

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## swissQprint Showcasing Large Format Printer



Kudu is the first swissQprint UV large format printer with ten colour channels. This gives users the greatest possible freedom in terms of ink configuration and applications.

Kudu produces up to 300sqm/h, and with striking print quality, thanks to the latest print head technology and precise droplet placement. With the roll to roll option, just a few simple steps turn the 3.2m wide by 2m deep (127.5 x 79.9 inches) flatbed printer into a roll-to-roll printer, further extending its versatility.

The high-end flatbed printer is set to make its North American debut at Printing United in October. Also on show will be swissQprint's dedicated roll to roll printer, Karibu. This model packs unique features aimed at efficient, top-quality roll to roll printing.

[www.sign-tronic.co.za](http://www.sign-tronic.co.za)

## Metamark Vinyl Proves Efficient In Vehicle Project



Metamark 7 Series High Performance Calendered Sign Vinyl was used in a vehicle project.

Smuj Creative turns often to the Metamark M7 Coloured SignVinyl swatch for inspiration and to Metamark to supply the needed material. 'There's something about coloured materials that printed digital media can't quite reproduce yet. Some colour or quality that's baked into coloured material give it a presence and super-saturation ink can't manage,' said Sophie Jefferies, Smuj Creative.

One of Smuj Creative's customers got to experience the difference first hand recently. The customer came back to Smuj having had a previously liveried vehicle from the Smuj team meet with an accident. Deciding to give the new van the Smuj treatment, the client decided to push the boat out again, just a little further.

Most of the work that Smuj undertakes involves a customised design and so it was with Yew Tree's new vehicle. It benefits from panel inlays, cut and applied lettering and swathes of geometric colour. It's quite a piece of work and it took some planning.

If the design could be said to be crisp, application of the Metamark M7 elements is a stage beyond that. It's beautifully applied, and there's not a squeegee mark in evidence anywhere and the panel work is a perfect fit too. The panels were cut on the vehicle by the Smuj team using Knifeless Tape from Metamark, and no blades went anywhere near paint.

Nobody likes to lose a van in a bump but the new vehicle wearing its stunning Smuj Creative graphics goes some way toward compensating. The vehicle has presence and just radiates professionalism and quality.

[www.sytech.co.za](http://www.sytech.co.za)

## Drytac Film Used For Graphics In Popular TV Series Event



Global Printing Enterprises opted for Drytac ReTac Smooth 150 as the material for all of the event graphics in a recent project. The media not only delivered print quality, but also helped the team to overcome a particularly tricky challenge when it came to installing the graphics.

Ontario-based large format printing company Global Printing Enterprises recently used the film to produce a series of colourful graphics for the Toronto edition of the 'FRIENDS™ Experience' event, an interactive celebration of the iconic TV show.

To help promote the event, Superfly X reached out to Global Printing Enterprises to print a range

of graphics and hoardings at Yorkdale Mall. These were installed at the centre square of Yorkdale Shopping Centre to draw the attention of passers-by.

The eye-catching entrance graphics replicated the famous picture frame installed around the door fisheye in one of the apartments on the show. Other graphics installed outside of the event venue included wayfinding signage, large QR codes that fans could scan to book tickets instantly, as well as famous quotes and phrases from the show.

In total, the graphics covered an area of more than 1394 square metres (15,000 square feet), but took the team at Global Printing Enterprises, working in partnership with installation specialist Install Nation, just five days to print and install.

'The base wall had been painted over vinyl graphics, creating a difficult surface to adhere any type of graphics film to,' Global Printing Enterprises President Carlo Toscano said. 'In consultation with Dennis LeBlanc from Drytac, we decided to use an old school multi-layer installation technique. When you look at the wall in its entirety, it looks as if we printed the background and graphics at the same time, when in reality, the back black and purple were applied first. Then came the challenge. Using laser levels, the team at Install Nation installed with precision all the components on top of the already installed panels. It's a longer process, but when done properly and with highly skilled installers it makes for a clean and symmetrical image.'

[www.midcomp.co.za](http://www.midcomp.co.za)

## Esko Acquires AI Software Company



AI software company Tilia Labs' range of intelligent algorithms for sheet layout, estimation, and planning complement Esko's existing software suite and the two companies will work together to develop next generation integrated solutions.

Esko, parent company of Enfocus, has acquired Tilia Labs in a deal that delivers on the need of brand owners and converters to connect and integrate the

entire value chain through upstream digitalisation.

‘Converters are coming under increasing pressure to deliver more volume with shorter print runs to bring versatility to the market, while the adoption of digital printing continues to grow,’ said Mattias Byström, Vice President and Group Executive Product Identification, Danaher Corporation.

‘This acquisition demonstrates our ongoing commitment to providing integrated software and hardware solutions that accelerate the go-to-market process for consumer-packaged goods.’ Byström explained that the combined solutions within its software platform enable Esko to better serve its customers in the packaging, label, and wide format markets.

Sagen de Jonge, CEO and co-founder of Tilia Labs, commented, ‘We have long shared a common goal with Esko of empowering businesses to improve ways of working, eradicate waste and optimise operational processes to meet the challenges they face today and tomorrow. We are therefore thrilled that our technology for sheet and roll optimisation, automation, planning and estimation has been identified as a perfect fit with the market-leading Esko suite of solutions.’

Byström concluded, ‘This acquisition also underlines our commitment to delivering the tools that serve to connect brands and converters upstream. For all our customers continuing their digital transformation journey, the integration of these next generation tools means businesses will be able to digitize, automate and connect more efficiently to drive significant workflow and operational advantages, as well as sustainability benefits.’

This acquisition will further improve the existing partnership between Tilia Labs and Enfocus. It enables the businesses to take steps further and beyond creating an even more seamless integration between Enfocus and Tilia Labs products. There are currently no changes in business processes between Enfocus and Tilia Labs.

[www.esko.com](http://www.esko.com)

## Zünd Cutter Enables New Capabilities At Business

It was founded in 2001 by friends Dru Cook and Christopher Neighbour. Alin Afloarei, Development Manager at Ultimat said, ‘We manufacture and supply to many sectors including cruise ships, hotels and retail. Our business USP is that we



manufacture and assemble everything in-house. This in return gives us full control of our lead times and ability to meet customer expectations.’

Afloarei said, ‘Since the announcement from Zünd UK that the support on PN Series equipment will be limited due to parts becoming obsolete, we decided to look at what the new generation of Zünd cutters can offer. The Zünd plays a pivotal part in our business, so we needed to reduce any uncertainty and ensure we had a fully working cutter at all times.’

Cook and Afloarei visited the Zünd UK state-of-the-art showroom in St. Albans for a product demonstration and took materials for test cuts with them. Afloarei explained, ‘We have a lot of machinery at Ultimat and the customer service from Zünd is by far the greatest. So, it was a no brainer to keep loyal to the brand for our next purchase.’ During the demonstration, Cook and Afloarei were blown away by the cutting speed and the advanced features of the latest Zünd cutters.

Afloarei said, ‘We are very pleased with our new S3 M-1600 cutter and the new capabilities it has given us. Our old PN M-1600 cutter was a static system but for our new cutter we opted for the conveyerised system with full back and front extension and added the Over Cutter Camera (OCC). Now, thanks to the versatility of the new Zünd Cutter, not only can we produce picture mounts, but we also cut print jobs thanks to the OCC. In the past we used to spend hours or even days cutting print jobs by hand, now with the S3 M-1600 cutter, this can be done within minutes.

Our productivity has also increased by at least 50%. For example, the cutter is always working thanks to the extension tables for loading and unloading. Our previous cutter was static, so we had to pause the cutter every time we loaded and unloaded. Now, we can do this simultaneously whilst the cutter in processing picture mounts or print jobs.’

[www.midcomp.co.za](http://www.midcomp.co.za)

## Kornit Digital Showcasing Fashion And Textile Solutions



with never-before-seen XDi technology emulating screen transfer, heat transfer vinyl, 3D, and threadless embroidery effects in one cost-effective, automated production system.

Kornit Atlas MAX Poly is the new standard for high-volume polyester decoration on-demand, with superior quality for polyester and poly-blended apparel – one of the fastest-growing textile verticals. It is set to transform the multi-billion-dollar recreational and professional sports apparel markets, currently suffering from limitations with mass customisation of polyester. The offering ensures quality and durability with the highest throughput all while setting benchmarks for creativity and productivity. Removing the barriers of digital printing on coloured polyester, the market can capitalise on a range of colourful designs to inject new life into apparel.

Kornit Presto MAX is a capable and sustainable single-step digital solution for high-quality, direct-to-fabric decoration. It transforms concepts into brilliant custom fabrics for fashion, home décor and other textile applications, while delivering the highest quality and softest feel with brilliant whites and brighter neon colours. The system incorporates the revolutionary XDi technology 3D decorative applications to produce threadless embroidery, high-density, vinyl, screen transfer and other innovative effects.

KornitX workflow solutions seamlessly integrate across all Kornit MAX technology-based systems for end-to-end production efficiency, visibility and control. These solutions help brands, licensors and fulfillers shift towards on-demand fashion by supplying the connectivity tools to generate more revenue, adopt innovative business models and digitally transform supply chains.

Kornit is showcasing these solutions at Printing Expo Online 2022. ‘The market is increasingly requesting new opportunities to take part in real-



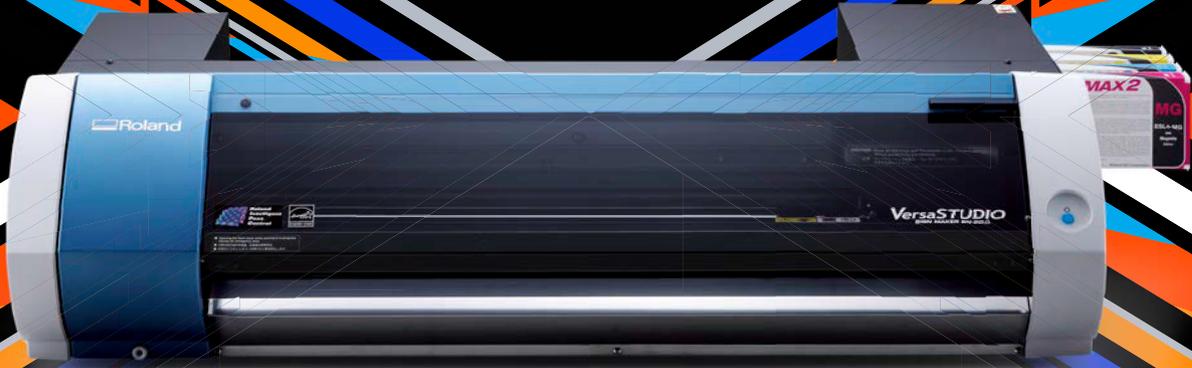
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time experiences, virtually when and where they want it. Our presence at Printing Expo Online is in direct response to customer requests – offering an interactive learning event on-demand,’ said Omer Kulka, Chief Marketing Officer at Kornit Digital.

[www.rexxscreendigital.co.za](http://www.rexxscreendigital.co.za)

## Kongsberg Precision Cutting Systems’ Customer Invests In Latest Digital Finishing Technology

installation of a new Kongsberg X24 cutting table, complete with automated conveyor and roll-off unit, 3KW router and a selection of innovative tools including the Kongsberg CorruSpeed, for its state-of-the-art in-house finishing department.

‘In the summer of 2021, we were struggling with labour shortages and the knock-on effect this had on the time it was taking to complete some jobs,’ said Jeff Lappan, owner and President of Tecumseh-based Lacasse Printing. ‘Our order book was still growing and increasingly customers were demanding shorter and shorter turnaround times. With this combination of increasing workload and the demand for speed, it made sense for us to look at automating our finishing processes. We needed to do more, faster, and for us the only choice was the Kongsberg system.

‘It was important for us that our investment not only met our key requirements of delivering quality products with increased speed, but was also easy to operate and, crucially, enabled us to enter new markets,’ said Lappan. ‘That’s precisely what we’ve now done with the Kongsberg X. The automation and ease of use has ensured our productivity can now easily keep pace with the customer requirements – even on longer production runs – and by expanding our product range to include packaging we’ve attracted new customers and increased sales.’

Vince Tuccitto, Kongsberg PCS Territory Sales Manager for Eastern Canada, said that with the X24, Lacasse has acquired the most versatile digital finishing device on the market. ‘The cutting table evolves with the needs of the company and offers flexibility for a wide range of applications. Packed with a wide range of specialty tools, the system offers speed, power and flexibility to handle a wide variety of materials. The flexibility to add new tools for new materials, new applications, or more capacity means that a business can add volume and enter new market segments – just as Lappan and the team at Lacasse have done.’

The 3KW router comes with a wide range of specialty tools that offer power, speed and flexibility to handle a wide variety of materials automatically. As part of its investment, Lacasse has also acquired the specialist Braille tool to ensure accuracy of displays designed with additional assistance for the visually impaired, while the CorruSpeed tool delivers the very quality when using corrugated materials.

‘The Kongsberg CorruSpeed is a high impact tool that cuts without oscillating and delivers amazing quality at full machine speed,’ said Tuccitto. ‘The CorruSpeed handles material thickness up to BC flute, everything from corrugated carton, folding carton, and solid board through to foam and even a long list of plastics.’

Following the installation of the new Kongsberg system, Lappan said the business had successfully introduced new packaging offerings and expanded its services to customers, enabling the business to grow.

‘The automation of the process has helped reduce labor costs, making production more profitable, and the amazing capability has given us renewed confidence to accept any size production run and grow our business,’ he said. ‘The Kongsberg X is without doubt the most gratifying purchase I have ever made.’

[www.gsw.co.za](http://www.gsw.co.za)

## University Students Use Zünd Cutter To Produce Architecture Model



Second-year students in spatial practices from Ravensbourne University London produced a white card physical convivial architecture model using their Zünd cutter as part of their BA (Hons) Architecture and BA (Hons) Interior Design Environment Architecture courses.

The students created a white card physical convivial architecture model, a 3D blueprint of the intended design, which is typically used at the final stages of a project as it conforms to very specific requirements.

The team’s architectural investigation was focused on the relationship between the public room (at the scale of the body) and the urban form (the city). The students were told to study the form of interior and exterior rooms, façade articulation, scale and rhythm in works of architecture within the City of London. Nikos Nikiforos, Head of Prototyping

said ‘Our second-year students did some excellent models using our Zünd cutter and white cards. So, we decided to contact Zünd and asked if they wanted to feature this outstanding contribution.’

Dean Ashworth, Sales and Marketing Director at Zünd UK said, ‘We’re absolutely delighted that Ravensbourne University London students get so much practical use out of their Zünd cutter. We hope that their hands-on experiences will equip them well, ahead of venturing into an increasingly automated industrial world.’

Ravensbourne University London said, ‘Experiences such as this one help to prepare our students for the type of work they may be doing following graduation. This follows an educational webinar that Zünd had delivered to our students on 11 June 2020, explaining how digital cutters have developed and are now used across various industries. This piece of work is just one example of creativity and forward-thinking that our students display.’

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## OneVision And Kongsberg Showcasing Automation And Finishing Solutions



Software manufacturer OneVision will showcase the latest innovations of its modular automation solutions across a wide range of print segments. A live showcase highlight will include a smart finishing process together with partner Kongsberg Precision Cutting Systems.

The impact of automation in the printing industry can be transformational and has a massive impact on the all-important bottom line. With challenges such as labour shortages and increasingly high material and logistics costs, workflow automation is becoming more than ever a crucial key to success for print service providers to ensure sustainable business.

As so called middleware, OneVision’s automation software meets the approach of a seamless connection between order entry, file preparation, print and finishing. The basis of the software is an extremely flexible, easy-to-use workflow management system that can be connected easily to any other parts of the system landscape. Through the seamless integration, incoming files pass automatically through classic file preparation steps. According to the specific requirements of the respective print segments (e.g. book, commercial, label, wide format printing) files get then optimally

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prepared for embellishment and finishing. Intelligent tools such as nesting/ganging, tiling and paneling, cut line management, bleed creation, impositioning, and much more ensure a substrate-saving and efficient downstream processing.

Attendees at this year's Printing United Expo 2022 can also look forward to a live showcase besides software demos performed by OneVision workflow experts. In cooperation with Kongsberg Precision Cutting Systems, the benefits of automated digital finishing of various substrates will be demonstrated. A Kongsberg X24 cutting system will be installed in the booth.

[www.gsw.co.za](http://www.gsw.co.za)

## Metamark Vinyl Brightens Vehicle Project



Metamark 7 Series High Performance Calendered sign vinyl was used in a vehicle project. The series is a premium grade polymeric calendered coloured vinyl, featuring a soft handle 70 micron face film, a high grade permanent solvent based adhesive and a performance-tuned lay-flat liner.

Reliable transport backs up reliable deliveries and Sun Trade handles its own with a modern fleet designed to get manufactured products into customers' hands on time, every time. The vehicles wear a very distinctive livery and one of the most recent was delivered by Porthcawl based Harris Printers, a signs and graphics producer which has a long standing business relationship with Sun's parent company.

The van presents an expanse of flat flanks to fill with a field of potent blue and the elements comprising Sun's logo. The logo is a stylised flare emitting from a solar source and reduced to a few simple geometric elements. Like any of the world's best known and remembered logos, it impresses instantly and imprints on the memory. It's legible at any distance and confers a sense of branded class on the assets that wear it.

The team at Harris Printers elected to use cut-and-applied graphics for the job rather than digital

print. Coloured materials still feature significantly in the demand curve for signs and graphics materials and something in the quality of the colour tells why. Being dyed in the mass, it has a depth and saturation that digital print can only attempt to deliver and it's proven in long term applications for extreme environments.

Metamark M7 in Dark Blue, Saffron and Orange were used for the livery whose design was supplied to Harris Printers. The cut and applied result is as crisp as only cut and applied results can be, and some application skills are in evidence too.

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