www.agfa.com

Epson Announces New President And CEO



Yasunori Ogawa and Junkichi Yoshida, Epson.

As Epson enters the final year of its current strategic vision, Epson 25 Renewed, and begins shaping the next phase of its long-term corporate strategy, the company has announced the appointment of Junkichi Yoshida as its new President and Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Yasunori Ogawa, who will transition to the role of Chairman of the Board.

The appointment is intended to accelerate the construction of a solid management foundation aimed at enhancing corporate value under a new management team that will be responsible for everything from formulating the next corporate vision to executing the strategies therein.

Ogawa, who has led Epson since 2020, has overseen the company through a period of significant global change, including the challenges

of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under his leadership, Epson strengthened its focus on sustainability and digital transformation while reinforcing its long-term commitment to innovation and environmental responsibility.

Reflecting on the transition, Ogawa said, 'The 2025 fiscal year, which starts on April 1st, marks the final year of our current strategic corporate vision, Epson 25 Renewed. It will also be a pivotal year for fully developing the next strategic corporate vision for driving further growth,' said Ogawa. 'It is essential for the next generation to take the lead in formulating the next corporate vision and in executing the strategies therein.'

Having played a key role in expanding Epson's presence in the Americas and Asia, Yoshida, who has been with Epson for 37 years, has been instrumental in driving business and product strategies across regions. He brings a deep understanding of the company's technology, markets, and global operations.

Speaking on his appointment, Yoshida said, 'Epson, with efficient, compact and precise technologies ingrained in its DNA, has built tremendous strengths over many years. These include our vertical manufacturing capabilities that bring to life our unique technologies, such as Micro Piezo printheads, and our global network to deliver these innovations to our customers. I want us to cherish and take even greater pride in our brand and to continue to build customer trust. I believe this will lead to sustainable business growth and enhance our corporate value.'

www.epson.co.za

Drytac Films Used For Eye-Catching Interior Graphics Project



Drytac ViziPrint Impress Clear film is an optically clear versatile solution for self-adhesive applications on glass and other smooth, flat surfaces. Digital printing business Berry & Homer, and parent fabrication and installation company Roe Fabricators, recently used Drytac ViziPrint Impress Clear optically clear PET film to complete a stunning interior graphics project at the National Constitution Centre in Philadelphia.

The state-of-the-art museum is dedicated to the study of the US Constitution. For this project, Berry & Homer was given the task of producing decorative graphics for a glass railing inside the venue. However, it was not quite as simple as just printing and installing graphics, with Berry & Homer having to abide by certain restrictions at the venue.

'The National Constitution Centre was very strict about what could be placed on the glass surfaces,' said Tyler Pendzik, who works as Designer and Social Media Manager for Berry & Homer. 'Their main concern was ensuring no adhesive residue was left behind.'

For this reason, Berry & Homer chose ViziPrint Impress Clear from Laird Plastics, an authorised Drytac distribution partner. Made for easy installation on glass and other smooth surfaces, the film is optically clear, making it perfect for high-end applications like those at the National Constitution Centre. It also uses Drytac's unique adhesion technology, allowing it to be removed cleanly without leaving any residue, which was essential for their needs.

After printing the impactful design onto the optically clear film in-house using its Epson SureColor S80600L, Berry & Homer and Roe Fabricators completed the installation in line with the quick turnaround time set by the client.

'The installation turned out great,' Pendzik said. 'The client loved it and we're happy we made the call to use this film. The customer was then able to cleanly remove the film themselves after the event with ease.'

www.midcomp.co.za

Mimaki Showcased Latest Home Textile Innovation



Following the system's commercial launch last year, Mimaki's TRAPIS is set to revolutionise the home textile industry with its environmentally friendly two-step textile pigment transfer printing process. By eliminating the need for pre-treatment and washing stages, TRAPIS reduces water usage by up to 90%, saving approximately 14.5 litres per square metre compared to traditional methods.

Mimaki Europe recently demonstrated TRAPIS at Heimtextil in Frankfurt earlier in January. This nearly waterless solution is ideal for diverse applications, such as home textiles, as it enables vibrant printing on a diverse range of materials —including natural fibres, blends, and synthetics — with a single ink type.

Certified by ZDHC MRSL Lv.3 and carrying the bluesign® APPROVED label, the ink ensures both environmental and user safety, making TRAPIS a safe, eco-friendly solution for textile applications in sectors such as home décor, activewear, and fashion.

www.gsw.co.za

SwissQprint Nyala Tops European Sales Category For Tenth Year



More than 650 European users have invested in a Nyala flatbed printer over the last ten years. Counting since the model's launch in 2012, there are well over 1000 of them on the global market. The Nyala flatbed printer from swissQprint has been leading the European sales statistics in its class for a decade. In this period, over 650 machines have found satisfied customers. And in January 2025, the Nyala transitioned to its 5th generation.

This model once again topped last year's European sales statistics in the category 'UV flatbed/hybrid printers >60" (152.4 cm) wide' in its selected price segment, as confirmed by the Geneva-based market research institute Infosource. And this for the tenth time in a row.

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Featuring excellent impact strength, 3A Composites' IMPEX® Extruded polycarbonate sheets encompass a wide range of large format, extruded and virtually unbreakable polycarbonate sheets with excellent optical and mechanical properties. The product range is available in different surfaces, versions and patterns. Eco Signage Supplies is an official distributor of IMPEX® Polycarbonate sheets.

The high quality sheets are extremely impact resistant, which means they can provide comprehensive solutions for both indoor and outdoor use. The main applications are: displays (POS/POP), signage, glazing, lettering, partitions, machine safety guards, vending machine fascias, and safety glazing (sports centres, penal institutions and other public buildings).

IMPEX® is available in not only standard thicknesses from 1-15mm, but also in special thicknesses of 0.8mm and 20mm.

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IMPEX® UVP

The IMPEX® UVP sheets with UV-protection are polycarbonate sheets with both sides featuring a co-extruded UV protection layer and very good weather resistance, especially for outdoor applications. These include: lighting covers, balcony glazing, glazed walkways, sound barrier walls, greenhouses and conservatories, doors and windows, canopy roofs and barrel vaults.

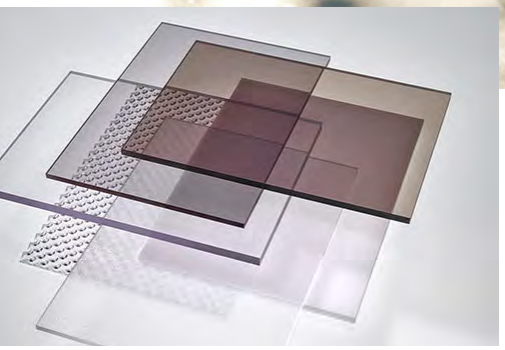
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- Wide range of indoor and outdoor applications.

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IMPEX® HC

These extruded polycarbonate sheets feature increased abrasion resistance. They are ideal for applications wherever an enhanced abrasion-and chemical resistance is required. They also boast good impact resistance, especially for flat indoor and outdoor applications. They are also less sensitive against scratches and feature high resistance to many chemicals and solvents.

Applications include: displays (POS/POP), signage, lettering, shop design, shop window decoration, interior design, furniture, partitions, cladding, exhibition design, exhibition technology, model making, illuminated advertising, light boxes, glazing and construction businesses.

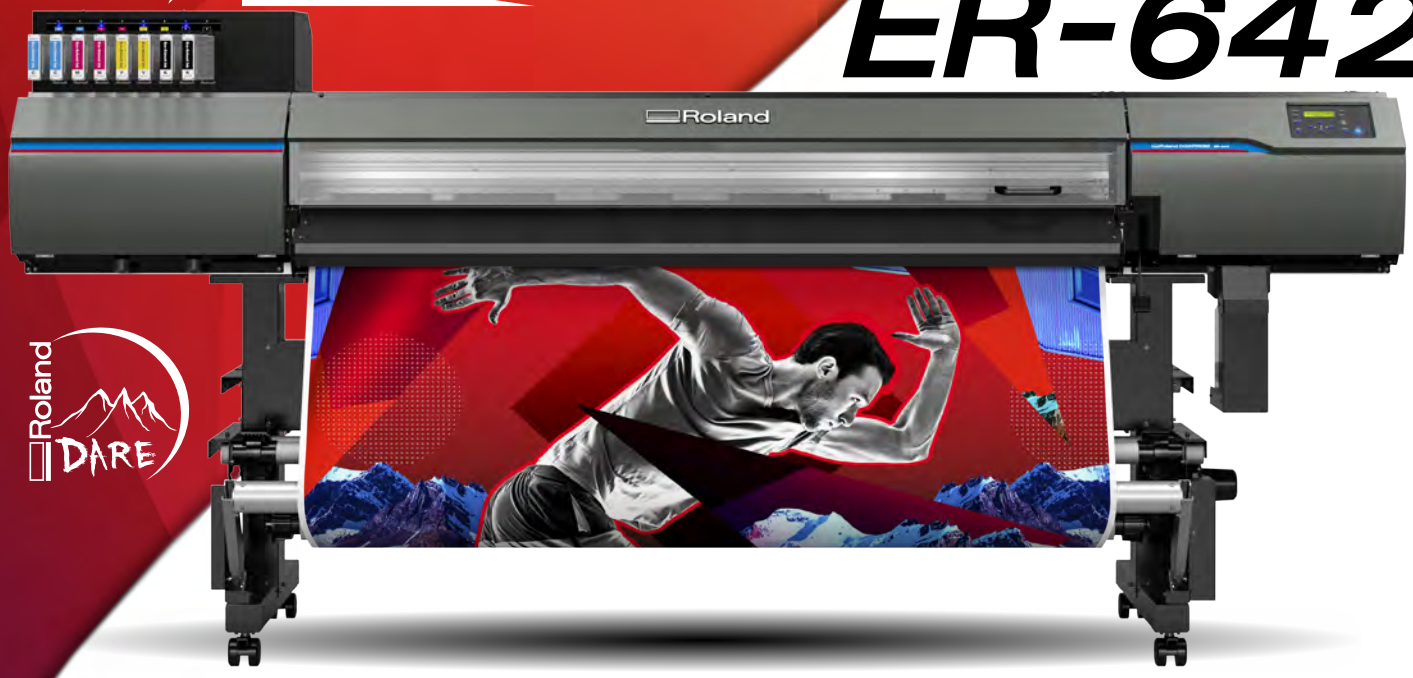
Commitment To Sustainability

Sustainable involvement and environmental protection have always been among the essential corporate objectives at 3A Composites. The minimisation of risks for man and environment as well as the reduction of environmental pollution through careful and efficient utilisation of resources is part of the corporate philosophy. IMPEX® sheets can be sorted for recycling and reuse. As a thermoplastic, polycarbonate in its pure form is ideal for mechanical recycling.

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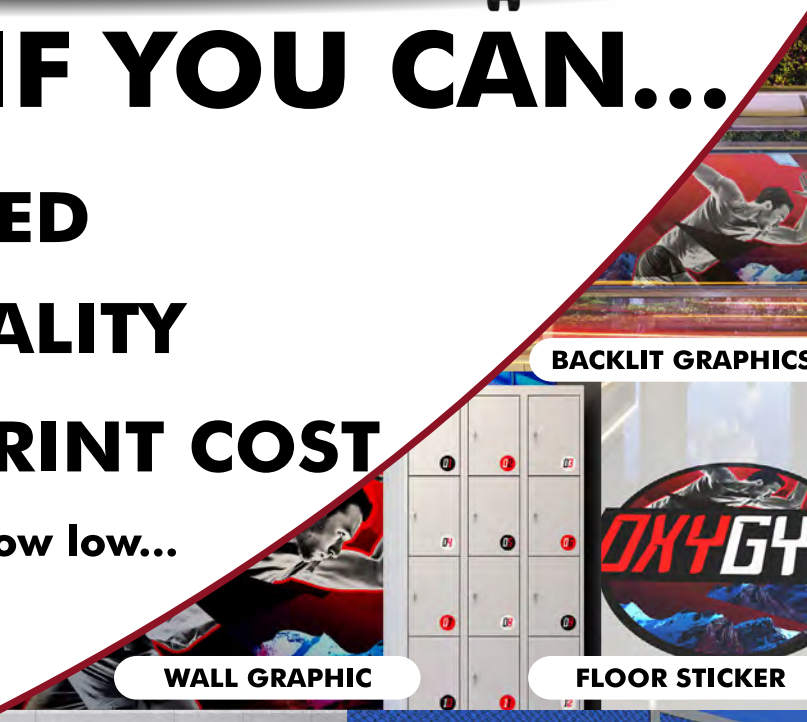
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WHY DIGITAL PRINTING

IS A GAME CHANGER FOR INTERIOR DÉCOR

BY AMINE DJOUAHRA, CANON CENTRAL AND NORTH AFRICA

Digital printing is redefining the future of décor in Africa. Walk into any high-end hotel lobby, a chic restaurant, or a contemporary home in Africa today, and you'll notice something striking — the walls, floors, and furniture are no longer just functional; they tell a story.

The demand for personalised, high-quality interior décor is surging across the continent, driven by a new generation of designers and homeowners who want spaces that reflect individuality, culture, and artistry.

At the heart of this transformation is digital printing technology, enabling limitless customisation with unprecedented efficiency. Gone are the days of mass-produced wallpapers, generic floor designs, and limited options for interior stylists. Today, print technology allows designers to create one-of-a-kind masterpieces — whether it's a mural inspired by traditional African motifs or a modern, textured wall covering that transforms a simple room into a sanctuary of style.

Why Digital Printing Is The Game Changer For Interior Décor

Interior décor is no longer just about aesthetics; it's about experience, identity, and sustainability. As urbanisation accelerates and Africa's middle class expands, people are investing more in their living and working spaces. According to 6Wresearch, Africa's interior design market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 6.7% from 2025 to 2031. This shift is fuelling the need for cost-effective, high-quality, and sustainable solutions that can adapt to changing consumer preferences.

Globally, the interior décor market is also experiencing robust growth. As reported by Fortune Business Insights, the global home décor market size was valued at USD 747.75 billion in 2024 and is anticipated to reach USD 1,097.51 billion by 2032, exhibiting a CAGR of 4.58% during the forecast period.

Digital printing is at the forefront of this change. It enables designers to print on a vast array of surfaces: wallpapers, canvases, tiles, soft furnishings, and even furniture panels, offering complete creative freedom. Imagine a boutique hotel wanting to give each room a unique theme; with digital printing, it's as simple as uploading a design and printing it on demand. No long lead times, no massive production runs, just pure customisation at scale.

The Future of Interior Décor: Personalisation, Sustainability, And Speed

The next phase of interior décor will be shaped by three key forces: personalisation, sustainability, and speed-to-market. Consumers no longer want mass-produced designs; they crave exclusivity. This is evident in the rising popularity of hyper-personalisation, where even a single wall in a home can be transformed into a bespoke piece of art.

Additionally, as online shopping expands, e-commerce-driven interior décor businesses are emerging, offering print-on-demand services for wallpapers, furniture wraps, and textiles. Digital printing is the backbone of this model, enabling businesses to quickly adapt to market demands without overstocking inventory.

A New Era for Interior Décor

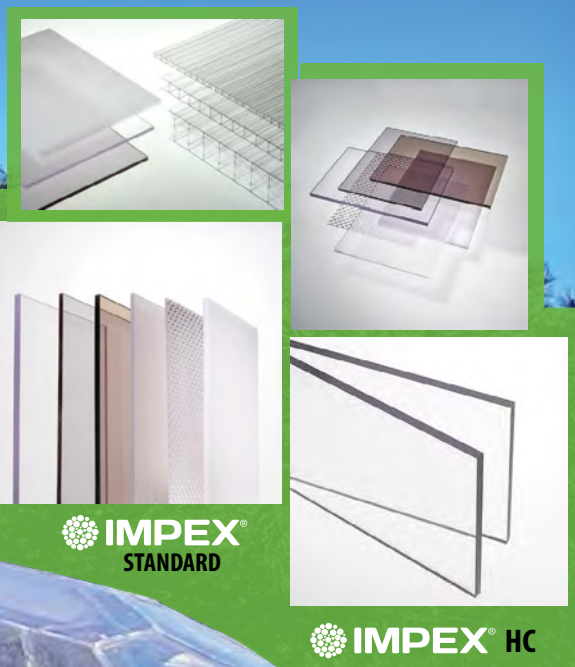
The future of interior décor in Africa is vibrant, innovative, and driven by technology. Digital printing has not only redefined how spaces are designed but also how businesses operate, allowing for greater flexibility, lower costs, and unlimited creative potential. For decorators, architects, and entrepreneurs looking to make their mark in this fast-evolving industry, the choice is clear: embrace the power of digital printing.

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PRINTED SIGNAGE STILL ENDURES IN A DIGITAL WORLD

BY INTAMARKET GRAPHICS

In an era where digital communication reigns supreme, printed signage has proven its resilience as a crucial tool for businesses worldwide. Despite the rapid adoption of digital alternatives, the printed signage market continues to thrive, underpinned by its cost-effectiveness, durability, and ability to deliver impactful visual communication. The insights presented are based on Market Research Future's comprehensive analysis of the global printed signage market.

The Growth Trajectory Of Printed Signage

The global printed signage market has demonstrated steady growth over the past decade. In 2021, the market was valued at approximately USD 40.78 billion. Industry analysts project that this figure will rise to USD 47.8 billion by 2030, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2% during the forecast period. This consistent upward trend underscores the sustained demand for printed signage solutions, even in the face of stiff competition from digital displays.

Printed signage has long been a staple in industries such as retail, hospitality, healthcare, and transportation. Its ability to convey clear, concise messages in a visually appealing manner makes it a preferred choice for businesses looking to attract and engage customers. Moreover, advancements in printing technology, including eco-friendly inks and recyclable materials, have bolstered the appeal of printed signage by aligning it with sustainability goals.

Regional Insights: A Global Perspective

The printed signage market exhibits significant regional variations in terms of growth and adoption. Asia-Pacific leads the market, accounting for over 38% of the global market value and nearly 46% of the printed area as of 2023. The region's dominance is attributed to its burgeoning retail sector, rapid urbanisation, and increasing investments in infrastructure projects. Countries like China and India, with their growing economies and expanding consumer bases, have emerged as key drivers of this growth.

North America and Western Europe also play vital roles in the printed signage market. North America holds over 28% of the global market value and 17% of the printed area. The region's strong focus on branding and marketing, coupled with the presence of established players, has sustained its demand for printed signage. Similarly, Western Europe's emphasis on aesthetic appeal and high-quality materials has fuelled the adoption of printed signage across various industries.

Why Printed Signage Endures: Key Advantages

Printed signage continues to hold its ground against digital alternatives due to several compelling advantages:

1. Cost-Effectiveness

Printed signage is inherently more affordable than digital signage. The lower initial investment and minimal maintenance costs make it an attractive option for businesses of all sizes, particularly small to medium-sized enterprises. Additionally, the cost predictability of printed signage ensures that businesses

can allocate their budgets more effectively without worrying about ongoing software updates or energy consumption.

2. Durability and Reliability

Printed signage, crafted from high-quality materials such as vinyl, rigid substrates, or weather-resistant paper, offers unparalleled durability. It is designed to withstand various environmental conditions, making it a reliable choice for outdoor applications. Unlike digital signage, printed signs do not require electricity or internet connectivity, ensuring uninterrupted functionality.

3. Visual Impact

A well-designed printed sign can captivate audiences and convey messages succinctly. The tangible nature of printed signage creates a sense of permanence and trustworthiness that digital screens often lack. Whether it's a vibrant storefront display or an informative billboard, printed signage excels in delivering clear and memorable visual communication.

4. Sustainability

As sustainability becomes a critical consideration for businesses, printed signage has adapted to meet these demands. The use of eco-friendly inks, biodegradable materials, and recyclable substrates has significantly reduced the environmental footprint of printed signage. These innovations allow businesses to align their marketing efforts with their corporate social responsibility goals.

Challenges And Considerations

While printed signage offers numerous advantages, it faces challenges in an increasingly digital world. The growing popularity of digital signage, driven by its dynamic content capabilities and real-time updates, poses a significant threat. Digital signage allows businesses to display interactive and multimedia content, which can be more engaging for tech-savvy audiences.

However, the higher costs associated with digital signage often act as a deterrent, particularly for small businesses. The initial investment in hardware, software, and ongoing energy consumption can be prohibitive. Additionally, digital signage requires regular maintenance and updates, which may not be feasible for all organisations.





Innovations In Printed Signage

To stay competitive, the printed signage industry has embraced innovation. Technological advancements have enhanced the quality, durability, and versatility of printed signs. For instance, UV printing technology enables vibrant and long-lasting prints, while 3D printing has opened new avenues for creating eye-catching signage with intricate designs.

Customisability is another area where printed signage excels. Businesses can tailor their signage to reflect their brand identity, ensuring consistency across all marketing channels. From custom colours and textures to unique shapes and sizes, printed signage offers limitless creative possibilities.

Moreover, hybrid solutions that combine printed and digital elements are gaining traction. These solutions leverage the strengths of both mediums, providing businesses with a comprehensive approach to marketing and communication. For example, QR codes on printed signs can direct customers to digital platforms, creating a seamless integration between the physical and digital worlds.

The Future of Printed Signage

Despite the rapid advancements in digital technology, the printed signage market is expected to maintain its growth trajectory. This steady growth highlights the enduring relevance of printed signage in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

Several factors will drive the future of printed signage:

1. Sustainability Initiatives

The industry's commitment to sustainability will continue to attract environmentally conscious businesses. Innovations in eco-friendly materials and production processes will play a pivotal role in shaping the market.

2. Integration With Digital Technologies

The integration of printed signage with digital tools, such as augmented reality (AR) and near-field communication (NFC), will enhance its functionality and appeal.

3. Focus On Localisation

Businesses are increasingly leveraging localised marketing strategies to connect with their target audiences. Printed signage, with its ability to cater to specific demographics and cultural preferences, is ideally suited for such initiatives.

4. Growth In Emerging Markets

Emerging markets in Asia, Africa, and Latin America present significant growth opportunities for printed signage. Rapid urbanisation and expanding consumer bases in these regions will drive demand for signage solutions.

Printed signage remains a vital component of marketing and communication strategies for businesses across the globe. Its cost-effectiveness, durability, and visual impact ensure its continued relevance in an increasingly digital world. By embracing innovation and sustainability, the printed signage industry is well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of businesses and consumers alike.

www.intamarketgraphics.co.za

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY MATTERS

BY JERMAINE NAICKER, MANAGING DIRECTOR, PRINTING SA



Credit: Christina Wocintechchat, Unsplash.

Business owners in the print, sign and packaging industry realise the shortage of trained staff in the industry while understanding the importance of high-quality products, cutting-edge technology, and customer satisfaction. However, one of the most critical investments they can make for long-term success is in their team's career development.

Our industries are rapidly evolving, with advancements in digital printing, sustainable packaging and automation. Training your employees ensures they stay ahead of trends and can adapt to new technologies, giving your business a competitive edge. But what about the shortage of new entrants?

It is the responsibility of every business owner to invest in career development in this industry to fill the shortage of skilled people and to improve skills, increase efficiency, and reduce costly mistakes in our factories – ultimately enhancing production quality and customer satisfaction.

Skilled workers are in high demand, and we often hear of incidents of employers headhunting other companies' expert staff. When companies in the same industry continuously headhunt each other's staff, it can create a talent war that has several negative consequences such as: salary inflation, skills drain and knowledge gaps, decreased employee loyalty, and damage to industry relationships.

Have you given thought about where this will end? It has been proven that companies that invest in their employees' growth become employers of choice, reducing turnover and recruitment costs while fostering loyalty and job satisfaction.

By conducting careers days at schools, we can reveal career opportunities in our industries and bring fresh ideas to the table. This will also lead to more qualified persons available for print companies to choose from in future.

We encourage our members and other business owners in the industries we serve to take a responsible role in mentorship and networking. Lets connect the youth with industry experts and peer learning opportunities.

By making career development a priority, you're not just improving your workforce, you're future-proofing your business in this industry. A skilled, motivated team will drive efficiency, customer satisfaction, and innovation, securing long-term success in the competitive print, sign, visual and packaging industry.

Printing SA is on a serious drive to assist in the development of skilled staff for our industries and we need your help to ensure we attract the right candidates to be the future employees and leaders of this industry.

www.printingsa.org

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SIGN AFRICA DURBAN EXPO



SHOWCASED LATEST WIDE FORMAT, GARMENT PRINTING AND SIGNAGE TRENDS

BY MATTHEW WOOD

The recent Sign Africa Durban Expo held at the Durban ICC 5-6 March saw over 520 companies visit from KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and Free State to explore the diverse opportunities that were exhibited. Visitors flocked from towns such as Ballito, Richards Bay, Pietermaritzburg, Westville, Pinetown, Port Shepstone, Matatiele, Empangeni, Lusikisiki, Hillcrest, Phoenix, Bluff and Vryheid, to name a few.



Exhibitors were pleased with the turnout and quality of leads they generated and the sales they made:

'We had absolutely excellent, quality people coming past our stand, and we had a good response from visitors. So it was a very good show for us,' said Clive Versfeld, ORAFOL South Africa.

'We very happy with the leads and day two was quite busy with foot traffic. It was pleasant to have good quality leads come in,' said Martin Swart, Trotec Laser South Africa.

'We got good quality leads. We currently have a distribution centre that is open for collection and delivery but are looking to expand with a new Durban branch, so the show was useful to make good contacts in the region,' said Thomas Smith, IPlastics.

'Another great show in Durban. Lots of existing customers c
us which is one of our objectives, all the networking, and th
customers to get new leads of which we were very fortunat
good leads. We sold some machines and were very happy v
Ron van Breda, Sign-Tronic.

'For us the highlight was the Change One Woman networki
the expo. The platform is growing and it's quite a positive s
industry to be participating in. We were able to generate so
from that platform, so there was great attendance and the
it,' said Abisha Katerere, Printing SA.

'We would like to extend our thanks to our new clients in Durban. We appreciate your support. We had an awesome show and delivered flatbeds and DTF machinery direct from the expo to our customers,' said Eckhardt Kröhnert, Fortune Africa.

Judges visited each stand at the expo and judged the stands according to criteria based on design, construction, special traffic flow, presentation, attitude of staff and messaging. The results are as follows:

Sign Africa Small Shell Scheme

Tie first: Midcomp / NSI-4-Africa.
Second: JG Electronics.

Sign Africa Small Floor Space

First: Acrylux/Metro Plastics.
Second: Hitech Graphics.

Sign Africa Medium Shell Scheme

First: Curv Signage Systems.

Sign Africa Medium Floor Space

First: Macquip & Screenwise.
Second: Roland Speedwrap.

Sign Africa Large Floor Space

First: Graphix Supply World.
Tie second: Allrich and Fortune Africa.

Africa Print Small Shell Scheme

First: NSI Label.
Second: Quick DTF.

Africa Print Small Floor Space

First: NSDS.
Second: UPrint.

Africa Print Medium Floor Space

First: Kolok.
Second: Printing SA.

Africa Print Large Floor Space

Tie first: Roland DG South Africa / GZ Technology.
Second: Sign-Tronic.



ROLAND SPEEDWRAP CHALLENGE WINNERS CROWNED

The ever-popular Roland DG South Africa Speedwrap Challenge was extremely busy, with 24 rounds held during the two day expo. Contestants could test their wrapping skills and see if they could beat the clock. R1000 per round for the top score was up for grabs, with money doubled to R2000 for scores over 45 points.

Day 1 winners: Uora De Beer; Sershen Reddy; Sinothando Madikizela; Thandolwethu Mhlungu: Candice Mokeeve; Menzi Zulu; Tyreece Naidoo; Luyanda Snoba; Mthobisi Mbaso; Landie Henn; Shana Harrichunder and Prashanth Harrichunder (winner of two rounds).

Day 2 winners: Laila Omar; Nhlonipho Ngubo; Sershen Reddy; Vukani Manyisa; Shana Harrichunder (winner of three rounds); Vukani Manyisa; Lucky Mhlanla (winner of two rounds) and Prashanth Harrichunder.





Sign Africa Durban Expo was sponsored by Stixo and Roland.

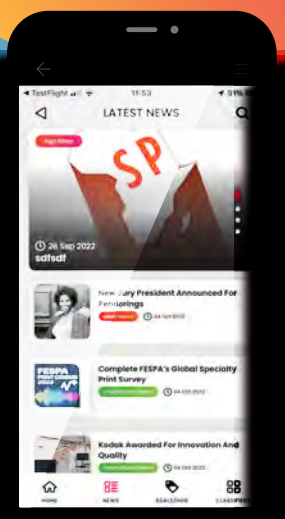
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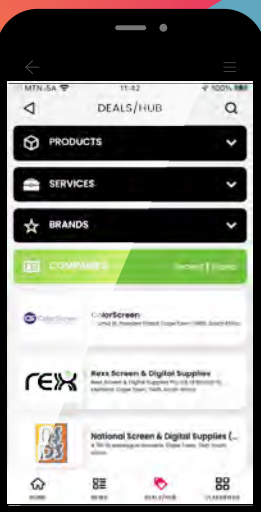




BREAKING

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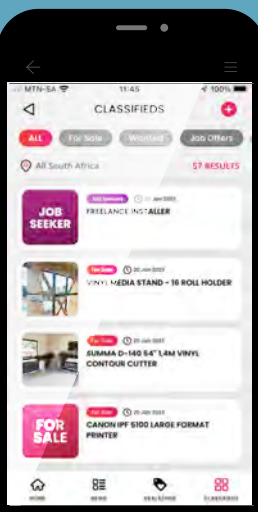
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NEWS FROM: SIGNAFRICA AFRICAPRINT MODERN MARKETING



FIVE LEAD-GENERATION METHODS

FOR SIGNAGE COMPANIES

BY KURT TYACK, DIRECTOR AT SIGNARAMA SOUTHERN AFRICA

In today's hyper-connected digital environment, it can be easy to overlook some of the traditional methods that have successfully generated leads and sales for sign businesses. While online marketing and digital advertising are powerful tools, relying exclusively on them can mean missing out on substantial opportunities that traditional marketing methods still offer.

Here are five tried-and-tested lead-generation methods that have worked in every sign company I have visited in more than 20 years:

Networking Events

The value of face-to-face interaction can never be overstated, especially in the signage industry, where trust and personal connections often lead to long-term business relationships. Networking events, such as local Chamber of Commerce meetings, industry conferences and trade shows, allow you to personally meet potential customers and forge relationships that may not develop as readily online.

Vehicle Branding

Your own vehicles represent one of the most visible and effective advertising spaces at your disposal. A creatively branded vehicle serves as a moving billboard, capturing attention and reinforcing your brand within your local community. Ensuring your fleet showcases your best work can open conversations and prompt potential clients to contact you based purely on visual appeal and professional presentation.

Customer Referrals

Satisfied customers remain one of the greatest assets any business can have, particularly in the signage industry, where quality, reliability, and trust matter greatly. By proactively asking for referrals and offering incentives or recognition for those who send business your way, you leverage the goodwill you've already built. This method creates a network effect, continually expanding your reach.

Strategic Partnerships

Building partnerships with related businesses, such as commercial property developers, architects, contractors, and real estate businesses, can become a consistent source of high-quality leads. These relationships rely on mutual benefit and trust. Ensuring your partners understand the value you bring to their projects means they will confidently recommend your services when their clients require signage.

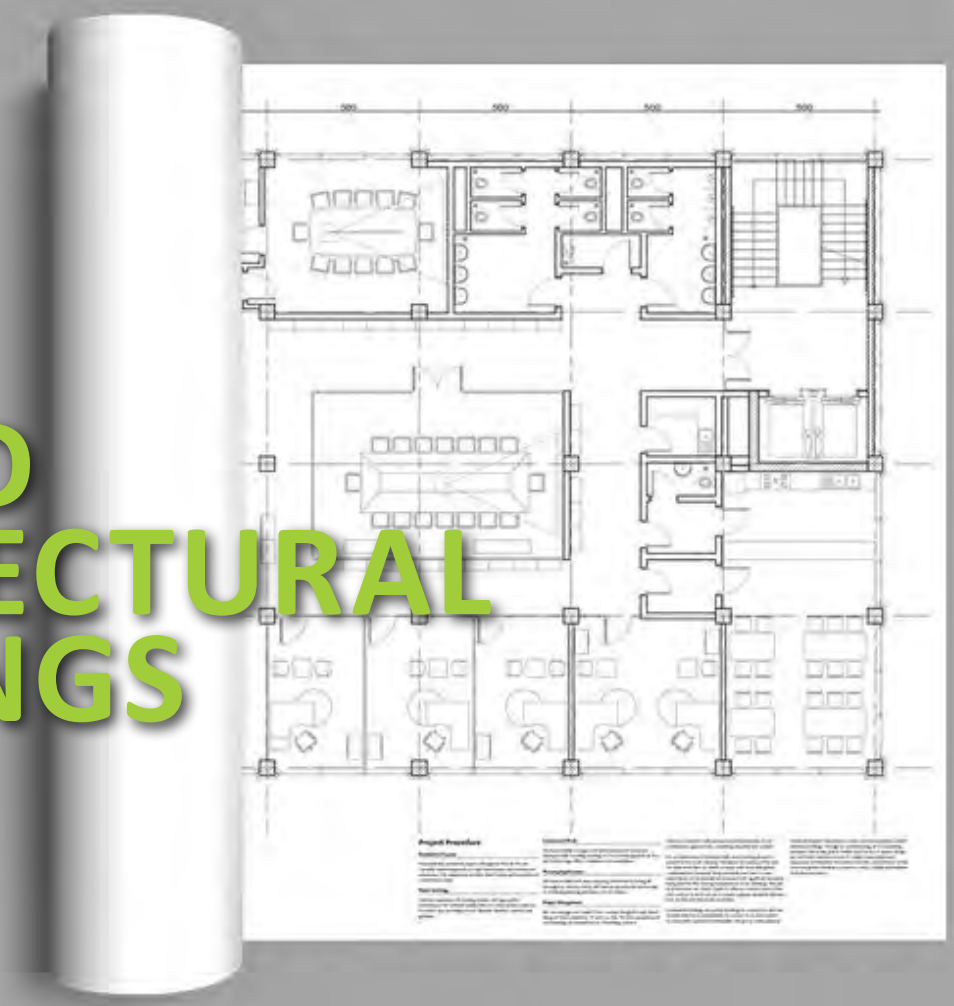
Local Sponsorships

Sponsoring local events, community groups, schools, or sports teams provides great visibility and goodwill within your community. This method positions your business as a supportive community player and ensures your brand remains top-of-mind. Such sponsorships often come with opportunities to prominently display your signage, further demonstrating your capabilities to potential local customers.

While embracing digital innovation remains crucial, these traditional approaches continue to offer substantial opportunities for lead generation and business growth. A balanced approach that incorporates both traditional and modern methods will ensure your sign business remains visible, trusted, and successful.

www.signfranchise.co.za

THE ACCURACY OF PRINTED ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS IS KEY



BY EPSON

For architectural firms, investing in reliable printing solutions offers more than just convenience, it is essential for maintaining project integrity and efficiency. This is because high-quality prints ensure that every detail, from initial designs to final plans, aligns accurately with the architect's vision.

In architecture, precision isn't just a preference, it's a necessity. A single miscalculated dimension, a misaligned scale, or an inaccurate colour rendering in a printed plan can cause costly rework, project delays and, more seriously, even structural issues.

If a contractor misreads faint line weights on a site plan due to poor print quality, it can result in costly mistakes. For instance, a foundation might be poured slightly out of specification, leading to expensive corrections and delays in the project timeline. In an industry where profit margins are narrow and efficiency is key, ensuring the absolute accuracy of printed architectural drawings is essential.

'Architects and engineers operate in a world where even a millimetre can make a difference,' said Joel Chetty, Sales Manager for C&I at Epson. 'Construction drawings, site plans, and final construction plans must be accurate and clear, and produced with precision to ensure all stakeholders are aligned from concept to completion.'

Industry research suggests that errors and omissions in construction documents account for a significant percentage of project cost overruns. A misprinted plan, whether due to incorrect scaling, faded annotations or inconsistent line weights, can lead to on-site miscalculations that require extensive rework. Not only does this impact budgets, but it also compromises the integrity of the project and can introduce safety risks.

For architects and construction firms, this underscores the need for high-quality printing technology that delivers crisp, accurate and durable prints – especially as projects become more complex and require greater visual fidelity. High-resolution, colour-accurate output ensures that plans are clear, legible and true to the designer's intent.

The good news is that advancements in wide format printing technology have made it easier for firms to maintain accuracy throughout the design and construction process. What's more, the global wide format printer market is growing at a 5% CAGR, highlighting increasing adoption in architecture.

By prioritising precision, firms can avoid costly mistakes, streamline collaboration and ensure the successful execution of every project without compromising on quality or timelines.

www.epson.co.za



NAVIGATING THE HIRING PROCESS

Credit: Christina Wocintechchat, Unsplash.

JOHN TSCHOHL, SERVICE QUALITY INSTITUTE

John Tschohl of the Service Quality Institute says hiring the right people and firing the wrong people are equally important. Whether it's an athletic team, a dance team, or a business team, the critical elements are people who are knowledgeable, committed, dedicated, productive, work well with others, and constantly seek to improve their skills.

You know what you want in your employees — and you would do well to know what you don't want. When you are ready to hire, write a job description that will identify the skills necessary to do the job. Employees need to know exactly what you expect of them. A job description is also important for you when you are evaluating an employee's performance, because it provides you with specific items on which to base your evaluation.

Develop a pool of potential employees. Ask your best employees for referrals for people they have worked with in the past, because they will recommend others who share their work ethic. Don't overlook retirees and disabled people. They take great pride in their work and will be among your most valuable assets.

Conduct in-person interviews. As you do so, pay attention to personalities. Does the applicant smile, make eye contact with you, and actively listen to what you say? Keep in mind that you can train for skills, but you can't change people's attitudes. Look for characteristics such as friendliness, professionalism, and enthusiasm.

Ask open-ended questions. What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses? What are you most proud of accomplishing? What are you hoping to achieve here if I hire you?

Make your company and its jobs as appealing as you can. That might include offering flexible work hours, commissions, and job sharing. Once you have identified top candidates, conduct background checks. If someone has lied to you during the hiring process, you won't be able to trust them when they're on the job.

It's also important that, once you've hired the best candidate for a job, you do everything you can to retain them. That includes training them, motivating them, and recognising and rewarding them.

It's also critical that you fire employees who aren't doing the job for which they were hired. I estimate that every organisation has at least five to 10 percent of their workforces that should be fired. The cost of keeping those employees on your payroll is high. I'm speaking from experience. Several years ago, I had an employee I should have fired, but I waited to do so for five years. During that time, she embezzled R6 million ($340,000) from my company.

As managers, you need to realise that your job is at risk when you're unwilling to terminate employees who aren't dedicated and productive and aren't willing to grow in their jobs. Those people are a cancer to your company. You cannot let a non-performing employee's attitude or actions infect your other employees. If you don't take the appropriate action and fire them, your other team members will start to question your ability to lead and to make decisions. They will resent you for relying on them to pick up the slack.

Firing an employee involves several steps. Proper documentation and decisive action are essential. Conduct performance reviews on a regular basis. Give the employee an opportunity to improve and deliver on your expectations. This will give you a road map to either provide more coaching or to let that employee go. Hire well and fire when necessary.

www.johntschohl.com

INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS CONVERGE

AT FIRST AFRICA WRAP EVENT

BY MATTHEW WOOD



#PLATINUM SPONSORS



The Africa Wrap event, which took place from 15-16 April at The Focus Rooms in Johannesburg, saw 315 visitors from Gauteng attending, including some visitors from as far as Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique.

Free insightful technology talks and expert insights were delivered by Africa Wrap platinum sponsors Roland DG South Africa, Kolok Graphic Supplies, Allrich Trading and Eco Signage Supplies.

Solutions on display included vehicle wrapping, window graphics/films, floor graphics, wallpaper, furniture wraps, truck sides and fleet branding, architectural window tints, and automotive paint protection films.

Exhibitors gave positive feedback:

'It was a different kind of event, and visitors knew what they were looking for. It was a good platform to showcase unique products, such as our furniture wrap films, or wall vinyls, because the concept of this particular event was any vinyl to a surface. We had a lot of unique products for windows, walls, furniture vehicles, and even aircraft wrapping. It was a good experience,' said Gourav Baid, Allrich.

'The idea of the expo is great. It gives companies the opportunity to display their products and, specifically for Midcomp, to display our HP latex technology. On day two, we got a lot of solid leads from people that were in the wrap industry who were looking to upgrade or invest in equipment. We also had solid leads from Mozambique, Botswana and Malawi. The venue was superbly set out,' said Gavin Lee, Midcomp.





'The event was great, considering the many people that came through. They knew what was going on – the questions were right and we gave them the right answers. We were grateful to be at the event,' said Martin Thobejane, Roland DG South Africa.

'The quality of customers that came was definitely good quality – they knew what they wanted. There were customers that didn't know about Kolok or HEXIS products, which is a great advantage for us. The exposure we got through this event was one hundred percent,' said Francois Badenhorst-Rossouw, Kolok Graphic Supplies.

'We had a good number of visitors that came through, which was great. We really enjoyed having the opportunity to wrap the vehicle that we were giving away in our competition, so it worked out perfectly from a timing perspective for us as well. The venue was stunning. It was easy to get to, easy to get out of, and the hall was perfect,' said Gavin Turner, Intamarket Graphics.

'For a first time show, we were quite surprised with the quality of our leads. We got a lot of good feedback from customers about our training academy, as well as our materials that we supply, so we are looking forward to following up on that. It was a nice, small show. The wrapping seemed to be a good drawcard. So overall, I'm happy,' said Greg Eales, Red Hot Media.

Contestants could test their wrapping skills in the Roland Speedwrap Challenge and see if they could beat the clock. Winners (R250): Jason Solomons, Don Mackay, Sidney Moyo, Noel Ncube, Prince Ncube and August Monyeki. Logan Busby won R500, Sithokozile Mpala won R1250 and Duty Thekiso won R2250.

Judges visited each stand at the expo and judged the stands according to criteria based on design, construction, special traffic flow, presentation, attitude of staff and messaging. The results are as follows:

Large Floor Space: first: Maizey Plastics. Second: Red Hot Media.
Large Shell Scheme: first: Roland.
Medium Floor Space: first: Intamarket Graphics. Tie second: Allrich / Roland Speedwrap. Third: Printing SA.
Medium Shell Scheme: First: Midcomp.
X Large Floor Space: first: Kolok Graphic Supplies. Second: Eco Signage Supplies.

www.africawrap.com

Exhibitor Highlights

Allrich Trading



Ideal for brilliant and colourful outdoor digital large format prints for short and medium-term applications, ORAJET® 3651RA's RapidAir® technology enables easy and rapid application without air inclusion. ORACAL® 970RA Premium Wrapping Cast is developed for long-term, complete wraps of fleet and motor sport vehicles in solid and opaque colours. Neschen's easySTYLE is a paper-based self-adhesive bubble-free film with a variety of decorative styles. Also showcased: NESCHEN Hi-performance Wallgrip and Wallpaper; NESCHEN PVC-FREE easy dot® matt and transparent; and NESCHEN UV and SOLVO dot print 'n' walk FLOOR GRAPHICS vinyl (R10 rating).

Roland DG South Africa



The VersaOBJECT MO-240 empowers businesses with unparalleled productivity. It has been designed to revolutionise direct printing on three-dimensional objects. With automated features, added usability and even greater colour choice, TrueVIS VG3 printer/cutters have been greatly enhanced. The ER-642 eco-solvent printing solution brings all the quality and reliability of Roland DG, with exceptional print speeds. The TrueVIS LG-640 is the ultimate in professional UV print and cut. Plus visitors could enter the Speedwrap Challenge. They showed off their skills and won great cash prizes.

Midcomp

The HP Latex 630 printer series' white ink allows users to produce a more impactful range of signage and décor jobs with stunning image quality and colours that jump off the page. Media and textiles: Drytac vinyl, wallpaper, backlit film and floor vinyl; HP vinyl and wallpaper; Contra Vision® original one-way vision perforated window film; Palram rigid Palboard and Palfoam; Viking digital textiles, gazebo and umbrella fabric; MC Xtreme rigid range Correx and PPH, and PolyXtreme, a new ABS alternative available in semi-gloss, non-reflective and prismatic finishes.

Fineline Design partnered with Midcomp to showcase HP Latex vehicle graphics applications while offering advice on their services and experience.

Printing SA

The federation highlighted training solutions. Adobe Creative Cloud Blended eLearning courses are for graphic designers seeking to enhance their creative capabilities. The courses cover essential tools such as Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign across beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Colour Management Training: this course delves into the theoretical and practical aspects of maintaining consistent and accurate colour reproduction across various devices and media. By mastering colour management techniques, professionals can ensure high-quality outputs that meet client expectations while avoiding costly errors.

Red Hot Media

Some of the products on display included Aslan's polyethylene face films for smooth surfaces, and polyester face film coated with flock fibres, as well as Fedrigoni Ri-Jet C50 Ultimate Slide and Tack for commercial fleets, vehicles and complex, three-dimensional surfaces. Its superior conformability allows application on rivets, concave and convex area surfaces.

It is the ultimate technology for car wrapping and provides great positioning and repositioning during the film installation.

Eco Signage Supplies



Visitors could explore Arlon's Premium Colour Change™ vinyl, perfect for automotive restyling and fleet applications. Arlon's range of polymeric and monomeric vinyls were also on display, offering cost-effective solutions for various applications. Piotr Ciński, Arlon's Technical Director and world wrapping champion, was also available to provide expert insights into Arlon's latest innovations and demonstrate his exceptional wrapping skills. Eco Signage also unveiled Proflex Graphics' newly launched range of economical PPF and window tint films, expanding their existing collection of premium paint protection films.

Kolok Graphic Supplies



Stingray Vinyl products are renowned for their durability and versatility. Kolok's PVC offerings are ideal for creating durable and visually striking signage. Kolok's range of wallpapers combine aesthetic appeal with practicality. Their dye sublimation paper is engineered for high-quality transfers and brilliant colour reproduction. Kolok was proud to feature HEXIS, ORAFOL®, SIHL, HP and STAHLS' branded print media, known for their superior performance and reliability. HEXIS pigmented vinyls are designed to deliver rich and consistent colours, and outstanding durability. NUtec Digital inks for solvent, eco solvent and UV printers offer exceptional colour accuracy and consistency.

Intamarket Graphics

Avery Dennison Supreme Wrapping Film™'s dual-layer film combines colour, texture, and clear protective layers, providing a smooth, paint-like finish that's both durable and dazzling. Avery MPI 1106 is ideal for wrapping low energy surfaces. Avery Dennison Window Films give maximum visual impact, such as frosted and dusted glass effects for decorative purposes. MACcrystal 8400 Pro™ is a glossy transparent coloured film designed for decorative markings of illuminated signs.

Mactac ColourWrap Series of films are made with cast technology, which delivers the 3D conformability needed for the most demanding curved surfaces. Mactac Cast and Polymeric digital print media with laminates was also showcased.

Maizey Plastics

Avery Dennison Ultimate Wrapping Film™ is a calendered PVC film designed for vehicle and object wraps. It offers durability, conformability and easy application for both full and partial wraps. It is 130 microns thick with a removable, easy apply acrylic adhesive and is available in high gloss, matt or satin finishes. It has good conformability and adhesive with air egress channels for fast and easy removal of entrapped bubbles. Choose from an exquisite palette of distinctive colours and finishes. Live demonstrations were done on a standalone bumper, as well as a Lamborghini Super Trofeo race car.

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NEWS

Printing SA Hosted HR Forum

On Friday the 7th of February, Printing SA held an HR forum at sponsor KYOCERA Document Solutions South Africa's head offices in Vorna Valley. The forum addressed topics such as investigating misconduct, drafting charges and how to run a disciplinary hearing.



Sign Africa, Africa Print and Modern Marketing were media partners for the event. The proceedings were hosted by Abisha Katerere, Head of Business Development and Marketing at Printing SA, with opening remarks given by Ashley Samuel, Chamber Manager for the Central Region of Printing SA.

Colin De Jager, Labour Consultant and Former Printing SA Central Chamber Director, addressed investigating misconduct and poor work performance. Misconduct implies an employee's actions violating workplace standards, while poor workplace performance implies a basic failure to meet the job standards. One involves behaviour, the other performative output.

Misconduct requires disciplinary action, while poor performance often requires extra training, counselling or meetings before more drastic measures are implemented. In the case of an investigation, it is in the best interest of the employer and their HR team to act promptly in gathering evidence, while very clearly defining the misconduct and the allegations. If the company does not already define, within its policies and procedures, what misconduct is to them, the organisation runs the risk of not being able to formulate a charge.

Once assessing the severity, a company has the option of disciplinary action, penalties or counselling. If counselling is selected, employers are given the opportunity to identify the root cause of the performance issues, track an employee's performance and provide training and mentoring.

De Jager also covered incapacity, which can overlap with poor work performance in a case that involves a lack of training or skills due to incompetence. However, incapacity often involves an illness or injury that affects work, in which case the employer must accommodate or provide alternative roles.

Elogran Naicker, Attorney-At-Law at Elogran Naicker Attorneys, provided his expertise in corporate and commercial law. He focused on drafting charges for a disciplinary hearing and the key principles in formulating charges. Naicker provided various case studies in which companies versed the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), and either won or lost due to the way they formulated their charges. Naicker advised attendees to ensure that their disciplinary charges were procedurally and substantively fair for labour appeal court purposes.

Naicker further outlined the key principles in formulating charges. He listed the employee's awareness of the charges, specificity and clarity of the detail of the charges, having no prejudicial changes after the hearing, providing enough detail so that the employee can understand the charges laid against them for the alleged misconduct and focusing on the facts of the case versus how the employer categorises the misconduct.

Patrick Lacy, Chief Executive Officer at Printing SA, provided his expertise in setting up and conducting a disciplinary hearing. 'Every case is a chance for escalation to a potential dispute. In a case where an employee wants to escalate the issue to the CCMA or the Statutory council, opt for the Statutory Council for better employer outcomes,' stated Lacy.

He further gave a step by step guide on how to formulate and conduct a hearing, starting with assessing the severity of the allegations to decide whether a hearing is necessary. Following this, an employer must secure evidence, select neutral witnesses, consult senior staff, avoid emotional decisions and explore alternative solutions. The key point in this step is securing evidence. 'Evidence is vital. If you have no evidence, you have no case,' stated Lacy.

The next step is to approach Printing SA for advice, expertise and guidance. With their input, begin drafting charges with plain and simple language. Clear allegation wording will ensure the accused understands the charges. Once charges are formed, avoid witness coaching, protect witnesses and evidence and clearly outline employee rights and responsibilities in the hearing notices. Ensure that only the relevant individuals are present in the hearing, with all parties having adequate time to prepare. Place emphasis on following the disciplinary code, as errors cannot be rectified after the hearing.

Printing SA And FP&M SETA Sponsor C1W Events

Change One Woman (C1W) hosted free networking events at the Sign Africa Expos in Polokwane on 12 February and Durban on 5 March. The events aimed to empower women through connection, conversation and support. The event was sponsored by FP&M SETA and Printing SA.

Attendees shared their challenges, such as trying to forge their careers and make their mark in a very male-dominated industry. They also highlighted the need for more training opportunities and workshops where they can learn more about how to run successful businesses as well as industry trends.

Suppliers at the event were also able to connect with women who needed guidance in their businesses and offer advice and services. The next event will be held at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo.



Lindy Mkhize, FP&M SETA, Charnia Yapp, Sign Africa and Abisha Katerere, Printing SA.



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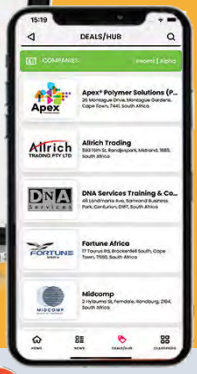






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Gauteng

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HP Colour Laser Jet managed MFP E77825. Collection in Elsies River. R15,000.
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production@fashionactive.co.za
Western Cape

BERNINA ARTISTA 200 — 14 MAR
Bernina Artista 200 Microsoft powered with USB supported 3 in 1 embroidery, sewing and quilting machine. R10,000. Effective for giving you variety of embroidery designs and lots of stitching and quilting patterns. Comes with lots of accessories: 3 hoops (excluding mega hoop), Bernina Stitch Regulator, USB and dongle, e-tutorials, software, and other Bernina accessories.
Jerry +27 79 134 3582
malatjie.jerry@gmail.com
Gauteng

OCÉ ARIZONA 350GT — 11 MAR
Direct UV flatbed printer. Working width: 2500 x 1250mm. Four colour CMYK with option for white. 100% working condition. Cleaned and used on a daily basis. Comes with a set of inks, the PC, and RIP Software. R350,000.
Julian +27 82 325 1234
julian@tornadosigns.co.za
KwaZulu-Natal

3.2M SOLVENT PRINTER — 10 MAR
Large format PVC banner printer. Needs a new head (black) and service (full service of machine quoted around 35K to 40K including parts). We have a reliable technician available to service and supply parts, at buyer's added cost. R80,000.
Huzaifah +27 72 233 3654
huzihats@gmail.com
Gauteng

HEAT PRESS — 7 MAR
R4500. Used heat press machine in good condition.
Liberty +27 78 864 1599
signs.rebel@gmail.com
Gauteng

1.6 CALENDAR PRESS — 6 MAR
Felt blanket new x 1, felt blanket used x 1. Must arrange own rigging from Goodwood, Cape Town. R60,000.
Lezahn
lezahn@yahoo.com
Western Cape

PRINT SHOP — 4 MAR
R998,000 (negotiable). Mimaki JFX200-2513. JV33-130BS with BIS and dryer fan. 1.6m applicator. 1.6m liquid laminator, 1.6m vinyl laminator, working tables, cutting/processing tables with glass tops, 1.3m printer dryer fan, desks (various), various vinyl stock, various rigid material stock, office furniture and more. Client base also available.
Pierre +27 79 475 7835
pierre.gte@gmail.com
Western Cape

MONTI ANTONIO HEAT PRESS — 3 MAR
Roll-to-roll. 3.6m wide. Model 72, 220m drum size. Heat press is used daily, however, there is a small issue with incorrect temperature readings from the Mercotec probe, hence the low selling price. R500,000 (ex VAT). You will need to arrange your own pallet jacks, truck with crane, and all moving and rigging costs.
Bernard +27 82 927 7168
bernard@dpiconcepts.co.za
Gauteng

ROLAND TRUEVIS PRINTER/CUTTER — 25 FEB
VG2-640. Max printing/cutting width: 1600mm. Includes automated take-up system. Includes full set of inks.
R180,000 (negotiable).
Wendy +27 82 804 4617
wendy@wendywright.co.za
KwaZulu-Natal

HEAT PRESS — 22 FEB
60cm x 40cm heat press. Bought new and never used. In good condition. Includes mug and cap heat press.
R7500 (negotiable).
Daniel +27 64 422 1280
daniel_adelere@yahoo.com
Gauteng

HP LATEX 335 — 21 FEB
In perfect working order, currently in use. The machine is serviced by Mike at Graficomp, with full service and print records available. The reason for selling is due to an upgrade. R110,000 (negotiable).
Raymond +27 82 680 9416
ray@printds.co.za
Gauteng

PRE-LOVED FLATBED PRINTER — 21 FEB
Print area: 2450mm x 1225mm. Excellent working condition, well-maintained. Included in the sale: full set of inks, PCs with software for operation, comprehensive installation and rigging. This high-quality flatbed printer is ideal for large format printing, offering exceptional precision and versatility. R250,000 (negotiable).
Fazlin
sales@urbanskysigns.co.za
Western Cape

SCREEN PRINTER WITH FLASH DRYER — 20 FEB
High-quality 6 colour screen printer for sale with flash dryer. Unlock your creative potential with this professional-grade screen printer, designed to deliver precision and consistency in every print. Ideal for those starting a custom printing business or upgrading existing equipment. Suitable for fabric, paper, and plastics. Adjustable speed and pressure. R11,000 (negotiable).
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Singer Embroidery Machine. Still new. Used once.
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info@dbdesignprinting.co.za
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Laser cutter and engraver including built-in camera and rotary. In very good condition.
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Parrot Products HQ is looking for a male printing assistant/operator/finisher (age 20–25). Weekly wage position. Must have a matric certificate, be a South African citizen, and be computer literate. Previous roll-to-roll and flatbed printing experience is an advantage. Fast-paced team environment. Must be proactive with good communication skills.
Juanita
juanitaws@parrotproducts.biz
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SALES REP — 16 MAR
Sales rep required with minimum 2 years' experience in the signage industry. Must have own vehicle. Basic salary plus commission. Based in Randburg, must report daily.
+27 83 619 6126
dion@signarama.co.za
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VINYL APPLICATOR — 12 MAR
Full-time vinyl applicator needed in Pretoria.
Francois +27 73 571 1457
francois@stunningcreations.co.za
Gauteng

SIGNAGE ALL ROUNDER REQUIRED — 11 MAR
Must have 10+ years' experience. Must have strong vinyl application and sign rigging skills. Working at heights certification is essential. Based in Honeydew.
Francois +27 11 791 1319
signage@trinitysignandprint.co.za
Gauteng

OPERATIONS CO-ORDINATOR — 5 MAR
Must be fluent in English and Afrikaans, have a driver's licence, own transport, and 10+ years' signage industry experience. Attention to detail and excellent communication skills are required. Travel involved. Company vehicle provided for work. Will handle site visits, troubleshooting, and client/internal relations.
Geoff Geach +27 11 875 2030
admin@altsign.co.za
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HP CERTIFIED LATEX TECHNICIAN — 5 MAR
Must have own transport and a valid driver's licence. Salary negotiable. Based in Randburg.
Christine
explorer.cmp@gmail.com
Gauteng

SALES PEOPLE — 5 MAR
Must work from Pretoria East office. Own transport and valid driver's licence required. Knowledge of branding/printing industry essential.
Cristen +27 82 611 5598
studio@digital-splash.co.za
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ALUMINIUM WELDER — 25 FEB
A well-established signage company situated in the West Rand requires the services of an



aluminium welder/sheet metal worker. Must be able to weld aluminium and steel signs, bend signs, and handle full sign production.
Cherice Steenkamp +27 11 660 6941
reception@rocamsigns.co.za
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EXTERNAL SALES REP – STIXO JHB — 24 FEB

STIXO Signage Supplies is seeking a results-driven External Sales Representative for the Johannesburg region. Responsibilities include acquiring new customers, maintaining client relationships, promoting products, and achieving sales targets. Sales experience in signage required. Must have driver's license and own vehicle.
Muhammad Sidik +27 11 830 1838
hr@stixo.co.za
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WALLPAPER/VINYL INSTALLERS — 21 FEB

We are looking for wallpaper and vinyl installers to join our installation team in Germiston. Must be well-rounded and willing to upskill. Carpentry skills will be beneficial.
Taryn +27 11 824 2009
taryn@digitalidentitysa.com
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SENIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER — 20 FEB

Signage and branding company in Centurion seeks a senior graphic designer. Must be proficient in CorelDRAW and Photoshop. Experience in print-ready artwork essential.
Frans
frans@printxpress.co.za
Gauteng

SIGNAGE INSTALLATION TEAM LEADER — 19 FEB

We are looking for a signage installer with leadership experience. Must have valid driver's licenCe and be comfortable working at heights. Based in Bloemfontein.
Zanele
hr@bloemsigns.co.za
Free State

DTP OPERATOR — 18 FEB

Experienced DTP operator wanted. Must be fluent in CorelDRAW and Adobe Illustrator. Knowledge of digital printing processes required. Position in Bellville.
Kevin
kevin@fastprintcape.co.za
Western Cape

GRAPHIC DESIGN INTERN — 17 FEB

Internship opportunity at signage company in Randburg. Must have portfolio and be eager to learn. Training provided. Opportunity for growth.
Lerato
careers@visionmedia.co.za
Gauteng

CNC ROUTER OPERATOR — 16 FEB

Seeking CNC router operator with experience in signage manufacturing. Must understand material types and cutting specs. Pretoria-based.
Darren
darren@signtechsa.co.za
Gauteng

SIGN MAKER — 15 FEB

Looking for a versatile sign maker with skills in vinyl application, fabrication and installation. Experience in LED signage is a plus. Port Elizabeth area.
Megan
megan@impactsigns.co.za
Eastern Cape

GRAPHIC DESIGNER — 14 FEB

Mid-level designer needed in Umhlanga. Must have 2+ years' experience in signage design. CorelDRAW and large format printing knowledge required.
Sibongile
sibongile@creativelabkzn.co.za
KwaZulu-Natal

JOBS WANTED

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/ DTP OPERATOR — 8 MAR

I have five years of experience operating Roland machines, vinyl cutters, HP printers, sublimation machines, CNC routers, and laser machines. Proficient in Microsoft Suite, RIP software, CorelDRAW, Photoshop, and Canva. Own transport and willing to travel.
Duran +27 72 064 7845
duran2531@gmail.com
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VINYL APPLICATOR — 20 JAN

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Virgil nadenelouis900@gmail.com
+27 82 231 6967
Gauteng

BRANDING INSTALLATION CREW — 20 JAN

We are setting up a small agency and require a branding installation crew for future international events. Required skillsets include vinyl application, signage installation, general crew work, abseiling, carpentry, painting, and fabric frame stretch PVC. Also looking for crew members with these certifications: IPAF, PASMA, CSCS, SSSTS, First Aid, and IRATA. Applicants must be of sober habits, have a clean criminal record (security clearance is required for events), and possess a valid passport. Send CV's via email or WhatsApp. No calls will be answered.
David scot.geoghegan@gmail.com
+27 78 422 2155
Gauteng

1.6M SUMMA OR GRAPHTEC VINYL CUTTER — 19 JAN

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Muhammed miimografix@gmail.com
KwaZulu-Natal

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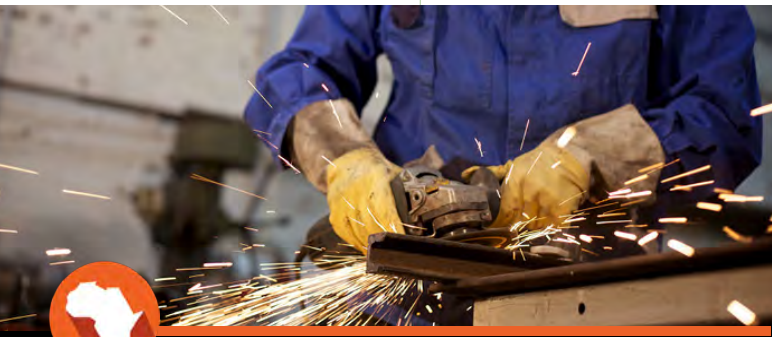
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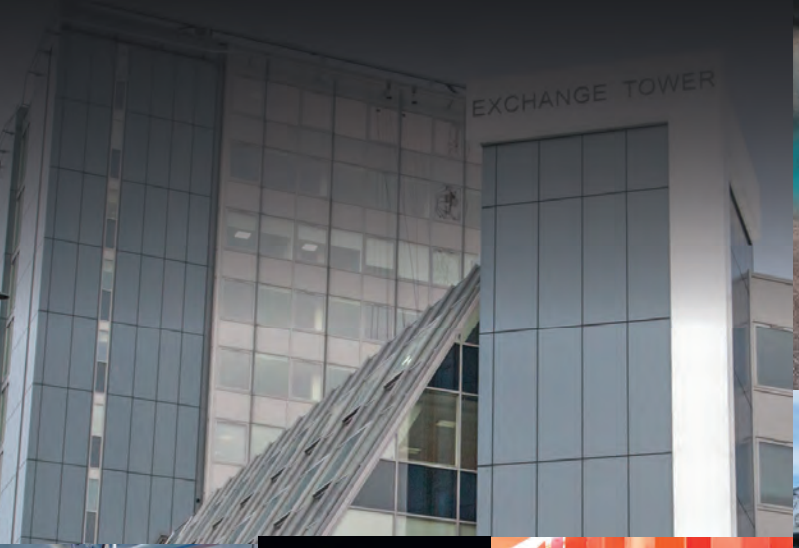
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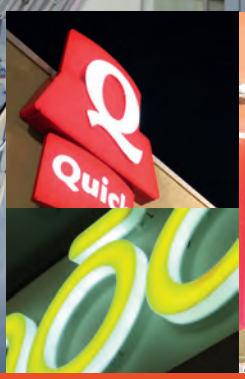
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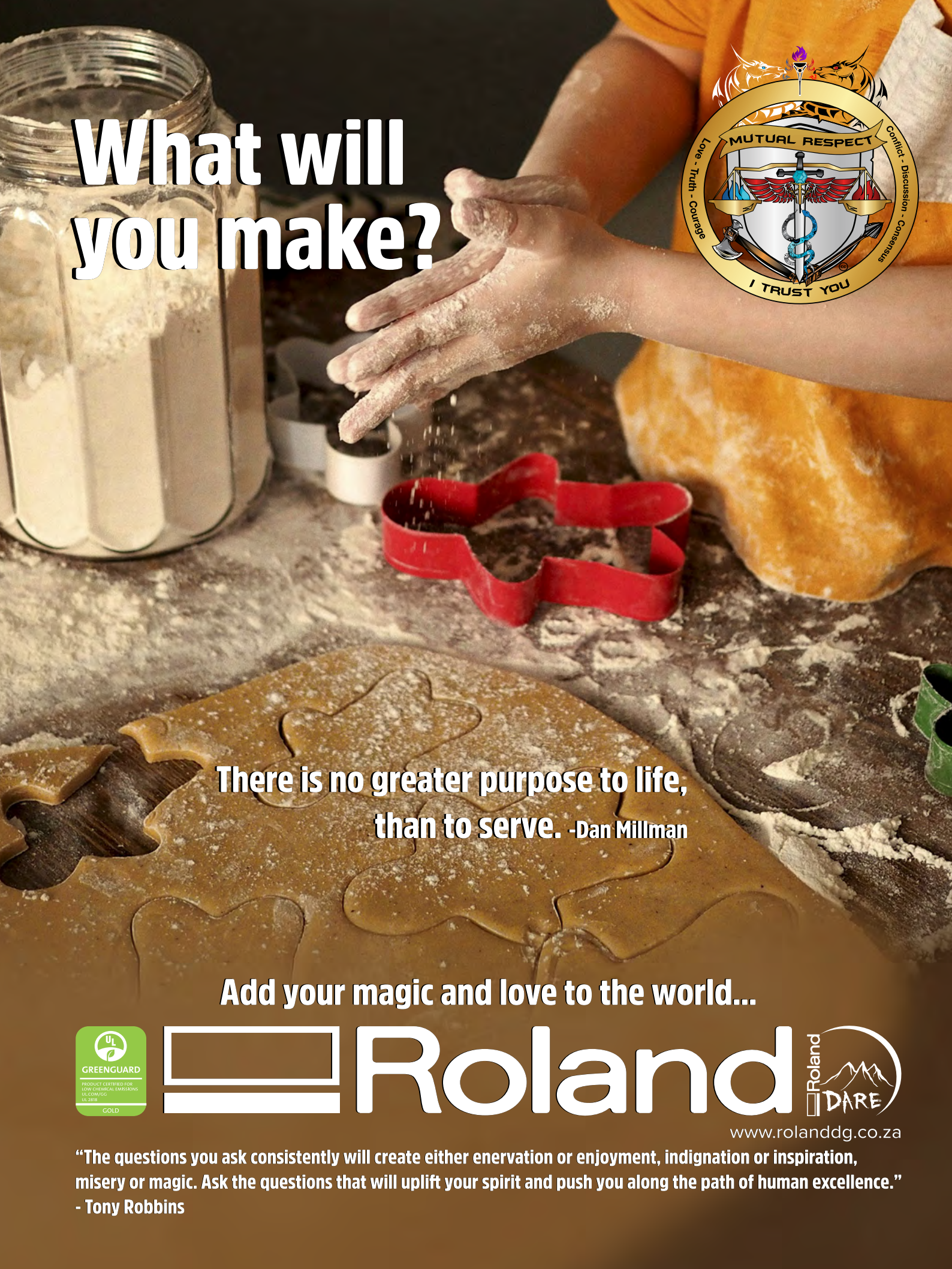








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