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The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly impacted our industry. However, in any crisis, businesses are forced to adapt and find new opportunities. Many companies have had to innovate and have diversified their offerings to include various protective materials and products. The demand for personalisation and same day delivery is driving local production, reducing logistics costs and delivery time, while boosting the local economy.

COVER STORY 30









WHAT MAKES GOOD SIGNAGE?



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COVER STORY

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES DURING COVID-19 FOR THE PRINTING AND SIGNAGE INDUSTRY

BY MEGGAN MCCARTHY

The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly impacted our industry. However, in any crisis, businesses are forced to 30 adapt and find new opportunities. Many companies have had to innovate and have diversified their offerings to include various protective materials and products. The demand for personalisation and same day delivery is driving local production, reducing logistics costs and delivery time, while boosting the local economy.



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NAVIGATE COVID-19
BY MEGGAN MCCARTHY
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CHOOSING THE RIGHT INK IS A CRITICAL STEP IN THE ADOPTION OF DIGITAL PRINTING

BY SENSIENT INK

36 It's all very well identifying a need for digital printing in your operations, but should you be spending money on new machinery, or is choosing the right ink the main priority? For many, the printer carries the highest capital investment and so is the first step, but for others, the printhead drives the decision.

WHAT MAKES GOOD SIGNAGE?

BY MARÍA JOSÉ GARCÍA, FLAAR REPORTS/DPI INSIGHTS MAGAZINE
Advertising is everything for a business: it can be the piece of the puzzle that can mean success or failure. As 38

marketing expenditure is increasing, it is invested more and more in signage, including digital signage.

KEEPING PRINTED GRAPHICS CLEAN AND GERM FREE

BY GARDINER GRAPHICS SUPPLIES EUROPE
Here are some tips so that those in key environments know how to best clean their laminated book covers, 41 menus, printed signs and retail POS product whilst maintaining their quality and purpose.

FACTS ABOUT FORESTRY, RECYCLING AND GREENWASHING CLAIMS
BY SAMANTHA CHOLES, PAPER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA
We need to get the facts straight about paper and recycling and cut the greenwash. I recently drew cash at an
ATM and was greeted with an on-screen message: 'If everyone said no to a receipt just for one month, we would 42 save 45 trees.

EXHIBITORS REPORT QUALITY LEADS AND BUSY STANDS AT SIGN AFRICA DURBAN EXPO

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The successful Sign Africa Durban expo, held from 11-12 March at the Durban ICC, attracted 1012 visitors, who were inspired by wide format digital printing, T-shirt printing, finishing, point of sale displays, signage, banners, flags, vehicle graphics, LED's, laser engraving and more. The event was sponsored by Platinum sponsor Roland.

CALCULATING PRINT'S CARBON FOOTPRINT IS INCREASING

print, from books to labels, from transactional documents to packaging and everything in between





CHOOSING THE RIGHT INK IS A CRITICAL STEP IN THE ADOPTION OF DIGITAL PRINTING



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BY LAUREL BRUNNER, THE VERDIGRIS PROJECT
We have ISO 16759 (Quantification and communication for calculating the carbon footprint of print media products), published in 2013 and reviewed in 2018. ISO 16759 specifies how to work out the carbon footprint of



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EDITOR'S NOTF

Covid-19 is having a major impact on our way of life, with nationwide lockdowns around the world. We hope you and your loved ones are all safe. From Sign Africa, we want to reassure you that publishing of news will be done as per normal to keep everyone up to date.

Keeping up with the global trend of being agile and maximising online technologies, Sign Africa's new LIVE online platform will allow audiences to experience product launches, webinars, events and video tutorials from the comfort of their personal spaces.

The LIVE Platform will feature interactive content across different online platforms (Webinars, YouTube, Twitch, Facebook Live and more). Attendees will have the chance to: speak to industry professionals; learn new skills in our more technical webinars featuring industry experts; address business bottlenecks; be introduced to new products; discuss the latest industry trends as well as experience virtual demonstrations of the latest product launches and more.

Our cover story looks at Covid-19 business opportunities for the printing and signage industry. It details the creative PPE products that printshops and sign makers are producing. It also details information on inks, materials and other factors to consider when producing face masks, protective screens, Covid-19 related branding and signage, and more. We also have a useful directory of PPE suppliers.

What makes good signage? Signage can increase brand awareness by 47.7%, according to InfoTrends. Being aware of what drives consumers' behaviour can also help sign makers or providers advise their clients on the most effective ways to get their message across. It may seem obvious and cliché, but you need to understand your target's behaviour, age, sex, occupations, lifestyle, needs, location, goals and hobbies.

To know the best way to disinfect your laminated sign, menu, book or POS product, you must first understand what it is made from. Different plastics react differently, and often negatively, to certain types of disinfectant. Gardiner Graphics Supplies Europe has some tips on keeping printed graphics clean and germ-free.

Green claims often have no scientific basis to them - environmental myths have been published so often on the internet that they are deemed as facts. Companies would prefer that you did not print the receipt because it saves them money. You may have been encouraged to 'save the planet' by opting to receive bills or magazines electronically. Again, this is a cost-saving measure, but instead companies 'greenwash' it by saying you're saving trees. Samantha Choles explores greenwashing.

Choosing the right ink involves a few considerations. Sensient Ink says that ultimately, the ink itself defines both performance and the acceptance of the print and application, and its chemistry should ideally be a primary consideration in any discussion of digital technology adoption: with everything from ink wetting, adhesion, viscosity and surface tension considered.

Signing off **Meggan McCarthy**

meggan@PracticalPublishing.co.za



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COVERALLS





HEAD

COVERS

HOT NEW PRODUCTS

TRIGA Hygiene And Protection Solutions

Using the TRIGA Go System, numerous innovative solutions can be devised to stay safe during the Covid-19 pandemic, such as mobile clinic/testing stations, textile desktop dividers, desktop safety screens, standing safety screens, sanitising stations, bedside privacy screens, hospital bed dividers and rigid panel queuing system. www.gawk.co.za



Trotec Pastel Colours

Trotec's TroGlass Pastel laser material is available in the standard plate size 1216 x 606mm in a thickness of 3mm. Each panel is satin-finished on one side and has a glossy surface on the other so that both effects can be used depending on the application. The lively pastel colours have outstanding physical properties and are lightweight, making them very easy to install.

www.troteclaser.co.za



Corel Design Products

CorelDRAW Essentials 2020 is ideal for those who create graphics from time to time, allowing users to create invites, posters, greeting cards, social media images, and other DIY graphics projects to share with friends and family. CorelDRAW Standard 2020 offers greater creative control and robust photo editing for hobbyists, students or individuals running micro businesses. It features flawless photo editing and is easy to use.

www.gencotechlasermarking.co.za and www.directservices.co.za



3M Wrap Films Series 2080

The film greatly reduces the surface impressions in a finished goods roll. It remains on during installation, then is removed easily and cleanly afterwards. Scratches impressed into the protective film layer will not transfer to the wrap film itself. The product features high conformability, enabling installers to wrap complex, curved body panels without first removing the protective film layer.

www.intamarket-graphics.co.za



Mimaki UJV100-160

This roll-to-roll UV-curable inkjet printer is designed for high quality printing and maximum productivity. Featuring two newly developed printheads and the new Dot Adjustment System (DAS) feature, the UJV100-160 is a robust and efficient solution for sign makers. DAS automates conventional dot placement (dot position and feeding correction) for maximum image quality, saving operators time and reducing manual errors. www.gsw.co.za



SEF Textile Cutting Flex Film

CrazyFlex is made by SEF using an innovative 100% water-base process. It combines metallics and neon colours either in beautiful lines with CrazyFlex Lines or subtle mixed colours with CrazyFlex Haze. It is available in 18 colour combinations. The product is easy to use and naturally made of 100% water-based PU. Transfer conditions include 16.5°C at 17 seconds (hot peel). It is ideal for cotton, polyester and blended fabrics, and less suitable for nylon and other coated textiles. www.rexxscreendigital.co.za



SloanLED BrightLINE

Ideal for fabric-face light boxes, the low-voltage 24 VDC system may be cut in width and length for zero waste and comes with a >54,000-hour life rating. The pre-wired system requires fewer connections for faster installation and increased reliability, and delivers wider spacing, exceptional efficiency, and performance, and surpasses expectations – using up to 20% less power than common LED ribbon tape solutions. www.sloanled.com



Mactac Expanded Overlaminates And Mounting Films

PERMAHOLD high-performance mounting products include white foam tapes (coated on two sides), high-tack transfer adhesives and double-coated film tapes. The products feature permanent high-shear pressure-sensitive adhesives and are designed to help those in the sign and graphics industry execute permanent assembly applications with confidence. www.intamarket-graphics.co.za



Drytac PVC-Free Floor Graphic Products

Drytac Polar Floor PET 170 is a new print media for indoor floor graphics that meets essential anti-slip requirements without the need for lamination. It has a post-printed anti-slip rating of R10 according to DIN 51130. SpotOn SynTac Floor is one half of a two-part solution with Drytac's Interlam EcoTex PVC-free overlaminating film. It features Drytac's unique SpotOn dot-pattern adhesive, and is easily applied to and removed from smooth floor surfaces. www.midcomp.co.za



HOT NEW PRODUCTS

Kaspar Papir Dye Sublimation Paper

Kaspar Papir is a global industry provider of specially engineered media for dye sublimation printing. Their high performance papers cater to a wide range of applications within the digital printing industries worldwide. Kaspar Papir is compatible with most printers currently available on the market, including high-speed industrial printers. www.vestedcapital.co.za/shop



HP Latex R Series

The updated portfolio makes it easier for print service providers to benefit from HP Latex printing on a hybrid printing platform, including achieving high image quality on a range of rigid and flexible materials using HP's water-based Latex Inks. It introduces the new entry-level HP Latex R1000 model. Additionally, HP is introducing improvements across the portfolio. The new R Series printers now enable customers to benefit from higher productivity and efficiency.

www.midcomp.co.za



Agfa Upgraded UV LED Inkjet

The upgraded Jeti Tauro H3300 LED now comes in a four-colour version (CMYK), which reaches sellable 'production' quality in a mere three passes. The six-colour version, on the other hand, best serves those prioritising unequaled print quality. It includes light black (CMYKLcLk), guaranteeing a perfect neutral grey balance over the total tonal range. Both versions can also print white ink or primer. The new Automatic Board Feeder (ABF) enhances production efficiency by reducing idle time. www.agfa.com



swissQprint Orange Ink

A new orange ink is available to swissQprint users to reproduce corporate colours even more accurately and expand the overall colour gamut. The orange can be used as a combination with process colours or directly as a spot colour. Its colour values are essentially the same as Pantone 021, a fresh, bright orange. The new orange complements standard ink sets for swissQprint LED flatbed printers and the Karibu roll to roll printer.

www.sign-tronic.co.za



Fortune Printers

All printers are differentiated from the market by being network-enabled and subsequently have the ability to apply remote technical support. Key features of the YF-2512G include a variety of print head configurations, availability in 2 to 8 heads, media thickness of 80mm and 4 independent vacuum zones. www.vestedcapital.co.za/shop



SloanLED VL4 Channel Letter Lighting Solution

VL4 is a low-cost, 12 VDC channel letter available in Standard (White [7200 K, 6500 K], Red, Green, Blue), Mini (6500 K, 5000 K, 3000 K), and High Output (6500 K), features: a 160° radiation pattern for wide, uniform illumination, improved optics over its predecessor, continuous tape for faster installation, impressive light output, class-leading efficacy of 111 lm/W (6500 K), and a lifetime rating of over 60,000 hours. www.sloanled.com



Exion High Quality PSU

Exion is proud to launch new 'EXO' PSUs and offer its clients PSUs with better quality. It features top quality parts mainly made in Korea and improved circuit design based on experience and big data. It is easy to calculate how many LED modules or what length of LED strip is needed. A red light indicator makes it easy to find any problems.

www.exion.co.za



Mimaki 3DGD-1800

Facilitating large-scale production up to three times faster than with conventional Fused Filament Fabrication (FFF) type 3D printers, the 3DGD-1800 3D connects the company's 2D printing expertise and 3D technology innovations, providing customers with a cost-effective, total solution for 3D sign and display applications. It can produce objects up to 1.8 metres tall in just seven hours, with its assembly-based design allowing for the creation of even larger designs. www.gsw.co.za



CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 2020

The latest release of this award-winning product line is used by graphic experts, print professionals and in-house designers around the world, powering the creativity of small businesses to large enterprises. It delivers all the professional vector illustration, layout, photo editing and typography tools customers need to create and complete important design projects, from virtually any device.www.gencotechlasermarking.co.za_and www.directservices.co.za



DIRECTOR

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is in high demand right now. This convenient directory helps you locate the products you are searching for. Remember that product videos, email addresses and websites are all clickable - giving you quick and instant access to the companies listed.

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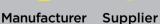
Quality **Manufacturers**

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Your easy guide to local suppliers and manufacturers









Face Masks



Face Shields



Sanitisers



Other













ALLRICH TRADING

All Rich Trading being one of the largest advertising materials supplier in the region, can cater to all your advertising needs. We have got a wide range of products that cover almost every material used in the industry today. Simply browse our website to find out more about our products.

PPE MATERIAL SUPPLIES:

- · Range of banner stands and display products for Covid-19 advertising and informational purposes.
- Textile partitions and washable face masks.

Distributor of PLEXIGLAS® acrylic and **EUROLITE Polycarbonate sheeting** used for:

- Protective sneeze screens for use in pharmacies, supermarkets, offices and retail shops.
- Intubation/aerosol boxes for hospitals and test centres.



 Face shields for PPE supplies across the country.

SPECIALS:

- PET 400 micron rolls in 720mm width: R44 per kg.
- Twin wall Polycarbonate sheets, 1250 x 5800, are also available.
- 3 ply disposable face mask: R10 each.

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PPE MATERIAL SUPPLIES:

- 3 ply face masks (50 in a box).
- · 3 ply cotton face masks (available in black, white and navy).
- 3 ply red cotton face masks.
- Black face shield (strong and high quality).
- KN95 masks.

- · 150ml aerosol hand and surface sanitiser spray (95% alcohol content).
- 95ml gel hand sanitiser (70% alcohol
- · 500ml gel hand sanitiser for bathrooms (75% alcohol content).
- 500ml liquid hand sanitiser ideal for anywhere (75% alcohol content).
- 5l liquid hand sanitiser (blue/70% alcohol consumption/local brand).
- 5l clear liquid hand sanitiser (75% alcohol content).
- 25I liquid hand sanitiser.
- Wet wipes (15 in a pack, no alcohol content).
- Social distancing floor markers (5 pack, white 110 micron matte vinyl, printed full colour, with a 210 micron satin floor laminate, 350 x 250mm size and die cut to size).
- · Foot operated spray or liquid sanitiser dispenser (includes 2 x 500ml sanitisers).

SPECIALS:

- KN95 mask 4 layer protection: R19 each ex VAT.
- Face shield (400 micron):
- R29 each ex VAT. Face shield (800 micron): R52.50 each ex VAT.
- Aerosol hand sanitiser spray: R27.00 each ex VAT.
- Alcohol car fogger 60ml: R27.00 each ex VAT.



- · Alcohol room fogger 120ml: R33 each ex VAT
- 3 ply cotton reusable face mask: R65 each ex VAT.
- 3 ply disposable face mask: R5.85 each ex VAT
- Social distancing floor markers (5 pack): R100 each ex VAT
- Gel hand sanitiser 75% alcohol (500ml): R54.50 each ex VAT.
- Clear liquid hand sanitiser 75% alcohol (5I): R295 each ex VAT.
- Hand sanitiser stand: R750 each ex VAT.
- KN95 + Face Shield: R59 each ex VAT.

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Face Masks



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Face Masks



Face Shields



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CHEMOSOL

Chemosol Screen, Pad and Sublimation printing supplies is located in Selby, offering the best service in Johannesburg. We have been supplying the screen, pad and digital printing industries for the past 45 years with machinery and consumables.

PPE MACHINERY AND **MATERIAL SUPPLIES:**

- · Sublimation, pad and screen printing products for printing face masks and other surgical safety equipment. This includes: N95 face masks, disposable masks, washable masks, reusable masks, sanitiser bottles and containers, face shields and other Covid protection products.
- · Consumables for the products above such as: screens, solvents, inks and dye sublimation paper.





- A range of Polycarbonate, protected on both sides, which is optically clear, for protective screens, etc.
- · Digital printing equipment for printing onto face masks and printing Covid signage.
- Laser cutters and engravers for cutting face masks, etc.

PRODUCT DEMO:



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E-MAIL: info@chemosol.co.za WEB: www.chemosol.co.za

ADDRESS: 22 Trump Street, Selby, Johannesburg.

















CUT 2 SIZE

Cut2Size started from the initial problem, arising in that we needed two different types of materials - a piece of aluminium and a piece of EVA high density foam sheet cut to a specific size for a DIY project that we were doing. We couldn't get the materials or the cutting done in one place! It was such an inconvenience! So from this problem we decided to come up with our own clever solution and thought it would also be a great business idea to create a friendly store where customers could visit, choose from various sheet materials, design and create and even have products fabricated to their own dimensions and specifications.

PPE PRODUCTS SUPPLIES:

- · Hand tools to ensure the safer means of touching surfaces in public.
- · Re-usable face masks.
- Face shields.
- Hand sanitiser bottles.
- · Sanitiser dispensers.













- Sneeze guards counter and hanging.
- Safety signage.
- Custom made and branded Covid-19 products.

TEL: (+27 11) 822 1169

MOBILE: Clare: +27 (0) 82 905 5709

Dave: +27 (0) 78 095 7502 E-MAIL: clare@cut2size.co.za sales@cut2size.co.za

WEB: www.cut2size.co.za

ADDRESS: HO: 139 Rover Road, Rustivia. JHB: 18 Alamein Road and Corner Edgar Road, Elandsfontein, Germiston.













GRAFICOMP

Graficomp is recognised as one of the largest resellers of Hewlett-Packard Latex Printers in Southern Africa. Based in both Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa, we provide unrivaled sales and support, which is built around a team of professionals with many years of experience in the industry.

PPE MACHINERY AND MATERIAL SUPPLIES:

- HP Latex Printers: L115 and L335 printers with HP Vinyl cutters (print and cut solutions).
- HP S300 Stitch dye sublimation printers for face masks
- HP Z6 and Z9 graphics printers for posters and awareness campaigns.
- Heavy Textile Banner for pull ups and banner walls
- PVC banner.
- Lay flat for pull up stands and X Banners.
- Self-adhesive three year vinyl for stickers and sanitiser bottles.
- HP poster papers.



- Non-slip floor lamination for social distancing floor decals.
- · ContraVision for window and car decals.

SPECIALS: (REFERENCE #PPEPP TO QUALIFY)

HP L115 Print and cut solution:

R175.900 ex VAT.

HPZ6PS A1 24": R36,900 ex VAT. HP Z6PS A0 44" printer: R61,900 ex VAT. HP Vinyl Cutter 54": R49,900 ex VAT. HP Vinyl Cutters 64": R55,000 ex VAT

PRODUCT DEMO:



TEL: (+27 11) 792 1348 Fax: (+27 11) 792 1397

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intamarket GRAPHICS







INTAMARKET GRAPHICS

For over 40 years, Intamarket has been a leading supplier of quality vinyl materials and specialty products to the signage and graphics industry. We have succeeded in blending internationally leading products with excellent service, to ensure clients receive the experience they deserve. This combination ensures clients the best possible partnership for their business requirements, on a national level. To compliment their holistic product range, Intamarket has branches nationwide to ensure clients receive sales, service and technical support.

PPE MACHINERY AND MATERIAL SUPPLIES:

- Retail Sales Booth: cost-effective sales booths for social distancing of staff and customers in retail environments. Easily sanitised, hard wearing and durable. Quick and easy assembly - flat-packed and no tools required. Can be custombranded and scalable for extra booths.
- Face shields for adults and children available from Intamed, as well as



ear savers, which are ergonomically designed to reduce pressure and irritation to the back of the ears caused by extended use of loop-based masks. Ear savers can be custom branded for corporates.

Hospital Overflow Bed and Patient
 Partitioning: cost-effective solutions for
 beds and partitioning walls and room
 dividers for isolation wards or pods
 are designed for flat deployment and
 set-up in existing spaces such as large
 open indoor venues - exhibition halls,
 conference rooms, community centres,
 arenas and school halls - which can be
 used as field hospitals.

SPECIALS:

FB8000 Fully Automatic Flatbed Cutter with Auto Sheet Feeder for speedy production – cuts a visor in under 25 seconds. Very low unit production cost and versatile. Produce face shields and more. Call Intamarket for a quote.



PRODUCT DEMO:



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Fax: (+27 11) 444 4310
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P P E BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Manufacturer



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MAXSIGNS

Maxsigns (Ptv) Ltd imports (and/or manufactures) display products and media consumable for the signage and printing industries. Maxsigns has been granted a Level 1 B-BBEE Rating (135% procurement recognition level) as the company is 100% black owned.

Maxsigns has made its mark as a supplier to the signage industry and continues to do so with a wide range of products at reasonable prices and have managed to secure clients locally within the Gauteng province, nationally throughout all nine provinces of South Africa as well as a few off shore clients.

PPE MACHINERY AND MATERIAL **SUPPLIES:**

Face shields (DIY, streamline and swivel).



- Masks (3 ply, reusable and KN95).
- Gloves (nitrile and latex).
- Sanitiser dispensers (foot pedal/ elbow).
- Sanitiser (hand and surface).
- Coveralls and Hazmat suits.
- Infrared non-contact thermometers.
- Hygienic head covers.
- Hanging and desk screens.
- A1 frames for Covid-19 messaging.
- Shoe covers.

SPECIALS:

• 40ml 70% alcohol hand sanitiser and free branding.

- Combo: 1 x 3 ply mask, 2 x nitrile gloves and 1 x 50ml sanitiser.
- Face shield 400mic and 50ml 70% alcohol hand sanitiser.

Contact Maxsigns for all available specials.

TEL: (+27 11) 314 9456

E-MAIL: info@maxsigns.co.za WEB: www.maxsigns.co.za

ADDRESS: Unit 7, 21 Gazelle Ave, Corporate Park South, Randjespark, Midrand, Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa.



MIDCOMP GROUP OF COMPANIES











MIDCOMP

Over the past 29 years, Midcomp (PTY) Ltd has strived to offer not only the best digital printing equipment and finishing equipment, from brands such as HP, Gerber, Zünd, Summa, Kala, Barbieri, Fotaba, Direct Color Systems, Océ, PLASTGrommet, GMG, Polygon, Caldera and Onyx, but also to offer the best service and backup support possible.

We are not only an equipment supplier, we are experts in our field and our extensive service offering and support is testimony to the high levels of expertise within the organisation.

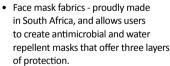
PPE MACHINERY AND MATERIAL **SUPPLIES:**

• HP Latex and Stitch for producing face masks, social distancing demarcations and signage.



hospital room partitions, shop

partitions, etc.



- · Palram essential partitions and social distancing materials for: sneeze guards, checkout counters, receptions, checkpoint shields, transparent office partitions, modular partition systems, protective inspection booths and hospital protective devices.
- Drytac antimicrobial film as well as materials for Covid-19 floor graphics, social distance markers, window graphics and more.

SPECIALS:

• Pay Per Use (PPU programme): a unique offering where users pay a fixed 'per square metre' charge for the square metres they print, with one invoice generated a month. Data is 100% accurate. Available to all HP



Latex users.

- HP Latex and UV compatible 200 micron high resolution matte black film, 914mm, 1372mm, 1524mm x 30m: R26 per square metre.
- HP Latex and UV compatible 180g high gloss premium fine art poster paper, 1370mm x 50m: R10,50 per square metre.

PRODUCT DEMO:



TEL: NATIONAL: (+27 100) 20 9999 (+27 11) 789 1222

E-MAIL: psdg@midcomp.co.za WEB: www.midcomp.co.za

ADDRESS: Unit 21 Fern Towers, Hylauma Street, Ferndale, Randburg Johannesburg, South Africa, 2194













MR PLASTIC

Mr Plastic Bedfordview was established in 1976. We manufacture to your design. Point of sale stands, brochure holders, menu stands, pulpits/podiums, suggestion boxes, cabinets, clip boards, easels and much more.

PPE MACHINERY AND MATERIAL **SUPPLIES:**

- Face shields (children's sizes also available)
- · Counter shields.
- Cut to size panels drill your own

- Hanging face shields/sneeze guards with holes
- Single sided menu stands for Covid-19 materials.
- Double sided menu stands for Covid-19 materials.
- Standard brochure holder for Covid-19 materials.
- Virus protective box.
- Gloves, mask and wipes dispenser.
- Division guard.

SPECIALS:

- Face shields: kids R29.99 ex VAT and R39.99 ex VAT, Adult - R69.99 each ex VAT.
- Counter shields: starting from R620 ex VAT.
- Hanging face shields/sneeze guards: starting from R420 ex VAT.
- Cut to size panels: from R241 ex VAT.
- Virus protective box: from R799 ex VAT.
- Single sided menu stands: A4 - R59 ex VAT, A5 - R33 ex VAT, DL R29 ex VAT.
- Double sided menu stands: A4 - R67 ex VAT, A5 - R37 ex VAT, DI R33 ex VAT
- Standard brochure holder: A4 -R68 ex VAT, A5 - R41 ex VAT, DL R37 ex VAT.



TEL: HO: (+27 11) 616 4006/ CT: (+27 21) 552 2022 FAX: HO: (+27 11) 616 1488 / CT: (+27 21) 552 2024

MOBILE: SHAUN +27 (0) 82 458 6366 MELVILLE +27 (0) 83 654 1441 ALF +27 (0) 82 893 5111 RICKUS +27 (0)83 661 0092 E-MAIL: sales@mrpx.co.za

WEB: www.mrplastic.com

ADDRESS: HO: 13 Geldenhuis Road, Malvern East, Bedfordview, Johannesburg. CT: Unit 3, Marconi Road, Montague Gardens, Cape Town.













PAPERSMITH & SON

Papersmith & Son is a speciality paper merchant that has been built on a culture of creativity and innovation. In our hearts is a commitment to lead the industry with world-class products and trustworthy services. We always try to find the best solution for our clients. We have branches in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban but can courier orders across the country.

PPE MATERIAL SUPPLIES:

• Priplak® Protect Polypropylene sheet: separates drivers and passengers, reducing the risk of Covid-19 infection. Halogen free, no



printed with UV offset, UV screen and UV digital. It is lightweight (35 percent lower weight compared with PET of the same thickness), cost effective, easy to die cut, easy to print, is strong but flexible and can be cleaned with alcohol without crazing. Specs: 700 x 1000, 350mic.

• 5L hand sanitiser - made in South Africa. Total microbe kill rate. Tested against SANS 5261. Contains tea tree oil, glycerine, 72% ethyl alcohol and 28% sterile water.





TEL: JHB: (+27 11) 240 6900 / CT: (+27 21) 510 8672 / DBN: (+27 31) 700 4881

E-MAIL: sales@papersmith.co.za WEB: www.papersmith.co.za

ADDRESS: JHB: 59 Trump Street West, Selby, Johannesburg. DBN: Unit 5, 1 Hawthorne Road, Westmead, Durban. CT: Unit 12. Creation Park. Computer Road, Marconi Beam, Cape Town.

BUSINES **DIRECTORY**



Manufacturer



Supplier



Face Masks



Face Shields



Sanitisers



Other



www.signafrica.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Manufacturer



Supplier



Face Masks



Face Shields



Sanitisers



Other



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R

Roland







ROLAND TELPRO

We are a bunch of people who get excited about teaching digital technology to others. We eat, sleep and dream digital production solutions, be it for signwriting, digital dental milling, tool and diemaking, fashion, you name it, we are dreaming up new and exciting ways for you to become proficient and self reliant with digital technology.

PPE PRODUCT SUPPLIES:

- VersaSTUDIO BT-12 desktop direct to garment printer: for printing directly on cotton-based products and is built for on-demand personalisation for products such as face masks.
- BN-20: this powerful, yet compact printer includes everything users need to print and cut high quality durable graphics and Covid-19 display graphics.
- CAMM-1 GS-24: this is ideal for cutting Covid-19 signs and decals and specialty graphics.





PRODUCT DEMO:



TEL: JHB: 0800 ROLAND (765 263) / (+27 11) 875 9300 DBN: (+27 31) 705 5530

E-MAIL: sales@rolanddg.co.za **▼ WEB:** www.rolanddg.co.za **₹**

ADDRESS: JHB: 306 Kyalami Boulevard, Kyalami Business Park, Midrand 1684 DBN: Shop 20 Power Centre, 21 Lanner Road, New Germany.









STIXO

STIXO is an importer and national distributor of large format digital media, display systems, substrate rigid sheets, corporate gift blanks and signage accessories. The company caters for printing, signage and branding businesses, as well as re-sellers.

PPE PRODUCT SUPPLIES:

All of the below products can be used for Covid-19 advertising, branding or protective solutions:

- Gazebo frames.
- Display boards.
- Pull up banners.
- Self-adhesive vinyl.
- Printable wall paper.
- Poster paper.



- Canvas.
- PVC banner
- Roll up media.X Banner frames.
- Dye sublimation paper.
- Wall banners.
- · Hanging banner system.
- Promotional counters.
- Substrate and Chromadek sheets.
- Pop Up banner.
- Poster frames and stands.
- Parasol frames.

SPECIALS:

- Ecotyp[™] steel gazebo frame, 3 x 3:
- Enquire about more specials with Stixo.

TEL: (+27 11) 830 1838 E-MAIL: info@stixo.co.za ► WEB: www.stixo.co.za ♠

ADDRESS: No 3 Volans Street, Unit 3 Crown Mines, Johannesburg, South Africa.















VESTED CAPITAL

The company's range comprises digital printers, cutting solutions, dye sublimation paper and adhesives. Besides South Africa, Vested Capital also serves the balance of SADC countries, as well as East Africa via Kenya, North Africa via Ethiopia and West Africa via Ghana.

PPE EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL SUPPLIES:

- Fortune YF-1700G for sublimation printing including dual take up, external heater and bulk feed system (R149,500).
- Aristo TL1310 for cutting face shields, protective screens and more (R547,500).
- Kaspar Papir dye sublimation paper.
- ACRIFIX® Adhesive Range for bonding of protective screens.

MOBILE: Conrad: +27 (0)83 458 6340 Eckhardt: +27 (0) 82 544 8669 EMAIL: conrad@vestedcapital.co.za eckhardt@vestedcapital.co.za WEB: www.vestedcapital.co.za

ADDRESS: Ground and First Floor, Gateway West, 22 Magwa Crescent, Midrand, 1685







Manufacturer



Supplier



Face **Masks**



Face Shields



Sanitisers



Other



www.signafrica.com

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PRODUCT, COMPANY or KEYWORD

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Website: www.stixo.co.za I Email: info@stixo.co.za

Address: 3 Volans Street, Unit No. 3, Crown Mines, Johannesburg, South Africa



SIGNINDUSTRY NEWS

Graficomp And HP Assist Rural Farming Communities With Face Masks



HP has asked Graficomp Group of companies to help with masks for indigent and rural farming communities in outlying Gauteng districts. Both companies are covering the cost of printing and mask manufacture to assist with this Corporate Social Initiative.

These masks are urgently needed during the COVID-19 outbreak, and Graficomp is printing these on the HP Stitch S300, which ensures jobs can be completed at ultra-high speeds. The HP large format team asked Graficomp to offer the service using their Stitch S300 printers. Graficomp's Graham Roy explained the critical need for these masks in under-privileged communities.

'This project started on a small scale with leftover materials to make masks for in-house staff use at Graficomp, and the potential was realised to a point where they could be mass-produced using the HP Stitch S300, to support the communities who can't afford to source or buy masks at this critical time.'

The masks are double-lined, manufactured and printed on a stretch fabric with adjustable straps for comfort and ease of use with a replaceable filter.

As an HP Specialist partner, Graficomp has an HP Stitch S300 in their demo centre, as well as one installed at their client SUB STITCH (Pty) Ltd in Johannesburg, making it possible to undertake this crucial project to support underprivileged communities.

www.graficomp.co.za

3A Composites Materials Used For Wide PPE Range

Johannesburg-based signage, banner and graphic design business SK52 has created PPE solutions using 3A Composites' materials.

The company created face shields for children with 0.5mm LUMEX® and the stand to hold them with 10mm SMART X®. These were all printed on a 1625 EFI UV printer and cut on a MultiCam.

The company has also created sneeze screens in various sizes using 5mm CRYLUX™, a reclining hospital bed that can be flat packed and easily assembled using FOAMALITE®, and sanitiser stations for high and low traffic areas using DIBOND® 3mm.

They have been used in hospitals and supermarkets, and sold online and in store.

'We chose 3A Composites because of the product availability, and because these products are very easy to work with,' said SK52 director Craig Drummond.

'The materials last longer and perform better during fabrication. They also hold ink better than other substrates and the materials have also been properly tested and approved.'

www.display.3AComposites.com and www.sk52.co.za





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SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Minuteman Press Launches SA COVID-19 Business Support Initiative

Bounce Back South Africa is an initiative created by Minuteman Press to offer two free services to help support neighbouring businesses in a bid to work together through these unprecedented times.

'The first service includes distributing COVID-19 awareness and prevention posters at no charge to any business in our service areas. Second, we are providing free local advertising on the Bounce Back South Africa site to stimulate business and help all of our neighbours overcome the tremendous economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We truly believe that a rising tide will lift all ships, and we want to make sure our communities stay afloat,' said Nick Titus, President, Minuteman Press International.

How it works:

- Visit www.BounceBackSouthAfrica.com.
- Select your location and then click on your local office.
- Fill out the form at the bottom of the page to submit your company's special offer or supportive message for publishing on the site at no charge. Just upload your logo and the message or offer, and Minuteman will publish the message in the appropriate category.
- Your listing will be published for free and you can order your posters via safe delivery if you like. In the event local delivery of posters is not possible, a small shipping charge may apply, but the posters will be free.

The idea for the initiative originated by John Taylor, owner of the Minuteman Press franchise in Nashville, Tennessee, who said, 'The day that the CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] guidelines came out to stay at home for the first time, I wondered how it might affect not just my business but Nashville. Everything was



just turned off like a light switch after 24 hours. For two days, I found myself thinking about how to best approach this.'

'I realised that what I need to do is simply engage Nashville. Well, how can I do that? I can't force it on them nor did I want to. Then, it hit me, and Bounce Back Nashville – now Bounce Back South Africa – was horn'

In just one week, Taylor's idea became a movement. He first engaged Nashville by giving COVID-19 prevention posters as a friendship measure and for solidarity and safety. Then, his idea grew and now he provides fellow businesses and neighbours with the free listings, yard signs, banners, door decals – all to band everybody together in the fight against Coronavirus.

'I engaged Nashville and Nashville is now engaging with me. We are going to support each other during this time. The response has been absolutely incredible. Everybody is in. Nobody wants to see themselves suffer and everybody has the same community spirit. It has been embraced like I couldn't have imagined. The Bounce Back Nashville movement has 500 members already, and I am

making ads every hour.'

'To see so many people rally around this movement is huge. I am humbled by how well Nashville's business community is coming together with no vested interest other than solidarity. To watch their eyes open, and say to me what a great idea, it just warms my heart. I look forward to all Minuteman Press franchise owners taking this ball and running with it.'

Titus added, 'When Taylor told us what he was doing in Nashville, we thought it was a brilliant idea. I got on the phone with him and after discussing it we moved quickly to make the Bounce Back initiative available at all of our franchise locations so that we can help lift up other small businesses during this critical time.

It's not just in Nashville but in communities across South Africa where we are all in this together, and that's what Bounce Back South Africa is all about.'

People can show their support and solidarity with businesses in their community at:

www.BounceBackSouthAfrica.com

Touch Of Magic And Colorscreen Announce Partnership

Johannesburg-based Touch Of Magic and Colorscreen, based in Cape Town, have announced a collaboration. Touch Of Magic are now the Gauteng agents for the Brother GTX, of which Colorscreen are the Southern African distributors.

Additionally, Colorscreen, which has been in business for 39 years, will be handling Touch of Magic's product portfolio for markets in the Western Cape. As specialists in Heat Transfer Media for over 20 years, Touch of Magic aim to supply the widest variety of top quality products.

Colorscreen now have stocks available of both heat

and digitally printable heat transfer vinyls. They have options for clients that have solvent, latex, white toner and inkjet printers, as well as solid colours that can go onto a wide variety of fabrics including stretchy and waterproof fabrics.

Brother's GTX – Direct to Garment Digital Printers are renowned for being the next generation in DTG printers, with accelerated print speed, seamless design, lower maintenance, and many other features which takes DTG printing to the next level.

Touch of Magic looks forward to being of service to Brother GTX clients in the Gauteng region.



www.touchofmagic.co.za and www.colorscreen.co.za

Africa News: Company Invests In Second Agfa Inkiet Printer

Ivory Coast-based company IPB recently invested in another Agfa Anapurna – an RTR3200i LED.

According to Agfa, the client has been a loyal customer for many years, using an Anapurna H3200i LED inkjet printer and Agfa inks.

This six-colour heavy-duty roll-to-roll printer prints top-quality indoor and outdoor banners and billboards at speeds up to 127sqm/hr.

www.agfa.com



Ali Ezzeddine, IPB, and Ahmad Fahda, Agfa.

Kemtek And Epson Webinar Outlines Large Format Printing Solution

Kemtek and Epson South Africa recently hosted an online session where attendees were shown the new Epson SureColor signage and display range.

Presented by Vernon Mellors, Epson South Africa Corporate Account Manager, he emphasised on large format printing and its importance, mostly due its versatility and value in large space scenarios. According to Mellors while price per square metre is an important aspect, users also need to take into account speed, accuracy and quality.

The SureColor SC-S series includes models such as SC-S40610, SC-S60610 and the SC-S80610 in cartridge or bulk ink configurations, and has LED lights, media versatility (indoor, outdoor and backlit to name a few), uses eco-solvent inks, and includes options of print drying systems and fan units.

There has been no third party design or production - everything has been done by Epson.

Other features include an advanced auto tension controller (which makes prints straight and even), print protection heads and take-up accuracy (resulting in less user maintenance).

Unattended printing and automation systems are available, with a new bulk ink system recently introduced. Inks are GreenGuard certified. Microweaving eliminates banding.

Software and tools are also made by Epson, so the company no longer needs to outsource another cost saving aspect. These are are easy to use and anyone can learn within an hour, with downloadable upgrades and the option to operate using a laptop.

growth path in Central and Eastern Europe, with a particularly strong eco-solvent market share. Additionally, slow growth has been seen in the Middle East and Africa, but Epson is growing its dealer base in those regions.

Mellors reported that Epson is on a strong

www.epson.co.za and www.kemtek.co.za







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SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Tali Digital Acquired By Amrod

Tali Digital Print Display Solutions' manufacturing plant has been acquired by Amrod, effective from 1 May 2020. As a result, Tali will no longer be trading as a manufacturing print provider.

'Following 16 years of assisting brands, companies and individuals to discover the art of digital print, exemplified by our passion and drive to provide our clients and your brands with superior service, it is a bittersweet moment as we retire the Tali brand,' said Tali owner Orlando De Abreu.

'We are proud of the community, our clients and our biggest supporters that rallied around Tali Digital Print Display Solutions over the years and while it is sad to say goodbye, we're eager and looking forward to putting our hearts into the exciting new opportunity as we take up our new roles within the Amrod team - an incredible team that forms the core of the world class corporate gifting and branding supplier to the industry.

With that said I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for putting your trust in us over the last 16 years and being part of the journey, which has seen us reach the point at which we find ourselves today.

It has been an honour and a privilege to have led Tali from our humble beginnings and I am super excited to be joining the Amrod Group with a view to bringing you the client even more value and service within the broader focus and expertise on offer from Amrod.'

Tali's intention is to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible for everyone who used their print services. Those with accounts with Tali can contact Carla for more information on how the closure will affect their account and creative data.

If you're not already registered as an Amrod dedicated reseller, and that is your core business,



you are encouraged to contact Amrod in order to request and complete the application process.

> www.tali.co.za and www.amrod.co.za

Roland DG South Africa And Media Partner Sign Africa Announce Top TikTok **Challenge Winners**

Roland DG South Africa has announced the top three winners from its Roland Unleashed Competition, where the public was invited to submit their original TikTok videos.

Sign Africa was the proud media partner of this challenge.

Roland called upon the public to submit uplifting videos to brighten up this lockdown. This was a competition to inspire and to lift up our spirits during these uncertain times.

The aim was to show that no matter how tough things get, the beauty of the human spirit always triumphs. There were a total 833 entries submitted, with 926.5K views.

The main prize winners are:

- 1. You Survived the Sickness Kyla Joubert -@kcioubert
- 2. Unleashed Singing RealBiggie @biggie454
- 3. C CLUB CREW Jonathan Franks @jonsyfranks

Prizes for top 3 most popular videos First prize: R15,000 cash. Second prize: R10,000 cash. Third prize: R5,000 cash.

View entries on TikTok. View daily winners.



Tulip Inks To Provide Aeoon DTG Solutions To The South African Market

Tulip Inks is now the South African distributor of the complete range of Aeoon DTG solutions. Aeoon Technologies are a world leader in producing some of the industry's most innovative and reliable digital textile printers.

Based in Kramsach, Austria, Aeoon design and manufacture their renowned digital textile printers there. After several years of experience in the industry, Aeoon formed a professional team of creative engineers and programmers to realise the company's vision of a versatile DTG industrial production platform.

Tulip Inks is specialised in providing large format digital printing solutions to customers in Africa and the Middle East, built on expertise going back to the early days of the industry.

Its products and services include equipment and ink supply, training and after sales service, repairs and spare parts replacement, ink conversions and colour profiling.

www.tulipinks.co.za



Mr Plastic Helping To **Combat COVID-19**

Mr Plastic Bedfordview is supplying a range of products to essential services companies.

The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) has certified that Mr Plastic has permission to operate during the lockdown period.

Products include:

- Aerosol intubation protective chamber -small orders or up to 99+.
- Cough and sneeze guard, 600 x 600mm, flat packed for postage.
- Division guard, 600 x 500mm, flat packed for
- Gloves, masks and wipes dispenser; 320 x 300mm.
- A4 or A5 digitally printed signs.
- Face shields.
- Sheets cut to size.



Mr Plastic Bedfordview is helping care providers combat COVID-19 with products such as protective covers.

TransMedia

www.mrpx.co.za





PVC Banner Material PVC Mesh, PVC Tarpaulin and PVC Layflat

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SIGN INDUSTRY NEWS CONTINUED

Sign Africa Launches LIVE Platform For The Latest Digital Industry Trends And Content

Keeping up with the global trend of being agile and maximising online technologies, Sign Africa's new LIVE online platform will allow audiences to experience product launches, webinars, events and video tutorials from the comfort of their personal spaces.

The LIVE Platform will feature interactive content across different online platforms (Webinars, YouTube, Twitch, Facebook Live and more).

Attendees will have the chance to: speak to industry professionals; learn new skills in our more technical webinars featuring industry experts; address business bottlenecks; be introduced to new products; discuss the latest industry trends as well as experience virtual demonstrations of the latest product launches and more.



The LIVE platform is an opportunity for you to connect with our large audiences, demonstrate your latest product launches while addressing educational industry

RAFICOMP

www.graficomp.co.za

trends, and offer value in the form of technical expertise and industry experience, as well as helping businesses to re-evaluate their processes; change their entire way of working, step up, innovate and find the opportunities.

www.signafrica.com/live



011 792 1348

021 702 0012

DBN 031 569 4966

sales@graficomp.co.za

POP2Position Creates Covid-19 Solutions Using Zünd And HP Machines

POP2Position recently branched out into a wide range of PPE solutions following the Covid-19 pandemic, including face shields, protective screens and decals. These were cut using a Zünd G3 L2500, while an HP Latex 360 labelled the face shields, and was also used to print the decals.

POP2Position offer design, manufacture and delivery of marketing solutions. It works with South Africa's premier brands and retail companies on improving their visibility and ability to interact with their consumers. Howard Tolkin, owner and director POP2Position, said, 'Zünd and HP have provided the resources we needed, notably in the plastics market space.

As far as PPE is concerned, Midcomp has provided us with a one-stop shop. Even the packaging used to pack the face shield kits was cut using the Zünd.'

The Zünd G3 Cutter is a precision machine. From innovative drive system to blade, all components are perfectly coordinated. It allows users



to produce jobs at the highest quality level, economically and efficiently.

The higher-volume, HP Latex 360 Printer prints up to 91sqm/hr and increases application versatility with an ink collector for porous textiles. The printer also features automatic front-to-back registration for printing double-sided banners.

www.midcomp.co.za and http://pop2position.co.za

Bandit Bike Graphics Acquires Racestar Graffix

Motocross and Enduro bike graphics specialist, Bandit Bike Graphics (Bandit GFX), has acquired Racestar Graffix. In addition, from Monday 1 June, Bandit GFX in Strydompark is fully operational, and it will be business as usual.

Bandit Signs managing director Darryl Curtis said, 'It was totally unexpected, who would have thought that Racestar Graffix and Bandit GFX would become one and the same? But truth be told, it was a match made in heaven. The two companies ran separately, but they are so much alike, which made the

transition effortless. It was meant to be.'

'The team will be stronger than ever with Alex Nardini and Wesley du Plooy coming on board to join Mauritz Meiring's team, with Ricky Raaff and Clinton Dick. All artwork from both companies has been centralised - the printing machines are the same, so colour consistency and quality will remain high,' added Curtis.

www.banditsigns.co.za/bike-graphics/



Sign Africa Covid-19 Response

Covid-19 is having a major impact on our way of life, with nationwide lockdowns around the world. We hope you and your loved ones are all safe.

From Sign Africa, we want to reassure you that publishing of news will be done as per normal to keep everyone up to date. Look out for our Sign Africa newsletter every Monday, or visit www. signafrica.com website for the daily updates, online Directory of Suppliers and more. Please remember to keep sending us your news.

Should you need any urgent supplies to print or produce over this time we will gladly assist you in locating a reliable source of supply with our extensive network of suppliers and readers, email: Help@SignAfrica.com

We hosted our first webinar on 21 April. The topic was: Printing And Signage Industry CEO's Sharing How Businesses Can Navigate Covid-19 and Future Trends. You can watch the full webinar recording here if you missed it: https://youtu.be/ fMogqk_2drc

It is crucial that events around the globe are cancelled or postponed to slow down the spread of Covid-19. Sign Africa joins the following events that have taken these steps, including FESPA Madrid, Dscoop and drupa to name a few. Despite the economic costs involved in this decision, the health and safety of staff, exhibitors and visitors is critical.

The following Sign Africa expos are affected by the South African Government Lockdown, and these dates are subject to change due to Covid-19 government directives:

Cape Town Expo - cancelled.



- Eastgate Pop-Up Expo postponed new dates to be advised.
- East London cancelled.

The Sign Africa and FESPA Africa Johannesburg expo, scheduled for 9-11 September 2020 at the Gallagher Convention Centre, will remain unchanged at this stage. We would like to reassure you that in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, we are taking all the necessary steps to ensure that we remain fully operational, without compromising the health of our staff, their families and the community at large.

We have an extensive media offering ensuring maximum exposure to the marketplace for our customers during this period. With our online reach, we can communicate instantly to the marketplace and keep our readers informed of the news and offers from suppliers.

We too will be offering online product showcases with live audiences so one can demonstrate your products and speak directly to the thousands of industry professionals that follow Sign Africa.

We look forward to engaging with you on all these media options and look forward to working on campaigns to continue great product exposure.

www.signafrica.com







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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Drytac Vinyl Used For Virtual Reality Building Wrap



Drytac has reported the recent completion of a project in Canada, where its graphics were used specifically for challenging weather conditions.

ArtSoft Expo Solutions has completed an eyecatching project for the Grocery Innovations Canada conference in challenging weather conditions, thanks to Drytac Polar Premium printable vinyl.

For three consecutive years, ArtSoft has worked with the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers on its Grocery Innovations Canada event. Most recently, this project included a building wrap design inspired by virtual reality – an application recognised by Big Picture magazine's Best of Wide Format Awards.

On such a large-scale design, it was essential for ArtSoft's in-house designer to carefully cross-check elements to enable application with minimal issues, for the production team to ensure the final product's print consistency to make it appear as if one seamless piece of work, and for the installation team to apply the design quickly and without problems

Every step of the process depended on using the right printable media. Joe Chan, President, ArtSoft Expo Solutions commented, 'We tested over ten different types of adhesive vinyl to find the best to install onto glass and aluminium trim. At the end, we picked Drytac Polar Premium as when we were installing the wrap in October we faced a big challenge of temperature changes: in the morning it could be 10°C (50°F) and at noon it might get up to 30°C (86°F).

'With Polar Premium, our installers managed to work very well during the installation process. Furthermore, there is no residue left on the glass or aluminium frame surfaces after removal.'

Drytac developed its Polar range to deliver exceptional quality performance in extreme

temperature ranges. Compatible with all standard digital printing technologies, Polar Premium is an ideal choice for stunning graphics on flat surfaces such as external walls and windows.

ArtSoft sourced Polar Premium from ND Graphics, who also supplies Drytac FloorTac for floor graphics – currently used by ArtSoft for social distancing floor stickers. 'I enjoy working with Drytac products and services,' Chan added. 'Before the start of the Grocery Innovations Canada project I was shown several types of Drytac materials and received all the samples that I needed for testing. Thanks to ND Graphics and Drytac this was a very successful project.'

www.midcomp.co.za

Agfa Installs LED Hybrid Wide Format Printer



Agfa has reported the installation of an Anapurna H3200i in the Netherlands. It is suited for a variety of rigid and flexible substrates up to 3.2m for indoor and outdoor applications.

Efficient production is key at Unfold. In addition, the sign and display printing company wants to be tremendously flexible in answering specific customer requests. Their new Anapurna H3200i LED hybrid wide format printer from Agfa is an ideal fit.

Unfold is originally an event organisation. 'Advertising is also part of that,' said owner René Spanger, who himself used to design the posters and flyers that were then printed elsewhere. Third parties soon appealed to his design talents. 'Before I knew it, I was a print merchant.' Spanger also got into car lettering and wrapping and purchased a cutter. 'From that moment on it got a bit out of hand,' said the young entrepreneur with a laugh. 'At one point I had so much work that it seemed useful to own a printer.'

Today Spanger has five Mimaki printers: four equipped with eco-solvent inks and a 3.2m UV printer. Agfa agent Igepa is their supplier, also when

it comes to print media. 'In collaboration with Agfa, we also installed the very first Anapurna here,' said André Geuke, account manager at Igepa. That Anapurna M1600 is a UV printer with white ink and has been running at Unfold for seven years. 'I deliberately chose a hybrid printer because of its flexibility,' said Spanger. 'It's an excellent machine with perfect print quality. But we are getting more work all the time. More people know where to find us; not only intermediaries, but also sign makers who outsource work to us. We just needed extra capacity.'

That extra capacity arrived in January 2020 with the purchase of the Anapurna H3200i LED. 'What takes two days to print on the Anapurna M1600, can be done in one morning on the Anapurna H3200i LED. It is also more efficient. We can now fit boards of two by three metres on the machine, which gives much better nesting possibilities. Now we can limit our waste to a mere 8 percent.'

Smart and efficient production is a common thread at Unfold. Embracing the Automation Engine, Esko's workflow server makes an important contribution to this. 'It allows us to prepare many files for automated printing in a short time,' said Spanger. 'We do a lot of work with relatively few staff.'

Not only the speed of the Anapurna H3200i LED is impressive, according to the entrepreneur. 'Much has improved in recent years. In terms of software, but also on the machine itself, such as a web tension system on the roll. Inks, machine and media... all elements are matched perfectly. Thanks to the UV LED technology, we can print directly on polypropylene without any problems. But we also print artwork for photographers and they set the bar high,' said Spanger.

'The Agfa inks used with the UV LED printer are much more flexible than the old UV inks', said Pedro Overmeer, Sales Manager Inkjet for Agfa in the Netherlands. 'And consumption is lower because of the thin ink layer that is sufficient to get good coverage and the most beautiful colours.' The ink configuration is CMYKLcLm plus white. Spanger is enthusiastic about the possibility to divide the print head into five sections in the software. 'Your speed may drop, but you can print five layers in one pass on transparent material, for example a blockout sticker with a double-sided image.'

www.agfa.com

X-Rite And Pantone LLC Announce Fujifilm Colour Management Collaboration

X-Rite Incorporated and Pantone LLC have announced that Fujifilm's ColorPath SYNC cloud-

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



based colour management tools now support the new i1Pro 3 Family of spectrophotometers. Print providers will be able to quickly and easily create ICC profiles using the i1Pro 3 devices and align production devices to a designated colour target using ColorPath SYNC.

'We look forward to the gains in productivity both we and our customers will enjoy with the new i1Pro 3 Family in conjunction with ColorPath SYNC,' said Peter Pretzer, ColorPath Solutions Development Manager for Fujifilm North America, Graphic Systems Division.

The i1Pro 3 family is ideal for print and graphic arts professionals who require accurate colour from their printer, display and projector. The i1Pro 3 is more accurate, reliable and twice as fast as its predecessor. It simultaneously measures M0, M1, and M2 in a single pass while accounting for optical brighteners. Prepress and print operators can quickly predict how colours printed on optically-brightened substrates will look under different lighting conditions.

The i1Pro 3 Plus features a larger 8mm aperture to support additional materials and substrates used in digital printing applications. It also supports transmission scanning for backlit film and materials used in signage. With the addition of the i1iO3, both the i1Pro 3 and i1Pro 3 Plus can be used in automated measurement workflows.

'X-Rite is excited to provide Fujifilm customers with best-in-class solutions to improve their digital printing workflows,' said Ray Cheydleur, Print and Imaging Product Portfolio Manager, X-Rite. 'The i1Pro 3 speeds the measurement process with its new single pass scanning workflow for all M conditions.

When paired with ColorPath SYNC, print customers can achieve a connected workflow to define printing system settings, create ICC profiles, linearize, validate, and maintain compliance with printing standards.'

www.xrite.com

Fujifilm Solution Produces Thousands Of Social Distancing Markers



Nearly 100,000 social distancing floor graphics were created with the Fujifilm Acuity LED 1600. West London signage company FD Signs successfully delivered the social distancing floor graphics for use across the London transport network.

'We do jobs for TFL [Transport for London] fairly regularly,' said FD Signs founder and director Fintan Delaney. 'But we've never done anything for them on this scale. We were delighted to get the opportunity and all of our suppliers really stepped up to make sure we had everything we needed to finish the job.'

The Acuity LED 1600 was used alongside anther roll-to-roll machine to produce the work, which was printed onto Polar Grip vinyl supplied by Drytac. 'As our ink and media requirements went up exponentially during this job we were really impressed that, despite the logistical challenges posed by the Coronavirus lockdown, our suppliers managed to get what we needed to us. Our distributor, CSL Digital, was reliable as always, and Fujifilm also stepped in to send ink to us directly when our requirements exceeded what CSL was

able to supply within the very tight timeframe we were working to.'

FD Signs' five permanent staff normally work a nine-to-five, five-day week. This job turned that on its head. 'We were all working 18-hour days for ten days straight,' said Delaney. 'And we had someone coming in at three o'clock in the morning to change the rolls on the printers every night — so they could keep printing right through. I even celebrated my 50th birthday on the job.'

At one point, the FD Signs team had delivered 6000 graphics a day, for 10 consecutive days, to 30 different installation teams around the capital who installed them in London Underground stations during overnight closures. On top of this, similar graphics were created over the same time period for other parts of the London transport network, including the Croydon Tramlink and Network Rail.

Though FD Signs have had their hybrid Acuity LED 1600 for nearly two years, this was the first time they had used its roll-to-roll function. 'We bought the Acuity for printing to rigid board primarily, as we have a separate, dedicated roll-to-roll machine,' explained Delaney. 'We've been very impressed with its quality and reliability (we've never had a customer complaint about an Acuity-printed sign) but this was the first time we'd used its roll-to-roll function for a big job.

'It is a little slower than our other machine – but the quality is noticeably better, the ink is more durable and it is also very well-built and reliable. We were working it extremely hard – 24 hours a day – for ten days straight, and we had no problems with it whatsoever. We'll certainly be using the roll-to-roll function much more in the future.'

With the TFL job delivered, FD Signs is now working on other, similar jobs for major retailers and brands as they begin to anticipate an easing of their lockdown. 'Clear signage to ensure people keep their distance from one another is going to be increasingly important as people slowly return to everyday life,' said Delaney. 'We're anticipating quite a few jobs like this in the coming weeks and months and we've also been providing some of this sort of signage free of charge to small local businesses and to the NHS.'

Andy Kent, Divisional Manager, Fujifilm Graphic Systems UK said, 'The lockdown has posed enormous challenges for all of us, but we're proud of the service we continue to provide our customers who are doing such important work. We're also delighted that FD Signs has had the opportunity to put the Acuity LED 1600's roll-to-roll function to the test, and we look forward to supporting the company in future projects.'

www.fujifilm.eu

Marabu Using Resources Normally Dedicated To Printing Inks To Combat COVID-19



With the commitment of its employees, Marabu has formulated a hand and surface sanitiser that meets WHO standards. The enterprise is giving some of the products to its own staff, but donating the vast majority free of charge to the RKH hospital in the nearby city of Ludwigsburg.

Marabu, headquartered in Tamm, Germany, has converted selected production assets to the manufacture of disinfectant – using equipment normally dedicated to digital printing inks.

Alexander Tsongas, RKH Hospital with York Boeder and Daniel Gandner, Marabu. York Boeder, CEO of Marabu said, 'With this donation, we want to help those people who

donation, we want to help those people who are working selflessly and beyond their limits to provide outstanding care to our fellow citizens.'

In addition to producing its own disinfectant, Marabu's international subsidiaries have provided over 2000 protective masks, including highly sought-after FFP2 masks. These will also be donated to the hospital.

Furthermore, Marabu will provide a wide range of its Creative Colours – including markers and paints for arts and crafts – to the day-care centre and playroom at the children's wing at the RKH in Ludwigsburg. These materials can be used to colour the protective masks and decorate them with bright and uplifting designs. This can help make the masks less intimidating for young patients – plus, a colourful mask can put a smile on the faces of doctors and nurses, too.

Alexander Tsongas, Director of Communication at RKH, is delighted with the donation and local

support. 'Faced with the current, very difficult market for disinfectant and protective equipment, we are very grateful for any help. It is wonderful that companies in the region are doing their part in the fight against COVID-19.'

www.chemosol.co.za

Epson Large Format Printers Honoured For Innovation



Epson's flagship models of the Surecolor series, the Surecolor SC-P7500 and Surecolor SC-P9500s, have been honoured in the Red Dot Awards.

Created in 1955 in Germany, the Red Dot Design Award is organised by the Design Zentrum Nordrhein Westfalen design centre and is recognised around the world as one of the most prestigious awards in the design field. A jury of experts evaluates products announced during the past two years and selects the best designs based on nine criteria, including degree of innovation, functionality, ergonomics, ecological compatibility, and durability. This year's winners were selected from entries from around the world.

Epson's large format printers and an industrial robot have won the Red Dot Award in the Product Design category, marking the fourth successive year that Epson products have been recognised in this award. The company also said that its printers had been recognised for their second successive Red Dot: Best of Best Award.

The Surecolor SC-P7500 and Surecolor SC-P9500s are regarded as the industry standards for reproducing high-quality images in fine art, proofing, and photo laboratories. They provide the functional operability of high-quality professional tools, such as internal lighting to immediately check printed material, and a neutral colour that does not interfere when making colour adjustments.

The VT6L six-axis robot is a smooth and beautifully designed entry level 6-axis robot with curved surfaces that make it easy to install. Designed to automate simple transfer operations previously undertaken by humans, the main unit and the controller are integrated to enable space-saving and ease of use. Low ownership costs are achieved by reducing the cost of the main unit and lower running costs due to a battery-less motor unit.

https://global.epson.com

HP Stitch Ensures Accurate Colour Matching On Fabrics



The installation of the HP Stitch S300 will ensure Racesafe's ability to print quickly and accurately, without compromising on customer demand for high-quality and precise finishes. The new machine will allow Racesafe to accurately match colours to registered shades from its old equipment in a straightforward manner.

Racesafe is a leading manufacturer of riding apparel, protection and silks in the UK and Europe, selling its range of equestrian clothing to a network of up to 200 retailers. Racesafe also offers one-off customised riding silks, such as hats and jackets, to its customer base, with each design being entirely unique to the jockey who requests it. The silks often feature branding and sponsors' logos, and subsequently must be accurately matched in terms of colour.

'As weight is a big factor in horse racing, we required a machine capable of printing onto lightweight fabrics like polyester-based satin,' said James How, director of Racesafe. 'Digital dye-sublimation printing was the obvious choice, and the user-friendliness of the HP Stitch S300's interface means it can be operated even by our non-technicians. It's far more intuitive than our old machine: it's able to colour-match faster and more accurately, all while reducing floorspace with its front-loading design. It's ticked all the boxes and we're excited to explore new business avenues with this kit.'

The HP Stitch S300 series is a dye-sublimation textile printer capable of printing to both transfer paper and direct-to-fabric. With HP SmartColor, predictable colour is faster and easier to achieve than ever before with maximum efficiency and versatility.

www.graficomp.co.za

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

swissQprint's Technological Efforts Ensure Low Environmental Impact



swissQprint is strategically harnessing its technologies and processes to protect the environment.

Customer benefit and environmental compatibility are equally high priorities in developing the large format printers, a principle that takes its firm place in the Swiss company's mission statement. swissQprint Greentech shows how this works in practice. The result is that swissQprint users attain high added value with the lowest possible environmental impact.

Four main factors contribute to swissQprint large format printers leaving a small ecological footprint: short shipping distances, high durability, low maintenance requirements and UV LED printing technology.

The printers are developed and manufactured from start to finish at the headquarters in Switzerland, with the involvement of mostly local suppliers. UV LED technology requires neither heating for drying processes nor ventilation for extracting volatile pollutants (VOC). Furthermore, the LED UV lamps that cure the ink are economical on electricity. This minimises the system's overall energy requirement.

A fully equipped swissQprint large format printer with a 2×3.2 metre flatbed draws the same amount of electricity as two ordinary electric kettles – just 3 kWh. The printer makes extraordinarily efficient use of this electricity, as evidenced by measurements and ISO 20690 certification.

swissQprint draws an interesting comparison: Nyala, the largest and highest-performing model in the swissQprint range, prints an area about the same size as a tennis court within one hour when running at top speed. It consumes 3kWh of electricity to cover this surface of around 200 square metres. A Tesla, the prime example of 'green mobility', can only travel about 16km with the same amount of energy.

The current UV standard inks from swissQprint are Greenguard Gold certified. This means that printed

products can be brought confidently into critical places like hospitals and schools as the inks comply with strict upper limits for chemical emissions. Furthermore, UV printing does not emit ozone. And with LED systems having replaced the mercury vapour lamps used in the past, toxic waste has been eliminated.

www.sign-tronic.co.za

Vista System Reveals Runner Up Project In Design Competition









Vista System's annual signage projects contest that ended recently attracted dozens of ambassador and signage companies from around the world, who provided images and stories about their projects.

One of the runner ups was the National Aviation Agency (ANAC) project in Mali Republic.

Barry Abdrahamane, owner of Poster Media Mali and a 3-Star Ambassador of Vista System for more than 10 years, had chosen a variety of signage solutions, each with its own purpose and advantages.

- Vista System small wall frames were used indoors for offices and restrooms.
- Vista System large wall frames were used indoors and outdoors for main entrances.
- Directory signs were strategically positioned to direct traffic in the building.
- Double sided post signs were prominently positioned to indicate direction for visitors.
- A huge triangular pylon, more than two metres above its concrete base, dominates the skyline with its huge graphics. This specific product was chosen as it was sturdy enough to withstand the strong winds in the area.

www.vistasystem.co.za

Color-Logic Announces Free Metallic Files



Color-Logic will offer free print-ready Color-Logic metallic files, which are for anyone wishing to print 'Thank You' or 'Thinking of You' cards, or Coronavirus Safety Posters.

Discussing the free file programme, Color-Logic Director of Sales and Marketing Mark Geeves said, 'Because print is such a powerful communication tool, we are providing print-ready Color-Logic metallic files that anyone can use in these stressful times. Now is the time to reach out to customers, family and friends to thank them or just let them know you are thinking about them.'Plus this is the time to particularly consider those individuals who do not have internet access or computer knowledge.

These are the people who need a warm thought, and what better media than a nice printed card? These designs can be printed using either silver ink/toner and CMYK on paper, or white ink/toner and CMYK on metallic substrate. All the embellishments have been added to the files, so it is only necessary to add your message of hope to the inside, and personalise the reverse with your company information.'

The print-ready Color-Logic files can be downloaded at www.color-logic.com/coronavirus

Global Graphics Announces Free Practical Guide On Creating Variable Data PDF Files

'Full Speed Ahead: How to make variable data PDF files that won't slow your digital press' is a concise guide that provides objective information and advice to anyone with a stake in Variable Data Printing (VDP): graphic designers, print buyers, production managers, press operators, owners



of PSPs, and developers of digital presses and composition tools.

The free guide is edited by Martin Bailey, chief technology officer for Global Graphics and the primary UK expert to the ISO committees that maintain and develop PDF and PDF/VT. A number of leading vendors and supporters in the VDP sector have sponsored the guide, including HP Indigo, WhatTheyThink!, Digimarc, Delphax Solutions, Racami, Kodak, HYBRID Software and HP PageWide Industrial.

Everyone in the digital print supply chain can speed the production of VDP jobs thanks to the new independent guide to the 'dos and don'ts' of optimising PDF files for the fastest, most efficient processing by digital front ends (DFEs).

The impact of poorly constructed PDF files on production schedules has increased as press resolution, colourant count, speed and width rise, greatly increasing the data rate required to drive them.

This increase in data places additional demands on the processing power of the DFE and risks slowing down the digital press: a delay of half a second on every page of a 10,000-page job adds 90 minutes to the whole job, while for a job of a million pages an extra tenth of a second per page adds 24 hours to the total processing time.

In parallel, the range of print sectors taking advantage of VDP has also grown significantly. VDP has been introduced into wide format, labels and packaging and into some areas of industrial print for décor, textiles, product decoration, and ID cards.

Regulation has increased requirements for the tracking of high-value goods and pharmaceuticals. Incorporating unique identifiers in the packaging of those products in a variety of overt and covert ways is partly addressed by using VDP.

Bailey said the main aim of the guide is to 'provide practical recommendations that help ensure that VDP jobs don't slow down the print production workflow, without affecting the visual appearance

that the brand owner, buyer or marketeer is trying to achieve. If every label, page, carton or T-shirt is different, at least some of every instance must be rendered, colour managed, half-tone screened and delivered from the DFE to the inkjet heads at engine speed, and that's a lot of data.

If everyone in the chain works together to optimise VDP PDF jobs, processing is much more efficient because presses are kept running and jobs will be delivered on time.'

To download a free copy of 'Full Speed Ahead: how to make variable data PDF files that won't slow your digital press' click here.

www.globalgraphics.com

Summa Users Continue To Raise Awareness About COVID-19 With Health Signage



Summa has reported that its F1612 flatbed cutter has contributed to raising awareness about COVID-19 by assisting in the production of floor decals to enforce social distancing guidelines.

Manchester-based Europoint is a major supplier of signage materials to the UK Point of Sale (POS), sign and digital print sectors. To enable a fast start-up of the production of floor decals, Europoint contacted their sister company, ADAPT – Amari Digital Printing Technologies to help out. ADAPT has the necessary vinyls to produce the stickers available at hand, and they are also equipped with a Summa F1612 flatbed cutter in their production area. Therefore, ADAPT could start a continuous high-volume production of these rolls of floor decals immediately.

Mike Broughton, Europoint's General Manager explained, 'Here at Europoint, we are motivated to support the national effort against the spread of the virus in any way we can, working with our suppliers and supporting our customers who can supply on a significant scale with social distancing and other health signage that can assist this universal effort against COVID-19. This way we hope to make a small contribution to the countrywide efforts we see emerging on a daily basis.'

Armando Carvalho, Senior Engineer at ADAPT added, 'Any contribution, going from face masks to face shields, surgical aprons, but also floor graphics, can save one's life during these times. It is important we keep joining efforts and help out where we can. These floor graphics are an essential part to reminding people in a friendly way to keep their much needed social distance.'

www.summa.eu

Drytac Graphics Applied In Ten Stores Over Seven Days



Drytac Polar Grip is an 80 micron (3.2mm) white polymeric self-adhesive PVC vinyl designed for interior and exterior wall graphics, offering durability of up to five years. To ensure consistent results across a range of environments, it was recently used in a campaign spanning ten stores.

Creative print company Creative Silhouettes completed an attention-grabbing project for Hobo Cannabis Company, printing and installing graphics in ten new stores in just seven days using Drytac Polar Grip.

Giovani Pereira, Project Manager and Business Development at Creative Silhouettes, said, 'Our deal with Hobo was to wrap ten entire stores regardless of the surface of the walls – and every one had different surfaces, such as brick, stucco, painted wood and rusted metal.

'ND Graphics are our primary supplier of vinyl and equipment so we went to our contact Dwayne Burton for advice. He recommended Drytac Polar Grip, and we undertook several print and install tests on all rough surfaces, including floor, and they all worked well.'

Creative Silhouettes printed the black-and-white wall graphics with photographic details on its HP Latex R1000. 'Using Drytac Polar Grip, we took care of all Hobo's stores across Toronto, printing and installing graphics in ten stores in seven days.'

Drytac Polar Grip's high-bond adhesive is compatible with a wide range of surfaces including metal, plastic, wood, glass and brick and has been rated for fire safety to meet the requirements of public spaces. It performs well with latex, UV, solvent and eco-solvent printing technologies and is available in White Matte and Gloss finishes.

www.midcomp.co.za

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES DURING COVID-19

FOR THE PRINTING AND SIGNAGE INDUSTRY

The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly impacted our industry. However, in any crisis, businesses are forced to adapt and find new opportunities. Many companies have had to innovate and have diversified their offerings to include various protective materials and products. The demand for personalisation and same day delivery is driving local production, reducing logistics costs and delivery time, while boosting the local economy.

Zünd Product Manager and Director, Sean Greer, said, 'South Africa still needs an estimated 210 million pieces of PPE. At prices paid to date, that will come in at a price of well over R3.5 billion. 'Hundreds of millions of pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE), worth billions of rands, are needed by South Africa alone. Instead of importing these, they can be manufactured in the country, and therefore boost the economy at the same time.'

Face Masks

Materials

Bill Naylor, Director of Printbase Textiles, said there are two types of masks. The first is the N95 masks, which should be reserved for frontline medical personnel. These masks have a 1 micron barrier and can block the Coronavirus. Usually these masks are disposable.

'To reach N95 status, the filter has to stop particles of less than 1 micron size. As far as I am aware, there is no filter this fine available in South Africa at present, but I am working with a company that is developing one that is in the final stages of testing. Once this is approved, we want to recommend to our customers that they buy this filter fabric and use it in a three layer sandwich with our outer and inner fabrics to achieve the first N95 fabric mask in South Africa.'

Then there are fabric or cloth face masks that most printers are producing, and that are being sold in shops. These do not have an N95 rating. Naylor said the main purpose of these masks is to stop infected people from transmitting the virus to non-infected people. 'If I have the virus and wear a mask when I cough or sneeze, the virus should not get through two layers of my fabric and one layer of filter. However, if it does and lands on the mask of a non infected person, there are again another three layers for the virus to penetrate before reaching this person's nose or mouth, so wearing a mask gives much better protection



Printbase Textiles produces an outer fabric and an inner fabric that get stitched together, leaving a pouch in the middle into which a non-woven filter is inserted. 'These filters can trap particles of 5 micron size, so will not stop the Covid-19 virus on its own from passing through the filter. The thinking at the moment is that it will stop spit droplets (which contain the virus) from penetrating through the mask.

Face shields made by Life's a Gift.

'There are testing facilities in South Africa that can do air flow and barrier hold out tests where products can be evaluated. The tests work on a scale of 1-4: 1 being very poor, 2 poor, 3 good and 4 excellent. Our mask fabrics are all filament polyester warp knitted products. Masks made from our fabrics are not disposable and should last for many washes (at least 50 I would think). The current filter fabrics only last between 5 and 10 washes.'

Ink Safety

Another aspect to consider when producing face masks is the inks. There are stories of people having had to wash a printed face mask they've purchased a few times to reduce the strong smell of the ink, which raises the issue of ink safety.

Neil Green, Sales and Marketing director, NUtec Digital Ink, said, 'Inks used to print any graphic for skin contact need to pass the appropriate certification. There are a few tests that can be conducted to certify compliance of the appropriate product.

These include the Adidas A01 Standard, NIKE RSL (Restricted Substances List), and Oeko-Tex® STANDARD 100, or ECO PASSPORT — a globally uniform testing and certification system for textile chemicals, colourants, and auxiliaries. Anyone supplying a dye sublimation ink for the purposes of masks should be asked to provide the necessary certification to prove it is suitable for the application.'

Personalisation

Even though consumers' main priority with masks is protection, they also want to look good while wearing them, and the more the unique, the better. 'The value created from personalisation helps differentiate your product from mass produced prints, and will increase your brand value and customer loyalty, said Greer.

ADVERTORIAL COVER STORY

Taking advantage of the personalisation trend is Midcomp customer, The Media Shack, which has not only started producing face masks, but introduced an online platform allowing its clients to design their own masks. 'With the HP Stitch's print speed and the fact that we are able to offer water-based inks — which are safe for use on these masks — we are now manufacturing large scale to corporates for their staff,' said The Media Shack's Managing Director Darryn Potgieter.



Credit: The Media Shack.



Internationally, Mimaki customer, Energiapura, has branded and customised masks with sublimation printing. 'Bold colouring has always distinguished our brand, and we didn't want to abandon this, not even in the midst of the crisis,' explained Alberto Olivetto, founder and CEO of Energiapura. 'Sublimation printing allows us to give a brighter face to Covid-19. Our message is to add colour and a bit of optimism, precisely in these difficult times.'



Protective Screens

Clear thermoplastic sheeting is used by convertors across the country for the manufacture of sneeze screens, masks, face shields and more. According to Maizey Plastics, the sneeze screen is a simple, clear barrier screen that can be manufactured from acrylic, polycarbonate or polyester and is erected between the service provider and client/patient.

The company states there are no standard sizes for protective barriers, but the rule of thumb is to assess the working area and ensure the screen is large enough to provide adequate protection for both parties on either side of the screen. Convertors generally consult with the end-users on the area to be covered, mounting options as well as any custom requirements like document slots or pay pad access. A major advantage of the above-mentioned thermoplastics is the ease of fabrication. Screens can be fixed to counter surfaces, be free-standing or suspended from the ceiling.



Protective screens installed by Maizey Plastics' client WC Plastics.

COVER STORY ADVERTORIAL



3A Composites South Africa's client SK52 created face shields for children using 0.5mm LUMEX®.



Intamarket Graphics states that hospital overflow beds and partitioning for Covid-19 can be created with materials that are developed to rapidly scale up much needed temporary hospital bed capacity. Ideal materials will require no tools or power, be quick to install, and should be strong enough to handle large weights.



Portable booths made of a modular aluminium frame structure and printed textile graphics can also be used as hospital bed dividers. TRIGA states that marketing and branding materials usually used for exhibitions and events can be turned into protective solutions. For example, free-standing sanitiser stations are easy-to-deploy and can be custom branded with the users' choice of interchangeable textile prints.

'PAY PER USE (PPU)' PROGRAMME





Cutting Unique Covid-19 Products

Laser and flatbed cutters are being used to rapidly cut large volumes of fabric for masks, face shields, goggles, floor decals, desk and counter dividers, safety wear, surgical aprons and more. According to SA Argus Laser Machines, 'Cutting fabric with a laser machine has many benefits, including increased production speed, accuracy as well as sealing the edges of fabric to prevent fraying.'

SA Argus customer Ibala Laser Solutions laser cut an acrylic device that protects users from having to touch lift buttons and ATM Buttons and having to pull out chairs, etc. with their fingers or hands — helping them avoid contact with any virus that may be on those surfaces. It can be cleaned with sanitiser as often as necessary.



Trotec Canada posted a video on laser cutting 'ear savers'. According to the company, many health care workers complain that wearing face masks for long hours puts massive strains on their ears. These ear savers are meant to strap the mask to the back of the head instead of the ears.



Ear savers from Trotec Canada.

Informational And Awareness Signage

There has been a large shift from traditional advertising to awareness advertising, floor markers for social distancing and other health signage. Maizey Plastics states that ongoing reminders and instructions for social distancing, hygiene practices and Covid-19 awareness campaigns will become a part of our future. 'Wherever we turn, from retail environments, to hospitals or office complexes, you will find information being supplied in visual form.'

Bandit Signs, who traditionally deals in vehicle branding, used its equipment to print vehicle decals for doctors, nurses, paramedics, researchers, healthcare workers, medics and even midwives, which helped them to be recognised when travelling to hospitals and clinics.



As it is difficult to see faces behind medical personal protective equipment, many patients, especially the elderly, find it a frightening 'alien' experience. Two medical students in Israel launched the 'More than Masks' movement on Facebook, calling for photos on the medical Covid-19 suits and gear. The page attracted the attention of HP Indigo team employees, who helped launch the project by supporting the printing of the first 70,000 photo stickers.

To date, 200,000 photo stickers have been printed by HP and print partners, and donated to an estimated 2000 medical personnel at 16 hospitals in Israel. The photo stickers feature a smiling face with the staff member's name and function. The medical teams stick them directly on their protective gowns and then dispose of them at the end of the shift. Download free templates here.



PRINTING AND SIGNAGE INDUSTRY CEO'S

SHARE FUTURE TRENDS AND HOW BUSINESSES CAN NAVIGATE COVID-19



CEO's from both the printing and signage industries shared ideas on how to navigate your businesses during and after these uncertain times in a webinar hosted by Sign Africa on 21 April. They shared best business practices, ideas on innovation, opportunities, changes, industry trends and much more.

The webinar was moderated by Dyelan Copeland, Publisher of Sign Africa, and the online panel included:

- Rob Makinson, Midcomp.
- Raymond Waldeck, Kalideck.
- Bob Glenister, Roland.
- Wessel van der Merwe, Maizey.

Attendees had an opportunity to ask the panellists questions. Those who couldn't attend can watch the full length webinar at www.signafrica.com/live.

The main trends and insights include:

How can businesses stay productive during this time?

Glenister emphasised on the importance of looking for opportunities, especially those of branding, 'everyone can get involved – get out there and say 'how can I help you?"

Waldeck added that companies must focus on remaining relevant, while Makinson said businesses should step outside their comfort zones and think outside the box. 'You will be successful in the long run, because success won't just come to you while you sit back and relax,' said Makinson.

We've heard many iterations that the world will be different and we need to do things differently going forward. What does this mean for the printing and signage industry? What does the future look like?

Without the proverbial 'crystal ball', this is not an easy question to answer but all four panellists offered the following advice moving forward:

'Change is a part of life, although it's not always anticipated. People can share ideas, present them virtually and turn these ideas into reality, not too much needs to change,' said van der Merwe.

'Be positive, ask how you can be essential, and look at ways you can help the less advantaged. Covid-19 didn't just create change, there has always been

change,' said Glenister.

Waldeck echoed Glenister in saying, 'The only constant is change. To remain constant, you must change.'

'So much can be done remotely. We've learned that people don't have to come to our offices (in order to conduct business),' said Makinson.

How should one deal with the financial impact Covid-19 has inflicted on all companies and individuals?

Waldeck said that while it is different for all businesses, he advised on the security and consistency of supply, communication and staying realistic.

Glenister advised on being practical, but even more importantly to identify who owes you money, and who you owe money to. Resolving these issues now will remove many problems in the long run.

Makinson's advice was to communicate with landlords, banks and insurance companies, and van der Werwe agreed, stating that good communication means being in good standing with your customer.

How long will the economy take to recover from Covid-19?

Waldeck believes that the economy will recover due to the increase in demand after the lockdown when things go back to 'normal' and that South Africa could rebound, while Glenister said that the time frame is up to all of us, emphasising that we need to pull together and have the right attitude.

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'So much can be done remotely. We've learned that people don't have to come to our offices (in order to conduct business),' said Makinson.

In light of the drop in production from China, could we see an increase in local production in terms of

'Made in Africa' items?

Van der Merwe believes it is possible as we're an innovative nation, and it can remedy unemployment, but it does not come without challenges such as

Glenister's response was that we could see an increase, but that we need to focus on quality.

According to Waldeck, we must practise 'Made In Africa' relentlessly and we are certainly able to do it, but we must also be careful not to push foreign import away - we must be very specific with what we import and export.

Makinson said that while we may not be on the same level in terms of cutting machines, etc. with China, and that while there are huge volumes of sportswear in China, the manufacture of sportswear can be done here in South Africa, at the same standard of quality.

What impact will the current exchange rate have on our industry?

Makinson said that for the time being, everyone must expect increased costs in print production and POS goods.

Do you think customers' priorities on visual communication output will change - that is, what they request and buy from signage and print shops? What products do you think will be more in demand post-lockdown and during the

Covid-19 crisis?

'There are always changes in the market - just adapt to the change and investigate what customers want,' said Glenister.

'The promo space will be busy, so we must think of the way forward, and determine between the 'nice to have' and the 'have to have'. Some markets will recover quicker than others,' said van der Merwe.

'We have currently seen a shift from traditional advertising to awareness advertising, there are now lots of opportunities that you would never have seen before - certain budgets will need to be modified,' said Makinson.

'Runs will be shorter, and more specific,' said Waldeck.

Parting shots

'The pandemic has brought our nation closer, we're all in the same box. We're in this together and we will get out of this together. We will all need each other after this, and at Maizey, we are here for you,' said van der Merwe.

'The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step,' said Glenister, 'take a step guys, we can make it beautiful.'

'Be the future, stay agile and stay positive,' said Waldeck.

'Life goes on, we're a positive nation and have to do things differently,' said Makinson. 'A business with good staff always succeeds. Don't sit back, be proactive. I believe we will see the Rand recover.'

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CHOOSING TH RIGHT INK IS A CRITICAL STEP IN THE ADOPTION OF DIGITAL PRINTING

BY SENSIENT INK

It's all very well identifying a need for digital printing in your operations, but should you be spending money on new machinery, or is choosing the right ink the main priority? For many, the printer carries the highest capital investment and so is the first step, but for others, the printhead drives the decision.

Digital inkjet technologies are taking the global print marketplace by storm, especially as the need for shorter runs of print and personalisation increases. With the digital print market estimated to reach \$225 billion globally by 2029 (https://bit.ly/2YFjj7F), businesses are seeking to implement digital print technology into their operations to achieve productivity and profitability gains but the real challenge is where to start when considering a new application.

When looking at adopting digital inkjet for the first time in an industrial application, there are several factors to consider:

1. The importance of ink chemistry

Ultimately, the ink itself defines both performance and the acceptance of the print and application, and its chemistry should ideally be a primary consideration in any discussion of digital technology adoption: with everything from ink wetting, adhesion, viscosity and surface tension considered. The choice of ink will also have a significant impact on the drying speed and the overall throughput potential of a system. Although the hardware is, undoubtedly, critical for the delivery of the ink, it is prudent to understand the ink chemistry and match it to the hardware rather than the other way around. If the chemistry is wrong, the ink can affect the application performance, the fastness, the colour and the quality, so getting the choice of ink right is a critical step in the adoption of a digital printing process.

2. Have you chosen the right type of ink?

In markets with evolving regulatory requirements, the ink type itself can be critical as well. For instance, with a growing focus on sustainability, there has been an increased need for water-based solutions that reduce the environmental impact of the print process without compromising quality and consistency. The ink type you choose directly affects the implementation process – for example, by choosing a water-based ink, you are automatically ruling out several hardware options in terms of printhead and system requirements. The type of ink chosen will also dictate the drying or fixation method, and whether the substrate needs to be primed prior to printing.

3. Choosing the best printhead

Advancements in printheads with different nozzle configurations and densities, widths and print frequencies have contributed to increasing the speed, quality

and efficiency of the digital print process. In many emerging applications, the print quality and requirements of the head are a primary consideration – for example, high quality packaging markets will require 1200dpi resolution to meet the demands of both the market and brands for text and detail, but the printhead may have limitations when required to print a full tone brand colour. This means that many businesses look at the choice of printhead first and try to match the ink chemistry, software and ink delivery systems afterwards.

4. Is the system integrated?

For many industrial applications, it can be difficult to find an off-the-shelf solution to meet all your technical requirements. In many instances, industrial printers are looking to add digital ink printing capability to an existing production line and, even when an offline printer is acceptable, the full end-to-end process may require something non-standard. For this, system integrators are critical - companies able to use printheads, electronics and software to implement a solution with an existing or custom system are making digital inkjet printing a reality for industrial users globally.

Although digital printing is often seen as the 'next step' for industrial printers, it can be a challenging process to implement and 'starting right' can often dictate future success. While it's tempting to consider the printer as the most important factor, the choice of ink chemistry and printhead can often be more critical to success. Ultimately, if the ink does not fit in terms of design, function or substrate, the printer cannot improve the result enough to compensate.

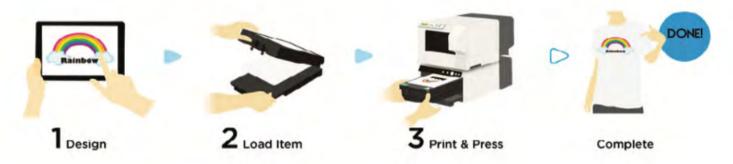
An ideal scenario would be to discuss requirements with ink and printhead manufacturers simultaneously, allowing for close collaboration to optimise the performance of the ink - ensuring maximum performance, shorter development time, and ultimately a fully integrated solution. V



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WHAT MAKES GOOD SIGNAGE?

BY MARÍA JOSÉ GARCÍA, FLAAR REPORTS/DPI INSIGHTS MAGAZINE

Advertising is everything for a business: it can be the piece of the puzzle that can mean success or failure. As marketing expenditure is increasing, it is invested more and more in signage, including digital signage. Thanks to the many trade shows around the world, people are being reminded of the importance of the market and that the business is growing considerably.

Advertising is not an easy job, and it can sometimes feel like a war against being boring and irrelevant. This is why psychologists have been consulted in the market, so they can analyse and propose better strategies based on human behaviour. This is also when neuroscience comes into the picture. Signage can increase brand awareness by 47.7%, according to InfoTrends. Being aware of what drives consumers' behaviour can also help sign makers or providers advise their clients on the most effective ways to get their message across.





The Basic Types Of Signage:

- Persuasive: push and convince people to buy your product or hire your services.
- Informative: inform people about essential keys points of your business, your history and every relevant detail.
- Directional: the way you can guide a potential customer through your business. Signage plays a huge role in this.
- Safety and warning: legal signage requirements for safety inside a company. This can vary depending on the type of business you own.

Every business needs different types of signage. Here are the main points to keep in mind:

Choose Your Audience

It may seem obvious and cliché, but you need to understand your target's behaviour, age, sex, occupations, lifestyle, needs, location, goals, hobbies... basically everything. Why? Because this knowledge allows you to engage with them and sell them something that they need (that they probably weren't even aware of). Knowing this is advantageous so you can connect even more with them.

Marketing Strategies

There are tons of strategies when it comes to marketing, and they are usually based on psychology. Here are the most common:

- Emotional appeal: engaging with the emotional side can be a great way to start. You can use the basic emotions (happiness, sadness, anger, surprise, fear) as a guide of how you want to influence your target's behaviour.
- Difference: the best way to start a business is by knowing your differentiator. What makes your product or service different from the many options out there? This may not only be your best weapon in general but it also makes creating signage much easier.
- Addressing problems and doubts: the best way to expose the solution that your product provides, or the problem that it solves is by using signage.

Design

Design is an elemental part of signage in general. Have you ever seen signage that gets you confused or you simply don't know what it's communicating?

Well in some cases, that's the main point... keeping you thinking about it. But what about looking at a sign that is written incorrectly? It may be the worst advertisement for your business.



Red Excitement Strength Love Energy Pink Compassion Sincerity Sophstication Sweet Confidence Success Bravery Sociability Creativity Happiness Warmth Cheer Creativity Happiness Warmth Cheer Creativity Happiness Warmth Cheer Creativity Happiness Warmth Cheer Brown Dependable Rugged Trust Peace Loyalty Competence White Clean Simple Simple Clean Simplicity Innocence Honest

Psychology of colours, courtesy of Creative Alys.

Words

Details, details and more details. When it comes to word choice, your signs should be completely readable by your target. Grammar and spelling mistakes aren't allowed as they give the wrong impression of your business. Also, keep in mind that less is more. It is not necessary to have a lengthy paragraph to communicate something. Just choose the right words. Powerful and emotional words can also be a key. All of these elements combined ensure effective communication.

Vision

As humans, we tend to have a better perception of graphic signs and our brains prefer images to text, so a great balance between both yields the best signage. The best part is that signs can be understandable worldwide no matter what language they are in. So keep in mind that less text is best.



Colour Psychology

There's tons of information about each colour and how it makes the brain feel, but here are a few tricks to consider when designing a sign:

- Contrast: it is not necessary to blind people out, but a good contrast may give a nice look at the sign.
- Don't use only monochromatic colours. It can make a sign feel boring and irrelevant
- Background vs. text should have contrast so it can be readable.
- Keep your business colour scheme in mind to design your branding and publicity.
- Consider what kind of message you want to give so you can choose the best colour for it.



Signage spelling mistake, courtesy of Frugal Entrepreneur.



Confusing sign, courtesy of Innocent English.

Constantly Evolving

You don't want to have the same old billboard for an entire year, it will get boring, irrelevant and useless. Changing it up will make your brand look fresh and trendy.

FLAAR Reports www.flaar-reports.org





Here are some tips so that those in key environments know how to best clean their laminated book covers, menus, printed signs and retail POS product whilst maintaining their quality and purpose.

What is your laminate or printed graphic made from?

To know the best way to disinfect your laminated sign, menu, book or POS product you must first understand what it is made from. Different plastics react differently, and often negatively, to certain types of disinfectant.

What types of disinfectant should I use?

To effectively sanitise a laminated item, a type of liquid disinfectant is best suited to your substrate. Remember: check the label carefully and always follow manufacturers' application instructions. Always wear gloves.

- Isopropyl alcohol (IPA).
- Ethanol.
- Glycerine.
- Hydrogen peroxide.

Disinfecting PET (Polyester) based films?

You are in luck. PET is one of the most robust plastic substrates to sanitise as its resilient structure can withstand any of the listed recommended liquid disinfectants. Still, always follow the instructions on the label.

Disinfecting PVC films?

For PVC, try to look out for a glycerine or hydrogen peroxide based agent to get

the best results. Whilst you can use isopropyl effectively, over time and with a deep clean, this will start to dissolve the plasticisers within the PVC.

Disinfecting PP (Polypropylene films)?

If your print or laminate is made from polypropylene, you must try to avoid hydrogen peroxide-based cleaning agents that will damage your graphic. Stick to a commonly found isopropyl product or glycerin if you have it available.

Handy Tips

Always take extra care around the edges of your printed item. If any type of liquid disinfectant has the opportunity to ingress (that means to creep under the layer of laminate) it will affect the adhesive and cause it to lift, damaging your

Always clean carefully and with a soft non-abrasive, lint-free cloth or paper towel. Anything rough or textured will scratch your print. Take extra care when cleaning floor decals as damaged and lifting edges can become a trip hazard. O

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FACTS ABOUT

FORESTRY, RECYCLING AND GREENWASHING CLAIMS

BY SAMANTHA CHOLES, PAPER MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA



We need to get the facts straight about paper and recycling and cut the greenwash. I recently drew cash at an ATM and was greeted with an on-screen message: 'If everyone said no to a receipt just for one month, we would save 45 trees.' This is a classic example of greenwashing: making unsubstantiated or misleading claims about the environmental benefits of a product, service, technology or company practice.

These green claims often have no scientific basis to them – environmental myths have been published so often on the internet that they are deemed as facts. Companies would prefer that you did not print the receipt because it saves them money.

You may have been encouraged to 'save the planet' by opting to receive bills or magazines electronically. Again, this is a cost-saving measure, and a practical one considering the state of our local postal system (and the associated carbon footprint); but instead companies 'greenwash' it by saying you're saving trees.

Personally, I prefer to receive bills online because it's just more convenient (not greener) – and I'm the world's worst filer – or the world's best piler. But give me a printed magazine over a digi-mag with page-turning sound effects any day!

The most common form of greenwash is that little footer at the bottom of emails — 'think before you print'. If you need to print it, print it. And re-use it or recycle it once it's been dealt with. If you're going to be referring to something regularly, print it out and file it. Every time you open a document, your computer or device consumes energy (1) — and in South Africa, we haven't quite got the energy mix on the greener side just yet, that's if we have any at all.

Facts about forestry and farmed trees

Statements about saving trees by not printing are blatantly untrue. Firstly, the fibre for our paper and wood products is not sourced from from indigenous forests or rainforests (we don't have rainforests in South Africa).

Paper along with a myriad of wood, paper and tissue-based items are made from farmed trees (2), and recycled paper (which came from trees in the first place). Certain species of trees are planted in crops in South Africa specifically for the paper and wood industries, with a small percentage harvested for use each year which are then replanted within the same year. This is very different to deforestation, which is the denuding of forested land for the likes of urban development (shopping mall, our homes, office parks) and agriculture.

Plantations are also not irrigated – they get their water from rain and groundwater and the sector even pays a 'rain tax' – or streamflow reduction levy. This makes trees – and anything made from them – a renewable resource. Have you ever been asked to eat less carrots or cabbage to save the vegetable farm? No, you are supporting farmers by eating their produce.

Recycling paper does not save trees

Stating that your company has saved X number of trees because you've implemented a paper recycling programme is also misguided. As trees are farmed for the purpose of making paper, they do not need to be saved. Paper recycling is important for other reasons (3). It diverts a useful material from landfill which paper, packaging and tissue manufacturers re-use to make stuff you use every day. The recycling of one tonne of 'paper does not save 17 pine trees' but it will save around three cubic metres of landfill space and that is something to be proud of. And it keeps the carbon in the paper fibre (absorbed from the air by the tree) locked up for longer.

One person's waste is another's treasure

Paper recycling – from the collection and buy-back centres to the reprocessing and manufacturing into new products – also sustains local jobs. Recycling reclaimers and waste pickers have helped to increase the collection of hard-to-get post-consumer waste, especially office paper, which is why keeping your paper recycling separate and dry is better for them – they get more for cleaner paper. In 2018, 71.7% of recoverable paper – 1.285 million tonnes of documents, newspaper, magazines, cardboard boxes of countless kinds, and milk and juice cartons – was diverted from landfills for re-use.

Using recycled printer paper is not necessarily greener

Recycled printing and copy paper is not made in South Africa – this is imported, carrying an additional carbon footprint. Companies should be purchasing locally made copy paper. There are two well-known South African brands, both of which are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) as sustainably produced. So consider the environment before you greenwash your marketing claims. But make a noise about using locally produced paper, your successful recycling programme and that you are supporting informal collectors or small businesses by making their paper and other recyclables available to them.

- 1. https://bit.ly/3c98MFR
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FEATURE EXHIBITORS REP QUALITY LEADS AND BUSY STANDS AT SIGN AFRICA DURBAN EXPO BY MATTHEW WOOD

The successful Sign Africa Durban expo, held from 11-12 March at the Durban ICC, attracted 1012 visitors, who were inspired by wide format digital printing, T-shirt printing, finishing, point of sale displays, signage, banners, flags, vehicle graphics, LED's, laser engraving and more. The event was sponsored by Platinum sponsor Roland.

Exhibitors had positive feedback about the event:

'The show was good, very busy leads-wise. We did well, and we will follow up after the show,' said Charl Ferreira, JG Electronics.

'Good quality leads on both days, with good interest,' said Byron Brookhan, CMYK Industries.

'The advantage was the exposure, lots of people who never knew about us before have now come to know us. There was positive feedback from a lot of people who want to work with us. The show worked to our advantage and the public's. We generated strong leads, and there were keen visitors,' said Owen Naidoo, Exodus Signage Supplies (Visdom partner).

'The show was good. I didn't stop speaking to customers from 8am until 2pm on the second day. We were busy the whole day talking to customers. We had quality leads and people who want to find out about the products and the industry, and who want to get into the industry,' said Calvin Spracklen, Roland

'Lots of people showed up, and we had quality leads,' said Mustapha Jacobs, Rexx Screen & Digital Supplies.

'It was a decent show, we achieved what we wanted to achieve - to market our company and to increase our exposure. We are very thankful to the organisers for arranging such a great event, so that we could let the world know that we can offer quality products that don't cost an arm and a leg,' said Assif Sidik, Stixo Signage Supplies.

'It was very busy both days, very fruitful and encouraging. We met ten new clients we never knew existed, we also sold equipment. We will do it again,' said Lawrence Singh from NSDS.

'For KZN to have a show like this was awesome - the customers were great not just anybody off the street. They knew what they wanted, and we want to thank the organisers for having us again,' said Ritesh Rosen, Midcomp.

'Fantastic, good business, and hoping this continues, thanks to the organisers great leads have come through, good on you,' said Abisha Katere, Printing SA.

Judges visited each stand at the expo and judged the stands according to criteria based on design, staff friendliness and professionalism.



The results are as follows:

Small shell scheme:

First: Chemosol.

Second place tie: Uprint Digital Direct and CMYK Industries.

Small floor space:

First: SA Argus Laser Machines.

Medium floor space: First: Speed Wrap.

Second: Stixo Signage Supplies.

Medium shell scheme:

First: Visdom.

Large floor space: First: Midcomp Second: Roland.

Mega stand award:

First: Sign-Tronic.

Speed Wrap Winner Crowned At Sign Africa Durban Expo

Senzo Nzama was announced as the winner of the Roland Speed Wrap Challenge, held from 11-12 March at the Durban ICC. He won R3500.

Simo Maholwana from I Am Branded Media was placed second, winning R1750, and Shana Harrichunder from Print Elegance came third, winning R1000. Contestants had to race against the clock to wrap a vehicle door to the best standards.

This event was sponsored by platinum sponsor Roland, vinyl sponsors Grafiwrap (distributed by Maizey Plastics), and expo sponsor Sign Africa.



Simo Maholwana, I Am Branded Media (second place -top left) and Shana Harrichunder, Print Elegance (third place -top right) with Senzo Nzama, Legend Tees Exclusive Wrappers (first place -seated).



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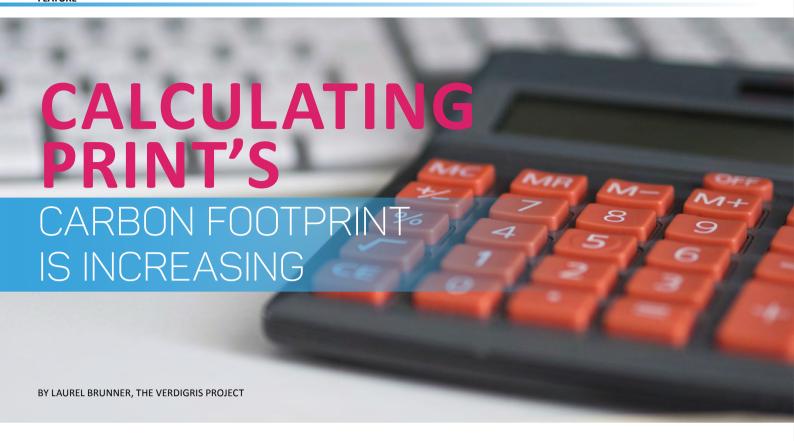
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We have ISO 16759 (Quantification and communication for calculating the carbon footprint of print media products), published in 2013 and reviewed in 2018. ISO 16759 specifies how to work out the carbon footprint of print, from books to labels, from transactional documents to packaging and everything in between.

The document follows the principles of Life Cycle Assessment, but doesn't go the whole hog. Instead it focuses on the carbon footprint of print, based exclusively on its production attributes. This means the standard quantifies the 'processes, materials and technologies required to produce print media products using any form of printing technology'. It's a generic tool that works for any printing method and for any substrate.

It's taken a while but interest in calculating the carbon footprint of print is starting to rise. Brand supply teams are finally showing mild engagement with the idea of carbon footprinting their prints, because it could improve production efficiencies and their bottom lines.

Essentially 16759 is a framework for carbon calculators that standardises evaluation methods for all geographies. And for this reason ISO 16759 is of interest to big brand names whose print media production takes place across the globe. Conversations with the likes of Kraft, Diageo, 3M and Johnson & Johnson are beginning, as they expand their process control focus to include carbon footprinting. These organisations are not alone, with Proctor & Gambol, Coca-Cola, Kimberly Clarke and Petsmart also joining the conversation. It can be no coincidence that so many large organisations are keen to learn more about carbon footprinting print media. It's actually quite exciting.

There is a certain logic to the rising interest. These big brands have led the revolution in colour management and process control for the last ten years. They are about as lean and efficient as they can get. Technology has made it possible for them to cut waste, improve colour consistency across substrates, and save money on inks and materials. The interest in carbon footprinting, as a further means to cut waste and cost is as much about improving their bottom

lines, as it is about being environmentally accountable to shareholders and consumables.

This is a good thing because the only way sustainability will be at the heart of any business strategy is if it pays, or at least doesn't cost, add complexity or cause inefficiencies. Fortunately concepts of what counts as paying are changing to include such things as brand loyalty and the cost of customer retention. Having some means of demonstrating environmental awareness and accountability is a good way to show willingness to both constituencies, and if the data is there too, so much the better.

This article was produced by the Verdigris Project, an industry initiative intended to raise awareness of print's positive environmental impact. Verdigris is supported by: Agfa Graphics (www.Agfa.com), Digital Dots (www.digitaldots.org), EFI (www.efi.com), FESPA (www.fespa.com), Fujifilm (www.fujifilm.com/sustainability/), HP (www.hp.com, Kodak (www.Kodak.com/go/sustainability), Practical Publishing (www.practicalpublishing.co.za), Ricoh (www.ricoh.com), Unity Publishing (http://unity-publishing.co.uk) and Xeikon (www.xeikon.com).

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Laurel Brunner, Managing Director Digital Dots Limited, www.digitaldots.org, www.verdigrisproject.com





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Printing SA Updates Industry As South Africa Moved Into Lockdown Level 3

Following President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement that the whole country would be moved to Alert Level 3 effective 1 June. Printing SA announced the latest Covid-19 developments and their impact on the industry.

All manufacturing, mining, construction, financial services, professional and business services, information technology, communications, government services, and media services were fully reopened on 1 June. However, many businesses are still not allowed to trade under Alert Level 3. including hairdressers, restaurants (apart from takeaways), gyms, and bars.

Level 3 will bring much more freedom to citizens as curfews are dropped, exercise is allowed at any time, and alcohol sales by liquor stores (though not bars) are permitted. Domestic air travel for business reasons is allowed.

Read the President's speech Click here to view alert level 3 Infographics & Guidelines

The impact of Covid-19 on economic statistics released by the South African Reserve Bank

The Economic Statistics Department of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) has always met its statistical commitments regarding original release schedules, in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Special Data Dissemination Standard.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on the compilation of certain economic statistics due to the difficulties experienced in the collection of data from respondents.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) announced that gross domestic product (GDP) statistics for the first guarter of 2020 would be released on 30 June 2020. Other Stats SA statistics in the compilation of statistics published by the SARB, the June 2020 Quarterly Bulletin, will now be released on 16 July 2020. Read more

Important message to all employers regarding the temporary employer/ employee relief scheme (TERS).

There has been a change in the process for applying for the UIF TERS benefit on behalf of employees from May, in terms of which employers have a new option.

The employers applying will be able to indicate whether the benefits should be paid to the company or whether payment must be made directly into employees' bank accounts. Read more.

Amended COVID -19 (C19 TERS)

Official government regulations and guidelines on Covid-19.

All official government regulations and guidelines are available at: www.gov.za/coronavirus/ guidelines

Safe return to work: health planning tools for

On 23 April 2020, the President further announced the gradual and phased approach to other

business operations, which will differ regarding the applicable level of lockdown as declared by Government from time to time (Levels 1 to 5).

Every employer will, during each of the levels of lockdown and for the foreseeable future thereafter, have to adhere to detailed occupational health and safety protocols. This means that all employers must re-examine their activities, work environment and policies in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic and may need to change, adapt or enhance these in order to operate.

Please click the following links for attachments:

- **Practice Note on Workplace Readiness;** detailing the minimum practice guidelines for all employers operating in South Africa.
- **Risk Assessment Management Tool**
- **CEO Declaration Template**

What is working from home (WFH)?

In response to the Covid-19 crisis, companies have implemented working from home protocols as preventive measures or in response to the order or directive of the Government restricting face-to-face contact. Many companies are exploring WFH as a temporary or alternative working arrangement.

WFH is a working arrangement in which a worker fulfils the essential responsibilities of his/her job while remaining at home, using information and communications technology (ICT).

It requires shared responsibility and commitment by both employers and workers to ensure business continuity and employment.

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Are all jobs suitable for working from home (WFH) arrangements?

Companies may be able to implement WFH arrangements to achieve continuity of service, maintain productivity, and preserve jobs while safeguarding the safety and health of workers.

The responsibility for WFH arrangements is shared, and it requires the commitment of both employers and workers to make it successful.

Both employers and workers should be practical, flexible and sensible to each other's situation when implementing WFH arrangements.

How to determine if WFH is suitable for your business:

 Identify the job functions and tasks that can be done off-site. This may involve innovation and creativity to do things differently from

- the norm
- Assess mechanisms for connectivity such as regular video conferencing calls and other means.
- Assess the infrastructure, facilities and tools available for WFH, such as internet connectivity and the availability of reliable power supply.
- Assess the legal requirements, obligations and potential liability, taking into consideration the worker's situation and the job functions, equipment and tools needed.
- Assess the worker's situation in terms of safety and health in his/her domestic environment and actual ability to carry out the tasks required at home.
- Consider the potential impact of the worker's living arrangements. For example, workers may have child or dependent care responsibilities, long-term health conditions or disabilities.
- Assess any mental health concerns or possible

- future concerns that could arise through a work from home arrangement.
- It is important to note that while advances in ICT have enabled WFH, not all job functions and tasks can be done outside the employers' premises or the specified workplace. There are companies, occupations and tasks where WFH is not practical or feasible, or it cannot be deployed in a short time frame.

Employers need to explore and implement an alternative plan for job functions and tasks that cannot be performed remotely, or for workers who have limitations at home or health and safety issues that prevent WFH.

Printing SA wishes to acknowledge Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (Bureau for Employers' Activities) for the above information on WFH

Printing SA Announces Colour Management eLearning Course

Printing SA has designed a course for those responsible for the measurement, control and management of colour, from concept and design to pre-press and printing. This media-rich interactive eLearning course introduces learners to the complex field of colour management in the printing, packaging, signage and visual communications industry.

The following topics will be covered:

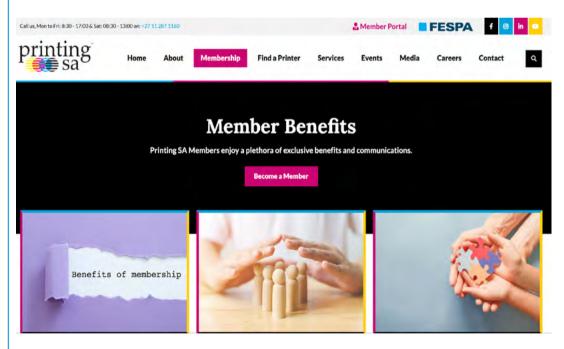
- Introduction to digital colour.
- Light, illumination and colour.
- Colour communication.
- Colour measurement and control.
- Working with ICC profiles.

Printing SA is giving away 50 free seats on a first come first served basis, but limited to one seat per company. Additional seats can be purchased. Applications for free seats close on Wednesday 17 June 2020.

Course duration: self-paced learning (approximately 20 notional hours). Free seat candidates will be required to complete the entire course, assessments and feedback survey before 30 June 2020. This course has been developed by Printing SA, with FESPA funding its development.

Book here for the course For more information, please contact: kleid@printingsa.org

Check Out Printing SA Membership Benefits For Sign Makers And Wide format Digital Printers



Members can contact local chambers for assistance with Covid-19 Workplace Compliance including templates, Covid-19 TERS applications, Business Rescue free health check and more.

Printing SA ensures that the industry is protected from legislation that could adversely affect your business, find out which acts and proposed legislation they are working on here.

Printing SA has also launched a new website complete with a members portal where members have exclusive access to resources such as presentations, local and global industry research reports, HR templates, marketing material, job listings and much more.

They encourage members to list their vacancies and find candidates through their jobs portal. Printing SA can assist you with labour and commercial disputes.

Their chambers are ready to assist you with restructuring, arbitration, mediation and negotiations.

Need advice on your B-BBEE strategy? Printing SA can develop and plan for your business to help you achieve a competitive BEE level for your upcoming verification.

Their specialists have years of experience in consulting and verification so let them help to take you to the next level.

Member are encourage to update their company details, boost their sales and view current tenders, RFQs, RFP's and leads on their members portal.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS

Post or view free online classifieds for the signage and display industry at www.SignAfrica.com/classifieds and post your availability and job openings on www.SignAfrica.com/jobs

FOR SALE

ADAST MAXIMA MS80-2

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George

R25,000, neg. Heavy duty paper guillotine used in the printing industry. Three phase, size is around 2m x 2m, and weight is 1300kg. Great condition. In good working order. Three sets of newly sharpened blades. Buyer to arrange own transport. Gavin gavinjanet@icon.co.za

3 JUN

SIGN SHOP 27 MAY

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Arnold Müller +27 (0) 84 369 2713 Randburg

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MACHINE AND SOFTWARE 26 MAY

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ROLAND PRINT AND CUT SP540V

24 MAY

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MIMAKI JV5-320DS **24 MAY**

R385.000 ex VAT. Mint condition. Sold with custom airshaft for quick off loading and stable print tension on front. Machine in daily use. Just installed two new print heads in March. Receipt

available. Sold with one complete JV5-320DS machine that you can use for spares and extra shafts etc. Orlando +27 (0) 82 462 5000 Sandton

ROLAND SOLJET PRO III X 1-740

22 MAY

R105,000. 1,8m width. Good condition, take-up system and remainder of ink cartridges. Peter + 27 (0) 82 557 0334 Gauteng

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22 MAY

21 MAY

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ROLL HEAT PRESS

WITH TABLE

21 MAY

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HIGH SPEED DYE

SUBLIMATION PRINTER **17 MAY**

R75,000. 2 DX 5 High speed dye sublimation printer. Demo Stingray printer acquired from Kolok. Excellent condition.

Henry +27 (0) 79 138 1875 Cape Town

ROLAND SP300V 14 MAY

R30,000. Heads need to be replaced. Two new inks and roll of vinyl.

(R)

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27 MAY

rid of please let me know. Arnold Müller +27 (0) 82 627 0888 Randburg

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JUNIOR GRAPHIC DESIGNER 4 JUN

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GRAPHIC DESIGNER 22 MAY

We are expanding our team and require a full time graphic designer who is knowledgeable in CorelDRAW or Adobe Illustrator Software, works well under pressure and is a team player with good communication skills. careers@capriprinters.co.za

RIGGING SUB-CONTRACTOR 22 MAY

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hr@hashtagsigns.co.za Gauteng

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Gauteng

JOBS WANTED

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I am a 28 year old female with 6-7 years' experience in the printing industry. Very enthusiastic and hard working. Have worked at: Mad Graphics, Zig Zag Sign Works ,Crystal Signs, SA Embroidery, Ilanga Signs and more. Tanita +27 (0) 83 228 1588 Gauteng

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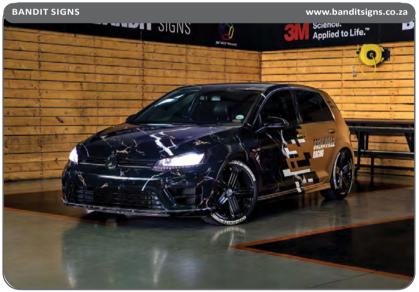
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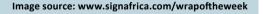
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INTRODUCING:

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Vested Capital (Pty) Ltd was founded to provide reliability and predictability to its customers. This is delivered by virtue of building strong and mutually beneficial relationships with our customers and by providing a dedicated focus on premium products supported by technical excellence.



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