

SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Graphix Supply World's Latest Collaboration Inspires SA Design Students With Opportunities In Print

Graphix Supply World has announced a collaboration with FEDISA, a leading South African fashion university, which will involve the company working closely with FEDISA students on collaborations and projects that will see the aspiring young designers being exposed to the growing, fast-paced printing industry.

Visitors to the Graphics, Print and Sign expo, which runs from 14-16 September at Gallagher Convention Centre, can see a showcase of the students' design work on Graphix Supply World's stand. The printed artwork will include textile and apparel, design and graphics, as well as industrial products, all under the theme and inspiration of African architecture, fauna and flora. The designs will celebrate the best of African culture, fashion, art and interior.

Graphix Supply World recently visited FEDISA campuses in Cape Town and Johannesburg and met with students to discuss the ever-changing and rapidly evolving world of print. 'We want to be able to give back and invest in the students,' said Rob Franco, MD at Graphix Supply World. 'FEDISA will



be our exclusive student collaboration partner. Our discussion with the students and faculty leaders was incredibly fruitful and we're looking forward to seeing how their passion shines through in this partnership.'

'Graphix Supply World will be using some of the students' design work on the road at events around South Africa and the rest of the world, as well

as in our showrooms in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg. It will be great to see how local culture and distinctly African design can truly stand out – we know what these students are capable of and now we're ready to show them off,' said Franco. 'We're excited to see what FEDISA students will come up with.'

www.gsw.co.za

MIPS Technologies & Partners to display Mutoh XpertJet printer line-up at the Graphics Print & Sign Expo

In the last few years, Mutoh has entirely renewed its sign and display and dye sublimation product line-up. MIPS Technologies and partners will present the XpertJet 1341SR Pro 137 cm (54") and XpertJet 1641SR Pro 162cm (64") wide sign and display single head CMYK printers at the Graphics Print and Sign Expo, being held from 14-16 September at Gallagher Convention Centre.

The XpertJet 461UF A3+ sized direct to object printer will also be presented. On the occasion of the show, Hitech Graphics, headquartered in Durban, will join the growing network of Mutoh distribution partners as a distributor for South Africa. Featuring Mutoh's brand new AccuFine head technology, a new weaving algorithm and Mutoh's genuine VerteLith RIP software to deliver a significant improvement in both print quality and print speed.

The XpertJet Pro sign and display printers are compatible with Mutoh's UMS universal mild solvent inks and MS41 GREENGUARD Gold certified inks, expanding the use in more sensitive environments like schools and hospitals and making the printers suitable for indoor and outdoor use.

Visitors will also be able to see the new 162cm (64") wide XpertJet 1642WR Pro targeted at the dye sublimation market. The XPJ-1642WR Pro features two Mutoh AccuFine 1600 nozzle heads. The XpertJet 1642WR Pro is compatible with Mutoh's new genuine DS3-series HC dye sub inks. HC stands for 'Increased Colourant' which means reduced ink consumption, faster drying and compatibility with lightweight papers. The DS3 inks come in degassed 1kg pouches for reliable jetting, excellent image definition and sharpness.

The XpertJet 461UF A3+ size UV LED 6-colour desktop direct to object printer will also be presented. The XPJ-461UF will facilitate the response to the increasing demand for added value personalised prints and bespoke small-lot production of commercial and industrial print applications.

The XpertJet A3+ and A2+ desktop flatbed printers feature various product enhancements such as a new multi-language intuitive OLED display, an extended print area, new cosmetics and a pioneering innovation, i.e. Mutoh's Local Dimming Control technology. With this technology, it is



possible to produce multiple varnish effects in the same print table movement. The result is a substantial productivity boost.

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

www.mipstech.co.za and www.hitechgraphics.co.za

SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Midcomp Customer Saves Costs With Sublimation Printer

Midcomp has installed a HP Stitch S500 at the Gauteng-based clothing manufacturing company Hip & Cool. The printer enables predictable dye sublimation colour and less media waste for

production environments. With a symmetrical 2 x CMYK printhead configuration and Optical Media Advance Sensor, this printer allows for saturated and reliable one pass mode for true top speed

The printer was designed for high production sites. Big ink supplies, larger rolls and HP's Tension-Sensing Winder allow unattended operations, even overnight, complete with HP Services and cloud fleet management tools.



The machine helps users avoid reprints and media waste with 1200 native dpi printheads and HP Smart Nozzle Compensation system, saving up to 50 percent floor space with frontal media loading and a spindle-less system.

Hip and Cool's owner Sandra de Villiers said that she is very satisfied with the machine's speed, production and the unique benefits of the products it is producing: 'One of the printer's unique features that I have not tried yet is printing directly on fabric, which saves on sublimation paper cost.'

Another benefit that de Villiers outlined was being able to do her own sublimation. She added that the service from Midcomp was very good.

www.midcomp.co.za and
hipandcool3@gmail.com

DTFAFRICA AD

DigitalView And X-Rite Outline Importance Of Colour Measurement During eXact 2 Spectrophotometer Launch

DigitalView introduced the new eXact2 next generation non-contact handheld spectrophotometer at events held in three of South Africa's major cities last week. Developed by X-Rite and Pantone LLC, it is designed to bring the ink, print and packaging workflow together in one device.

Martin Hill, X-Rite's sales manager for the UK and MEA regions, gave a presentation on the device, as well as X-Rite's background. He highlighted X-Rite's eXact 2 Suite, which simplifies colour communication across all internal and external stakeholders, and which is included with the device. He also showcased ColorCert, which is X-Rite's Print Quality Reporting tool.

He also outlined the spectrophotometer's many features, which include wireless and cloud-based capabilities, as well as the versatile markets it serves, and the importance of having a tool that enables accurate colour measurement and communication, particularly in the world of branding, packaging and printing. The device comes in different versions, depending on the application or the substrate in question. For example, reading a texture such as textile or leather will differ from metal.

He added why colour management is so important: 'More than 66% of shoppers factor colour in their purchasing decisions,' Hill said. 'Your end product involves colour and customers want consistent print that matches the agreement. Good colour

management gives you that.' A colour management tip that Hill listed was for printers to look after their equipment. 'A lot of effort goes in from X-Rite's side to produce equipment that is technologically advanced, but you have to look after it. You have to know that the readings you are taking and the readings you are communicating, whether to a brand owner or your individual customers or internally, are right, and you have got to do it with confidence.'

He added that X-Rite have a number of products to help printers feel more confident with colour management, as well as reliable service partners such as DigitalView to provide support and recertification for devices. Mark Minter, DigitalView owner, spoke about the background of eXact, and how the device has evolved from its predecessor, the eXact 1. This includes the elimination of the need for multiple devices, keeping up with ever-evolving colour specifications, as well as features such as its non-contact area, which avoids potential contamination of ink.

'If a person can measure colour, they can control what they are printing,' added Minter. 'It's a big problem in our industry because many people think they can judge or control colour visually. People see colour differently and lighting conditions affect the way a person sees it. The main way a person can control it accurately is by measuring it.'

DigitalView owner Laura Minter conducted a brief demonstration of the device, where the device's up-and-down sliding attachment for



Mark and Laura Minter, DigitalView with Martin Hill, X-Rite.

ease of use was presented. Other ergonomically-friendly aspects were also mentioned, such as the height-adjustable feature, adjustable tilt screen and improved drop-tested durability. The device includes filter-interchangeability, density summary and Pantone detection, which compares a colour to what is in the Pantone book, charger and carry-case. It also reads C, M, Y and K values individually.

Hill discussed the importance of investing in colour management technology, colour management tips and trends with Africa Print. Watch the video here: <https://bit.ly/3QZORx1>

www.digitalview.co.za

Kemtek Demonstrates Label And Sign Printer At Launch Event



Kemtek Imaging Systems hosted its exclusive launch of the Rebo SMS-R1, a high-speed, multi-colour and easy-to-use label and sign printer that boasts a wealth of time and money saving features.

The launch took place at the company's Johannesburg office on 20 July 2022. Clinton Church, Rebo product manager, outlined the evolution of the machine's predecessors over many years during a live stream from his office in Belgium. He said the machine's numerous unique features include thermal transfer, highly durable label material that includes UV stability, with no nozzle maintenance needed, and a cutting function

for the labels. The machine also produces very little noise.

He discussed how the machine saves lives, time and cost through its communication of health and safety messaging with its brightly coloured labels in potentially dangerous workspaces such as manufacturing, mining, process (oil, gas, chemicals, beer) and maintenance industries and markets.

Watch the demonstration video here: <https://bit.ly/3AGfQZn>

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Fujifilm South Africa Launches Flatbed Range

Fujifilm Graphic Communication South Africa launched the new Acuity Prime range at the Fujifilm Innovation Centre in Roodepoort, Johannesburg from 27-28 July, with the Acuity Prime 30 UV LED model being showcased.

A true flatbed with a unique, exceptional design and high value, the Acuity Prime offers high quality printing on a range of rigid and flexible media,

supported by its five dedicated vacuum zones and jettable primer. The zones are tailored to common media sizes to reduce the amount of bed masking required and enable quick media changeover. Adjustable vacuum strength provides optimum handling for different media.

The Acuity Prime was designed with the operator in mind. With a new and user-friendly graphical user

interface, easy clean printhead maintenance and visible status lights for the ink tanks, operators can spend less time maintaining the machine and more time printing. Pneumatic registration pins enable quick, repeatable and easy loading of rigid media in perfect registration.

Anja Kirton, Fujifilm South Africa's Wide Format Product Manager, Graphic Communication Division. The Acuity Prime 30 UV LED model features Fujifilm Uvijet HM LED UV ink curable inks, and can print on rigid media featuring maximum dimensions of 2.5 x 1.25m size, 51mm thickness and a weight of 45kg/sqm.

Other features include Ricoh Gen 5 greyscale, variable drop 7-21pl printheads, maximum 726 x 1200 dpi (Fine Art) printing resolution and long-lasting, low energy LED curing system, with a RIP recommendation of ColorGATE, Caldera and Onyx.

The optional primer channel primes smooth surfaces for higher scratch resistance (this is done automatically without the need of a spray booth).



www.fujifilmgraphicsystems.co.za

Midcomp Installs Print And Cut System

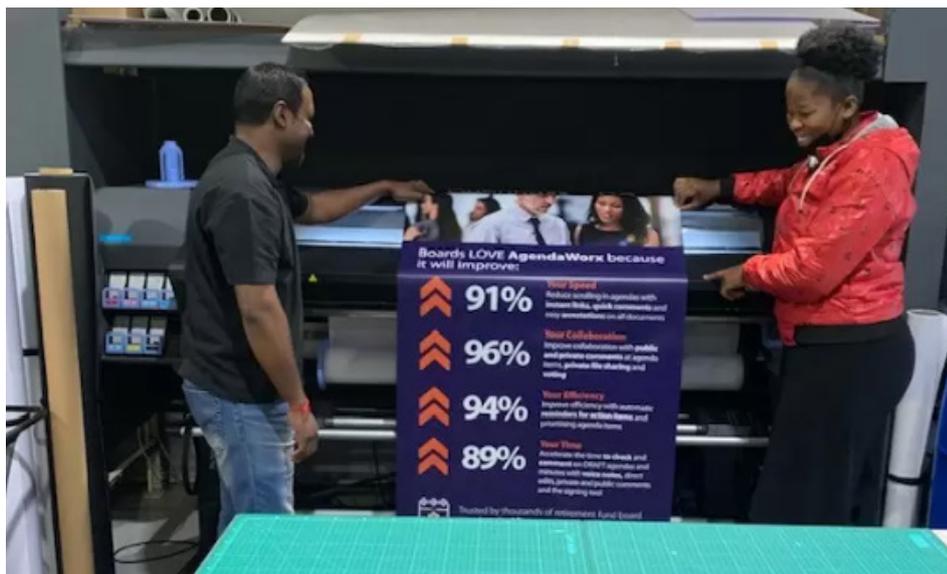
Midcomp installed an HP Latex 335 print and cut system at Minit Print Centurion. The system is designed for printing indoor and outdoor materials. It delivers print jobs fast, using healthier Latex water-based inks, and produces durable, scratch-resistant prints comparable to hard-solvent inks.

HP Latex Print and Cut systems ensure maximum productivity at a user's fingertips, which deliver simultaneous printing and cutting with a dual-device solution. The series is ideal for self-adhesive vinyls, banners, papers, textiles and more.

Users can avoid wait-time as Latex prints come out dry, and can cut right away, with no degas time, and deliver on the same day. The machine also gives users the ability to be highly productive with efficient job recognition and reliable, error-free cutting with the Optical Positioning System (OPOS) and HP Barcode. Users can deliver optimised workflow management from a single point. Unique software with barcode integration is included.

Minit Print Centurion's José Claro has praised the system's excellent print quality, eco friendly latex technology and quick turnaround time, adding that it opens new markets for the business, including stickers, wallpaper and banners.

Minit Print Centurion also uses Midcomp's Pay Per



Sayed Bux and Marry Mazibuko, Minit Print Centurion.

Use (PPU) programme, which Claro said helps the company's budget usage and pricing. 'The service from Midcomp has been excellent all round, starting with sales, as well as training, and after

sales assistance,' said Claro.

www.midcomp.co.za
www.mpcenturion.co.za/

Midcomp Installs New LED UV Printer With Versatile Applications

Midcomp has installed a JHF V3800 at Independent Packaging and Print Group (IPAK). This entry level LED UV printer is the ideal choice for low-volume creative environments.

LED curing is cool, which means that heat-sensitive media processed on the JHF V3800 can open up lucrative markets. LED lamps are always ready to go, with neither a warm-up nor a cool-down period. The printer can handle a variety of applications such as acrylic, aluminium composite panels, ceramic tile, wood, polyester, polycarbonate, polystyrene, (high-density) PVC, flexible foam panels, glass and metal (with a primer).

Independent Packaging was established in 1991. As specialists in the manufacture and supply of corrugated packaging, the company has added on litho and commercial printing to its services over the years and today runs a few facilities.

Head of operations Jaco Malan, explained that this is not the first machine of its kind to be installed at the business, having previously installed a JHF V2800, 'As this is not the first machine, it helps us by getting jobs out faster. We have found that with



only one machine (the JHF V2800), the lead time in getting jobs out got too long, especially when we had to do long run campaigns. We are now able to print bigger sheets (3000 x 2500mm) and with much faster speed. This means we can do larger Point of Sale units and other media without having to join materials.'

'Midcomp's service has always been great, hence we continue to work with them. Our partnership is long term, and we will continue to work together regarding new and better machines for IPAK to become more efficient.'

www.midcomp.co.za and www.ipak.co.za

Mutoh Europe Appoints Hitech Graphics As A Distributor For Its Sign And Display Printers In SA

Hitech Graphics has been appointed as a new Mutoh distributor for the XpertJet Pro Sign and

Display printers in South Africa. Headquartered in Durban South Africa, Hitech Graphics has been

established since 1996 and is a leading supplier and distributor of consumables to the commercial offset/litho, large format digital and signage industries.

The addition of Hitech Graphics will further strengthen Mutoh's position in the South African market, ensuring a professional approach in how Mutoh digital printers are offered and supported.

Hitech Graphics has offices in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town. The local market presence, market development strategy and strong pre and after-sales capabilities of Hitech Graphics is well regarded in the South African market.

Hitech Graphics will be teaming up with Mutoh's established distributor MIPS technologies, also based in South Africa.

www.hitechgraphics.co.za



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ORMS Elevates Their Print Offering With Canon Press

ORMS has upgraded to the imagePRESS C10010VP in order to elevate their print offering. ORMS was founded in 1996 by Mike Ormrod, whose vision was to bring photographers the best photographic gear and services.

Taken over by his son Jason, the business is thriving and doesn't only provide photographic gear, it also offers printing services for photobook creators, graphic designers, artists, interior decorators and more. Jason Ormrod, the owner of ORMS, said, 'Our intention has always been to provide innovative, unique and bespoke products to our customers. The imagePRESS C10010VP has opened a door into a very niche photobook segment. We plan to provide the publishing of quality, thread-sewn photobooks in short-run format, so that artists, photographers and general consumers have access to a higher quality product that can compete in the international market.'

Overcoming installation challenges

The imagePRESS C10010VP is a large machine, which needed to be lifted into ORMS by a crane. According to Lee-Ann Saunders, Account Manager at Canon, 'Roeland Street is one of the two main entry roads into Cape Town CBD and the roads are notoriously narrow in Cape Town. Getting the equipment into the building, while not affecting traffic into the city, was challenging. We also had to keep ORMS as productive as possible over the period, meaning we had a short installation window.'

'To overcome these challenges the installation team was up before the rest of Cape Town and craned the device over the walls in the dark,' said Saunders. By 7:30am, the crane had left, and the technical team set to work installing the device. 'Having fired up the device pre-delivery, we were confident of a successful and quick install,' Saunders added.

With Canon having a long-standing relationship with ORMS, Hennie Badenhorst, the Head of B2B Direct Sales at Canon, specified that, 'ORMS made it a seamless exercise in making sure that the Canon South Africa team had the correct understanding of the environment and the



Zane Luther, Production Manager, ORMS, Jason Ormrod, MD, ORMS and Lee-Ann Saunders, Account Manager, Canon.

expectations from an end-user facing product.'

ORMS and Canon South Africa have a strong, long-lasting relationship, which ensured the communication was smooth. For future installations of the imagePRESS C10010VP, Saunders determined that 'more communication is always better. Challenges are diminished when they are communicated well in advance, so that contingencies can be made'.

Looking to the future

The imagePRESS C10010VP is a big piece of the future for the printing business. Considering how the device will be used at ORMS, Ormrod noted that 'The quality and reliability of the imagePRESS line means we can consistently deliver high-quality results across our product range, which includes everything from simple items, like business cards, all the way through to custom and bespoke publications.' There are many benefits that a

printing business could enjoy with the imagePRESS C10010VP. According to Hennie Badenhorst, 'The imagePRESS C10010VP will ensure that ORMS can meet the continuously growing end user demand for high quality, unique products, especially in the photobook segment. With the media functionality and flexibility of the device, some very bespoke products will make this one of the more sought-after applications on the market.'

'In order to compete on an international scale, it is without a doubt that ORMS have invested in a premium solution. Being one of the very early adopters of market trends such as the photobook market, ORMS has become a player that is consistently looking at pushing the boundaries and setting the trend for new innovations. The imagePRESS C10010VP makes for a perfect partner in this fast-paced digital world,' Ormrod concluded.

www.canon.co.za



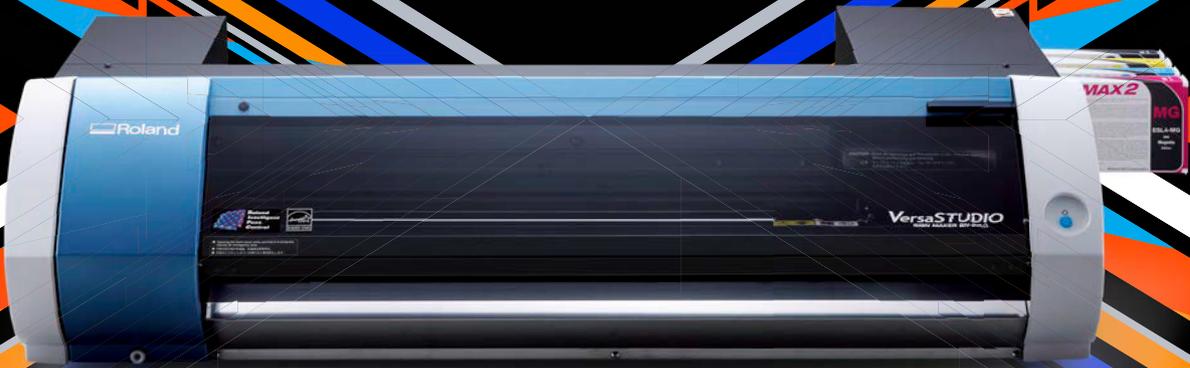
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swissQprint Showcasing Large Format Printer



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

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

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

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

Zünd Cutter Enables New Capabilities At Business



Wokingham based Ultimat decided to look at new cutter options. The manufacturer and supplier of picture mounts and frames recently upgraded their old Zünd PN M-1600 digital cutter for the latest S3 L-1600. 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

Kornit Digital Showcasing Fashion And Textile Solutions



Kornit Atlas MAX is a direct-to-garment system for high quality and consistent results. The robust industrial solution allows customers to create new efficiencies and reduce operating costs, combined 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-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

Kongsberg Precision Cutting Systems' Customer Invests In Latest Digital Finishing Technology

Ontario's Lacasse Printing, a signage, display and point of purchase specialist, has completed the 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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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.'

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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.

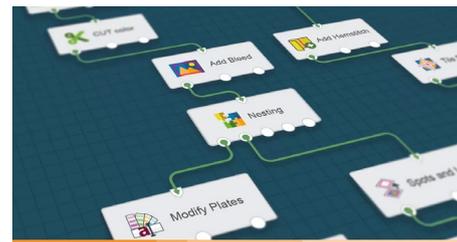
The students created a white card physical convivial architecture model, a 3D blueprint of the intended design, which is typically used at the final stages of a project as it conforms to very specific requirements. The team's architectural investigation was focused on the relationship between the public 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 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.

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