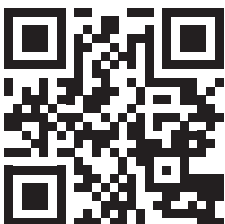


PAPER REVOLUTION

79% of paper and 83% of paper-based packaging is recycled
into new products; one of the highest recycling rates
of any material in Europe!

Sources: Cepi Key Statistics, 2023 and Eurostat, 2022
Europe: EU27 + Norway, Switzerland and the UK.



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Scan for paper facts, activities,
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XENONS HXJ2000

2.1M LED UV
Hybrid Printer
CMYK+W

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XENONS FB2513-1

2.5M x 1.3M
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Flatbed Printer
CMYK+W

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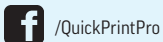
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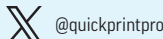


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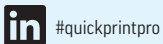
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MAGAZINE PRODUCTION
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DISTRIBUTION
 Subscriptions printed at Colourfast plus PYO (Print Your Own)
 file distribution and eZine available on Yumpu.

Quick Print Pro (QPP) – ISSN: 2050-5140

Quick Print Pro (QPP) is published monthly by Colourfast Group Ltd, 16 Tichborne Street, Brighton. BN1 1UR. A company registered in England Number: 2517164.

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The views expressed in QPP are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher.

QPP is an independent publication and not affiliated with any manufacturers or suppliers. QPP celebrates publishing the professional print trade's favourite magazine, formerly known as Copy Shop News (CSN), since May 1998.

Sharing best practice through both print and digital media, QPP magazine is in front of 36,000 quick print pros each month.

Each day the live web version is updated with the hottest stories in frontline printing, including news, views, new products and suppliers information.

Avid readers include Digital Printers, Commercial Printers, Copy Shops, On-Street Instant Printers, In-House Print Room Managers, FM and Conventional printers specialising in On-Demand, Short Run, Variable Printing, CRDs (Corporate Reprographic Departments), PSPs (Print Service Providers), Graphic Arts Businesses, Sign Suppliers and CAD Bureaus.

Welcome

September Showtime



Spoilt for choice. Label Expo, The Print Show, plus lots of roadshows and supplier open days.

Plan to visit and set up some demonstrations or rock up and take your choice. The usual QPP media channels will be reporting live from the shows, reporting what is new and how our customers will benefit.

As always, please drop me a line if you can't make it and let me know what is on your wish list.

Always happy to be pointed in the right direction...

Peter 'editor@quickprintpro.co.uk' Foulkes

Further reading and research in print: www.BestBlogsInPrint.co.uk, www.PrintTradeExpo.co.uk



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Print with Pride – Registration open

Hi Quick Print Pros. ASL Group, a founding member of Print With Pride, is very pleased to invite you to our next open day, focusing on the powerful Kyocera TASKalfa Pro15000C cut sheet colour inkjet printer.

Print With Pride – the nation's free print event is returning on September 11th at Kyocera in Reading.

Join us to see how you can Increase Margin (Workflow) and Reduce Cost (Process automation) to achieve Higher Print Profits.

On the day, we will be demonstrating how an online solution can feed a Kyocera Taskalfa Pro 15000c inkjet press, showing you how inkjet can help transform your business.

Whether you print 100,000 or 1,000,000 pages per month, the solution is designed to give you and your customers sustained ROI.

We will have experts from all areas on hand to answer a range of questions from how to achieve



more orders from marketing your business through to substrates, production and finishing, as well as online ordering.

Registration – Print with Pride

Refreshments and lunch will be provided on the day, along with free parking.

For more details, visit: www.printwithpride.com

Please follow us on LinkedIn to keep up to date with our latest news and events!

Let us show you how you can earn more throughout the print production process.

Paul Stead, 0345 207 7000

Paul.Stead@asl-group.co.uk

www.asl-group.co.uk

ALPHA CELLULOSE OR COTTON RAG PAPERS

Top Bloggers Rights this month go to PermaJet Advice. One of their blogs, "Alpha Cellulose or Cotton Rag Papers", has been showcased on Quick Print Pro's Best Blogs In Print website

The stats add up to PermaJet Advice being awarded the print industry top blogger of the month accolade.

ALPHA CELLULOSE OR COTTON RAG PAPERS – WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOUR CUSTOMERS?

Choosing the right fine art paper starts with understanding the key differences between alpha cellulose and cotton rag papers. These two materials dominate the production of high-quality fine art papers, each bringing unique qualities that affect the appearance, texture, and durability of your prints. Knowing how they compare can help you select the perfect paper to showcase your work.

In this blog, we'll break down the key differences to help you decide which best suits your needs – especially if you're considering trusted brands like PermaJet, known for their high-quality fine art media.

WHAT IS ALPHA CELLULOSE PAPER?

Alpha cellulose paper is composed of 100% wood pulp fibres. Manufacturers refine it to remove impurities like lignin (which can cause yellowing over time), creating an acid-free, archival-quality paper base. This process creates a durable, archival-quality paper similar to



cotton, but often more affordable.

Alpha cellulose papers typically come in smooth, baryta, or textured surfaces that mimic traditional watercolour paper.

Alpha cellulose papers are often combined with a baryta layer to replicate traditional fibre-based papers. These can be found in PermaJet's FB Baryta range. These are a great way of replicating that darkroom quality achieved with papers such as Ilford MGFB Classic, but with modern inkjet printing.

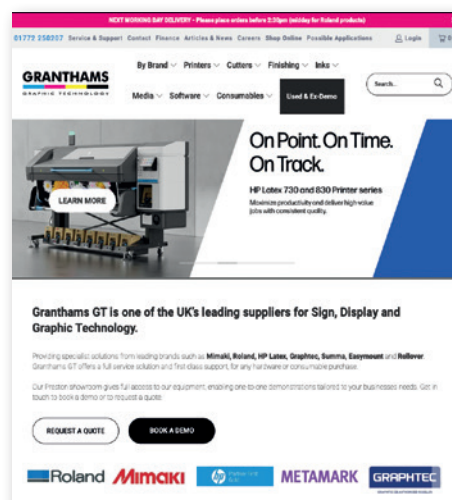
Alpha cellulose paper is widely used for inkjet printing, a popular choice for photos, fine art, and portfolios. It offers a balanced combination of quality and affordability. Brands like PermaJet provide a variety of alpha cellulose papers that deliver excellent colour vibrancy, fine detail reproduction, and reliable performance. This makes them a go-to for creatives who want gallery-worthy results without the higher costs of cotton rag.

To continue reading: www.bestblogs.inprint.co.uk/blog/alpha-cellulose-or-cotton-rag-papers-which-one-is-right-for-me

www.permajet.com • 01789 739200

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QPP PREFERRED SUPPLIER OF THE MONTH: GRANTHAM'S GT – GRANTHAM'S GRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY



Granthams GT has 30 years experience supplying leading brands of sign printing and print production systems including Mimaki, Roland, HP Latex, Graphtec, Summa and Easymount, whilst also acting as a source for a wide range of software and large format consumables and media.

Advice to quick print pros is freely available to match your media to your customers marketing.

Discuss your next move into print and cut, latex, resin, solvent, UV, cutters and more. Ask about Grantham's fleet of finishing equipment including heat presses and laminators.

www.granthams.co.uk

01772 250207 • sales@granthams.co.uk

Plockmatic Group acquires Renz

Plockmatic Group has signed an agreement to acquire Chr. Renz GmbH ("Renz") in Germany, including subsidiaries in Australia, Argentina, UK and Turkey.

Renz is the leading producer of ring wire comb binding machines and supplies, headquartered in Heubach, Germany. Founded in 1908, Renz is a global leader within ring wire equipment with clients in more than 80 countries. The offering includes development and production of ring wire binding machines for the professional and office segments, as well as in-house production of premium quality wire binding consumables.

This acquisition is an opportunity to enter into the ring wire binding segment, which is a natural complement to Plockmatic Group's existing offering.

Plockmatic Group sees significant synergies

with Renz within key areas such as sales, production, sourcing and R&D, with the ambition to broaden Plockmatic Group's geographic footprint and develop the next generation of automatised professional ring wire comb binding equipment for calendar and book production.

Following significant hardships during the covid-19 pandemic, Renz was forced into insolvency proceedings in 2024. The insolvency process is expected to be finalised during Q3 2025 and closing of the transaction is expected to take place in connection with this.

"The acquisition of Renz will be a great opportunity for Plockmatic Group, where we see several opportunities and synergies between our organisations, and to further expand our value proposition as solution provider to our

customers. With Renz becoming a part of Plockmatic Group, we will also get a strong and local sales organisation in Germany, which we have identified as an important growth market for Plockmatic Group going forward" says Jan Marstorp, CEO Plockmatic Group.

Michael Schubert, CEO of Renz, expresses happiness and relief about joining forces with Plockmatic: "Becoming part of Plockmatic Group and finding a long term solution for Renz, following some very challenging years, make us look at the future with confidence again. With the insolvency proceedings behind us and access to Plockmatic Group's resources we will now be able to invest in new products and continue long term partnerships with our customers and suppliers".

www.renz.co.uk

www.plockmaticgroup.com

The Printed Group expands Production Capacity

The Printed Group has announced the installation of a third Canon varioPRINT iX3200 press at its Cramlington headquarters, marking the latest milestone in their operational expansion. By implementing this state of the art press, the company aims to consolidate its small format operations and respond effectively to growing customer demand across its diverse brands, including Printed.com, Printed Direct, and Ravensworth.

The addition of the third varioPRINT iX3200 will enable The Printed Group to produce up to 200,000 SRA3 sheets per day across their three presses. This enhanced capacity assures fast, reliable, and high quality production for a wide range of products such as leaflets, flyers, business cards, wedding invitations, books, and postcards. The move further solidifies The Printed Group's position committed to delivering excellence and innovation.

Nicola Carney, Operations Director at The Printed Group, underscored the strategic importance of the new installation, saying, "Our diverse product mix demands a level of consistency and flexibility that Canon has continuously delivered. By bringing in the third varioPRINT iX3200 press, we've further streamlined operations, ensuring we can respond swiftly to customer needs while upholding the impeccable quality standards our clients expect."

Designed to optimise versatility and durability, the Canon iX3200 is renowned for its ability to handle an extensive range of materials, from textured stocks to silk finishes. Particularly with Printed.com's expanding product range, this technology is vital for addressing varied client



requirements while maintaining top tier quality.

Stuart Rising, Head of Graphic Arts at Canon UK and Ireland said: "We're proud to support The Printed Group's continued growth with the installation of their third Canon varioPRINT iX3200, making them one of the leading single site users in Europe. Their commitment to innovation and customer satisfaction aligns perfectly with our mission

to deliver cutting edge technology that empowers businesses to scale with confidence. This milestone is a testament to the strength of our partnership and the performance of the iX3200 in high demand, high quality production

environments."

This installation is part of a wider expansion strategy for The Printed Group, following their recent announcement of a new production facility in Cramlington, Northumberland, bringing their total production space to an impressive 50,000 square feet. The new press is expected to be fully operational by August 2025, aligning with the company's ambitious growth trajectory.

Image shows Kevin Hutchinson, Head of Production and Nicola Carney, Operations Director, with new Canon varioPRINT iX3200
www.theprintedgroup.com

Hybrid to present Mimaki flatbed print, cut and packaging showcase with Arden Software

Businesses are invited to Hybrid's Crewe showroom to discover opportunities made possible with Mimaki's most advanced flatbed print and cut solutions, presented alongside the latest Arden Software packaging solutions at a two-day event taking place in September.

Exclusive Mimaki distributor, Hybrid Services <https://hybridservices.co.uk/> is set to host a two-day event at its Crewe showroom this September, offering visitors a unique opportunity to experience the latest developments in Mimaki flatbed printing and cutting technology. Partnering with leading CAD/CAM packaging software company, Arden Software, (www.ardensoftware.com) visitors will be able to experience end-to-end solutions that offer significant productivity benefits for companies operating in the packaging sector.

Taking place on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th September, the open house will feature live demonstrations of the Mimaki JFX600-2513 UV flatbed printer



printer and the newly launched CFX Series cutting table. <https://hybridservices.co.uk/products/mimaki-cfx-series-flatbed-cutting-plotter/?source=editorial> Attendees are invited to drop in at any time between 10am to 4pm each day, with the event tailored for print professionals exploring high-volume print production, integrated print-and-cut workflows, and opportunities in the packaging sector.

The Mimaki JFX600-2513 flatbed UV printer delivers high speed production with an 8' x 4' format.

Mimaki's flagship JFX600 flatbed printer is designed for ultra-fast, photo-quality output direct to rigid substrates. Attendees will be able to see the printer in full production

mode, showcasing its ability to deliver vibrant, detailed graphics at high speeds.

The Mimaki CFX Series flatbed cutter will be demonstrated both as a standalone solution and as part of an end-to-end workflow with the JFX600. Visitors will learn how the CFX enhances finishing precision, reduces manual handling, and supports a wide range of cutting applications.

Visitors to the event will be able to see a Mimaki CFX Series flatbed cutting table in action.

A key focus of the event will be the CFX's suitability for packaging, with dedicated demos showing its capabilities for prototyping and short-run production on folding carton as well as corrugated board.



Combining speed, accuracy and automation-readiness, the CFX offers a compelling proposition for packaging professionals seeking to diversify or streamline their operations.

Arden Software's Impact CAD solution offers a comprehensive library of designs, intelligent tools and easy visualisation for packaging designers. Visitors to the event will be able to discuss their packaging design needs with experts from the company and see the software in action.

Places for the event are limited, and registration is now open. To secure your place or request further information, visit the registration page on Hybrid Services' website.

<https://hybridservices.co.uk/news/discover-next-level-flatbed-printing-cutting-packaging-solutions-all-in-one-event/>
www.hybridservices.co.uk

KONICA MINOLTA PARTNERS WITH CANCER RESEARCH

Konica Minolta has announced a new partnership with Cancer Research UK. Employees voted unanimously to support the charity and will participate in an extensive programme of fundraising, awareness and volunteering activities throughout the next 12 months.

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading cancer charity dedicated to saving and improving lives with research.

As part of Konica Minolta's broader ESG (Environmental, social and governance) commitments, Konica Minolta is dedicated to contributing positively to its own social impact and that of its customers and partners. Gillian Nuttall, People and Culture ESG Partner, Konica Minolta commented, "We will be fully embracing Cancer Research UK's endline 'Together we are beating cancer', by giving all of our employees, customers and partners many opportunities to join forces and get involved."

Konica Minolta has kick started its programme of events with members of the senior



management team joining other employees for a 20km walk around London landmarks, and another taking in the sights of the historic city of Chester. Next up is a sponsored bike ride that will depart from Konica Minolta's CEC (Client Engagement Centre), in Houghton Regis. In addition to actively participating, employees will also be able to use their annual volunteering day to help out in their local communities, such as supporting Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, Shine Night Walk, Big Hike and Pretty Muddy events.

"Partnering with causes that resonate with our employees is mutually beneficial," added Gillian. "I have seen first hand the positive impact

that getting involved has on both mental and physical wellbeing. It is hugely rewarding to know that you are helping to make a difference and being able to have that shared experience with colleagues is especially satisfying."

Alice Simkins, Relationship Executive at Cancer Research UK stated: "We are delighted that Konica Minolta's employees have chosen to help raise money and awareness in support of the vital work we are doing in cancer prevention, detection and treatment. We look forward to working together and supporting various activities they will be immersing themselves in over the next 12 months."

The partnership with Cancer Research UK is a key part of Konica Minolta's social value strategy, which has previously included successful collaborations and partnerships both nationally and locally, driving social impact and ensuring as a business and a team of people, they support and engage the wider communities they live and work in.

www.konicaminolta.co.uk

23 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2025

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New Konica Minolta AccurioPress C10500 and C10500S

Konica Minolta announces the launch of its new AccurioPress C10500 and C10500S production presses, which complete the company's C14010 series range. Perfect for commercial printers, in-house print rooms, and high volume enterprises, the presses deliver high quality output with minimal intervention, using smart technology to streamline workflows and reduce manual effort.

The AccurioPress C10500 and C10500S maximise uptime and minimise manual intervention – with automatic adjustments and monitoring using the IQ-601 Intelligent Quality Optimiser Unit for precise colour profiles and IM-104 Intelligent Media Sensor to identify paper type and weight – for unattended, uninterrupted printing, delivering flawless print results faster.

Both presses offer exceptional image quality, speeds up to 105 pages per minute, and versatile media handling across a broad range of media, including thin and thick paper (up to 450 g/m), long sheets up to 1,300 mm, embossed paper, envelopes, polyester, and cut sheet labels. This makes them ideal for a wide range of applications, including packaging, invitations, and marketing. They also deliver vibrant, high contrast results on coloured, clear, or metallic materials for maximum impact and sophistication.

The AccurioPress C10500 and C10500S utilise Konica Minolta's innovative Simitri V toner, which delivers an offset matte finish while supporting high productivity with lower fusing temperatures,



reducing energy use and paper impact. Additionally, the S models feature 5th colour capabilities, including white toner, for innovative design applications and new opportunities to differentiate output from competitors.

Malcolm Smith, Category Manager – Professional Print at Konica Minolta Business Solutions (UK) Ltd commented, "The AccurioPress C10500 and C10500S add exciting new

options to our C14010 range, expanding our target audience and enabling a broad spectrum of print businesses to better utilise their operators' time by working smarter by utilising greater automation, without sacrificing quality and consistency."

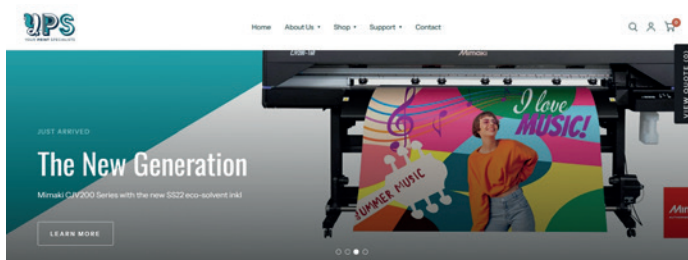
The AccurioPress C10500 and C10500S are available now.

www.konicaminolta.co.uk

Your Print Specialists launches new website

Your Print Specialists (YPS), a trusted name in the print industry, is proud to announce the launch of their new e-commerce website, www.yourprintspecialists.co.uk, offering a comprehensive range of printer hardware, inks and consumables designed to meet the needs of commercial printers, sign makers and digital print professionals.

Built with ease of use and customer experience in mind, the new platform provides a streamlined shopping experience with competitive pricing and expert product support. Whether you're looking for large-format printers, OEM inks, print media or essential maintenance consumables, the new YPS website is the one-stop destination for industry-leading brands and supplies.



Key features of the new website include:

- **Intuitive navigation and smart search for quick product discovery**
- **Detailed product listings with specifications, compatibility info, and technical resources**
- **Fast, reliable shipping across the UK**
- **Expert support team with print industry knowledge**

"Our goal was to create a platform that not only simplifies

purchasing for print professionals but also supports them with the right information and quality products to keep their operations running smoothly," said Lauren Randall, Creative Director at Your Print Specialists.

"We're also very excited to introduce Printcentives. This is our brand-new rewards scheme designed to give back to our customer base. With Printcentives, customers can earn points on

every purchase and redeem them for discounts on future orders. It's our way of saying thank you for choosing us as your trusted print supply partner."

Customers can sign up for Princentives via the rewards button on the homepage and can start accumulating points immediately upon sign up, with a 200 points incentive available for doing so which is upped to 500 points if signing up before the end of August.

Your Print Specialists is committed to supporting the growth and efficiency of print businesses through reliable supply, technical insight and a customer-first approach. The new website is the next step

To explore the new site and browse the full product range, visit: www.yourprintspecialists.co.uk



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www.solopress.com



Trustpilot score is correct at time of printing

Lotus Labels updates Xeikon

Lotus Labels, Eastbourne, has finalised an order for the very latest in toner based print engines from Xeikon. The Xeikon CX30 is particularly designed for the printing of self-adhesive labels but is also capable of printing card stock of up to 0.55mm in thickness. The new unit is replacing an existing ten year old Xeikon press.

Andreas Schillinger, Managing Director of Lotus Labels, explains the reasons for the new investment: "The world of labels continues to evolve and, whilst our initial Xeikon investment was still very capable and only recently earned us the Label Printer of the Year award, production speeds and toner technology have advanced significantly in the near nine years since the arrival of our first Xeikon press. We are purchasing the latest technology to ensure that our customers continue to receive the best and most environmentally friendly labels and packaging available.

"The Xeikon CX30 uses the latest ECO toner from Xeikon and produces colour calibrated print on a wide variety of substrates for our ever growing list of customers in the high end label sector. The quality of the latest Xeikon software will help to ensure that our waste figures are kept to the bare minimum before we produce good saleable copy.

"The new press will also allow us to expand our efforts in the production of printed carton packaging for a growing range of clients for whom we have already been producing labels for some time. Our proposition to produce labels and cartons on the same press, hence perfectly colour matching both products, has seen a



lot of interest.

"With Xeikon dry toner we believe that we have the most suitable technology for digital carton production. The ability to handle the thickness and substrate ranges that carton board requires, gives us advantages that other processes can't offer.

"The environmentally friendly features of the Xeikon CX30 will include significantly reduced waste along with lower energy consumption, contributing to a "greener" production process. The toners are odourless, migration free, and vegan, making them safe for direct food contact, as traditionally this has been the advantage of Xeikon toner based technology."

Suitable substrates include coated and uncoated papers, thermal transfer papers, eco and standard films, metallised substrates, as well as thicker carton board materials.

Xeikon CX30 label press can serve a wide range of end user applications within the self-adhesive label market, including the ability to print an opaque underlay or overlay where required. CX30 comes equipped with five dry toner print stations (CMYK + single-pass opaque white) and prints at 1,200 dots per inch. The latest advances in toner production and engine enhancement incorporated into the Xeikon CX30 provide for a consistent print quality, and vibrant prints that are produced with ultimate precision.

As with all market leading digital print solutions from Xeikon, the CX30 is connected to the cloud, and has both human machine and machine machine interfaces. The advanced workflow provided prepares the user for digital print manufacturing, including unique digital applications like full colour variable data printing. www.xeikon.com

Premier Launches eTEC MagnetiX

Premier has expanded its Sign & Display portfolio to offer printers a smart solution for producing flexible magnetic graphics and a valuable opportunity to broaden their product range.

Developed with modularity, ease of use and print performance in mind, the eTEC MagnetiX range comprises three products:

- eTEC MagnetiX Self-Adhesive Black – a 900mic, high strength magnetic base layer featuring a permanent adhesive for mounting to walls, panels or rigid boards
- eTEC MagnetiX PP Ferro Matt White – a 260mic, flexible, printable, ferrous film compatible with (eco)solvent, UV and latex inks.
- eTEC MagnetiX Gloss and Matt White – a 850mic, magnetic sheet with a premium white PVC face, suitable for direct to substrate printing

By mounting the Self-Adhesive Black base with the PP Ferro film, users can transform any flat surface into a magnetic base for easily interchangeable and cost effective graphics. The

high quality printed visuals make them ideal for end-user applications in retail, exhibitions, hospitality, menu boards and POS.

The eTEC MagnetiX White range is available in a gloss and matt finish. It is a ready to print magnetic solution with the printable PVC face already bonded to a magnetic backing. Once produced, these can be applied to any ferrous surface, including metallic display systems, steel panels or modular installations, making them ideal for vehicle fleets, retail campaigns, temporary signage and other display applications where speed, simplicity and flexibility are key.

"Magnetic display systems are growing in popularity, especially in environments that require frequent campaign changeovers with minimal installation time," says Brad West, Wide Format Media Director (UK & Ireland) at Premier. "eTEC MagnetiX offers a professional solution for print service providers looking to add value for their clients, with reliable material performance and strong print compatibility."



All three materials are REACH, RoHS and toy safe (EN71 Part 3) compliant. In addition, the range is eligible for Carbon Capture through Premier's longstanding environmental programme with the Woodland Trust, which enables customers to mitigate the carbon impact of their purchases.

eTEC MagnetiX is available now from Premier's nationwide branch network. For further information, samples or to place an order, contact your local branch or visit www.paper.co.uk

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Mimaki JFX200-1213EX

1,270 x 1,300mm print area.

The new **Mimaki JFX200-1213EX** packs the proven performance of the 8' x 4' **JFX200-2513EX** into a whole new format.

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Roland DG unveils the DIMENSE DA-640

Roland DG, a provider of digital printing solutions, has announced the launch of the DIMENSE DA-640, an advanced wide format dimensional surface printer that enables effortless, cost effective production of textured, full colour prints. This new technology unlocks creative possibilities across interior design, retail, and signage.

The DIMENSE DA-640 gives print service providers the ability to produce bespoke, high value printed surfaces on demand. From one off pieces to large scale installations, it eliminates the limitations of pre-fabricated materials and inventory heavy workflows by enabling dynamic, customisable output with full colour CMYK printing and precision controlled embossing. This all in one solution simplifies processes that would traditionally require multiple steps and high setup costs, offering a new level of creative flexibility for interior and display applications.

"In recent years, we've seen growing demand for personalised design across commercial spaces, hospitality, entertainment, and home interiors," said Geert van den Hole, Head of Sales DG Dimense for Europe. "The DIMENSE DA-640 offers a powerful way to meet that demand, delivering unique, tactile surfaces with ease."

"It's estimated that just five percent of wallpaper printing has been digitalised," added van den Hole. "That presents an enormous opportunity



for designers and businesses. The DIMENSE DA-640 makes it easier than ever to add value through texture, offering a new path to creativity, growth, and profitability in the décor and graphics markets."

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALITY THROUGH DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

The DIMENSE solution is built around three integrated elements. The printer is equipped with newly developed printheads that produce vivid, high resolution output. A proprietary structural ink precisely defines where embossing appears on the print. Specialised media, which expands up to 2mm in thickness when exposed to heat inside

the printer, brings the texture to life.

This cohesive system produces striking dimensional output on demand, without the need for pre-embossed materials or traditional equipment. A wide selection of media options is available, including matte, suede, pearl, silver, gold, and chameleon finishes, along with tension fabric and roll-up banner materials suitable for indoor signage and displays. For creative and artistic applications, users can also produce emboss only designs and manually apply paint to create truly unique and tactile artwork.

SUSTAINABLE AND USER FRIENDLY BY DESIGN

The DIMENSE solution is developed with both sustainability and ease of use in mind. It is entirely PVC-free and uses water based CMYK resin inks. The structural ink is butylene glycol free and certified to meet leading environmental and safety standards, including AgBB, A+, UL, and GREENGUARD Gold "Unrestricted" wall coverings.

Print data can be created using standard design applications or with the new Roland DG Connect Designer DIMENSE Module, which supports the creation of both colour and embossing layers. It includes a built-in visualiser that allows users to preview the final output before printing.

www.rolanddg.eu

Xerox unveils enhancements to PrimeLink B9100

Xerox has announced updates to the Xerox PrimeLink B9100 Production Press Series and Xerox FreeFlow Workflow Software, reinforcing its leadership in production print innovation. In addition, Xerox celebrates the transformative power of print through its 2025 Best of the Best Awards for Print, which recognises outstanding applications of digital print technology by clients worldwide.

The latest updates to the PrimeLink B9100 Series include new optional dual two tray oversized high capacity feeders – available in both standard and vacuum feed models – that boost production efficiency by reducing paper loading and minimising idle time. A software upgrade to the Xerox EX B9100 Series Print Server powered by Fiery adds support for Intelligent Printer Data Stream, enabling secure and reliable transactional printing. Additionally, an optional Job Vitals Light provides instant, 360 degree at a glance job status updates visible from across the production floor.

Xerox FreeFlow Workflow Software updates include:

- **Xerox FreeFlow Core: The PowerSplit Accelerator in FreeFlow Core intelligently splits large or complex jobs for parallel**

processing, reducing bottlenecks, improving throughput and enhancing overall workflow efficiency.

- **Xerox FreeFlow Vision Connect: Vision Connect now offers customisable data reports, new metrics for measuring overall equipment effectiveness, expanded predictive monitoring across more devices, and advanced capabilities to transform data into interactive, visually immersive insights and analysis.**

"These new capabilities help clients take on complex production challenges while delivering real time visibility and smarter performance," said Terry Antinora, Senior Vice President and head of product and engineering at Xerox. "By evolving our production and workflow solutions and celebrating creative achievement, we are positioning Xerox at the forefront of the next generation of print innovation."

Now in its seventh year, the Xerox Best of the Best Awards for Print spotlight extraordinary



creativity and craftsmanship among Xerox clients using speciality embellishments in digital production print, with categories including stationery, publishing, direct mail, packaging, signage, functional goods and marketing collaterals. Submissions are open now until September 19th, 2025, and winners will be announced and honoured live at Printing United on October 23rd, 2025. For more eligibility information and details on how to enter, visit www.Xerox.com/bestofthebest

"Our clients continue to amaze us with how they push the boundaries of what print can do," said Lynn Bautista, Vice President and head of global portfolio marketing at Xerox. "This is our chance to celebrate that excellence and shine a light on the future of print."

www.xerox.com

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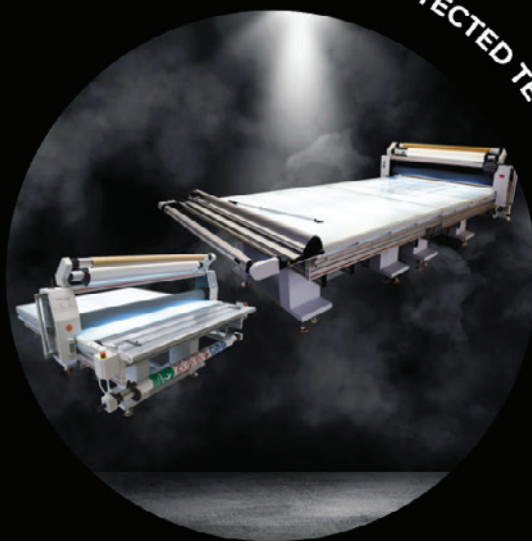
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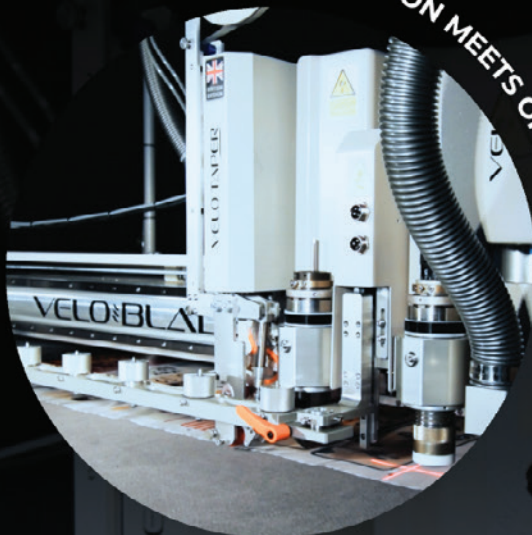
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Putting it in the Picture

The relentless demand for convenience and speed has seen digital technology develop at an astonishing pace, but is every advance always an improvement? Here, **Martin Christie** explores the history of digital printing, detailing the ongoing challenges faced by an industry grappling with a plethora of file types and formats.

Technology was supposed to make life easier. It is believed to have originated with the wheel, as a more efficient means of transporting people and goods. Of course, it became more complicated when human power and then horses were replaced by engines and transmissions, but all of these additions were an improvement — at least in theory. Every advance always contains its share of peril when you move from the known to the unexpected.

And so it is with digital, as the relentless demand for more speed and convenience pushes novelty to ever higher levels of expectation and performance.

Historically, as print shops, when we transitioned from analogue to digital transfer, we probably thought it would be the same but different. As it turns out, the implications have been as drastic as in all other parts of our home and working environment, and the challenge is ongoing.

LIGHTROOM AND THE LOGIC OF DIGITAL FILE MANAGEMENT

When the computer-generated file replaced the hard duplicate initially, it looked fairly straightforward. There were just a couple of formats that could be used.

The ubiquitous PDF was seen as a universal solution for mixed media and vector files, and then for images alone, there was the JPG. What could be simpler? Well, that didn't last long as competing IT companies jumped on the design creation bandwagon

and imaging moved from cameras to phones, all in the aim of making things more user-friendly. Or at least sell more phones.

Once files could be saved in a PDF format, they could no longer be regarded as an entirely safe option because, without knowing how they were created, you have little idea what lies buried beneath their digital skin. Similarly, images captured on all manner of devices could be an assortment of sizes and quality depending on their source.

Like the PDF, the JPG was created as a handy way to send files, particularly before faster internet became available, because it could be compressed to a suitable size. But this came at a cost, of course, and still does. The knowledge of how to resize a batch of pixels and still retain reasonable quality is best left to human calculation rather than automated judgment, particularly as the default on most mobile devices is to make it as small as possible so it streams as fast as possible.

The history of Adobe Lightroom dates back nearly 20 years, and it was developed not as an alternative to Photoshop, but as a supplementary service, as it became clear that Photoshop itself was becoming bloated and sluggish. By its very nature, PS is memory-intensive, with its layers that can also contain vector files, text, object options, colour channels, and more. PS was intended to be a design programme as well as a picture editor, and as a result, it gained

extra features that taxed the average desktop PC — and still does. Unless your graphics display is up to date, many new features will be unsupported, and of course, you can't pick and mix what you want.

Lightroom was created from scratch to be a photographic image developer, with no extra design pretensions. It was a reaction to the fact that, even back then, camera capture was becoming increasingly complicated with different file formats, and some manufacturers were using proprietary formulas that could only be opened by their own software. Even amateur photographers were starting to collect more pictures, and it was evident that it was becoming important to process large numbers of similar files quickly, rather than the more pedestrian one-at-a-time method of Photoshop.

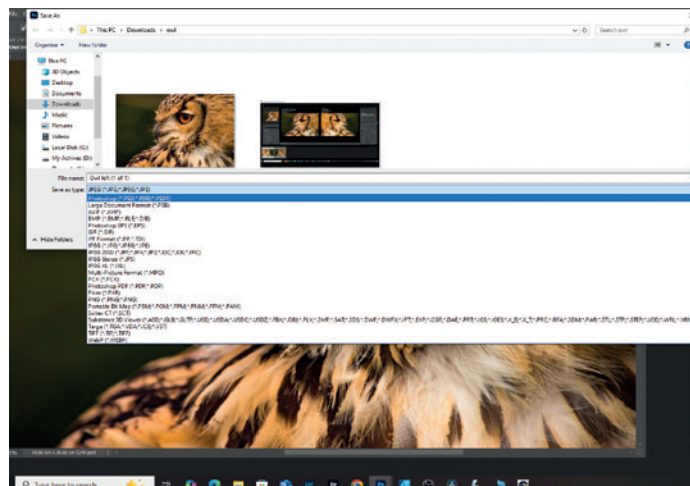
We often receive a large number of customer images to sort, size, and colour correct. Lightroom is one of the best ways to tackle this, along with

several other advantages, so it's well worth getting to know in order to speed up the workflow. As ever, it's all about understanding the most efficient way to achieve the best results in print.

Getting files into the programme often puts people off, as rather than just opening with a click, you have to import them, or a folder containing them. However, this is no bad thing, as it encourages you to create a separate folder for the job, rather than having it get lost in the crowded list of downloads. Or you can set up an Auto Import folder and drop files directly into that.

But this unique import action is one of the key advantages as what you are importing into the active workspace is not the memory draining full size file but an intelligent preview that contains a replica of the original — unlike the low res preview you get in In Design for example — and changes made to it are only confirmed when it is exported as a new file to wherever you chose. For example, you can have a print-ready folder while keeping the originals intact, in case you need to refer back to them.

Most often, multiple files are taken at different resolutions and sizes, as well as with varying exposure and colour hues, at various times of day. This is the quickest way to transform them into more regular shapes and shades, making them look more



consistent in a book or easier to align in a collage.

But before I get too far ahead down the print run, let's consider file types and why we use them. LR is a pixel-based programme, so it won't handle vector files, PDFs or Word documents, and can't add text or add bleed to a canvas — at least at the moment.

However, that's not its purpose; you have other tools for that in the Adobe suite. The dominance of picture files from almost all mobile devices, however created, means this is no longer a limitation and can indeed be an advantage in many cases.

An editable file is handy if major structural changes need to be made to an original. Still, it often causes unnecessary complications — font substitution, for example, or links missing, anything that can go wrong when it is being saved by an unknown person or persons. Why not keep things simple and just have a solid picture: layers flattened, text embedded, nothing that can be out of place when the file is downloaded and opened.

So, why not suggest a raster file rather than a more ambiguous PDF or, worse, any random media file? The customer doesn't need to know what it means, but may recognise the name JPG or at least spot it in their phones save as options, along with the word big, or if there's just a resolution option, just ask them to make sure there are lots of noughts! Now you have a nice, solid image to work with and perform the most important task, which is making it look as much like the customer expects from his phone screen.

It doesn't have to be a JPG but that or a PNG are likely to be the most accessible options when saving on a mobile device. If you are saving from PS, on the other hand, you will find at least a dozen options, including four types of JPG alone. However, as long as it has recognisable pixels, LR

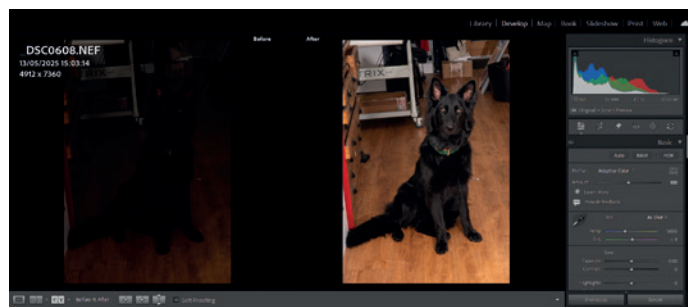


should be able to manage it. And that is part of the reason to recommend it, as there is an increasing number of web-based file formats like HEIF or HEIC, which may not be recognised if you simply click on them in Windows Explorer unless your file association is up to date. LR, with Adobe's regular updates, will keep abreast of any photo file novelties because it has to. Once you've got it, you can manage it and export it as a preferred format or print it straight from the programme.

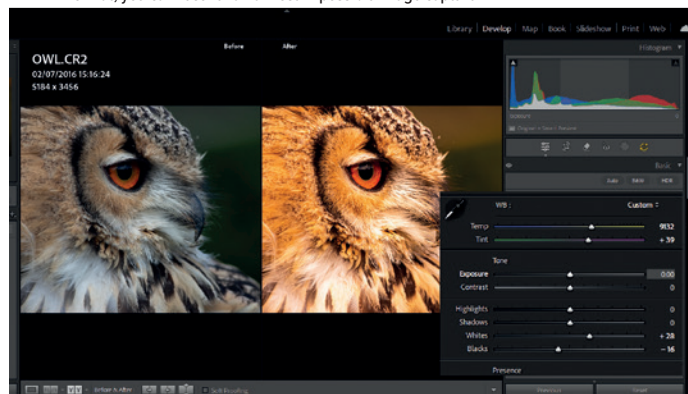
If you need to add text or bleed, you can also open directly from LR into PS, along with any changes made, and the new edit will then be saved as a separate picture file back in LR. That way, you have a choice of non-destructive options right back to the original.

The significant advantage of LR in terms of speed comes from its ability to handle multiple files, not just one. You can apply a quite daunting range of adjustments available in the Develop module and then apply all or selected ones to other files in the series, and the programme will sync the settings. If you are new to LR, start with the basic, global settings, like temperature and tone, shadows and exposure, until you get the hang of it. With those, you can do a lot to correct the colour hue in the original and reduce the saturation of colour, so that when printed, it more closely matches an image viewed on a backlit screen.

Once you get familiar with the way it works, you can then move on to the more specific tweaks in tone, detail and colour grading. You can make some dramatic changes that will hugely benefit a poorly exposed original, but even slight adjustments can



In RAW format, you can recover an almost impossible image capture



Adjusting colour temperature in Lightroom

make a significant difference to the eventual print. All of these options are available because we are working in RGB with its vastly greater colour gamut, rather than the much more limited CMYK. Personally, I don't recommend advising customers to save CMYK files as that conversion requires specific export adjustments to avoid dulling down bright colours. If I need to output in CMYK for print, I edit in LR and then open it in PS to complete the transformation. That way, I have much more control.

BEYOND THE JPG: THE POWER OF RAW FILES

Most of the editing options are also available in PS, but they are hidden away in the RAW filter option, which many will barely know exists. RAW is a particular file format, which is one of the most flexible, and least understood image states. Initially, only professional cameras could output it, but now many high-quality smartphones are able to use it. Essentially, it is a captured image that contains all the details but remains unaffected by any processing on the camera device itself — something that, by its

nature, tends to compress and compromise the output.

A RAW file is the nearest thing to a digital negative, but far superior to its film equivalent because it can pull back information out of what would have been thin air. It's because of the ongoing progress of RAW image technology that the benefits have been extended, through programmes like Lightroom, to other image files. As a photographer, I rarely shoot anything other than RAW because, although it's a large file format, the editing flexibility it gives me over pre-processed JPGs is such an advantage if you happen to have snapped something that needs special treatment.

Most importantly, this progress is ongoing, which is why it is essential to stay informed about it. In the latest update, LR has a new and greatly improved Super Resolution feature, utilising AI, which aims to achieve the Holy Grail of multiplying existing pixels without compromising quality, potentially improving print output. I will give you my verdict when I have time to put it to the test next month.

Will it be the best thing since sliced bread or just toast? ■

Ben Hazelton joins the herd at Zebra Print Group



Leeds based, family owned print solutions provider, Zebra Print Group, has bolstered its team with the appointment of Ben Hazelton, a business development and sales expert, marking a significant step forward for the company as it

continues to expand its footprint in the UK's print and production industry.

Bringing over 24 years of industry experience, Ben's appointment reflects Zebra Print Group's ongoing investment in expertise, innovation and customer service excellence. With a strong

background in both web offset printing and print finishing, Ben adds a new dimension to the team's capabilities and will play a pivotal role in driving new business and enhancing client relationships.

In his new position as Sales Manager, Ben will be responsible for generating new commercial opportunities, advising clients from concept through to production, and ensuring that Zebra Print Group's renowned standards are upheld throughout every project.

Commenting on his appointment, Ben said: "I'm really excited to be joining Zebra Print Group at such an exciting time of growth and innovation. The team's commitment to quality and creativity

really stood out to me, and I'm looking forward to building strong relationships with our clients and helping drive the business forward. It's a fantastic opportunity to contribute to a company with such a dynamic vision for the future."

MD Samantha Overton added: "We're really pleased to welcome Ben to the Zebra Print Group family. His energy, experience and passion for delivering exceptional service make him a perfect fit for our team. As we continue to grow and evolve, Ben's leadership in sales will be instrumental in strengthening client relationships and driving new opportunities."

www.zebraprintmanagement.co.uk

Konica Minolta's Alex Jordan receives Rising Star Award from The Print Charity

The Print Charity has chosen Sales Development Representative, Alex Jordan of Konica Minolta as a recipient of its Rising Star Awards 2025.

The Print Charity is a national organisation with King Charles III as its patron. It provides support to those who need it in the printing, paper, packaging, publishing and graphics sectors. The charity also champions young talent, and each year recognises the accomplishments of those new to the industry (aged between 18 and 30) with its prestigious Rising Star Awards.

Alex joined Konica Minolta as a Sales



Development Representative in July 2024. Since joining, he has been supported by the company with a development plan targeted at developing an in-depth knowledge of print solutions and their applications, account management, demonstration training, and gaining industry insight through visiting print rooms and workshops throughout the UK.

Commenting on his award win, Alex said, "I am honoured to receive this prestigious award from The Print Charity at the start of what I hope to be a long career in the industry." Having such a positive experience,

Alex is eager for other young people to follow his lead, adding, "With the digital world being so all encompassing for young people today, it's important that they understand the relevance of print, so they can see it's a sector that is worth building a career in."

Rebecca Boulton, Marketing Manager Professional Print, Konica Minolta Business Solutions (UK) Ltd, has mentored Alex since he joined the company and commented, "We are all incredibly proud of Alex. He has immersed himself in the industry and it's fantastic that his commitment, hard work, and progress have been deservedly recognised."

www.theprintingcharity.org.uk

www.konicaminolta.co.uk

NEW MASTER OF THE STATIONERS' COMPANY, DOUG WILLS

Doug Wills, Emeritus Editor at the London Standard and Independent, was elected Master of The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers on 1st July and was installed at a traditional ceremony in Stationers' Hall in front of 180 of his fellow Stationers, friends and family.

He succeeds Paul Wilson and Doug recognised the achievements of his predecessor during his year in office.

Doug was previously Managing Editor of the Evening Standard for 15 years. He started his career as an apprentice journalist with Thomson

Regional Newspapers in Berkshire before moving to London to join the Mirror Group helping to launch the London Daily News as Assistant Editor (production).

Doug joined the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers in 2012. He is an avid supporter of the Stationers' Foundation's bursaries for courses for the training of aspiring publishers and journalists. He also launched an Editorial Diversity Apprenticeship Scheme, a partnership between the London Standard and the Stationers and Newspaper Makers' Company. It is



still running today and has brought many young people into the profession and the Stationers.

Together with his consort, Elisabeth Reyes, Doug is looking forward to representing the

Company in the City of London and across the content and communications industries.

Doug Wills said:

"I am honoured and proud to have been chosen. There has seldom been a more critical time for the media with seismic changes taking place with AI and social media. It will be hugely important for the Company – with its heritage in literature and print going back more than 600 years – to spotlight and influence opportunities and challenges for the future of journalism and publishing."

www.stationers.org

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Leading manufacturers to showcase new technologies

With just a few weeks to go until The Print Show and the co-located The Sign Show open their doors, exhibitors have begun to announce details of the technologies that they will be showcasing across the two events.



Taking place from September 23rd to 25th in Hall 3 of the NEC in Birmingham, The Print Show and The Sign Show will welcome thousands of visitors from all corners of the print and sign making markets. With attendees able to pass freely between the two events, this will allow them to explore the very latest developments in print and signage.

With The Print Show established as a key launch platform for new solutions, some exhibitors will be using the event, and co-located The Sign Show, to roll out their latest technologies in the UK. Visitors can get a firsthand look at the very latest in key areas such as wide format print and finishing.

HP TO DEMO NEW HP LATEX R530

Among those set to showcase new technology is HP, which will showcase its new HP Latex R530 all in one printer for the first time in the UK at The Sign Show. A versatile, all in one printer, the machine can print in high quality across a wide range of applications, including both indoor and outdoor signage.

Also on show will be the HP Latex 630W and 830W: both designed for high productivity and efficiency, delivering vibrant colours and sharp details. In addition, HP will demonstrate its HP DesignJet XL3800 large format solution, as well as the HP DesignJet Z9+Pro.

“HP is excited to announce its

participation in The Print Show and The Sign Show, where we will be showcasing its latest advancements in print technology,” said Colin Easton, UK&I Large Format Print Channel Manager at HP. “We are proud to showcase its commitment to excellence and innovation through a number of experiences at its stand at the NEC.”

HYBRID SERVICES TO DISPLAY NEW MIMAKI PRINTER

Meanwhile, Hybrid Services, the exclusive distributor for Mimaki in the UK and Ireland, will use its stand at The Sign Show for the UK and Irish launch of the Mimaki UJV300DTF-75.

A compact, UV DTF printer, Hybrid says the machine enables the easy creation of premium decals, bespoke branding and personalisation. Key attributes the ability to print on film at a resolution of up to 1200dpi, while it runs in six colours and can print at widths of up to 640mm.

Andy Gregory, Sales Director at Hybrid Services, said: “The Sign Show is a timely and important addition to the exhibition calendar. It gives the signage industry its own dedicated space while still benefiting from the crossover with The Print Show. We’re proud to be backing the event from day one — and excited to be bringing headline technology like the UJV300DTF-75 to the UK and Ireland market for the first time.”

AGFA TO SPOTLIGHT INKJET PRINTING INNOVATION

Find Agfa at stand P200, where the company will present its latest advancements in inkjet technology to the wide format printing community.

Agfa’s presence at the event underscores

its commitment to driving innovation for print service providers and the broader inkjet market. With decades of experience and a relentless focus on research and development, Agfa continues to empower print professionals with cutting edge solutions designed to boost productivity, quality, and profitability.

Paul Fitch, Head of Inkjet UK, Ireland & Nordic at Agfa, said: “The Print Show is a cornerstone event for the UK print sector, and we are thrilled to return to it in 2025. We’re really looking forward to connecting with attendees and sharing how our innovations and inkjet expertise can help them unlock new opportunities, streamline workflows, and deliver outstanding results. Our specialists will be available on our stand to talk delegates through our technology and services and explain how we can support their growth in a rapidly evolving marketplace.”

Agfa invites all attendees to visit stand P200 to discover how its latest inkjet printing innovations are driving the future of print.

www.agfa.com

SWISSQPRINT TO HIGHLIGHTS FLATBED GENERATION 5



Following a successful debut in 2024, swissQprint will return to The Print Show this September to present its Generation 5 flatbed printer range at a UK trade fair for the first time. It follows the successful international launch earlier this year.

Taking place at Birmingham’s NEC from 23–25 September 2025, visitors to stand P420 will experience the swissQprint Kudu in action, printing throughout the event. The model will represent Generation 5 at the show. The Kudu’s exceptional speed and quality across everything from fine art and braille signage to tension textiles, packaging and POS displays will be clear for

visitors to see.

“We’re really looking forward to being back at The Print Show,” said Erskine Stewart, Managing Director of swissQprint UK. “It’s a great opportunity to engage with the print community, share our latest developments, and show exactly what the latest printer generation and swissQprint as a whole can do.”

Showcasing the Generation 5

Incorporating up to 10 colour channels, the 3.2x2m flatbed Kudu delivers both versatility and visual impact — supported by swissQprint’s trademark energy efficiency. Combined with swissQprint’s reputation for reliability, it’s a powerful machine for businesses looking to print more with less.

Kudu, along with the Nyala 5 and the Impala 5, form a Generation 5 line-up that is 23% faster than the previous generation, offering a top speed of 341 m²/h. In addition, following a recent upgrade, Kudu users are seeing a 12 percent production speed increase that makes a real difference across a full working day, reflecting swissQprint’s commitment to customer support and long term value.

Visitors will also learn about swissQprint’s 36 month warranty, available across all machines, providing peace of mind and long-term performance assurance.

APPLICATIONS COME TO LIFE

While the Kudu will take the spotlight, everything on the stand could be produced using any printer in the swissQprint range — demonstrating the flexibility built into every machine. From vibrant neons and textured varnish to magnetic and backlit materials, attendees will see the true creative potential of the Kudu and its siblings in the swissQprint family.

Erskine Stewart said: “The Print Show is the perfect platform to show what’s possible with swissQprint. Whether it’s speed, quality, energy savings or application diversity, our printers help businesses turn ideas into high impact print results.”

www.swissqprint.co.uk

INKTEC TO SHOWCASE CUTTING EDGE PRINT INNOVATION



Visit InkTec on Stand P340 to experience

firsthand the latest in print innovation, including highlights from their renowned JETRIX printer series, their award winning DTF solutions, powerful UV-DTF technologies, and their celebrated range of inks and media.

This year, they are showcasing an exciting lineup of high performance equipment designed to meet the evolving needs of the print industry:

JETRIX LXa8 — High-speed UV flatbed printer offering precision and productivity

JETRIX XAR320 — Powerful hybrid printer combining speed with flexibility

DTF-T652 — 60cm Direct-to-Film solution delivering exceptional versatility

UV-S604 — Unlock the full potential of UV-DTF printing

UV 6090 Flatbed — Compact yet powerful UV flatbed printer

Inks and Media — Specially formulated, fully tested, and trusted worldwide

Whether you’re looking to upgrade your current setup or explore new technologies, the team will be on hand to provide expert advice, live demonstrations, and tailored solutions to match your business needs.

Joey Kim, Managing Director at InkTec Europe, commented: “The Print Show is always a fantastic opportunity to connect with the print community and showcase the innovation that drives everything we do at InkTec. From the advanced JETRIX printers to award winning DTF and UV-DTF solutions, we’re excited to demonstrate how our technologies can truly elevate print businesses. We look forward to welcoming visitors to our stand and showing them what’s possible with InkTec.”

Discover why InkTec continues to be at the forefront of print innovation at The Print Show or call 01993 862770 or email info@inkteceurope.com to book your personal demonstration at the show.

www.inktec-europe.com

EPSON GOES ALL IN



Epson’s stand will feature a variety of devices designed to help print service providers scale up output, diversify applications, and introduce profitable new revenue streams. Printers will cover an array of applications from UV, resin, and eco-solvent signage to direct to film, CAD printing, and colour label printing.

Epson’s stand will also be joined by specialists from Fiery, the leading provider of digital front ends (DFEs) and workflow solutions for the global print industry.

Visitors will also enjoy the output of Epson’s industrial direct to fabric range, with curtains and cushions printed from Epson’s Monna Lisa textile printer, designed by surface pattern designer Seren Unlo. It was Seren Unlo’s vibrant Copacabana Passion designs that caught Epson’s attention at the New Designs Expo 2024 in London, subsequently winning Seren the Epson Digital Textile Print Award.

Further print flair will take form with the Epson stand’s custom wallpaper printed door thanks to the SC-R5000L resin printer. Meanwhile, Epson’s stand will also host representatives from Fiery, the recently acquired developer of market leading RIP and print workflow software. Attendees can learn how integrated hardware/software solutions streamline production, improve colour management and deliver consistent quality across every job.

“We’re thrilled to bring the might of Epson’s portfolio to the Print Show 2025 — visitors will truly have visibility of every aspect our exciting industry has to offer,” said Phil McMullin, Head of Sales for Commercial & Industrial at Epson UK. “Print is absolutely everywhere and there has never been a more exciting time to adopt or scale your business using the breadth of applications from Epson’s portfolio and those of our industry peers.”

“I’m also excited to welcome Fiery to our stand and to show off the prowess of our Monna Lisa range through the colour vibrancy of Seren Unlo’s Copacabana Passion designs. Providing comprehensive workflow solutions and celebrating passionate young designers through print are key strategies of ours and we’re thrilled to bring these to The Print Show.”

Products on show will include:

- SC-V7000 UV flatbed printer
- SC-V2000 UV desktop printer
- SC-R5000L resin printer
- SC-S9100 signage printer
- SC-G6000 direct to film printer with Adkins curing unit
- SC-T5700DM plotter
- ColorWorks C6500 colour label printer

www.epson.co.uk

For more information on new launches and other technology demonstrations at The Print Show and The Sign Show this year, keep an eye on the official social media channels. ■

www.theprintshow.co.uk

JA International invests in the Veloblade Nexus, feeder and stacker

Established in 1979, Spilsby-based commercial printer J&A International has recently expanded its capabilities with the purchase of a VeloBlade Nexus wide-format digital die-cutting system, enhancing its ability to produce a wide range of printed products.

The effectiveness of the feeder and the stacker has allowed them to run jobs unattended for extended periods, saving time and improving productivity. Over the years, the Lincolnshire company has built a strong reputation for producing a wide range of printed products, with particular expertise in garment decoration using heat seal transfers. Through continual innovation and a commitment to quality, J&A has extended its offering to include name badges, stickers, pens, signage, graphics, and packaging solutions. The company is widely recognised for its customer focused approach and ability to adapt across a range of industries.

J&A International was seeking to expand its product range while also improving efficiency and increasing production capacity. The company needed a solution that would not only enhance its current capabilities but also enable it to introduce new services. Improving output speed and meeting growing customer demand were key priorities, especially within their signage division and the production of their 'Ultima' removable industrial laundry transfer range.

After exploring several options, J&A International identified Vivid as a potential partner for upgrading its production equipment. A visit to Vivid's premises provided valuable insight into the company's culture and the quality of its technology. The J&A team was impressed by the professionalism and friendliness of the staff, as well as the impressive condition of the facilities, which they felt was a strong indicator of the company's standards.

The Veloblade Nexus stood out for its high performance and speed, which matched that of some of the top tier



equipment on the market, but at a more competitive price. It came with valuable extras such as a router, which proved particularly beneficial for the company's signage business, enabling the creation of custom shaped routed signs. Additionally, Vivid offered what J&A considered the best available software (Zip Core Packaging Suite) for cutting and printing cardboard boxes, along with training tailored to their specific needs. This combination of technology, support, and value made Vivid the clear choice.

The implementation of the Veloblade Nexus has had a significant positive impact on J&A International. The company has successfully launched a new product line, custom cut signs, thanks to the router tool that allows precise cutting of signage materials. This new capability is seen as essential to the continued expansion of their signage business.

Moreover, the Veloblade has helped increase production capacity and reduce lead times for the 'Ultima' range, a removable industrial laundry transfer. These improvements have not only enhanced operational efficiency but also enabled the business to better respond to demand and drive further sales in this area.

"The Veloblade is a great bit of kit. It is reliable, and it does exactly what we need it to do. Vivid has always been on hand to quickly fix any issues that we encounter, and they do so in a friendly and professional manner. It is very nice to deal with a company where you feel your business genuinely matters to them. I think that is something very rare to find nowadays." James Fry Operations Director

For J&A International, the decision to implement the Veloblade Nexus has proven to be a strategic move that supports both innovation and growth. The added capabilities, increased efficiency, and responsive support from Vivid have positioned the company for continued success and expansion across its key product areas.

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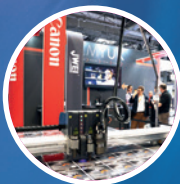
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James Cropper to unveil brand led colour collection built on 50 years of expertise

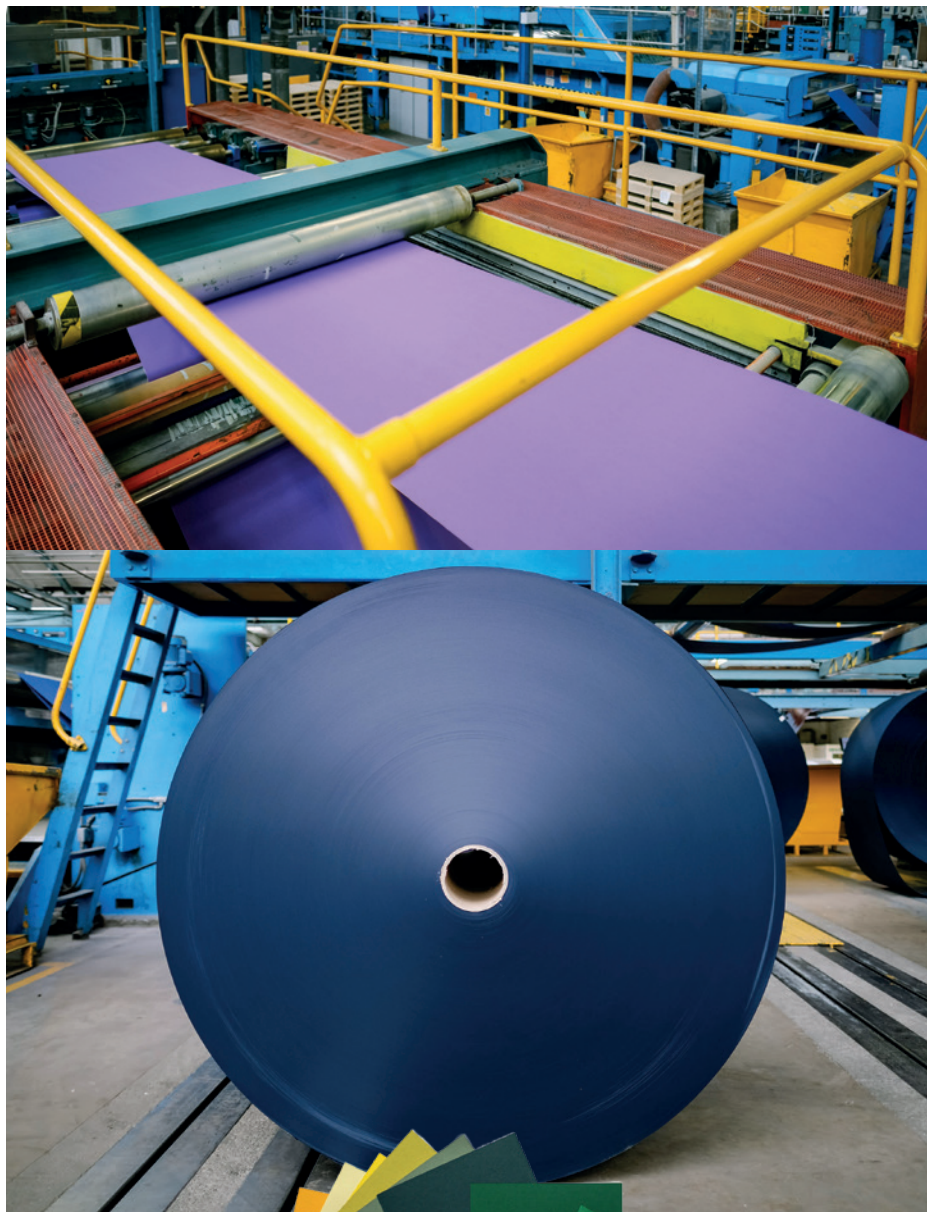
James Cropper, the UK's sole remaining manufacturer of speciality coloured papers, is now offering direct access to its leading colour portfolio built on over 50 years of proprietary fibre dyeing expertise. The range, designed, formulated, and crafted entirely in the UK at the company's historic Lake District mill, is poised to make its official debut very soon.

At a time when many suppliers are cutting back colour options or moving production overseas, James Cropper is doubling down on its UK roots, boldly bringing its range of more than 50 signature shades under one vibrant new brand that will be available direct from James Cropper as well as from select merchant partners. Many of these colours have been in continuous production for decades, now reimagined and precision engineered by James Cropper's team of colour artisans to meet the future demands of brands, designers, and converters.

"This is not a refresh. This is a declaration," says Paul Barber, Managing Director of Paper & Packaging at James Cropper. "We were the first to produce coloured paper, and we're proud of that legacy, but we're not here to look backwards – we're here to own the future of colour in paper. What we're planning has been refined over 50 years of proprietary fibre and colour formulations.

"This is the latest step on our industry defining journey. Even as the market changes, customers can still rely on James Cropper to provide unmatched vibrancy, durability, and performance – just as we always have."

Produced entirely on-site at its Burneside mill in Cumbria, located within a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the portfolio showcases trusted heritage shades, while fresh bespoke formulations co-created with clients in James Cropper's world class colour lab provide a further demonstration of the company's colour prowess. Every sheet is made using the company's renowned dyed in the fibre process, ensuring colour penetrates the fibre



for exceptional depth, vibrancy, and longevity, outperforming surface printed alternatives at every stage of finishing.

James Cropper has been pioneering colour since 1856, when it was the first in the world to produce coloured paper using synthetic dyes. Today, this legacy drives innovation, craftsmanship, and a relentless commitment to quality and collaboration.

Customers, both new and longstanding, are

invited to experience the paper production process first hand at the 180 year old mill, from bespoke colour development to the final reel, gaining unique insight into the artistry behind every sheet.

The full brand identity and colour portfolio will be unveiled in an exclusive showcase soon, marking a decisive moment in the future of speciality coloured paper.

www.jamescropper.com

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Mimaki to exhibit at Texworld Paris



Mimaki Europe has announced its participation in Texworld Paris, taking place from September 15th to 17th at Parc des Expositions de Paris-Le Bourget (Halls 2-4). The company will demonstrate TRAPIS (Transfer Pigment System) alongside real life customer use cases at its stand. Situated within Avantex Paris, part of Texworld Paris, this dedicated area highlights companies committed to reducing pollution and promoting circularity in the textile and fashion industry, so to create the fashion of the future.

Launched last year, Mimaki's TRAPIS solution offers printers a simple two step process, consisting of an inkjet printer and a high pressure calender. Significantly reducing wastewater by approximately 90% compared to conventional digital dyeing methods and cutting carbon emissions by up to 92%, TRAPIS allows manufacturers, designers or retailers to create vibrant textiles easily and sustainably. Ideal



for on-demand printing for fashion and interior décor applications, it can print on a wide range of fabrics, including natural and synthetic fibres.

Martial Granet, Branch Manager France & Maghreb, Mimaki Europe, comments, "Texworld Paris provides an invaluable platform to showcase our accessible and sustainable TRAPIS solution directly to thousands of global textile professionals. Continuing the momentum of the TRAPIS roadshow in June, which generated



strong interest from fashion brands, we're excited to see how it is received here by visitors."

www.mimakieurope.com.

Epson sets out its stand at Labelexpo 2025

Epson announces its coming participation at LabelExpo 2025 in Barcelona from September 16-19. This year's exhibition will showcase Epson's latest innovations in commercial and industrial label production, including the highly anticipated SurePress L-5034.

At LabelExpo 2025, Epson will showcase its very latest presses and printers for virtually every type of label application serving a diverse range of commercial and industrial sectors from retail, food & beverage, to pharmaceuticals, chemicals and logistics.

"Whatever your labelling needs, whether short-run, on-demand, large-scale high volume or niche, Epson has the answer," said Marc Tinkler from Epson Europe's Commercial and Industrial printing division.

"Our colour label presses and printers are used for food and beverage labelling, for shelf-edges in supermarkets, take-aways and deliveries, visitor passes and logistics. You can see them on wine bottles, jars, luxury goods, cosmetics, industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals and so much more. Epson offers almost every kind of label for every type of application!"

The SurePress L-5034 is a new water-based ink digital label printing platform, engineered for higher productivity without compromising



print quality, making it an ideal choice for label converters looking to increase productivity and operational efficiency on a broad range of substrates, from non-coated textured papers to metallised stocks.

The new L-5034 will accompany Epson's other SurePress L-6534VW and L4733AW on stand E35, Hall 3 and will be commercially available from September 2025.

In addition to the SurePress L-5034, Epson's stand will feature an extensive range of ColorWorks on-demand colour label printers,

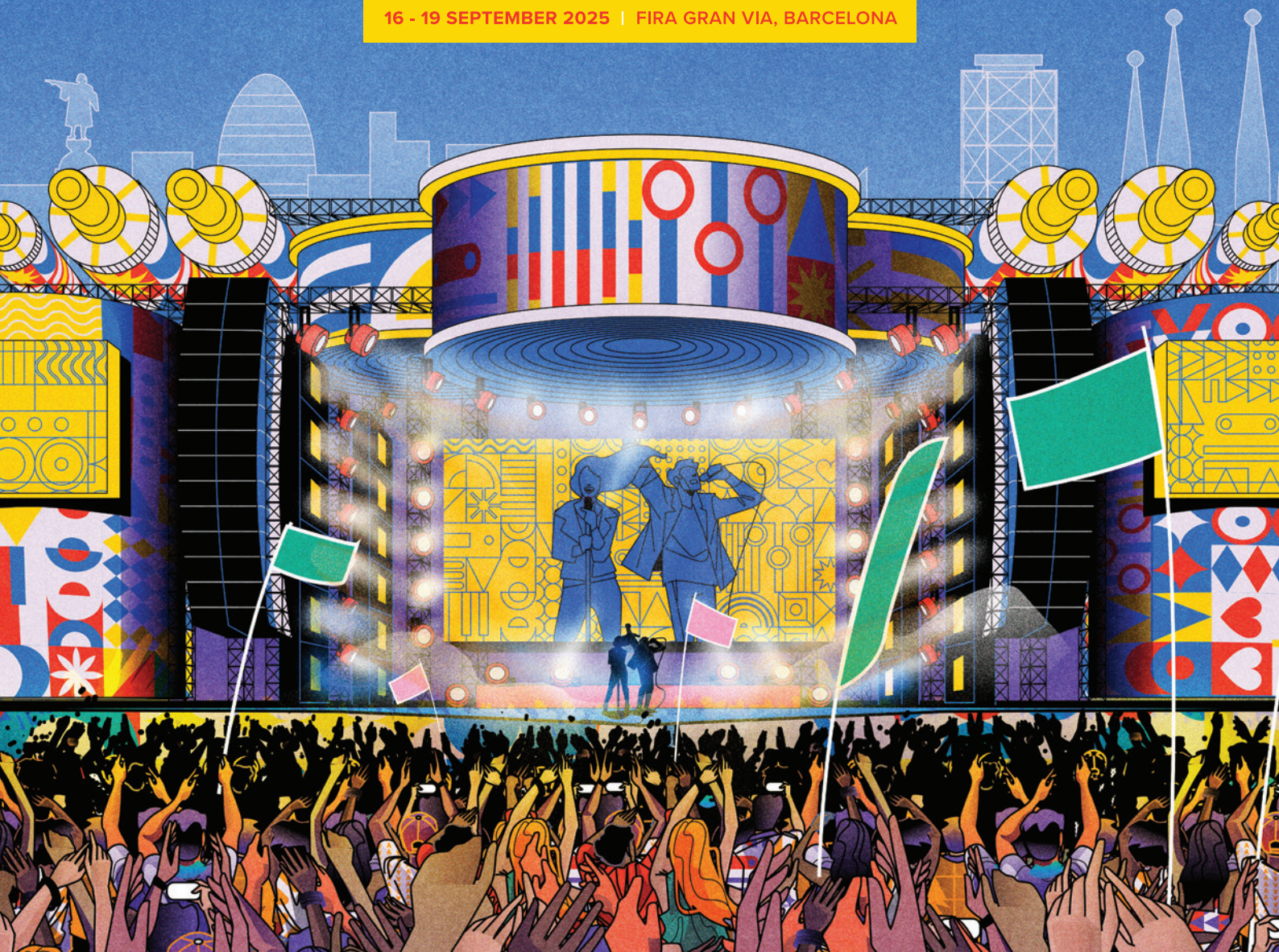
including the C8000e series which is designed for high-volume label production while reducing costs associated with pre-printing, such as label waste and over-stocked inventory.

Epson will also showcase its new ColorWorks D6000 series on-demand industrial label printer series, featuring UltraChrome DY dye inks that deliver improved colour reproduction and durability on glossy media and cater specifically to the needs of artisan producers and bespoke packaging industries.

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Route 1 Print expands solar array

Route 1 Print has taken a major step forward in helping its trade customers meet the growing demand for sustainable print, without compromising on cost. As part of its wider Sustainability Strategy, the UK's largest trade printer has significantly expanded its onsite solar energy capacity to reduce carbon output and ultimately better support its resellers and their clients.

With increasing pressure across the industry to deliver eco-conscious solutions, Route 1 Print is focused on meeting these expectations without compromising on cost. With more end customers asking for environmentally responsible solutions, Route 1 Print is investing in infrastructure that allows resellers to offer print with greener credentials.

The company's ultimate goal is to become entirely self-sufficient by balancing energy efficiency improvements with increased onsite generation. A key part of this strategy began with the installation of solar PV panels on available roof space. This latest initiative marks a significant step in Route 1 Print's wider sustainability commitments, as the company continues to align environmental responsibility with commercial value for its reseller base.

"We've seen a clear increase in demand from our resellers for sustainably printed products," says Jack Parks, Head of Route 1 Print. "At the



same time, we understand how important pricing is to their buying experience. The expansion of our solar capability allows us to deliver on both fronts, reducing our environmental impact while helping keep prices competitive for our resellers and their clients."

Route 1 Print's sustainability efforts don't stop at solar. Alongside this investment, the company continues to implement efficiency improvements, reduce or eliminate the carbon associated with its operations, and explore further opportunities for onsite generation, all with the goal of bringing even more value to its resellers. A new Sustainability Report, set to be published later

this year, will showcase the progress made so far, as well as outline the future ambitions that will help Route 1 Print's reseller base stay competitive, responsible, and ready for what's next.

When resellers choose Route 1 Print, they're choosing more than just print. They're partnering with a business committed to innovation, responsibility, and creating long-term value for its customers. From FSC®-certified stocks to ISO-certified processes and industry-leading turnaround times, Route 1 Print remains laser-focused on helping its resellers grow, adapt, and succeed in a rapidly evolving marketplace.

www.route1print.co.uk

Two Sides global Anti-Greenwash campaign

Two Sides has now challenged over 3,000 organisations worldwide found to be making misleading environmental claims about paper. As a result, more than 1,320 organisations have removed or amended unsubstantiated statements, such as "Go Green – Go Paperless" or "Choose e-billing and help save a tree."

The rise in greenwashing is often driven by economic pressures, with many organisations shifting customers from paper based communications to digital platforms to reduce their costs. Unfortunately, this transition is frequently accompanied by deceptive environmental messaging that misleads consumers into believing digital is a more sustainable option.

Consumer sentiment does not support these forced digital switches. According to the 2025 Two Sides Trend Tracker report, 56% of European consumers believe that the environmental reasons given for moving to digital are disingenuous and primarily motivated by cost reduction. Furthermore, 76% of consumers want the right to choose how they receive communications and oppose being forced into digital only options.

The issue extends beyond customer



communications. Sectors such as tissue and paper based packaging are increasingly targeted by greenwashing, with companies making vague or unverified claims about new or alternative fibre sources being more sustainable, saving trees, without credible evidence.

Jonathan Tame, Managing Director of Two Sides Europe, comments: "This type of greenwashing not only violates established environmental marketing standards but also damages the reputation of an industry with a strong and improving sustainability record. Contrary to popular claims, a thriving market for paper products supports forest growth through sustainable forestry. European forests, for example, are growing by the equivalent of 1,500 football pitches every day."

In Europe alone, Two Sides has persuaded more

than 840 organisations, many major brands, including; HMRC, Santander, Volksbank and Hess Natur, to withdraw misleading anti-paper messaging from their communications.

"Challenging greenwashing is critical. Not only to protect consumer choice but also to uphold the reputation and economic health of the print, paper, packaging, and forestry sectors," says Tame. "These industries support over 640,000 jobs and span more than 112,000 businesses across Europe."

The consequences of unchecked greenwashing are significant. A 2021 study by Two Sides and Censuswide found that in the European mailing and postal sectors alone, greenwashing could result in an estimated €337 million in annual revenue losses due to declining trust and reduced paper use.

"We're grateful to the hundreds of organisations that have responded positively to our campaign," adds Tame. "We also appreciate the invaluable support of industry stakeholders and the public, who continue to bring greenwashing examples to our attention."

To report instances of greenwashing, please contact: greenwash@twosides.info

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The cat's out the bag

Route 1 Print is proud to announce the latest enhancement to its production capabilities with the installation of new short to medium-run packaging machine. The purchase forms part of the company's wider investment strategy, with over £8 million invested in the past year to support innovation and growth across its product range.

With the addition of this investment in print technology, Route 1 Print has expanded its product portfolio with the launch of a new range of customisable paper bags, a timely and in-demand solution for resellers working with retail, hospitality, and event-based clients.

Available in four popular sizes and two premium kraft stock options, the new paper bags are fully recyclable, aligning with the increasing demand for environmentally conscious packaging. Each bag features a centrally placed, single-sided CMYK print area, ideal for branding and promotional use. Reinforced handles and internal support patches add durability, making the bags as functional as they are stylish.

Jack Parks, Head of Route 1 Print, commented: "The response to our paper bag launch has been fantastic, with orders coming in from the moment the products went live. It's clear that both our customers and their clients are looking for sustainable, well-designed packaging options, particularly in the retail and events space. These bags strike the perfect balance between quality, sustainability and visual impact, and we're proud to offer another solution that helps our resellers expand their offering and grow their business."

As with all their recent product launches, Route 1 Print has provided reseller customers with unbranded sales sheets, comprehensive technical specifications, and ready-to-use marketing content for their new paper bags, equipping them with the tools needed to promote products confidently and professionally.

Route 1 Print's new paper bags mark the first in a series of upcoming packaging and promotional product launches, with further investment and additions to the range set to debut in the coming months. QPP will keep you posted and help quick print pros at the printface "bag" more business.

Watch this space...

www.route1print.co.uk



Stand out with the MerchBag

Freshers Week is a whirlwind of new faces, new places, and a whole lot of branded merchandise. But how do you ensure your giveaway stands out from the generic pens and leaflets that will be forgotten by week's end? The answer lies in making an impact from the very first handshake.

Enter the MerchBag from PromoTrade—the ultimate branded giveaway designed to make a memorable impression. This isn't just a collection of random items; it's a perfectly curated, all-in-one branded bundle that says "welcome" in style. Instead of spending valuable time coordinating different suppliers and juggling delivery dates, PromoTrade handles the entire process for you. Each MerchBag is custom-picked, expertly packed, and delivered ready to go, saving you time and money on fulfilment costs.

So, what makes the MerchBag a guaranteed campus pleaser?

Totally Tailored: Every single item within the bag is branded with your customer's logo, ensuring a cohesive and professional look that reinforces their brand identity.

Ready-to-Impress: The products arrive pre-packed in a stylish, printed cotton bag, making distribution effortless and creating an immediate "wow" factor.

Simple & Stress-Free: With four different sizes available, from the essential bundle to the fully loaded package, you can find the perfect option to fit any budget or need. It's the simplest way to get high-impact merchandise without any of the usual hassle.

Whether you're looking to welcome new students, boost brand visibility on campus, or create a show-stopping event giveaway, the MerchBag is the perfect solution. It transforms a simple handout into a statement of quality and convenience, ensuring your brand is the one that students remember.

Ready to make your mark? Contact PromoTrade today to explore the MerchBag collection and get your brand in the hands of the next generation of students.

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Print on bricks

Drytac, the manufacturer of self-adhesive materials for the large format print and signage markets, is delighted to announce the launch of Polar HiGrab Air, a new white matte monomeric high grab self-adhesive vinyl, in the UK and Rest of World (RoW) markets.

Polar HiGrab Air has been designed for tough to adhere to surfaces and is ideal for short term applications. The 4.0 mil (110µ) white matte monomeric PVC film features a high coat weight permanent pressure sensitive grey acrylic adhesive with bubble free technology and is available in widths of up to 1370mm (54").

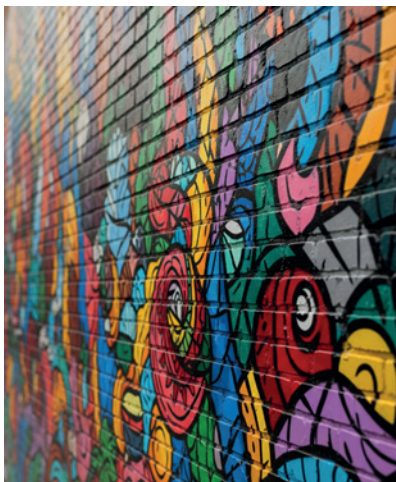
Built with a durable double sided PE liner and air egress technology, the product ensures smooth, bubble free application. Its thicker face film delivers high quality print results without the need for lamination and works seamlessly with (eco)solvent, latex/resin, and UV printing systems. This construction not only simplifies installation but also helps reduce project time and cost.

Polar HiGrab Air delivers up to three years of durability across both indoor and outdoor use, and is ideal for applications such as machinery signage, asset tagging, low energy substrates and rough surfaces such as brick and concrete.

"Polar HiGrab Air is a cost effective monomeric film that delivers outstanding performance without the associated price tag," said Dennis Leblanc, Senior Product and Business Development Manager from Drytac. "It is the latest in a long line of innovations from Drytac developed to help our customers successfully take on a wider range of work with outstanding results."

Customers in the UK and Drytac's RoW markets will be able to purchase Polar HiGrab Air immediately.

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Elevate your prints with the new Portrait Rag 305

PermaJet is excited to announce the launch of Portrait Rag 305, the next evolution of its popular fine art paper. This new release is a direct replacement for the award-winning Portrait Rag 285, developed to meet the growing demand for a heavier, premium-quality paper.

The Portrait Rag 305 offers a superior fine art experience without a premium price tag.

While providing a significant upgrade in weight to a sturdy 305gsm, it maintains the same pricing structure as its predecessor. This gives professional printers and artists a fantastic opportunity to offer a premium product to their customers while maintaining competitive pricing and improving their sales potential.

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Superior Finish: An improved coating delivers richer, deeper blacks and a wider colour gamut, making your images truly pop.

Simple Upgrade: For existing Portrait Rag 285 users, this is a straightforward, high-value upgrade that enhances your final product.

The new Portrait Rag 305 is available now. To learn more, request a sample, or place an order, contact the PermaJet Sales Team.

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A custom calendar is more than just a tool for tracking dates; it's a 365-day billboard for your creativity or business. It's a thoughtful gift, a powerful marketing tool, or a beautiful way to showcase cherished memories.

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Trust, in any relationship, is paramount so you'll find Flexpress provide a good, honest trade print service and keep our promises; this is how, since 1989, we've grown to become one of the most respected printers in the UK. Everything we do is produced by us right here in our own production facility using the very latest state-of-the-art equipment.

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AccurioPrint.....Konica Minolta
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Apps.....Digital Office Group
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Bespoke Envelopes.....GFSmith
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Binders.....Duraweld
Binding.....FDS Solutions
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Booklet Making.....Morgana Systems
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Business Card Cutters.....Caslon
Business Stationery.....Route1 Print
Café Pads.....Abbot Print
Canon.....ASL Group
Canon / HP Large Format Printers.....Perfect Colours
CD Packaging.....Duraweld
ChromaLuxe.....NovaChrome UK
Collators.....Morgana
Coloured and Textured Media.....GFSmith

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Continuous Forms.....NCR Pads
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Cut Sets.....Abbot Print
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Continuous Feed Printers.....Canon
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EasyMount.....Granthams Graphic Technology
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Konica Minolta.....ASL Group
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Laminating Machines and Supplies, all types.....Elmstok
Laminator Pouches & Supplies.....Vivid
Labels and stickers.....Baker Labels
Large Format Printers.....Stanford Marsh
Large Format Scanners.....Stanford Marsh
Large Format MFP Solutions.....Stanford Marsh
Large Format Printers from HP.....Perfect Colours
Large Format Printers from HP.....Stanford Marsh
Leaflets.....Flexpress
Magazine Design.....The Magazine Production Company
Magazine Production.....The Magazine Production Company
Magazine Printing.....The Magazine Production Company
Marketing Solutions.....Xerox
Mimaki.....Granthams Graphic Technology
Mimaki.....Your Print Specialist
Multifunction Devices.....OKI Europe
Mugs.....NovaChrome UK
NCR Books.....NCR Pads Ltd
NCR Pads.....NCR Pads Ltd
NCR Sets.....NCR Pads Ltd
Newsletter Design.....The Magazine Production Company
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Paper Drills & Punches.....Elmstok
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Paper Supplies.....Océ Imaging Supplies
Paper Supplies.....Premier Paper
Pencils.....Pen Warehouse

Pens.....Pen Warehouse
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Polypropylene Boxes.....Duraweld
PosterJet Software.....Perfect Colours
Presentation Folders.....Flexpress
Presentation Packaging (Printed).....Duraweld
Print Finishing Equipment.....Caslon
Printer Support Contracts.....Resolution GB
Printing Systems.....OKI Europe
Raffle Tickets.....Raffle Tickets Direct
Receipt Books.....Abbot Print
Recycled Media.....Premier Paper
Register Sets.....Abbot Print
Retail POS.....Route1 Print
Ricoh.....ASL Group
Ring Binders.....Vivid
Ring Binders.....Duraweld
Roland.....Granthams Graphic Technology
Roland.....Your Print Specialist
Roll Laminating Machines.....FDS Solutions
Sawgrass.....NovaChrome UK
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Seasonal Print.....Flexpress
Security Labels.....Calf Hey
Self Adhesive Labels.....Calf Hey
Self Adhesive Pockets.....Duraweld
Sensory Coaters.....CJB Print Equipment

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Software.....Digital Office Group
Speciality Papers.....GFSmith
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Sublimation Solutions.....The Magic Touch
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Something to share?

POKERFACED

The teacher asked little John if he knew his maths.
"Yes," he said. "My father taught me."
"Good. What comes after three?"
"Four," answered the boy.
"What comes after six?"
"Seven."
"Very good," said the teacher. "Your dad did a good job. And what comes after 10?"
"Jack."

AWARD WINNER

My dentist was voted "Dentist Of The Year". He didn't get a trophy, they just gave him a little plaque.

SICK, BUT NO PARROT

A man takes his sick Chihuahua to the vets. They're immediately taken back to an examination room.
Soon, a Labrador walks in, sniffs the Chihuahua for 10 minutes and leaves. Then a cat comes in, stares at the Chihuahua for 10 minutes and leaves. Finally, the doctor comes in, prescribes some medicine and hands the man a £150 bill.
"This must be a mistake," the man says. "I've been here only 20 minutes!"
"No mistake," the doctor says. "It's £50 for the lab test, £50 for the cat scan and £50 for the medicine."

BRIEF EXPOSURE

A printer asks a solicitor about his fees.
"I charge £50 for three questions," the solicitor says.
"That's awfully steep, isn't it?" the printer asks.
"Yes, I suppose so," the solicitor replies. "Now what's your final question?"

GOT IT MADE

People say that money is not the key to happiness...
But I always figured if you have enough money, you can have a key made.

PAINT JOB

A businessman went into the office and found an inexperienced handyman painting the walls. The handyman was wearing two heavy parkas on a hot summer day.
Thinking this was a little strange, the businessman asked the handyman why he was wearing the parkas on such a hot day.
The handyman showed him the instructions on the can of paint. They read: "For best results, put on two coats."

THE MANY LAWS OF LIFE

Law of Mechanical Repair – After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.
Law of Gravity – Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible place in the universe.
Law of Probability – The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
Law of Random Numbers – If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal – and someone always answers.
Variation Law – If you change lanes on the road, the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).
Law of the Bath – When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.
Law of Close Encounters – The probability of meeting someone you know INCREASES dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.
Law of the Result – When you try to prove to someone that a printer won't work, IT WILL!!!

MIRACLE HEADACHE CURE

My wife hasn't had a headache since her strict adherence to modern health standards.
I'm onboard with being part of the solution, but I sure wish they'd loosen up on that social distancing thing.

FUNKY CAMEL

A baby camel was born at the zoo last week and the poor thing had no hump...
So they named him Humphrey.

ADULT TRUTHS

Sometimes I'll look down at my watch three consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
Nothing worse than that moment during an argument when you've forgotten what it is about.
I totally take back all those times I didn't want to sleep when I was younger.
There is great need for a sarcasm font.
Bad decisions make good stories.
Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after nano or go back to ink and toner.

THE MEANING OF POLITICS

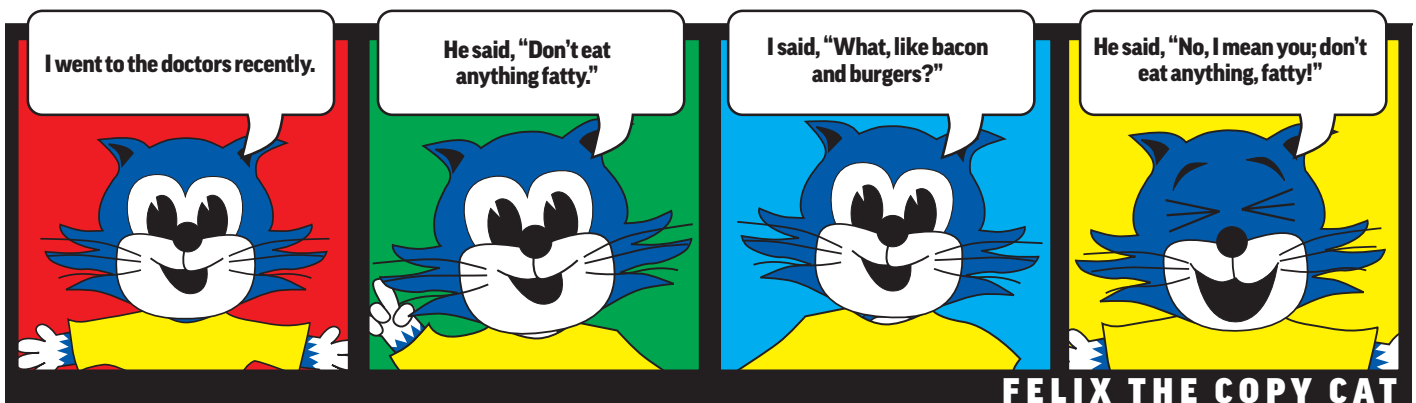
A group of etymologists has discovered the two root words of the word 'politics'.
Greek polu-, from polus, meaning much, many.
Tick: Any of numerous small bloodsucking parasitic arachnids of the family Ixodidae, many of which transmit febrile diseases, such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease.
Make your own conclusions.

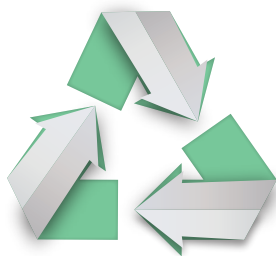
LIVING BY THE PEN

"You should meet my husband. He makes a living with his pen."
"Oh, so he's a writer?"
"No, he raises pigs."

AUTUMN SHORTS: Q & A

Life is like a Rubik's cube. Easy to mess up, hard to solve.
What is a king's favourite kind of weather? Reign-y weather!
What is a chick's favourite vegetable? Eggplant.
What do you call a bear caught in an autumn shower? A drizzly bear.
What do you call a rabbit that tells good jokes? A funny bunny.





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Sources: Cefi Key Statistics, 2023 and Eurostat, 2022
Europe: EU27 + Norway, Switzerland and the UK



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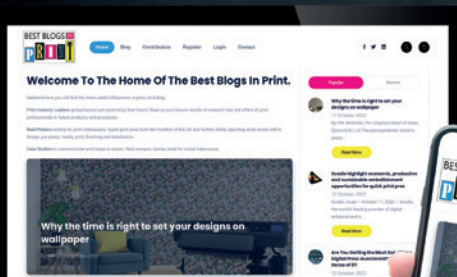


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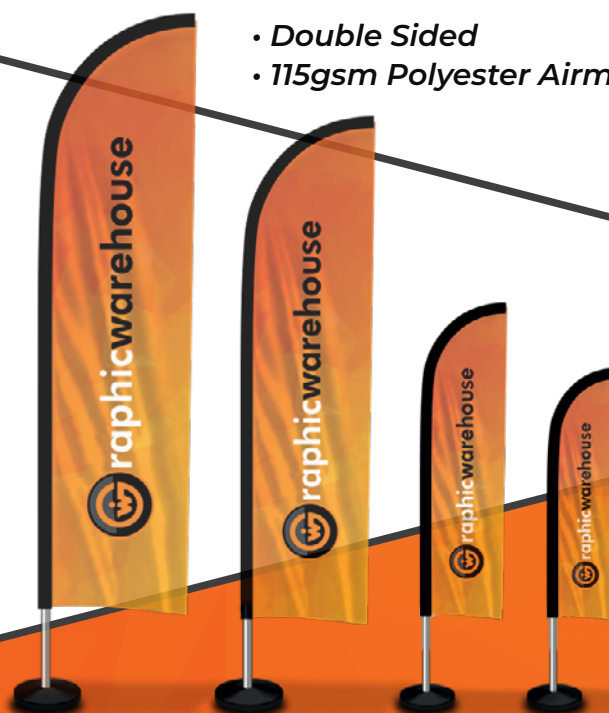


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