

SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS

Falcon SA Announce New Corporate Identity And Digital Product Brochure

Falcon SA has refreshed their corporate identity and has released their digital signage and graphics products brochure.

The brochure aims to give customers a comprehensive overview of Falcon's extensive signage and graphic product range with full specs, product descriptions and product applications. The brochure will give readers new ideas about products they may not have heard or even thought of. The layout is also very use friendly. It can be downloaded here.

'The South African signage industry is indicative of where we are as a country, because it reflects when the economy is boosting on certain platforms

and where private and government initiatives are driven. It talks to the people, and Falcon SA is proud to be a major industry player supplying the manufacturers. However, the trading environment is difficult as it sways between price driven, short-term solutions and quality renowned brands,' said Thomas Smith, Regional Sales Manager: Gauteng, Falcon SA.

'This has impacted our procurement decisions as we try and navigate these solutions, to be 'in-stock, on-time and price relevant', which has led to streamlining our processes. There is also a need to empower the entrepreneur and the launch of our corporate identity, along with our technical brochure, speaks to bridging this gap.'



www.falconsa.com

Unicam Showcased Router

Unicam CNC South Africa exhibited its Skorpio (Mark 4) table top style router at the Sign Africa expo in Cape Town, which took place from 18-19 May 2022 at the CTICC.

The latest model comes with a 1250 x 1250 cutting area (half-sheet) and can cut up to 150mm above the table. The 2kW air-cooled spindle is capable of cutting any light work on wood, composites, aluminium, and non-ferrous metals. With a cutting speed of 3m/minute, it is suited for small to medium production. Unicam has a wide range of routers like the Skorpio desktop all the way to a moving table 5 Axis system capable of machining a life size copy of a car. One of the company's latest additions is a shaping CNC router that can machine curved parts or can produce, for instance, surfboards.



Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.unicam.co.za



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Minuteman Press Franchises Sponsor Ocean Race

As sponsors of the 2022 Minuteman Press Vasco da Gama Ocean Race, which ran from Durban to East London, Minuteman Press Pinetown, owned by Anthony Bingham, and Minuteman Press Umhlanga, owned by Danie Snyman, were able to showcase their extensive printing and promotional capabilities.

The annual event began with a Saturday 21 May gala dinner, before the start of the race on 22 May. The first Vasco da Gama race was held in 1968. Banners and flags promoting the event had been placed by Point Yacht Club the weekend before the race start time. The largest such banner was on the gangplank down to the main dock.

Minuteman Press in Pinetown and Umhlanga also provided branded apparel and bags stocked with promotional items to the racers. For the pre-race dinner in Durban, Minuteman Press produced all of the printing, including dinner menus and branded water bottles with custom labels.



Bingham, who has owned Minuteman Press in Pinetown for over 20 years, shared his excitement as co-sponsor for the 2022 Minuteman Press Vasco da Gama Ocean Race. He said, 'This huge event has provided us with an ideal opportunity to showcase our products. Everything we provided for the Vasco da Gama Ocean Race, such as apparel, promotional products, large format printed items and digitally printed items, are items that we sell and produce for our clients. We couldn't ask for better brand exposure and our hard work in putting this all together has certainly paid off. No matter where you looked, our branding was everywhere, including on the water.'

www.minuteman.com/za/

Stixo Signage Supplies Exhibited Digital Media, Display Systems And More

Platinum sponsor Stixo Signage Supplies exhibited its extensive range of products that make the company renowned as a one-stop signage and branding supplier at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo.

Visitors will see various solutions at Stixo's stand, including large format digital media, display systems, substrate rigid sheets, corporate gift blanks, signage accessories and more.

The company has also launched its impressive range of Aluminium Composite Panels 'ACM' and 'ACM-Lite' to the Southern African market and beyond. Within the construction and signage industries, the popularity of Aluminium Composite Panels has increased over the past few years. Its uses have grown under the cover of energy efficiency, affordable pricing and construction possibilities. These materials are designed for ventilated façades, as well as their renovation or rehabilitation. The aluminium composite panel has the ability to transform, making it a versatile material that can be used for the construction of risky and creative designs. It is ideal for the construction of areas of the façade that would be impossible with other materials. There are also endless possibilities of what can be achieved with Stixo's ACM Lite range, which suits the needs of the signage industry.

Further great news to the advertising, building, manufacturing and furniture industries is the



simultaneous launch of the STX Foam Board range. Stixo Signage Supplies endeavours to always live up to its name as a one stop signage supplies outlet, and this has been further achieved with its complete range of Foam Board, ranging from 2mm to 20mm thickness and various sheet sizes to suit all customers' needs.

The ACM, ACM Lite and STX Foam Board ranges are

names that customers can start getting very used to when they need to rely on a quality product and one which will be readily available in an array of finishes, sizes and different coloured sheets.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.stixo.co.za

Roland DG Showcased Wide Format Solutions And More

Sign Africa Platinum expo sponsor Roland DG South Africa exhibited its wide format innovations at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo..

The VersaUV LEF2-200 50.8cm (20 inch) benchtop UV flatbed printer builds upon the capabilities of Roland's previous VersaUV benchtop flatbeds. The LEF2-200 inherits the VersaUV LEF series' renowned ability to print amazing full-colour graphics and unique textures, including premium finishes such as simulated embossing, onto a vast array of materials and objects up to 100mm (3.94 inch) thick.

The VersaUV LEC2-300 delivers unmatched versatility on demand with the vibrant richness and lifelike quality of UV printing together with sharp, precision contour cutting. It is the ideal solution for one-off and short-run production of custom labels, decals, prototypes and one-of-a-kind personalised items with a premium-look on a wide variety of media.

The new TrueVis SG3-540 features up to four colours of ink. Whether you're looking for a device to grow your sign and graphics business with a wide variety of large format graphics, or you need to get a head start in graphics customisation with an easily affordable solution, the SG3 series offers you premium results on so many profitable applications.

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

The CAMM-1 GR2 series of large format cutting



plotters from Roland DG is built to fit seamlessly with your print-then-cut workflow and deliver fast, flawless results from day one. The new GR2-640 162.5cm vinyl cutters provides an ideal balance between affordable pricing and superior cutting performance and is designed to integrate seamlessly with large format inkjet printers.

The Roland CAMM-1 GS-24 desktop cutter is the next level of precision and efficiency. With a completely redesigned cutting carriage and blade holder, the GS-24 offers perfect stability, up to 10x overlap cutting and down force of up to 350 grams so that users can cut like never before even on thick, dense substrates.

The ultimate hobby and small decal machines for offices, schools, restaurants and stores, STIKA desktop cutters produce colourful POP displays,

labels, iron-ons and more. Creating custom vinyl graphics has never been faster or more affordable. The Roland stand will feature the SV-12 models.

The DE-3 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.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.rolanddg.co.za

Alto Tatto Showcased Heat Transfer Vinyl

Alto Tatto showcased its new generation heat transfer vinyl (HTV) imported from Italy at the Sign Africa expo in Cape Town, held from from 18-19 May at the CTICC.

Creative applications on T-shirts, jeans and jackets, as well as the company's heat press, were on display.

The heat transfer vinyl comes in a range pre-cut convenient sizes, fitting into a user's cutter of choice.

The range includes matte smooth colours, as well as a glitter range with textures. These products are available from local Cape Town distributors Biz in Box.

The Sign Africa expo in Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

marco@altotatto.co.za and www.bizinbox.co.za



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Allrich Exhibited Specialty Vinyls And Acrylic Bending Machine



Allrich exhibited the ABM1300, which can soften and bend acrylic, Plexiglas, PVC, PC, ABS, PP and more, at the Sign Africa expo in Cape Town, which took place from 18-19 May 2022 at the CTICC in Hall 1. The machine also includes a water pump and water tube.

The machine is widely used in school technical courses, building models, decoration engineering, display cases, market shelves, advertising light boxes and artware making. It is small and portable and can be used anywhere.

Creative, versatile and durable, Super Clear Vinyl can be used to create designs on glass in every conceivable marketing and branding environment. It can be applied to glass without compromising light transmission or clarity.

Unprinted areas remain completely transparent, while printed areas can be transparent, translucent or even completely opaque. This, coupled with high resolution colour printing, gives designers and artists a whole new canvas, or 'glass', on which to create arresting graphics that transcend the usual profile cut frosted vinyl and simple window vinyl.

Applications include branded, retail, hospitality and corporate environments, where there are glass doors, walls, partitions, windows or skylights.

One Way Vision vinyl for UV printing is a perforated window graphics sign film that features punched holes on self-adhesive materials, using pinhole imaging principles. The structure of this film is a

two-layer ink absorption liner. For general one-layer liner, the holes will be easily blocked by the UV ink during printing by a UV printer, thus it will lose the vision function. Based on a two-layer liner, UV ink can be absorbed by the liner, so it can be printed on by UV printers.

Steel gazebos are a popular choice due to their affordability and efficient and hassle-free form of advertising for outdoor events such as sports days or corporate functions. These lightweight gazebos are an ideal branding solution, are fully collapsible, easy to set up and functional as they provide shelter with their water-resistant canvas canopy. Due to their easy set-up, they are perfect for trade shows and golf day events.

Allrich have relaunched their steel gazebo range in both 2m and 3m sizes, and they are now available in options for premium heavyweight steel gazebos and budget steel gazebos. The company implement a large variety of different design and assembly techniques to ensure the product features high quality, durability and affordability, and stock a large gazebo range with options for every budget and application, from 2m x 2m gazebos to 6m x 3m heavy duty deluxe aluminium gazebos.

Other products include: promotion counter; zig-zag brochure holder; wall banner and director's chairs. Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.allrich-sa.co.za

Uprint Demonstrated The Uprint System And DTF System



Uprint demonstrated how its Uprint total solution can print full colour with brilliant whites on any item imaginable, be it stainless steel, sports balls, beer glasses, wood, pens, clothing, caps, bags, ceramics, plastic and many more items at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo.

Each system is unique, and the range includes the chemical transfer system, laser DTF system, inkjet DTF system and heat transfer system.

These systems are ideal for starting a business from home or adding value to an existing business, with no messy inks.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.uprintsa.co.za

Chemosol Showcased Sublimation Solutions, Heat Presses And More

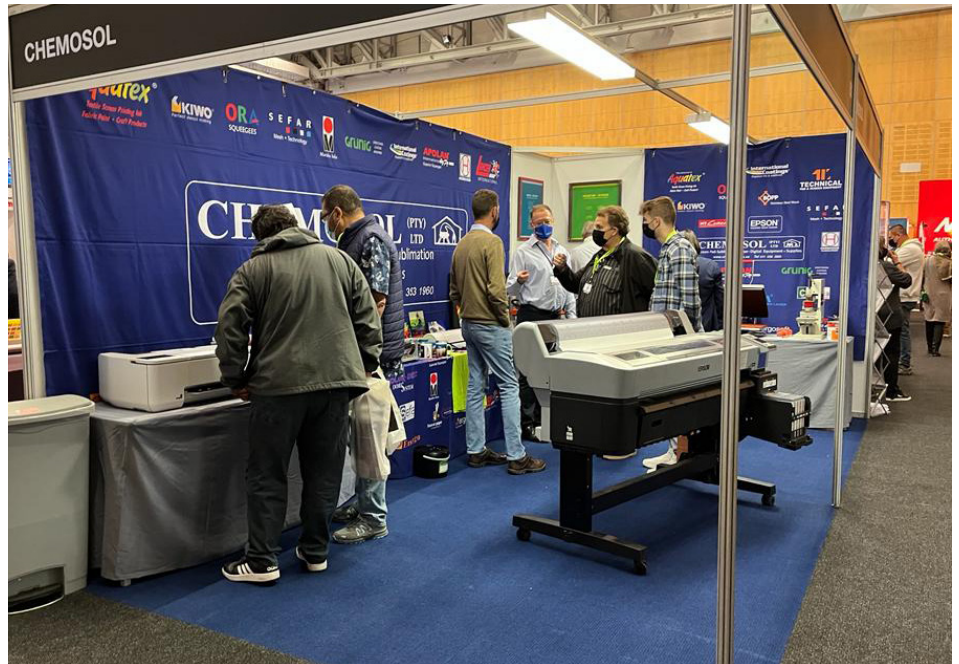
Chemosol exhibited a range of sublimation and printing solutions at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo, taking place from 18-19 May 2022 at the CTICC.

Users can significantly reduce downtime and minimise the risk of errors with user-friendly, colour-coded 140ml ink bottles. With both the SC-F500 and SC-F501, users can replenish the ink while printing. Because of its compact size, the SC-F100 is the ideal choice where space is limited, such as on shop counters. Its small A4-sized footprint is especially suitable for start-up and smaller businesses. Paper size: A4. Ink: four colours (CMYK).

The SC-F500 and SC-F501 printers have easy to use touch panels and allow users to easily access all the operational information they need using the intuitive touchscreen, even while wearing gloves. Its anti-dust design prevents dust getting into the printer, avoiding misprints from nozzle clogging and reducing time-consuming cleaning cycles, even in dusty environments.

The CY-G2 heat press features include a teflon coated aluminium heat plate, silicone pad, working pressure adjuster, as well as pastime and temperature controller.

The CY-M022 single mug press is lightweight and portable, for use at malls, flea markets, shows and more and features fully digital 2-in-1 temperature and time control. It has easy pressure adjustment, a solid steel welded framework, digital control and easy to adjust pressure.



The 8-in-1 multifunction combo heat press machine features advanced 2-in-1 temperature/time control which is safer, more accurate and practical. The heating plate and working face are constructed with pure aluminium, which tends to not twist easily under pressure and provides a longer product lifetime than those made of metal. It can apply transfers and images to T-shirts, garments, bags,

mouse pads, jigsaw puzzles, ceramic tiles, mugs, plates and caps.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.chemosol.co.za

Graficomp Exhibited Print, Cutting And Software Solutions



Graficomp showcased its print, cutting and software solutions at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo, taking which place from 18-19 May 2022 at the CTICC.

Users can grow with high-value jobs and sharpen their sustainability edge with the HP Latex 700 printer. Deliver vivid colours at high speed and get striking contrast using pure blacks and choose from a wide application range covering banners/textiles/poster paper, canvas, wallpaper and vinyl.

Users can expand into wider applications with the 162.5cm (64 inch) HP Latex vinyl cutter, featuring 158cm (62.2 inch) maximum cut width and 54kg

cutting weight.

Combined with dynamic print label capabilities, Onyx 21 delivers innovative tools for print shop branding with flexibility to connect to existing business tools.

The company also showed samples of white ink applications from the latest HP Latex 700W/800W series.

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www.graficomp.co.za



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Thunderbolt Solutions' Digital Inkjet Roadshow Highlights Industry Trends

Thunderbolt Solutions' Digital Inkjet Roadshow presented the extensive benefits of digital printing to the market, allowing visitors from printing companies the ability to gain firsthand insight into Thunderbolt's suite of digital inkjet printing solutions. The roadshow took place in Johannesburg on 9 and 10 May at the Wanderers Club, Durban on 11 May at Mount Edgecombe Country Club and Cape Town on 12 and 13 May at King David Mowbray Golf Club.

International speakers addressed industry trends:

Edi Venturin: Regional Business Manager, Agfa

Venturin outlined inkjet in a wide format context, and said that inkjet machines are capable of running at lower costs. Agfa offer complete inkjet printing systems, saving costs with innovative calculation. 'We have machines, software and inks – all perfectly matched,' said Venturin. The company's thin ink layer technology ensures less ink wastage than competitors, with some being 80% less. Their aim is to achieve the same quality with different machines of different sizes and speeds. Some options are also field upgradable. The company do use other companies' printheads, but have their own ink and software. 'The synergy between inks, hardware, software and services make our inkjet solutions unique.'

'For inkjet, in wide format we are seeing growth in corrugated packaging. In high-end, high-speed machines, there is also a move toward industrial applications. Inkjet opens up new opportunities for print that were not possible before, such as bespoke short runs and specialties. These applications require lower costs, lower stock and faster access to market, in contrast to screen printing and offset, which require much more time.'

Gareth Wheeldon: Sales Executive, Komori UK

Wheeldon said that inkjet is already transforming the way that a number of sectors of industry serve their customers, and that they are having to reassess their production capabilities: 'There is enthusiasm, especially with book printers; they don't want large inventories. There is a strong desire for short-run packaging and there's also a wider colour gamut with inkjet inks than with offset four colour, which meets all the requirements for packaging.' He also said that inkjet is perfectly suited for fast turnaround times, and added that inkjet is not about to replace offset, but that the two just happen to complement one another, and that working in parallel, they enable a well managed company to meet the demands of customers.

Wheeldon outlined Komori's extensive portfolio of machines and consumables, with a strong emphasis on the company's flagship Impremia IS29 digital

Edi Venturin, Regional Business Manager, Agfa.

inkjet printing system, which features a wide range of applications such as book printing and short-run packaging. A wide substrate choice, low energy consumption and compact design are some of the machine's key aspects.

He added that LED curing allows for excellent adhesion, hence the ability to print on paper, board, plastic and more. Folders, slitters and coating units can be added. Seamless workflow for batch processes, wider colour gamuts, calculation of ink consumption and automatic software updates were also taken into consideration upon the machine's development. Wheeldon listed benefits such as quality, substrate choice, instant curing and low maintenance, as well as less need for sensitive parts and components within the machines that are susceptible to wear and tear, all of which he said are reasons to choose Komori.

Bui Burke: Senior VP Sales, Screen Europe

Burke mentioned that inkjet trends are much the same in Africa as they are globally, although Africa lags slightly behind. 'The trend is toward inkjet, be it with labels, commercial print or packaging.' He also said inkjet is replacing toner and conventional presses, as well as flexo presses. 'Inkjet allows users to order what they need, when they need it. It is easy to use.'

Burke outlined Screen's high speed continuous devices and constant investment in new equipment, with a strong emphasis on quality, speed, reliability, wider applications, lower running costs and the ability to print on a wider range of substrates. The company's SC Ink (coated stock ink) is unique, as well their SC + inks, which feature high densities, so less ink is needed, producing higher vibrancy and more scuff resistance.

Burke said while Screen don't manufacture ink and printheads, they have the know-how of the best printhead and ink combination, where as little ink as possible is used. He added that Screen are committed to inkjet, an area in which they want to move forward. Their innovative NIR drying

equipment (drying ink before it hits the paper) and power management features in their machine portfolio also make them unique.

Deon Wepener: Expert Production Print Solutions, Kyocera Europe

Wepener said that while Kyocera's specialty is inkjet heads that are well known in the industry, they decided to take these printheads and place them into their own platform, out of which the flagship cut-sheet inkjet device, the TASKalfa Pro 150000C, was borne. He added that Screen, for example, uses some of their printheads.

The TASKalfa Pro 150000C ensures a lower power consumption, and is simple and straightforward, with fewer components. The software also calculates the right amount of ink. If a punch hole is detected, the printheads won't apply ink – an ideal savings aspect. Paper companies like Mondi have optimised their products for such inkjet devices, which equates to massive cost savings. Different ink drop sizes (or multi-drop size technology) allow for smoother prints. Some of the trends in inkjet technology, as far as the company is concerned, include educational books and training manuals (mostly Africa), although in Europe transactional applications are a good fit, as well as different colour reading books, which are specifically well-suited for the TASKalfa. 'Inkjet is constantly growing, so it is perfect for where something new is needed,' said Wepener.

Gavin van Rensburg, Regional Manager, Western Province, Thunderbolt Solutions, said, 'The drivers in inkjet are much lower maintenance compared to previous xerography based technology.' Another advantage of inkjet, he said, is consistency of operations from start to finish, as well as the ability to print on different substrates. He said that inkjet is on the increase, adding that South Africa is lagging behind due to reasons such as Covid-19, but that prices are coming down and the range of substrates is increasing all the time.

www.thunderbolt.co.za

Curv Showcased Signage Solutions



Curv Signage exhibited its signage solutions at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo, which took place from 18-19 May 2022.

The company manufacture a complete range of signage kits for all sign writers. Their Curv kits come flat-packed and ready for quick and easy installation. These kits are supplied with all the required fasteners and trims to create modern signage. These signs are designed and manufactured locally.

The company's product range includes: door signs, projection signs, slider signs, wall frame signs, directory signs, lightbox signs, suspended signs and table stand signs.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.curvsignage.co.za

Sheetco Showcased High Speed Sublimation Solution

Sheetco showcased its Avanti i4 180cm wide high speed 4 colour sublimation printer, which boasts a production speed of 120sqm/hour, at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo.

The bulk ink system includes 3L ink tanks with a slow level alarm and syphon system sub tanks. The printer features the latest technology Precision Core TFP printheads (4 heads with 12,800 active nozzles). The nozzle size is suited for sublimation print output demands.

Avanti Series CMYK inks ensure printability and the best colour gamut. Free colour profiling is provided with the printer. The purchase of the machine includes: installation and three days training; colour profile and print set-up; technical backup and

support and free first set of ink and paper.

Print productivity

- 2 pass: 360 x 1200dpi, +/- 120sqm/h production speed.
- 3 pass: 360 x 1800 dpi, +/- 90sqm/h production speed.
- 4 pass: 360 x 2400 dpi, +/- 60sqm/h production speed.
- 4 pass: 720 x 600 dpi, +/- 65sqm/h production speed.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.sheetco.co.za

Kolok Showcased Vinyls, Films And Inks

Kolok exhibited its range of vinyls, films and inks at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo. The company showcased its extensive range of different textured wallpapers, as well as its Stingray and Jay range of digital print media, encompassing paper, self-adhesive vinyl, PVC, canvas, etc.

Hexis range: Skintac vehicle wrap films; Bodyfence vehicle protection films; Suptac polymeric vinyl for signs; Ecotac and Microtac monomeric vinyl for signs; Purezone antimicrobial film for protecting

surfaces from bacteria and Covid-19 and Sandblast for window decoration.

NuTec ink range: Emerald eco-solvent ink for Roland and Mimaki; Aquamarine for dye sublimation and Topaz solvent inks.

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www.kolokgs.co.za



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Graphix Supply World Highlighted Mimaki Printing Solutions

Graphix Supply World exhibited its Mimaki range of solutions and more at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo, which took place from 18-19 May.

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

The high performance TS100-160 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.

The UJV100-160 brings together cost effective technology with the flexibility and versatility to deliver faster output than ever before. It is designed to produce a wide range of material like vehicle wrapping, outdoor and indoor signage, banners, posters and many more.

The CFL-605RT supports material sizes up to A2 extra and has a variety of functions including eccentric, tangential, and reciprocating cuttings and creasing. It is designed with Mimaki's well-established technology, and supports on-demand production by multiple functions, including cutting and creasing. The CFL-605RT delivers efficient sample and package production.



The CG130 SR III features a best-in-class cutting pressure of 500g for a wider range of materials; plot start/end, error/warning message, Continuous Crop Mark Detection for precise stickers and seals, and more.

The UJF-6042 solution features increased productivity and ease of use, choice of rigid or flexible inks, with up to 9 colours including white, clear and prime.

The JFX200 printer delivers unparalleled results to expand the potential for professional sign and digital graphics companies. A choice of inks, including white and clear, offers unlimited creative opportunities, with the capability to print to a wide range of substrates.

The CJV150 series printers add cut-and-print capability for signage or textile applications. CJV150 Series models feature advanced piezo head technology.

The Kongsberg X24 Edge cutting table delivers the tried and tested Kongsberg recipe of productivity and flexibility, combined with best-in-class reliability. What's more, the Kongsberg X24 Edge can be equipped for any application, without any compromise on performance.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.gsw.co.za

Exion Corp Showcased 3D Channel Letter Printing Solutions



Exion Corp showcased the latest versions of its 3D printers, exclusively designed for channel letters, at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo.

There are two printing sizes of the BlackRhino 3D printers, the bigger one is 780 x 780mm x 60mm, and the smaller one is 580mm x 580mm x 60mm. Both use drop-on-demand technology. The company have established that the minimum printing size must be 550mm x 550mm. The print material, otherwise known as filament, is made up polylactic acid (or polylactide).

Its first 3D printer was introduced in 2016, but due to various challenges, the company was not confident to give it the Exion stamp of approval. Exion Corp is now proud to release these products after working through its own trials and errors.

'There are still limitations in plastic in that it still takes a lot of time, but with letters of about 200mm to 300mm, you can get good results using these 3D printers,' said Exion Corp MD, Jay Kim.

'Even though there is great 3D software such as Fusion 360, it is not easy for beginners to learn, or in the case of small business sign makers, they simply do not have the time, and the price is also a burden. We have built-in software that can easily create 3D letters with files from CorelDRAW or Illustrator, making it easy for anyone to access,' explained Cedric Pillay, COO at Exion Corp.

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SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Midcomp Installs Another HP Latex Solution With White Ink

Midcomp has installed an HP Latex 700W at Fotomax, a family run photographic print shop in Durban. The machine was purchased during the Sign Africa Durban expo which was held in March.

The HP Latex 700W allows users to print white without complexity, deliver vivid colours at high speed, get striking contrast using pure blacks, and expect sharp 4-point text, while retaining the

renowned features of HP Latex printers. The printer provides a wide application range covering banners, textiles, poster paper, canvas, wallpaper and vinyl.

Fotomax's service offerings include short digital print runs, customised wallpapers, branding for agencies, printing onto acrylics for interiors and signage for the property market. The company is renowned for its attention to detail, quality and turnaround times. The company also had an HP Latex 335 and HP Latex 26500.

Fotomax's manager, Wayne Fowles, said, 'The machine has benefited us by relieving the workload off another machine, which allows us to improve on turnaround times and productivity.' He described 2021 as a difficult time for the company, making a loss on account of the looting in KwaZulu-Natal. 'I was running my vinyl jobs on our flatbed machine, which has white ink as well, and outsourcing the wall vinyl/wallpaper jobs. Rebuilding the business again, this was a workaround, but as orders increased, I needed to get a roll to roll printer.' The company opted for the HP Latex 700W.

'Having had two latex printers previously, I am sold on the machines and technology. The printer prints fast enough for us when it comes to finishing off or trimming.' Fowles reported good service from Midcomp and was pleased that they had a unit in stock.

www.midcomp.co.za and
www.fotomax.co.za



The Fotomax team: Richard Matanzima, Freddy Ngongo, Melissa Korb, Saadia Shaik, Teez Mullah, Wayne Fowles and Mirehnee Chetty, with Midcomp's Divan Van Vuuren (second left) and Rhamon Bernstein (far right).

Trotec Laser South Africa Displayed Laser Solution

Trotec showcased its Q400 laser solution at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo. The laser cutter sets new standards by combining all the Trotec virtues users need for efficient laser cutting. With a working area of 1030 x 630mm and laser power of up to 100 watts, the Q400 cuts and engraves a wide variety of materials, such as: acrylic and wood (cut up to 15mm), textiles, paper or cardboard for signs, handcraft items, models or decorative items.

The Q Series is a reliable laser for production. Trotec core technology such as the InPack Technology, JobControl® laser software, the CeramiCore® laser source and the innovative motion planning OptiMotion enable fast, efficient and intuitive work with the laser.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.troteclaser.co.za



Rexx Screen & Digital Supplies Demonstrated Direct To Film Solutions

Rexx Screen & Digital Supplies demonstrated its A3 sheetfed direct to film (DTF) solution at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo.

The new Rexx DTF systems are easy to use and are available from entry level A3 size through to automatic 30cm and 60cm wide roll-to-roll solutions, allowing anyone to cost-effectively create a digitally printed transfer, which can be applied to a vast range of products and textiles.

These include: cotton, polyester, nylon, spandex, leather and many more via a heatpress. Added to this, users can achieve incredible opacity even though it is a thin, soft and flexible film. The wash durability is outstanding and proven with industry standard wash tests.

The printing ink system is water-based. It is digitally printed onto a special PET film after which there is the application of a powder PU adhesive, creating an amazingly bright, soft and durable transfer. The ease of use and incredibly economical consumable costs that these systems exhibit gives it many advantages over paper-based laser systems and many other existing solutions. The systems allow users to start an affordable and professional branding business from home.

Visitors can also expect the following show specials: A3 DTF bundle special, with choice of humidifier;



cutting plotters such as the VicSign HL-630 (stand and software included), VicSign HWX with optical eye (stand and software included) and Q3 hobby cutter; as well as heat presses: manual heat press, magnetic auto open, dual plate auto open, cap press, magnetic auto open with slide and mug press. Also on show is their SEF Heat Transfer Film

range, offering the ultimate in soft stretchable PU films.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo and entrance.

www.rexxscreendigital.co.za

JG Electronics Exhibited Sublimation And Vinyl Solutions

JG Electronics (JGE) showcased its latest vinyl cutters, heat transfer vinyls and desktop printers designed for sublimation at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo.

The Silhouette CAMEO® 4 Pro is the largest and fastest electronic cutting machine in its class, and is the big brother of the Silhouette® Cameo 4. The software is easy to use; is versatile with

three different blade options; has a punching tool and sketch pens; an auto set blade which is set to the correct depth by the software according to the substrate being cut; automatic cutting tool detection; 610mm cutting width and maximum cutting length of 61cm with a cutting mat and 3m without (20m if the software is upgraded).

With scan and cut/print and cut features standard, it supports USB and Bluetooth, is Mac and PC compatible and also includes a built-in roll feeder for rolls up to 3m long. The Cameo 4 series allows users to create projects with precision.

JGE also showcased the latest Sawgrass SG500, a desktop printer designed for sublimation. With low start-up and running costs, users can create customised products with vibrant HD images, quickly, easily and profitably. It features a compact footprint and rugged reliability.

In addition to design improvements such as a single roll-bar, the SG500 is more energy-efficient, prints with higher resolution and offers Wi-Fi connectivity. JGE will also exhibit its Muggit heat transfer vinyls.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.jgelectronics.com



SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Midcomp Exhibited Print And Cut Solution With White Ink And Print Media

Midcomp showcased its HP Latex 700W print and cut solution, as well as print media from the Midcomp Consumables division, at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo.

The machine allows users to print white without complexity, deliver vivid colours at high speed, get striking contrast using pure blacks, and expect sharp 4-point text, while retaining the renowned features of HP Latex printers.

With the HP Latex 64 Plus Cutting Solution, users can enable new applications and growth for business by enhancing their HP Latex printers with a unique print and cut workflow. Easily integrate this cutter/RIP solution and get accurate high-speed cutting and cut throughs.

Midcomp representatives will also be available to explain the benefits of the company's 'Pay Per Use' (PPU) comprehensive and customised programme, created by Midcomp, which helps accurately calculate a company's costs per square metre, which ensures peace of mind that if something goes wrong with a machine, it can be fixed without having a huge bill to deal with.

Sign Africa Cape Town was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.midcomp.co.za



IPlastics Exhibited Signage Materials At Sign Africa Cape Town Expo

IPlastics showcased signage solutions such as the LayFlat Anti-Curl banner, gazebo, wall banner and more at the Sign Africa Cape Town Expo, held at the CTICC from 18-19 May.

The company also discussed its wide range of offerings with visitors, including: digital printable vinyl, acrylic sheeting, aluminium composite panel, PVC foam board, laser engraving material, mirror acrylic, PVC banner material and acrylic tubes.

The Sign Africa Cape Town expo was sponsored by Roland and Stixo.

www.i-plastics.com

