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Epson To Increase Production Capacity Of Printheads For Inkjet Printers With New Factory



Epson's printing solutions business provides products and services based on original Micro Piezo inkjet technology to customers in the office, home, commercial and industrial markets. Akita Epson Corporation, a group company of Seiko Epson Corporation, will invest a total of approximately 3.5 billion yen on the construction of a new factory on the Akita Epson lot to increase production capacity of printheads for inkjet printers.

Construction work on the new factory will begin in November 2022 and is scheduled for completion in December 2023. This investment will approximately triple Akita Epson's current printhead production capacity.

The new factory will be used to manufacture and assemble inkjet printheads, the core devices used in inkjet printers. The investment plan will ensure that Epson has enough production space to meet the predicted future growth in demand. It will also enable Epson to strengthen its product line-up and expand printhead sales to third parties, with a view to increasing the supply of inkjet printers equipped with cutting-edge PrecisionCore MicroTFP printheads. PrecisionCore MicroTFP printheads are critical components that determine the image quality and speed of an inkjet printer. Equipped with an array of individually controlled nozzles, they are capable of ejecting 50,000 tiny ink droplets per second, with droplet sizes as small as several picolitres, which is one trillionth of a litre.

The plan is to construct the new factory adjacent to the existing factory. By consolidating PrecisionCore MicroTFP printhead production at Akita Epson, the company aims to maximise efficiency. In addition, production equipment and processes will be arranged to further increase human and space productivity.

As a production site with high technological capabilities, Akita Epson works closely with other Epson R&D sites. It shares the advanced production

technology and know-how it gains through the production of core devices with Epson's worldwide production sites to help maximise manufacturing capabilities across the group.

www.epson.com

X-Rite Showcased Colour Management Solutions



EXACT 2 is the first handheld, non-contact measurement device for the print and packaging market to combine imaging technology with zoom, onboard camera, scanning, Wi-Fi and advanced software integrations. With a simplified user interface, print operators can verify customer requirements two times faster and with more confidence that the correct spot is measured. The eXact 2 won the Pinnacle InterTech Award which recognises best-in-class products for the printing industry.

ColorCert ScoreCard Server has been redesigned using a new modern architecture and provides printers with an overall view of print quality and colour performance in a single number score to confirm compliance with brand specifications, including spot colour matching and CMYK production to both G7 and PSO target values.

X-Rite Link is an intuitive cloud-based dashboard that allows printers and converters to verify the status of one or a fleet of eXact 2 devices, configure and distribute updates and libraries, and more.

IntelliTrax2 Pro is an integrated automated scanning solution for mid- to large-sized commercial printers that provides instant feedback on job performance with direct integration to the ColorCert Suite. It is a G7® Press Control System Certified by Idealliance® and supports PSO and ISO print specification to help printers ensure each job is produced according to the customer's requirements.

I1Pro 3 Plus colour profiling device reduces colour measurement variability allowing printers to create ICC profiles for almost any substrate including paper, film, textiles, vinyl and other materials

and calibrate print production devices for the highest level of colour accuracy. It can be paired with the i110 chart reading system for automated transmission profiling used in backlit signage applications.

X-Rite Incorporated and Pantone LLC showcased the future of colour measurement technology and digital colour workflows at PRINTING United Expo 2022.

www.digitalview.co.za

Neschen Showcased Sustainable Innovations



Neschen Inc., a US subsidiary of Neschen Coating GmbH, exhibited new sustainable innovations in the field of printing media at the Printing United trade show in Las Vegas.

Inspired by nature and its raw materials, which go into the manufacture of sustainable Neschen products, the trade fair team welcomed its visitors to a green world. The walls of the booth were designed exclusively with PVC-free different Neschen printing media. At Printing United, Neschen Inc. placed the presentation focus on laminators in addition to new ecological print media.

As a manufacturer of high-quality professional laminators, Neschen has an experienced partner in Smooth Finish, which is responsible for the technical support and distribution of this business unit for the US market. At Printing United, Smooth Finish, LLC presented itself together with the Neschen Inc. team.

Neschen used the trade show to introduce new, more sustainable print media. There is growth in the easy dot® product family: With the new easy dot® PET matt L-UV, Neschen offers its customers a polyester film with higher stiffness that enables significant material savings compared to PVC films while maintaining the same feeling. With easy dot® PET transparent L-UV, Neschen offers

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an ultra-transparent solution for 'green' glass surface design. Thanks to the water-based easy dot® adhesive and the PVC-free substrate, the easy dot® film is also a sustainable product in other respects. In processing, it also exhibits virtually no shrinkage, has a particularly homogeneous surface and delivers photo-realistic printing results with UV and latex inks.

www.allrich-sa.co.za

NUtec Distributor Showcased Inks



Kover CEO, Gabriel Conti, said that during a three-day showcase, the Kover team ran printing demonstrations throughout, with a focus on ink solutions for Mimaki printers. These include NUtec Digital Ink's Amethyst A50-RIG-MI rigid UV-curable ink for the JFX200 EX, the Amethyst A20-RTR-MI roll-to-roll UV-curable ink for the UCJV300, and the Emerald ERP and Diamond eco-solvent ink ranges for the CJV150 model.

Kover, a large format printing specialist and Miami-based distributor for NUtec Digital Ink in the Americas, promoted its products for Mimaki printers at the Printing United Expo, held from 19-21 October 2022.

'We have noted exponential growth in the demand for UV inks in the last year and can confidently offer solutions from NUtec Digital Ink for printing on just about any substrate imaginable,' Conti said. 'Also, as consumers demand greener alternatives to traditional chemistries, we can recommend NUtec's Diamond range of low smell, eco-solvent inks as well as the ERP ink range which contains no hazardous air pollutants.'

www.nutecdigital.com

Agfa Printing Solutions Win Awards

The Pinnacle Product Awards recognise products that improve or advance the printing industry with

exceptional contributions in quality, capability and productivity. Five of Agfa's inkjet printing solutions have won a Pinnacle Product award from PRINTING United Alliance.

'The fact that we outperformed competitors in every major print category that we play in, is a testament to our dedication to deliver innovative technology with superior performance and reliability to print service providers. We are extremely honoured to receive this recognition', said Vincent Wille, President of Digital Print and Chemicals at Agfa.

The following Agfa products won top honours:

Avinci CX3200 – RTR dye-sublimation on textile category

This new 3.2m wide textile printer produces vibrant high-quality prints on a wide range of polyester-based fabrics for indoor or outdoor soft signage, interior decoration, and fashion items. Its capability to print both directly to fabric and to transfer paper results in a wide applications scope. The new Avinci 110 sublimation inks offer deep blacks and brilliant reds that people are looking for in a dye-sublimation printer.

Jeti Tauro H3300 UHS LED – UV hybrid/flatbed high-volume production category

Agfa's Ultra High Speed 'beast' is a heavy-duty, ruggedly built hybrid 330.2cm (130") printer geared to extreme workloads and 24/7 printing of outstanding quality with the lowest ink consumption. For the highest efficiency and convenience, it features multiple automation options, including automatic loading and unloading.

Jeti Tauro H3300 UHS LED with MRTR and backlit camera – category automation equipment



The master roll-to-roll configuration of Agfa's fastest Tauro printer features automated double-sided roll printing – even in a dual-roll setup. The integrated camera system reads QR codes, generated by the user interface of the printer, to identify the exact location of the image and adjust the print position at the start of every job, ensuring front-to-back accuracy of +/-3mm over 91.44m (300 feet), at speeds up to 900sqm (9688 square feet/h).

Jeti Tauro H3300 HS LED varnish – UV /latex hybrid category

With the introduction of varnish printing (either spot or flood) at up to 74.9sqm (807 square feet/h), the latest member of Agfa's heavy-duty hybrid inkjet printer family gives corrugated cardboard displays and paper a high-gloss finish as well as a protective layer.

Jeti Tauro H2500 LED + Light Black – UV/latex Hybrid category

The 254cm (100") version of the hybrid Jeti Tauro printer family features six colours. Next to the standard CMYKcm setup with light cyan and magenta, users can now also opt for a CMYKc configuration with light black ink instead of magenta. Light black ink provides image smoothness and a superior tonal range with stable neutrals – a must for high-end brands looking to show off their products in the best possible way – yet also allows for maximum grey component replacement, which decreases ink consumption up to 15% without compromising on image quality.

www.agfa.com

HEXIS Self-Adhesive Film Used In Flight Project



Jean-Baptiste Loiselet wanted to go on a 100% autonomous tour of France in a glider. He thus launched the 'Wings for the Planet' project. He imagined a glider fitted with solar panels on its wings. Ideally, these panels would provide him with energy to take off autonomously every day.

After months of testing the solar panels, it was time to think about their preservation. Lightness, thinness and high UV protection were the constraints that had to be met by the selected protection for the panels. Protecting the wings of the glider holding the solar panels was imperative for the sustainability of the journey.

Renowned for the quality of its self-adhesive films, HEXIS was able to provide Jean-Baptiste with the best solution: a clear protective film was chosen for the wings of the glider. The clear self-adhesive film selected guarantees the longevity of the solar panels, all without altering their primary purpose: to capture solar energy. The technical properties of the self-adhesive protection film give it an unrivalled performance. This is the guarantee for an optimal result. In addition to not weighing down the glider, the clear self-adhesive film is very easy to clean.

To put the self-adhesive film to the test, there is nothing better than testing it in real conditions! Loiselet was able to do his tour of France in August 2022 and test the robustness of the self-adhesive film from HEXIS.

‘The film has completely fulfilled its function, it has not been altered very much, despite the rough treatment I have given it,’ said Loiselet, after his Tour de France (17 stages, 2500 km airborne).

www.falconsa.com

Specialist Gym Mat Manufacturer Purchases Zünd Cutter



Athletic equipment manufacturer, Eveque, has invested in a Zünd G3 XL-3200. The company started to look at new ways to process the 50mm foam that is used to manufacture their indoor mats. Traditionally, the company used CNC machines, but the process was becoming very slow, and the CNC machines were taking up large areas of valuable floorspace in the factory.

Eveque decided to visit St Albans to see if digital cutting would help them process foam quicker. Reflecting on a successful demonstration, Tom Bunner, Managing Director at Eveque, said, ‘We looked at Zünd and two other brands, but the Zünd was the only solution that was incredibly versatile and met our needs.’

‘The product demonstrator put on a very impressive demonstration and seemed to be the

most knowledgeable out of all the people we had spoken to. He showed us that, not only could we process foam, but thanks to the interchangeable tools on the Zünd, we could also process the PVC material used to make the indoor mats and the textile material used to make carpet mats. This was ideal for us because the Zünd cutter could make a lot of the other machinery in our factory redundant and save us much needed floor space. Following on from the demonstration, we decided to purchase the G3 XL-3200 to replace our CNC machine. We felt that the Zünd was by far the best machine on the market and the sales process was excellent.’

Reflecting on his purchase, Bunner said, ‘We are really pleased with our new Zünd Cutter. The standout features for us are the Pneumatic Oscillating Tool for cutting carpet, the Driven Rotary Tool for cutting printed PVC, the nesting software which has enabled us to cut back waste and the space saving offered by the small footprint. Our productivity has increased by 300–500% depending on the product. We have also invested in a roll material carousel which stores up to 28 different type of roll materials and colours. This saves us time in moving and loading roll materials for different jobs.’

www.midcomp.co.za

Corel Rebrands As Alludo



Corel announced that it is undergoing a full rebrand, including a new name: Alludo. Alludo provides software tools that liberate knowledge workers from the 9-5 grind, enabling them to create, ideate, and share any time, anywhere, on any device.

Alludo had more than 2.5 million paying customer relationships in more than 130 countries across diverse industries this past year. Leveraging a 35+ year history, Alludo is behind award-winning, globally recognisable brands including Parallels, CorelDRAW, MindManager, and WinZip. This rebranding is part of Alludo’s commitment to reimagining the future of work — not just where people work, but also how, when, and even why they work.

‘This is a watershed moment for us,’ said Christa Quarles, Chief Executive Officer, Alludo. ‘We’re reimagining the way the world works by not just writing a new chapter, but a whole new playbook. This new playbook reimagines what work feels like, for our customers and ourselves. We believe in working better and living better, and we want our solutions to deliver just that, boldly and intentionally. That’s why we’ve decided it’s time for a new brand. We’re delighted to share this news with you today, by welcoming you to Alludo.’

It’s impossible to overstate how much the world has changed since Corel was founded in 1985 —and

Corel, too, has evolved beyond its original brand with the acquisition of several software brands. The name Alludo (pronounced ‘ah-LOO-dough’) represents a cohesive identity and is a nod to the company’s purpose: to empower ‘all you do.’ That’s because Alludo’s software products have a broad impact that gives knowledge workers freedom and flexibility to work, dream, and live in the best way for them. With this purpose in mind, the company will continue to focus on growth, organically and through mergers and acquisitions.

Alludo is reimagining the world of work and innovating to make every day easier so its customers, and its employees, have the freedom to devote more time to what matters most. In line with its new vision for what the new world of work needs, it recently gave its employees the freedom to choose where they wanted to work from, and 95% opted for working remotely.

www.alludo.com

swissQprint Celebrates 15th Anniversary



Kilian Hintermann, CEO, with swissQprint founders Roland Fetting, Hansjörg Untersander and Reto Eicher.

What began as a six-man operation has since blossomed into an internationally active company with 200 employees. It was on 17 September 2007 that Reto Eicher, Roland Fetting and Hansjörg Untersander had the swissQprint company entered in the commercial register.

With a crew of six, the company was under way. Already on board was the present CEO, Kilian Hintermann. The following year, notwithstanding the financial crisis, then in full swing, the team launched the first swissQprint flatbed printer.

SwissQprint has since grown to employ around 200 people. 130 of them, the founders included, work at headquarters in Kriessern, Switzerland. Just under 70 employees do duty at subsidiaries in Germany, Spain, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the USA and Japan. The company continued its growth through the pandemic years and pressed ahead with development projects.

The latest product is Kudu, a high-end printer launched in May this year. The current product range comprises eight models: six flatbed and two

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roll to roll printers. More than 1600 swissQprint machines are in operation worldwide. Sales and service are handled by six subsidiaries in concert with over 30 distribution partners around the globe. Development and production of the machines stays seated in Switzerland.

www.sign-tronic.co.za

Roland DG Corporation Announces Relocation And Zero-Energy Construction



ZEB certification defines four levels of certification based on the level of achievement of a zero-energy construction. Zero-energy construction aims to reduce the annual primary energy consumption balance required for air conditioning, lighting, etc. to zero by combining energy-saving and energy-creating technologies. Roland DG Corporation has announced that it will relocate and consolidate its headquarters to Miyakoda.

The new building will be 'Nearly ZEB' certified, achieving a primary energy consumption reduction of 75%+ through energy conservation (50%+) and energy creation. Roland DG Corporation consolidated its mass production functions to the Thailand plant as of December 2021 to improve production efficiency, and the Miyakoda Plant is now used as a pilot line. To further improve efficiency, the company has decided to relocate the headquarter to integrate the factory and headquarter functions that are currently located at two separate venues in the Miyakoda area in Kita-ku, Hamamatsu. Furthermore, it will newly construct a 'Nearly ZEB' certified building in July 2023 as our headquarter, which will reduce energy consumption by 75%.

The new building will provide a space that creates new value by organically combining R&D, administration, and sales functions together in a single office area. All floors will have public areas, interaction areas, and creative areas designed to enable employees to freely change their work

environment, generate ideas, and communicate with each other.

Shizuoka Prefecture sets a seismic zone standard that is stricter than the national standard, and the new building to be constructed will be 1.5 times safer than the national standard. The new building will also be equipped with a solar power generation system on the rooftop, automatic lighting control and inverter airflow control for exhaust fans, and a top-class efficiency air conditioning system, all of which are consistent with global efforts to achieve carbon neutrality. The building will provide a comfortable workplace that accommodates a variety of work styles, including a deck terrace taking advantage of its location in front of Miyakoda-sogo Park, cafeteria lounge, training room and showers.

At a time when the role of an office building is rapidly changing due to the pandemic, the design takes into account a hybrid working style between office and telecommuting, considering the 'way of working' in the future. The company aim to create an environment that facilitates communication and promotes team building in order to realise its slogan to 'Inspire the Enjoyment of Creativity' and spark excitement.

www.rolanddg.co.za