

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Metamark Wrapping Media And Overlamine Used To Wrap Barrels



Metamark's MetaWrap MD-X Cylinder Cast digital wrapping media with Blockout 'MetaScape' System as well as Metaguard MG-X Cylinder Cast digital wrapping overlamine were used in a project different to the typical vehicle wrapping or wall graphic applications.

A call to Indigo Graphics came from an events and experiential company, Beach Graphics. The job involved turning about 40 reclaimed 'oil drums' or 'barrels' into branded pedestal bases. The idea was that the branded bases would tour planned locations, set up with parasols atop them, and serve as tables while the attending audience enjoyed the client's product.

Beach Graphics knew exactly what they wanted in terms of design, and so the data was supplied to Lee Skinner and the Indigo Graphics team to do their stuff. After the customary tweaking to scale and fit the design elements, Indigo's Roland Eco-Solvent printer was loaded up with MetaWrap MD-X and print production began. The barrels were bright blue and so the branding needed be total coverage. Some of the subjects had a bit of battle-rash like dents and so on but, broadly speaking, were application-ready.

Once laminated with MetaGuard MG-X, the print was cut to size and the hands-on bit could commence. Skinner admitted that the first couple of barrels exercised the application team a bit. Once the team had a few done and hit a rhythm, the job went well.

www.sytech.co.za

Zünd Cutter Enables Processing Of Wide Material Range

CDO Routing Solutions purchased a Zünd G3 L-3200, which allows them to process a variety of materials with sheet sizes up to 3200mm wide.

Based in the Midlands near Droitwich, CDO Routing Solutions provide a high-quality cutting and routing

service to many industries. Chris Jones, Owner of CDO Routing said, 'We have over 17 years of experience and knowledge, working with most materials that are suitable for cutting or routing.'

Jones decided to look at new machinery for his business. He wanted something that was versatile for many different applications. He knew the endless possibilities and reliability the Zünd cutters offer. Jones explained, 'Having worked with Zünd cutters in the past and their reputable position in the graphics industry, it was a no-brainer to enquire.'

Jones booked a demonstration at Zünd HQ in St Albans, Hertfordshire, and took material samples with him for test cuts. Jones said, 'Having visited the Zünd state-of-the-art demonstration suite, I was impressed with the capabilities and added value the Zünd cutter could offer my business. I could see Zünd UK supporting the growth of my business and the technical knowledge from their staff assured me that Zünd was the best choice for my business.' Reflecting on his purchase, Jones said, 'We can now



process a wide range of materials including acrylic, foam, vinyl, wood, paper, rubber, leather, textiles, plastics, aluminium, cardboard and composites for prototypes, one-offs or large batch productions. We have invested in the Zünd technology to make sure we guarantee the highest quality finishes and products for our customers. Our new Zünd cutter allows our cutting processes to be consistent, repeatable and to the tightest of tolerances.'

www.midcomp.co.za

Fujifilm Wide Format Printer Enhances Business's Operations

Fujifilm's Acuity Prime 30 is the latest addition to Tech:art's portfolio of printers. Tech:art, based in Trofarello, Italy and founded in 2002, is a full service print service provider offering their B2B and B2C customers support from prepress, through to design, prototyping, packaging and logistics.

Davide Salvo, CEO and General Manager at Tech:art

said, 'When the machine was first installed, there were some final calibrations to sort, but we just couldn't wait to use it so we started running production jobs anyway. We were instantly impressed. The productivity of the machine is far beyond what we had expected and exceeds any other machine we have seen before in a similar price bracket.'

'We were very impressed by how easy it is to use and the outstanding print quality and productivity it offers. This, along with our confidence in Fujifilm as a brand, ultimately led to the investment decision. We are typically using the machine for interior design applications such as wood, Plexiglas, glass and metal as well as signage. We were previously using a competitor machine, but it was proving impossible to print with the quality and speed that we now can achieve with the Acuity Prime 30.'

'Our customers place very specific high demands on us. They require high quality and fast turnaround times, and more recently, they request work that requires the use of special primers, varnishes and white inks. With the Acuity Prime 30, we have been able to meet such demands and many of our customers have already provided positive feedback on the print quality and the wide colour gamut it offers. They have also been impressed by the strong ink adhesion and the wide range of materials that can be used. In fact, with the addition of this machine, we have been able to acquire new customers. Looking ahead, I see customisation as a major trend within the market this year and I am confident the Acuity Prime will enable us to meet such demands.'

'Aside from the technical benefits, we were also very impressed with the sleek, attractive, user-friendly design. I would not hesitate to recommend the Acuity Prime 30, it has made our business significantly more profitable due to the combination of its high speed and lower ink consumption.'

Kevin Jenner, European Marketing Manager for Wide Format Inkjet Systems at Fujifilm Europe said, 'The Acuity Prime 30 is one of the most innovative printers that forms part of Fujifilm's



strategy to create 'the new blueprint for wide format', resetting expectations relating to price/performance, versatility, value and ease-of-use. We are delighted to see that Tech:art has experienced this first hand and has already noticed significant enhancements to their business since investing in this machine. We look forward to seeing how this continues to develop throughout our partnership.'

www.fujifilmgraphicsystems.co.za

Xaar Opens New Technology Centre



Based at Campus Solna in Stockholm, and at nearly 400sqm, Xaar's new Technology Centre in Sweden is twice the size of the previous facility and houses a state-of-the-art laboratory with new equipment, offices and meeting spaces for engineers, scientists and visitors to work within. The expansion provides Xaar with the ideal environment for its continuous research into the transformative potential of inkjet technologies and opportunities.

Xaar's new Technology Centre in Sweden was officially opened by CEO John Mills at a ceremony held along with COO Graham Tweedale and members of Xaar's Advanced Applications and Technologies team.

Xaar's base in Sweden has played a key role in its R&D projects for many years, as well as supporting customers in the development and use of inkjet technologies. From their new site, the team will continue to work closely across both internal and external projects, liaising with manufacturers, fluid formulators and specialist printer makers to help bring new processes to market using Xaar's printheads and technologies across numerous markets.

On opening the new Technology Centre, John Mills, said; 'As an inkjet innovator it is essential that we continue to invest in developing the latest technologies and applications, and I am delighted to open our new centre of excellence in Sweden as part of this strategy.

'The unrivalled expertise and knowledge of our team, combined with these state-of-the-art facilities, will be invaluable in supporting our collaborative growth and focus on developing opportunities for inkjet.'

www.xaar.com

Summa Acquires Print Finishing Equipment Business

Summa has acquired Valiani to strengthen its

position as a leading manufacturer in print finishing equipment. The merged business will continue as before and will complement each other to offer customers an even broader range of cutting solutions.

Valiani, with its headquarters in Certaldo, Florence, Italy, is a developer and manufacturer of small to medium sized, highly reliable flatbed cutters with a worldwide distribution network. Moreover, Valiani has an extensive history in the picture framing industry and is a pioneer in converting this market to digital solutions: designing and cutting matboard and offering passepartout tools for bevel cuts. Their innovative approach has ensured the company to grow into other markets as well. The recent Omnia auto feed die cutting machine is a unique automated solution for the corrugated and folding carton market, whereas the brand new Integra offers an appealing finishing product for the sign and display market.

Nico Valiani, CEO and son of Franco, founder of the company, is enthusiastic, 'In the recent years we have renewed our complete portfolio with a wider range of solutions. Now, this is starting to pay off with a significant growth. However, I know there is still a lot more potential. Therefore, my family and I are convinced that being part of the Summa group will accelerate our growth and give our customers much more possibilities. We are staying true to our values: being customer focused and offering high-quality solutions.'

'Since the negotiations started, my appreciation for the Valiani company and its products has grown more and more', said Geert Pierloot, Managing Director at Summa. 'The organisation with lean manufacturing production lines in the Certaldo, ISO certified, plant is a true example for the industry. I look forward to working together with Valiani and his team. In this merger, I see an absolute win-win as it combines the strengths of both companies. While we can help accelerating Valiani's growth, our portfolio can be expanded with Valiani's solutions and more markets can be served.'

'Our product ranges are extremely complementary', added Christof Van Driessche, Chief Commercial officer at Summa. 'Although the most popular and attractively priced Summa F1612 flatbed table has a small and unique footprint, there are still a lot of customers looking at smaller and more affordable, but reliable solutions. Therefore, the merger is an exciting step and meets Summa's ambition to increase its presence in other markets and strengthen our position into the packaging market.'



Both companies will continue to operate under their current company names and with the actual management teams in place.

www.summa.com

Agfa Customer Expands Business With LED Hybrid Solution

Denis Rau, Die Keure.

The wide format hybrid Anapurna LED series is a perfect fit for sign shops, digital printers, photo labs and mid-size graphic screen printers that want to combine board and roll-to-roll print jobs. Belgium based company Die Keure recently invested in an Anapurna H2500i LED hybrid printer.

Die Keure has been around since 1942 and is active in offset, digital, screen printing and finishing. They operate Agfa's Avalon N8-90 platesetter with the Arkana smart processor and Energy Elite Eco printing plates, all powered by Agfa's Apogee workflow.

Initially specialising in government printing, the company has gradually evolved into a print publishing house with an emphasis on educational, legal and business economics publications. In addition, Die Keure also enjoys worldwide recognition for producing high-quality art publications for renowned art galleries and museums, as well as top-quality magazines and other printed matter.

What is less known, however, is that Die Keure also has an extensive large format printing department, where they carry out the most diverse assignments in both screen and digital printing. Denis Rau, large format manager, added, 'Years ago, a loyal customer asked if we could also print stickers for them, and we purchased a screen printing installation. If you have such a machine, you can also do other things with it, such as improving book covers, and that's how the ball started rolling. Today we have a production hall of 2500sqm and we have further evolved from one screen printing device to digital printing, as well as finishing with a Zünd cutting solution. We recently purchased a fully automatic screen printing press, because screen printing is still the best solution for some applications.'

However, Die Keure soon realised that there were also opportunities for digital printing in addition to screen printing. Rau explained. 'When the same customer then asked whether we could also make POS and other promotional material, the step to digital was easily made. We acquired the first Anapurna about 15 years ago. In the meantime, we are on our fourth machine with the new Anapurna H2500i LED, so that says something about the confidence we have in both Agfa and the equipment. It is again a hybrid solution, with

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

which we can print on rigid substrates as well as roll media. We are on our fourth Anapurna, which shows our confidence in Agfa and the printers.'

The Anapurna is mainly used for small runs of self-adhesives and other promotional material. Rau said, 'Special items are no problem for us. For example, we helped plate manufacturer Unilin in the promotion of a new type of MDF board, whereby we printed, milled and sent personalised samples to all architects in Belgium. We mainly rely on quality, fast service and word of mouth, because we don't have a sales team, but our large format department still runs in two shifts.'

To conclude, Rau said the following about the Anapurna and Agfa, 'The Anapurna printers are robust production machines that do what they are supposed to do. But as with all equipment, sometimes things go wrong and it is good to know that you can count on Agfa's top service. They have a team of good technicians, and if there happens to be a problem, it gets solved very quickly. For us, that is worth gold.'

www.agfa.com

Roland DG Printer Used For Ceiling Painting Reproduction



Roland DG's LEC2 series of wide format printers/cutters offer unmatched production capabilities, including creating unique special 3D effects using UV ink and contour cutting printed images on demand.

Roland DG Corporation has cooperated on a high-resolution digital reproduction of Katsushika Hokusai's Phoenix Glaring in All Directions ceiling painting, which will be shown in the 'Digital x Hokusai' special exhibition organised by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone East Corporation (NTT East) and planned and managed by NTT ArtTechnology Corporation.

The artwork is currently featured in the main hall of Gansho-in Temple in Obuse, Nagano Prefecture.

Ukiyo-e master Hokusai, who passed away at the age of 90, painted this work in his final years, and it is said to be the largest painting of its kind (5.5m in depth x 6.3m in width). The high-resolution digital reproduction was exhibited as the centerpiece of the 'Digital x Hokusai' interactive art exhibition to be held from June 2, 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.

The digitalisation of this painting and the production of a high-resolution digital reproduction were conducted as a part of the 'Distributed Digital Museum' promoted by NTT East and NTT ArtTechnology. The ceiling painting was digitalized by Ars Techne Corporation., a partner of NTT ArtTechnology, using its patented technology DTIP, a high-definition three-dimensional texture image processing technology. Ars Techne estimated and restored incomplete painting areas and performed multilayer processing for each texture. Based on this high-precision data, which amounted to approximately 30 billion pixels, Roland DG output the image in its original size by using a UV inkjet printer.

Kohei Tanabe, President, Representative Director of Roland DG said, 'Our LEC2-640 UV inkjet printer was used to print the reproduction of the original painting. This project required not only a wide colour gamut and accurate colour reproduction, but also the need to faithfully reproduce the texture of the paint and the brushwork done by hand, the brilliance of the gold leaf, and the reflections of the oil and smoke ink, which is a unique highlight of this work. The expressive power of our UV inkjet printer, which is capable of printing special effects, was indispensable in this process.'

Manabu Kunieda, President and CEO of NTT ArtTechnology said, 'We are very pleased with the results of the high-definition digital reproduction. We were able to reproduce the vivid colors and elaborate techniques used in the Phoenix Glaring in All Directions, and especially the way the ceiling painting shines under certain conditions that were discovered during the digitalisation process. By utilising digital technology, we can now view artwork that previously could only be seen on site, in an environment that is accessible to all, regardless of space, distance, or time. This will not only protect valuable cultural assets, but also open up new possibilities for the enjoyment of culture and the arts and will lead to an interaction among people and regional revitalisation.'

www.rolanddg.co.za

Kongsberg Signs Deals To Install Digital Finishing Tables

MJ Global has signed a deal with Kongsberg Precision Cutting Systems (PCS) to install the modular Kongsberg X22 at its Noida facility.

'MJ Global specialises in offering folding carton, corrugated, and rigid box solutions to the market, which means we need a versatile and accurate machine that can finish various substrates,' said Ramit Bhatnagar, Chief Operating Officer of MJ Global. 'Increasing demands for samples by the brand owners and ever shortening turnaround times are factors that affect our daily business, and that's why we were looking for a solution like this Kongsberg table.'

'With the X22, we'll be able to produce samples instantly, securing faster approval from our customers and improving efficiency and productivity. While the machine can be used to fulfil the short run demands of certain strategic customers, the table is so versatile that it can also finish a wide range of substrates, giving us the opportunity to expand our portfolio into other segments and helping us diversify.'

Rafiq Shaikh, Kongsberg PCS Sales Leader said, 'We're delighted to have completed another deal with MJ Global at Printpack (India). With seamless integration with CAD, the X22 will deliver more creative freedom as the company continues to lead the way in producing innovative packaging designs.'

Shaikh said the Kongsberg X22 acquired by MJ Global offers speed, power and flexibility to handle a wide variety of materials and can easily be upgraded as a business grows. 'The deal includes the Kongsberg PowerHead tool,' said Shaikh. 'This tool excels on heavy duty material such as honeycomb boards, triple wall and recycled board, and was specifically tailored to meet the customer's needs.'



Rafiq Shaikh, Kongsberg PCS; Rajiv Bhatnagar, MJ Global with sons Rohan and Ramit Bhatnagar and Prakash Boppa, Kongsberg PCS.

The Printpack event also saw Kongsberg PCS ink a deal for the X20 with award-winning print and packaging solutions provider Pragati Offset, based in Hyderabad. 'Pragati is a one-stop shop that delivers quality print jobs from structural design to production and distribution,' said Shaikh. 'Having

the entire operation in-house ensures tight control over quality and faster turnaround. The Kongsberg X20 helps improve productivity, efficiency and customer satisfaction for rigid and folding carton converters. The power, performance and versatility of this digital cutting table means the team at Pragati can tackle any job and bring designs to life.'

www.gsw.co.za

Fujifilm Wide Format Printers Win Design Award

Acuity Prime and Acuity Ultra R2 wide format printers have now achieved the product design award trifecta, with the iF Design awards the latest to recognise them.

The iF Design Award is one of the world's most prestigious design awards, signifying good design for consumers and the design community since 1953.

An independent jury of international design experts meets to determine award-winning designs, based on a set of objective screening standards. This year's award winners were celebrated in May at the iF Design Award Night 2022 at Friedrichstadt-Palast in Berlin.

Fujifilm's Kevin Jenner commented, 'With FESPA nearly upon us, we're delighted these machines have received yet another design endorsement. The enthusiasm of the jury panels at all three awards is matched by the early feedback we're getting from our customers. Good design is not just how something looks, it's about how well it works and how easy it is to use. We've worked extremely hard on the design for these products and on all measures this range is proving that we've got it right.'

www.fujifilmgraphicsystems.co.za

Drytac Media Used To Produce POS And Window Graphics In World-Four Footwear Project



Leeds-based Imageco linked up with footwear brand Dr. Martens to create a range of indoor and outdoor graphics for its new test and learn concept store in London. Imageco used Drytac SpotOn SynTac and ViziPrint Deco + to produce a range of striking Point of Sale (POS) and window graphics for the store.

All of the graphics were printed using Imageco's HP Latex 800W printer, with its eco-friendly water-based inks. Imageco was introduced to Dr. Martens by Syn Retail, a local design agency and existing client of Imageco that works with a host of global brands across retail and activations. Syn Retail had been working with Dr. Martens for some time, so when the shoe brand was seeking to create a new test and learn store, Syn Retail recommended Imageco to produce the graphics.

Imageco, which holds the key ISO 14001 environmental standard, leapt at the chance to work with Dr. Martens on the sustainable brief. Armed with its deep knowledge of eco-friendly print solutions, Imageco identified two Drytac products as the best solutions for the project.

SpotOn SynTac, a PVC-free polypropylene wall graphic media, was used to produce exterior graphics for the front of the store to cover up work during its refurbishment. As SpotOn SynTac does not require any lamination and is easy to both apply and remove after use, it was ideal for the short-term graphics.

Imageco also selected ViziPrint Deco +, a high-quality clear window film, for the production of interior graphics for the store windows. ViziPrint Deco + delivered a high-quality print and allowed natural light to pass through into the store, while the product also met the strict sustainable criteria for the job.

On the usability of the Drytac solutions, Imageco Managing Director Nathan Swinson-Bullough said, 'We have been working with Drytac products for some time now. Following the success of this project – and in particular the quality of the final prints and how easy we found the media to work with – this amount of use is about to be elevated.'

Imageco deployed its HP Latex 800W printer, supplied by Perfect Colours, to produce all the graphics for the project. This, Swinson-Bullough said, allowed the company to deliver an even more sustainable service to Dr. Martens. Imageco was one of the first UK customers to install the HP Latex 800W printer, back in January 2021. The printer offers a suite of features, including the whitest white ink that does not yellow over time, enabling print businesses to produce neater outlines and add more contrast.

www.midcomp.co.za

Durst Presented Large Format Printing Systems And Software Solutions In Berlin

With the new introduction of the Durst P5 500, Durst is once again setting the benchmark in the

top class of digital large format printing.

Durst is also boosting the productivity of the existing P5 UV-LED series to a new performance level with the new Double 4 technology. In addition, new Vanguard LFP printing systems celebrated their European premiere at FESPA.

Durst is further expanding its P5 platform and opening up the superwide format with a printing width of 5.25m. The P5 500 LED printing system uses powerful Ricoh print heads and the overall system is designed for efficient and unattended production. In addition to CMYK, another four colour channels are available – for example for light colours (c, m, k), white or varnish. Media handling plays a key role in ensuring productivity even in this dimension. For this purpose, Durst offers roll support for loading and changing media. The rolls can be processed in single, dual and triple mode, in dual mode even asymmetrically. Double-sided printing is achieved via exact front and back registration. Durst offers additional options for finishing, these include knives for horizontal and vertical cutting.

'With the Durst P5 500, Durst once again demonstrates its full focus on the reliability of its own printing systems for unattended production processes. With the integration of Durst Workflow Software and the introduction of new functionalities, we are also achieving a significant increase in efficiency,' said Andrea Riccardi, Head of Product Management, Durst Group. 'The field test is extremely successful, so we will deliver the first printing systems in the last quarter of 2022.'

With Durst P5 Double 4, Durst presents an interesting further development for new and existing customers. A second CMYK print head row is optionally installed in the P5 UV printing systems, enabling double the productivity to be achieved. The option is available on the P5 350/HS and P5 210/HS.

Vanguard, with its printing systems for signage, decoration, business equipment, industry and packaging, has been part of the Durst Group since 2020. The European branch at the Brixen site, in a building adjacent to the Durst headquarters with over 5000sqm of factory space, will leverage technical and administrative synergies between the two companies. The physical proximity offers customers the advantage that all current printing systems from the Durst Group's overall portfolio can be viewed and tested. Two flatbed printers from Vanguard's product range were on show at FESPA 2022. The VR6D-HS and VK300D-HS cover

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

the mid-range performance spectrum. They feature an attractive price/performance ratio and can cover a wide range of applications thanks to their modular design and various ink configurations.

With the presentation of the Durst TAU RSC platform, Durst also presented its customers with a possible portfolio expansion in the direction of label and flexible packaging printing. 'The pandemic has once again shown how important it is to position oneself as broadly as possible as a service provider. The production of labels or flexible packaging offers this potential for our LFP customers,' said Christian Harder, Vice President Sales, Durst Group.

www.durst-group.com

