

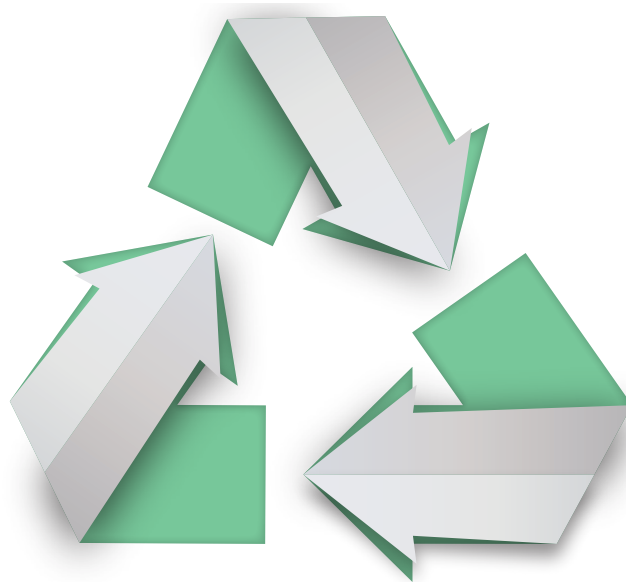
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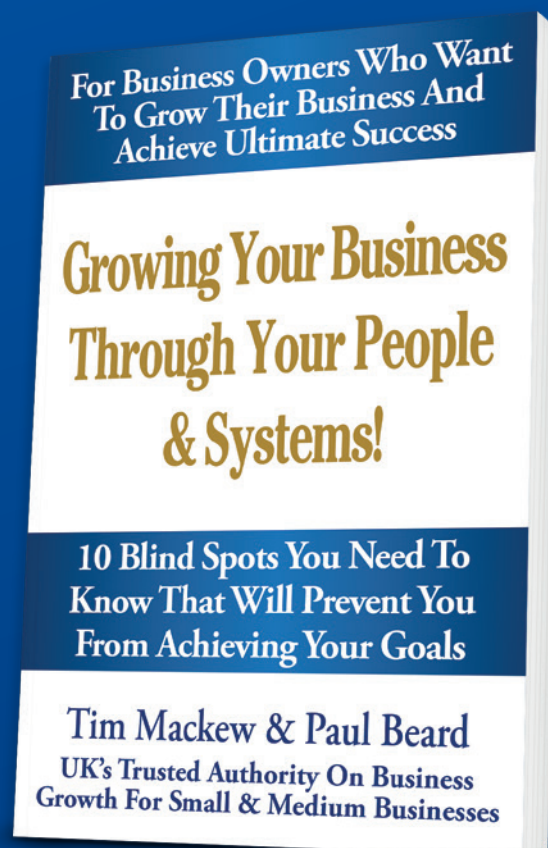
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www.smeadvisor.co.uk/book



Corporate LiveWire judging panel said...

"SME Advisor's innovative methodology is holistic in its approach, comprising a five stage Road Map toward the clients' ultimate objective. Early stages are dominated by gaining a comprehensive understanding of the business, its challenges, and its objectives through a deep dive approach. Strategic analysis enables the



consultants at SME Advisor to assess the business risks to create a plan moving forwards, whether that includes HR, business development, health and safety solutions, or a blend of all three. The judging panel was particularly impressed by the Company's ability to unlock their client's potential."



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DIGITAL IMAGING & PHOTOGRAPHY
Martin Christie

MAGAZINE PRODUCTION
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www.magazineproduction.com

DISTRIBUTION
Subscriptions printed at Colourfast plus PYO (Print Your Own)
file distribution and eZine available on Issuu

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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Departments), PSPs (Print Service Providers), Graphic Arts
Businesses, Sign Suppliers and CAD Bureaus.

Welcome



September Showtime

Check out the centre pages for The Print Show preview. Plan to
visit and set up some demonstrations or just rock up and take
your choice. The usual QPP media channels will be reporting live
from the show, reporting what is new and how our customers
will benefit.

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

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4 News In Print

Hot news in print for quick
print pros

8 New Products

What's new to print and finish with?

14 Digital Imagery

Digital Imaging Lead – Colourfast

16 PIP People In Print

Top movers and shakers

18 September Showtime

The Print Show Preview



22 Paper Chase

Win National Book Tokens

24 Showtime

HP exhibit at LabelExpo Americas

26 Green Issues

New environmental
Dorotape adhesives

28 New Profit Centre

Best practice shared

32 Finda Product / Supplier

QPP preferred suppliers in print

34 Readers Scribes

Your jokes in print.



HEIDELBERG invite to Digital Customer Day

Following a successful showing at drupa and after the launch of the Jetfire 50, HEIDELBERG brings another customer-first event. Digital Customer Day will be held on Wednesday, September 25, at the Customer Experience Centre at Stockley Park.

Printers will experience first hand the new Digital Print Ecosystem from HEIDELBERG, which includes state of the art digital printing technology, smart hybrid workflows and intuitive operation. They will discover the production advantages of the new Jetfire 50, as well as the fully integrated Versafire digital presses. They'll also engage with HEIDELBERG's Prinect workflow and the HEIDELBERG colour management system.

"On the back of a very successful drupa HEIDELBERG are inviting customers to our customer experience centre at Stockley Park, to learn more about HEIDELBERG's Hybrid digital Ecosystem. Demonstrations on the Prinect Digital workflow will be complemented by the latest generation of Versafires and an insight into the Jetfire 50 will take place throughout the day. Our team of technical specialists will be on hand to discuss our customers' requirements and to advise on the most efficient solution to our



customers production requirements," says Phil Buttress, Head of Sales for HEIDELBERG UK.

HEIDELBERG experts will showcase the Versafire LP and LV for their unbeatable efficiency and cost effective production of short runs and challenging print products. Customers can witness the full printing solution from a file to the finished product, live, with the use of state of the art post press equipment.

"The Prinect Digital Front End has been specifically developed for the Versafire LV and Versafire LP digital printing systems. It is optimised to meet the printing industry's demanding requirements and provides uncompromising support throughout the printing process. It can be fully integrated into the Prinect Production Manager, along with the

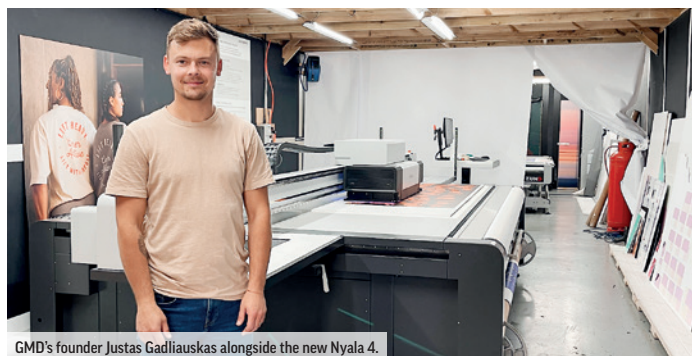
HEIDELBERG colour management system, to provide all the benefits of a single centralised workflow for both litho and digital. The Prinect Digital Print Manager and Prinect Digital Front End help automate and standardise the manufacturing process for digital print products – delivering excellent efficiency, greater transparency, and a noticeably faster job flow," says Paul Chamberlain, Head of Software Solutions at HEIDELBERG UK.

At Digital Customer Day, you will have the chance to experience the full print solution, from file to finished product. Observe the use of the Polar 92 N Plus with compucut and minimal time for complex programming; Morgana Digifold XL pro to cut, crease and fold flyers to menus; Morgana Aero Diecut for entry into short run packaging, presentation boxes or cartons; and Stahlfolder BH66, for fully automated folding and ultra-fast makereadies for all short run folded products, sections to flyers.

The Digital Customer Day will be operational from 10am to 4pm on September 25. Refreshments and an Octoberfest-inspired lunch will be provided.

www.heidelberg.com

GMD installs new Nyala with innovative finance



GMD's founder Justas Gadliauskas alongside the new Nyala 4.

The collaboration between swissQprint and Compass Business Finance has helped GMD Print & Install (GMD) purchase a new Nyala 4 with a tailored payment plan. The initiative reflects swissQprint's commitment to making high quality printing technology accessible to companies of all sizes.

Founded in London in March 2017 by Justas Gadliauskas, GMD initially focused on manufacturing signage. When searching for a new printer at the start of 2023 to meet the growing demand for its services, the business was originally looking at a second

hand machine. However, after a visit to swissQprint UK's Bracknell headquarters GMD decided to invest in a new swissQprint Nyala 4, financed through a bespoke package from Compass.

Making quality accessible
With creative financing solutions, Compass and swissQprint can offer customers flexible payment schedules to best meet their needs. Specialising in the print industry, Compass recognises the value and reliability of swissQprint machines, which retain their value due to their reliability, performance and long service life.

Mark Nelson, Director at

Compass Business Finance, commented: "Our understanding of the print market, combined with our flexible and competitive financing options, allows us to structure deals that work for our customers. The collaboration with swissQprint means we can offer packages that support businesses at every stage of their growth."

TRANSFORMATIONAL QUALITY

The six colour machine, equipped with white and varnish, as well as the roll to roll option, gives GMD the ability to match its demands. Listing some of the world's most well known brands as customers, only the highest quality printing will suffice.

Additionally, GMD took up the option of the 36-month warranty to give extra peace of mind. The warranty covers maintenance and servicing of the printer, with dedicated UK support ensuring it is always optimised for the best results possible.

"Quality has always been

paramount for us," GMD's Founder Justas said.

"Utilising a finance model with Compass allowed us to invest in the best equipment without straining our cash flow. The Nyala 4 has transformed our business, enabling us to take on bigger contracts with top tier clients in the retail sector."

BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

swissQprint's collaboration with Compass Business Finance is not just about financial solutions but also about building strong, collaborative relationships, offering clients peace of mind and the freedom to focus on delivering excellence.

Erskine Stewart, Managing Director of swissQprint UK said: "Our goal is to support our customers in every possible way. The success of GMD is a perfect example of what can be achieved with the right technology and financial support."

www.swissqprint.co.uk

Solopress announces major investment

Solopress has announced a £3.4m round of fresh investment, reinforcing its commitment to both litho and digital print. This strategic move includes the acquisition of a second B1 litho press, the most advanced HP Indigo yet, an upgraded foil and spot UV machine and an added cross folder. These additions will bolster Solopress' production capacity, enhance print quality, and expedite the company's ambitious plan for growth.

Additions to the plant list included in the £3.4m spend are:

- Heidelberg Speedmaster XL 106 4 litho press with Coating Unit
- HP Indigo 120K Digital Press
- Konica Minolta AccurioShine 3600 with iFoil One
- Horizon AFV-566FTK Ice Folder
- MBO T800 section folder

It's not by chance that Solopress has backed both digital and litho approaches during this recent round of investment. This dual approach ensures the company can leverage the strengths of each method, providing customers with the highest quality print solutions regardless of the job's requirements. The Heidelberg Speedmaster adds to Solopress's B1



output, cementing its commitment to high-volume lithographic printing. Meanwhile, the HP Indigo 120K harnesses the latest B2 digital print technology.

Managing Director Simon Cooper explains,

"We see a strong future for both lithographic and digital. The new Speedmaster allows us to continue delivering unparalleled litho print quality on large runs. At the same time, our investment in the HP Indigo 120K positions us to meet the growing demand for high-quality, digital print runs, with minimal downtime. By

pursuing both approaches, we ensure that whatever jobs come in on any given day, we can address the needs of a diverse range of customers in a timely fashion."

Installation of the new units has been taking place throughout 2024. MD Simon Cooper said of the installations.

"We have experienced success in the past using quieter periods to carry out installations. The pandemic was a case in point, where we were able to use the period of suppressed demand to set up HP T250 high speed inkjet production, similarly in the

summer of 2022 we opened up and installed the XL106 10 colour in our new "site 4" – the same site where we've now just installed our second B1 press.

This year was predictably unpredictable in that we knew a general election was coming at some point. We'd anticipated it landing at the end of the year so when it was sprung on us in June it put the cat amongst the pigeons. However, it's a testament to the excellent team we've built up that we were able to meet record breaking demand without dipping below a 99.3% on-time despatch rate for the YTD. We're now getting ourselves set up for the next peak which will happen in Q4, where we expect to be firing on all cylinders."

This substantial investment underscores the company's commitment to innovation and excellence in print. By enhancing both lithographic and digital capabilities, Solopress is well positioned to continue providing high-quality, versatile printing solutions to its diverse client base, ensuring sustained growth and market leadership in the printing industry.

www.solopress.com

Mayfield Press upgrades lamination with Foliant

Mayfield Press has invested in a Foliant Taurus 530 NG laminator from IFS to assist with its fast turnaround short run work.

The Oxford 24-hour full service printer was established in 1992. It produces a wide range of products from books and magazines to posters and promotional items with litho, digital and large format technologies. There are more than 75 employees.

Explains Director Damian Roscoe: "We had a laminator, but we needed something faster. We do a lot of short to medium run fast turnaround menu work and we were having to send some of that out. We wanted to be able to keep all of it in-house so we could be more responsive, save costs and eliminate the waiting times."

As for choosing the compact 40 m/min B2+ Foliant Taurus 530 NG that incorporates feeder, laminator, and a sheet separator in a single construction, he said: "We wanted an upgrade on what we had. I spoke with someone who works with one and they told me what a good machine it was – that helped me make the decision. It has been running very well and we are much more efficient."

www.ifsl.uk.com



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Soyang installs Mimaki CJV150-130 at Cambridge University

The Reprographics Centre, part of the Estates Division at the University of Cambridge, recently purchased a new Mimaki CJV150-130 vinyl printer/cutter from Soyang Hardware to strengthen its offering and allow it to deliver more wide format printed work.

Located within the historic grounds of the famous university, The Reprographics Centre primarily produces print and photocopies for the central University Divisions and Departments, but also for colleges, students, student societies, private customers and small businesses. Its offering ranges from basic photocopying and the printing of exam papers to large format display graphics and signage.

The centre was running an old aqueous printer but in response to demand for more wide format work such as external signage, as well as other applications including promotional material, it identified the need to invest in a new printer that ran non water soluble inks.

After weighing up several options, the centre settled on the Mimaki CJV150-130 and approached the team at Soyang Hardware



to invest in the new machine. The centre purchased the device in February 2024 and installed it just a few weeks later, with the printer/cutter up and running by March – in time to help print papers ahead of the busy university exam season.

Despite having only been in place a matter of months, Nik Palmer, Reprographics Manager for The Reprographics Centre, said the device has already had an impact on operations at the centre, particularly with its delivery of wide

format work.

"It fits in perfectly alongside our previous machine," Nik said. "Its small footprint, along with the print speed and quality, made it stand out most of all the machines that we looked at."

"Since the machine was installed in March, we haven't stopped using it. Demand for wide format printing is ever increasing and we took delivery of the new Mimaki at just the right time."

Key features on the Mimaki CJV150-130 include a top printing speed of 56.2sq m/hr and a production speed of 11.1sq m/hr. It can print at resolutions as high as 1440dpi and has the ability to print and cut at widths of up to 1.36m

Due to its ability to print on a wide range of substrates, Nik said that it will allow the centre to offer a much broader range of services.

"We can now offer more robust prints and print on a greater variety of media; going forward, we are looking to increase the range of applications that we can produce, including external banners," Nik said.

www.soyang.co.uk

Whittington Moor Printing Works invests in Canon's varioPRINT iX3200

Whittington Moor Printing Works, a provider of bespoke print, distribution and mailing services, has recently invested in Canon's reliable varioPRINT iX3200 Sheet Feed Inkjet press as a cost effective system that will increase capacity, efficiency and flexibility to accommodate all run lengths and levels of personalisation.

Having operated for over 90 years, Whittington Moor Printing Works has continued to expand and adapt its business to provide the highest level of customer service. Whittington Moor's production services now operate 24 hours, five days a week, offering a wide array of products covering mailing, litho and digital print; serving customers across education, healthcare, retail, advertising, travel and government organisations. Whittington Moor Printing Works requires a production workflow that keeps up with its large workload and supports its diverse portfolio.

With its recent investment in its first Canon device Whittington Moor Printing Works identified an opportunity to accelerate business growth. The varioPRINT iX3200 leverages the power of inkjet technology, combining stunning image quality and media versatility with high productivity to take the commercial print



workflow to the next level. With an average uptime of 90%, and a production rate of 320 A4 images per minute, the Canon varioPRINT iX3200 has enabled Whittington Moor Printing Works to unlock true automation and seamless operation with minimal operator intervention.

Experiencing extremely high demand during the recent election period, the easy to use varioPRINT iX3200 equipped Whittington Moor with the ability to deliver double its regular monthly capacity. Canon's after sales care team was central to keeping Whittington Moor's production services on track during this critical point in time. In just a few months, the device has delivered a huge impact on the business during its busiest period as it looks to gear up for further growth.

Paul Gamble, Managing Director at

Whittington Moor Printing Works, comments:

"Canon's support has been instrumental to our recent growth as a business, at a time when we had outgrown our existing digital workflow and were eager to elevate our services and meet customer demands. The recent election period was our busiest season yet, and a true testament to the impact that the varioPRINT iX3200 has had on our operation. During this period, we were able to deliver double our regular monthly capacity, and this output was driven predominantly by the production capabilities of the varioPRINT iX3200, and the services provided by the Canon team."

Stuart Rising, Head of Commercial Print at Canon UK and Ireland, adds: "Working in close partnership with Whittington Moor Printing Works has been an exciting development for us at Canon, as we help them to deliver market leading services to customers across an extremely diverse portfolio. We look forward to witnessing how the varioPRINT iX3200 continues to unlock new capacity and efficiency for the team at Whittington Moor, so that they can provide customers with truly versatile print, and say yes to any job."

www.wmpw.co.uk • www.canon.co.uk

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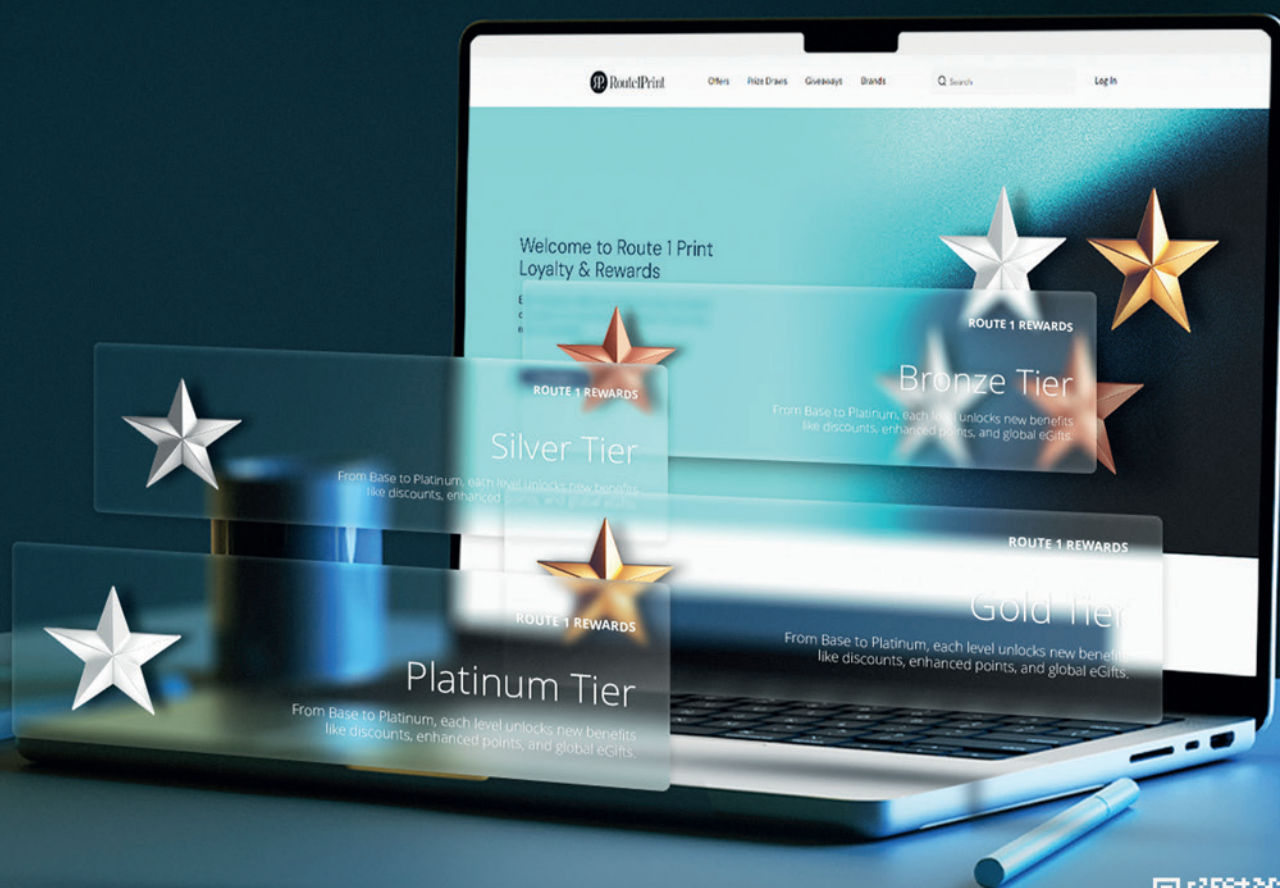
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Moulton Printing invests in Horizon iCE StitchLiner

Moulton Printing is stepping into a new era of production with the UK's first Horizon iCE StitchLiner Mark IV next generation saddle stitching system from IFS.

The newest evolution of Horizon's StitchLiner technology that incorporates Horizon's cloud based iCE LiNK workflow as standard will enable the Blackpool commercial printer to expand its service offering and develop its online service delivery.

Established in 1927 the operation produces a wide range of printed materials, particularly magazines and monthly publications on Sakurai B2 five colour and Sakurai SRA2 two colour litho presses as well as two Konica Minolta Bizhub digital presses and an Indigo 5000.

Cassie Moulton, third generation of Moulton Printing, explains: "We have been wanting to expand our online services but were concerned about managing any bottlenecks. We didn't want to open the floodgates, in terms of orders, and potentially struggle capacity wise. The new StitchLiner has made this a real possibility."

She continues: "It has made a significant difference to productivity already. The make ready is really quick and the interface is very user friendly. The whole process, from installation through to day to day operating has been much more straight forward than I was anticipating. It also gives us much more flexibility in terms of our product offering as it enables us to do sizes we have not been able to do before mechanically such as A4 landscape, A6 and DL. Taking all this into consideration, as well as the increase in speed, we are really flying through the production of our books."



Other systems were considered before the decision on the investment was made. Says Cassie: "We had a very old Bourg Modulen beforehand and we wanted a like for like replacement. However, we're starting to run out of floor space in our facility so the compact size of the StitchLiner was very appealing. Similar models to the StitchLiner only offered towers with narrow bed capacity and we need beds that can hold a substantial number of sheets. However, Horizon offers a deeper bed solution on its towers, as well as the ability to do A4 landscape. We chose three towers for 72 page jobs but we hope to add another in the future. We now know we can comfortably meet demand."

Moulton Printing's Horizon iCE StitchLiner

Mark IV achieves high quality booklet production at speeds of up to 6,000 booklets per hour. Its cloud based iCE LiNK uses cloud technology to automate workflow from upstream to post-press. It provides access to an intuitive easy to use dashboard that reports real time production analysis for improved efficiency and profitability, remote update capabilities and scheduled maintenance resulting in less downtime. The information is accessible via smartphone, tablet or desktop PC and the software is designed for integration with MIS systems.

Adds Cassie: "iCE LiNK is a nice bonus and I am sure we will use it in the longer term. It will allow us to have more visibility of stages of production."

www.ifsl.uk.com

ANTALIS ENHANCES DIGITAL WITH IMAGE MAGNET

Antalis will stock new Image Magnet, a ready to use, pre-magnetised paper that can be printed on HP Indigo and selected dry toner devices.

Available in SRA3, SRA3+ and B2 sizes, these magnetised sheets come straight off the press, with no post-print magnetisation processes required. Image Magnet's grey backing sticks to any ferrous surface and delivers excellent print quality, making it ideal for quick end-use changes, leaving no residue.

Image Magnet opens up opportunities for many interesting applications



within commercial print, direct mail or photo/gifting and is 100% customisable for a wide range of end uses including: coupons, takeaway menus, postcards, business cards, contact lists, schedules, prescription refill reminders, school photos and servicing reminders.

Available in 770 g/m²/ 360 microns, it is also highly suitable for business communication media, including POP displays, store graphics, event promotions, product promotions, warning signs, temporary/removable signs and machine instructions.

Product Manager at Antalis, Paul Savill, comments: "We're committed to evolving our digital specialties portfolio to offer our customers the best and most innovative substrates on the market to help them diversify, grow and develop their businesses. This latest addition to the range, Image Magnet, is a versatile product suitable for such a wide range of internal applications – a quick and easy solution for printers. We can provide free sample sheets so printers can see for themselves the possibilities and opportunities this new product brings."

www.antalis.co.uk



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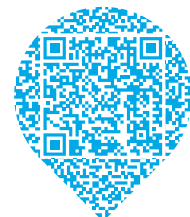
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Epson redefines dye-sub with SureColor F9500 and SC-F9500H



Epson is adding two new 64 inch dye-sublimation printers to its successful line up of top selling 64 inch dye-sublimation printers for Europe. The innovative SureColor F9500 and SC-F9500H models will replace the SureColor F9400 and SC-F9400H, offering significant enhancements in productivity, usability, and image quality.

Innovative design and enhanced productivity

The SureColor F9500 and SC-F9500H printers offer a compact, space saving design, reducing height by over 300mm compared to their predecessors. This low profile and neat design allows for installation in height restrictive spaces and provides an additional workspace with a flat top design, perfect for placing a laptop.

A large, 4.3 inch touchscreen with a tilt function displays current printer status, including ink levels and media settings, ensuring users have all critical information at their fingertips.

The SureColor F9500 series achieves significant productivity gains with the inclusion of a new, larger PrecisionCore MicroTFP printhead, increasing productivity by up to 30% in 4C mode.

The Media Lifter facilitates single user operation, making set-up simple and practical.

UNPARALLELED IMAGE QUALITY AND EXPANDED COLOUR GAMUT

Epson continues to push the boundaries of colour reproduction with the SureColor F9500H model, which can be configured with orange and violet inks. This configuration expands the colour gamut by 20%, delivering more vivid and smooth colours. Additionally, the printers support fluorescent inks, producing bright, vibrant sportswear, soft signage, and fashion applications.

Light inks combined with CMYK reduce graininess and improve tonal gradation, enhancing print quality, particularly on rigid substrates. The SureColor F9500 series can also process CMYK image data and output using fluorescent inks.

RELIABILITY AND USER FRIENDLY MAINTENANCE

Epson's commitment to reliability is evident in the SC-F9500 series with the integration of Nozzle Verification Technology (NVT) and Part OverLap (POL) features. These technologies automatically detect nozzle conditions and adjust print quality accordingly, ensuring consistent and reliable performance.

User replaceable printheads can be replaced without special tools or service call-outs, reducing downtime and maintaining high productivity. The bulk ink solution, with 1.6L ink packs containing 45% more volume than previous models, further minimises printer downtime and simplifies ink replacement.

"Epson is proud to introduce the SureColor F9500 and SC-F9500H, which embody our commitment to innovation," commented Phil McMullin, Commercial & Industrial Head of Sales, Epson UK. "The new compact design, coupled with enhanced productivity and usability features, sets a new benchmark in dye-sublimation printing. Our expanded inksets deliver unparalleled image quality, while our advanced reliability features ensure consistent performance. These printers are designed to meet the diverse needs of our customers, from vibrant sportswear to high quality soft signage, with efficiency and excellence.

"Epson is committed to advancing technology that meets the evolving needs of our customers. With the SureColor F9500 and F9500H, we are delivering a solution that not only enhances productivity and image quality but also supports sustainable practices."

The new SureColor F9500 and SC-F9500H will be available from October 2024.

www.epson.co.uk

New Graphtec CE8000 cutting plotter range



Graphtec GB has announced the launch of the new Graphtec CE8000 Series of cutting plotters. You will be able to see these plotters on Graphtec GB's stand (A40) at The Print Show from 17-19th September.

Ellen Wain, Business Development Manager for Graphtec GB, says, "This is a great value range of cutting edge machines designed for maximum efficiency and ease of use. The CE8000

series is designed to meet the demands of professional print service providers and lower-volume hobbyists. They offer superior performance and user friendly features."

KEY FEATURES OF THE CE8000 SERIES

Modern Design with Touch Panel: The new CE8000 series has a sleek design and an intuitive touch panel interface. For those who prefer traditional controls, the cutter also retains keypad functionality.

Wireless LAN: Wireless connectivity makes it easier to integrate the cutter into your workflow.

Media Assist Function: This feature helps hold down the media while feeding, ensuring smooth and accurate cuts every time.

Email Notifications: Stay informed with push notifications sent directly to your email to help maintain continuous cutting operations.

The CE8000 will be available in three sizes, with a cost that is reduced from previous versions: CE8000-40 (Desktop model) RRP £1,225.00; CE8000-60 (with stand) RRP £1,599.00; CE8000-130 (with stand) RRP £3,899.00.

Ellen concludes, "Graphtec has come up with a really high quality range of cutters at a lower price point than their predecessors. This means the products are accessible to home businesses and are also ideal for fast moving print production workflows. We expect these machines to be very popular."

www.graphtecgb.co.uk

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New Epson Colorworks C8000 colour label printer

Renowned for its extensive range of colour label printers, AM Labels Limited (AM Labels) has added the new Epson ColorWorks C8000 industrial colour label printer to its portfolio. AM Labels boasts a high install base and is therefore well placed to offer guidance and support to customers on the new model. The Epson C8000 offers enhanced print quality, which allows for the production of vibrant, high gloss images, and increased flexibility by supporting print widths from one to four inches, when compared to the C7500G.

As an award winning supplier of complete labelling solutions including manufacturing and warehouse automation, barcoding and RFID systems, AM Labels has further expanded its colour label printer offering to ensure its customers can access the latest technology to improve their in-house label printing. The ColorWorks C8000 boasts impressive print speeds of up to 300 mm per second, while maintaining a high quality print. It supports a wide range of media types, with adjustable media thickness of up to 0.6 mm, and with the PrecisionCore Heat-Free technology it delivers energy and ink efficiencies, so it is economical to run.

The newest model in the Epson ColorWorks range can support businesses looking to print their own industrial labels as well as custom



labels and short runs. When using approved label material, the printer is also suitable for chemical labelling, which is GHS compliant and approved to BS5609. It is the ideal solution for those with high volume batch printing requirements, thanks to the high capacity ink packs and durable printheads. The permanent printhead ensures minimal user intervention and low maintenance costs, while the 480 ml ink pouches require fewer changes, reducing downtime. Businesses can also print smudge and fade resistant labels with UltraChrome DL pigment inks.

Benefitting from Epson's PrecisionCore Heat-Free technology, the new colour label printer produces high quality, precise images, with a resolution of 600 x 1200 dpi, on media including matte and gloss paper, film and synthetic materials. Consistent print quality is also guaranteed thanks to Nozzle Verification

Technology (NVT) and dot substitution, which prevents misprints. Furthermore, ICC profiling and spot colour management ensures the best results are achieved, every time.

Brendon Bass, Sales and Marketing Manager, AM Labels Limited comments: "The new Epson ColorWorks model is designed to meet high volume label production needs of businesses in a variety of industries. The model is the perfect solution for product identification labelling in warehousing and logistics, thanks to its high quality print output. With the introduction of the narrow printing width, even more businesses can benefit from the superior printing of an Epson ColorWorks digital label printer, making it a versatile, important printer in our portfolio. The C8000 offers exceptional print quality, reliable performance and high-speed printing, while boasting advanced connectivity options for seamless integration with other devices.

"As an Epson Gold Partner, at AM Labels we can provide free printed label samples and live product demonstrations of the brand new Epson ColorWorks C8000 colour label printer for prospective customers to see the high quality printing first hand at our in-house Technical Experience Centre."

01536 414222 sales@amlabels.co.uk
www.epson.co.uk

Transfers that do not cost the earth

TheMagicTouch under their DTF Magic[®] brand has introduced a new environmentally friendly recycled DTF paper based transfer option; the TRANSFER DT paper by Felix Schoeller. This unique innovation improves the sustainability and certified eco credentials of this growing transfer technology. The developed surface coating offers a reduction of 67% less plastic than traditional PET transfers and together with water based inks and new glycol free options makes the new offering a significant benefit to the planet.

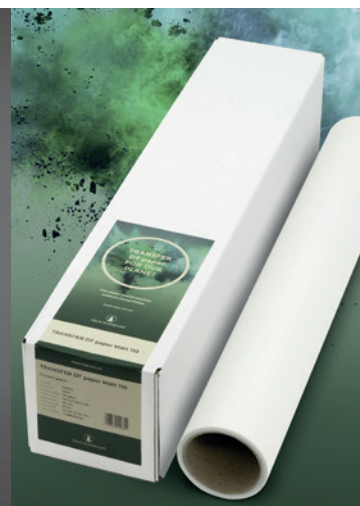
The TRANSFER DT paper offers high ink absorption, vivid colours and high transfer rates resulting in a softer feel and outstanding durability. The product with its matt receiver layer has many advantages including lower cost per transfer, the removal of any potential static issues, no oil residues, warm peel, lower temperature curing



times to reduce energy costs. The new paper is still sufficiently see through for application positioning. The TRANSFER DT paper is available in 60cm width in 50m and 100m rolls.

The DTF transfer technology offers many advantages for garment and promotional product

decorators. The process delivers printed transfers for almost any light or dark textile or garment together with outstanding stretchability, high wash durability and excellent colour reproduction. Add to that detailed and intricate images as never seen before. DTF transfers can be applied to



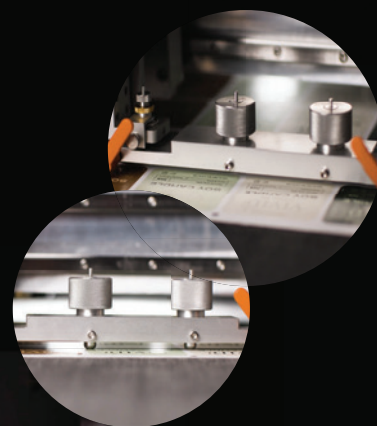
cotton, selected polyester, denim, canvas, synthetic fibres, and most performance fabrics.

TheMagicTouch will continue to offer the existing DTF Magic HOT and COLD peel PET based DTF films for clients who prefer the PET film properties.

www.themagictouch.co.uk

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A Little Learning...

Well, if **Martin Christie** always likes to keep this column current, as you know, so he shall quote from the 18th-century poet and writer Alexander Pope.

You've probably heard several of his popular quips, maybe even quoted them as they are in common usage, without appreciating the author. But four hundred years ago, he was a product of the Enlightenment, a period when people had escaped from the old ideas of science when previously books were only written in Latin, and religion dictated the limits of knowledge. New ideas were spreading, not only in how an individual could follow his faith but also in the arts, mathematics, medicine, astronomy, and all areas where thinking minds could explore new possibilities.

Most of these ideas were spread, not just by word of mouth but by the previous invention of the printing press, which not only reproduced them but allowed them to be shared and translated into other languages to stimulate like-minded scholars across the known world. So the expansion of knowledge was what we now call exponential — a sort of historic Moore's Law.

Several of Pope's observations are as familiar as the first line of a song — Fools rush in...Hope springs eternal, etc — but one that has stood the test of time is, 'A Little Learning is a Dangerous Thing'.

At first glance, this may seem a curious comment when the thirst for knowledge

was the new obsession, but actually, it contains that note of caution that a mere superficial study of facts can be deceptive. Pope is not saying don't bother to learn anything, but be careful what you think you know. In many ways, this is a more eloquent way of expressing what the bumbling American politician Donald — not the Trump — Rumsfeld tried to explain when he fumbled, 'There are things that we don't know we don't know'.

Sometimes, there is wisdom in ignorance, and Pope's warning to education is as relevant today in 2024 as it was in 1724. The more we know about everything from the secrets of the smallest atom to the vast expanse of the universe, the more we realise how much more we have to learn, and being aware of that conundrum is the antidote to any idea that we have reached some sort of pinnacle in the development of human intelligence.

If you have spotted the direction this column is heading in, then it proves that this is both written and read by a human being because we are still unique in being able to make that quantum leap to recognise things that aren't immediately obvious. The idea that we can give up on learning and simply rely on computers to do all the tedious accumulation of

knowledge is fatally flawed, even if it is acquiring popular support.

Several great minds smarter than me have pointed out that using the word intelligence to describe an artificial creation of wisdom is incorrect. Its origin is the Latin 'intelligere' which also implies a journey, an exploration in which new things are discovered rather than old things already known about. How many people of a certain generation can only find their way by Google Maps rather than by remembering landmarks like a favourite tree or church? Would they even know the church was there? Ask a random passerby the directions by a single road name or location and see what I mean.

I have often pointed out that using a computer you only find the things it thinks you are looking for, rather than other things that might be relevant. Even if it makes suggestions they are for its benefit, not yours, in order to collect more information about your preferences and behaviour, it might seem fanciful to point out that Christopher Columbus only stumbled upon the American continent because he was actually looking for China. But you do wonder whether, in some alternative universe, the computer was invented before the printing press, it would still be advising you that the world was flat.

It seems ironic that when we have never had so much access to available knowledge, we are increasingly limiting ourselves in its selection in real terms.

FROM FILM TO PIXELS

As always, my inspiration for this monthly rant comes mostly from customers, as meeting and dealing with ordinary people over the counter and trying to balance their needs and expectations is a great reality check for any ideas of intellectual progress and technical understanding. This is in complete contrast to the suggestion by Adobe, in particular, that their advances in AI mean that the average person, with no technical training or aptitude, can tackle exceptional tasks. What shocks me is that far from coping with difficult ones, they seem unable to deal with simple ones.

You might expect older generations to struggle with new technology, but we have come a long way.

In the digital age, for those who struggled through the early days of hopelessly underpowered home PCs, internet connectivity via painfully slow and often interrupted modems seems far more able to adapt. Perhaps they have learnt that very human skill of problem-solving without having to ask



1924: Model T Ford in the workshop



2024: Tesla in the workshop

an electronic expert for a solution. And most importantly, in doing so, I probably learned a little something else — perhaps not a big something — but one of those incremental pieces of a jigsaw that adds to the wealth of human knowledge.

So, what does this have to do with digital imaging? It's the never-ending learning curve — just when you think you've 'smashed it' to quote my young friends, you find you are the one in pieces.

As an old photographer, I had a difficult transition after several decades of understanding film to then get my head around a totally new form of image capture. The fact that cameras and lenses looked familiar was an illusion, and the technology was totally alien at the time.

I often have to remind students excited by the novelty of film that not knowing what would come out was not an excuse. You had to understand how the emulsion would react to light and how to adjust the camera controls to help it. Digital is the same but different in that working out how pixels and their electronic nerve centres behave when illuminated is crucial. If you are simply going to press a button and hope the processor will do all the difficult stuff, then you are achieving very little, especially when you can't work out why your pictures are so awful.

Printing was a massive help to my digital education, much like processing film in the darkroom, you learn to balance lightness and darkness together with the mid-tones and shadows. You also learn that colour can be really temperamentally and not at all what we see with our eyes. Photoshop still uses the same titles for many of its basic actions, even colour temperature, though many new to modern photography may not appreciate the essential relationship between them. But even back then, my printing was limited to the home enlarger and the hand-finished print. Anything more commercial, in quantity or screened for publication, was

left to the specialist, so I never had to worry about dots per inch or CMYK. Now, I have to be an expert in it all — or at least I will be when I stop learning!

USER-FRIENDLY OR USER-FRUSTRATING?

Back in the days when this column started, we had barely completed the move from analogue printers to digital. I think we thought it would be a brief series of how to adjust images for print much like adding a bit of density or single colour on the glass. But twenty years on, the challenge has become so very much more complicated, as has trying to explain it. As much as I simplify advice, and make how-to tips as straightforward as possible, it gets more difficult as there are many more options available. Some things that, due to my experience, are almost instinctive are far more complicated to anyone trying to tackle them for the first time.

It's not just in digital printing, of course, but across the board, in almost everything we do and everything we use in our daily lives there has been a trend to make things more 'user friendly', which also translates into being easier to sell to the innocent, as well as probably cheaper to produce as it doesn't have any inconvenient and expensive features.

Exploiting people's natural impatience is a great marketing tool, but also increases the pressure of expectation — in what can be done, when it can be done and for what price. Next time a customer tells you they are going to buy a printer to save time and money, just smile politely and wish them well. Try not to fall out with them as you will very likely see them again sometime!

So we come back full circle to Adobe and their very wonderful products. Don't think this is sarcasm; they are truly amazing, and having been part of the digital journey these past decades, I can very much appreciate the technical achievements they represent. The difference between

the first model of Photoshop and the very latest is as much as that between a Model T Ford (younger readers might have to Google that) and a Tesla. But to suggest as a promotional statement that no previous knowledge is needed is as ludicrous as dropping the driver from one to another. Yeah, I know the steering wheel still turns in the same direction, but Musk's next creation probably won't even have one to avoid confusing the owner.

Although I have In Design and Illustrator as part of the package on my computer, I hardly ever use them, as I find I have to spend time working out how to use them, or at least remembering how I used to use them. I use Photoshop and Lightroom almost exclusively, although I don't often mention the latter here as it would take too long to explain unless, like me, you've been a guinea pig for Adobe from the early days and adopted all the tricks. Even then swapping from one to another isn't as 'seamless' as the creators would have you believe.

There are some things, particularly editing and selecting multiple files, that are much easier done in Lightroom than ponderously handled in Photoshop. But that's only because I know LR intimately, and I know all its idiosyncrasies. I sometimes have to bite my tongue and resist telling a work colleague, 'You want to do it like this...' when I realise I need to take half an hour to supervise the job.

That's not because they are stupid, but because the software is complicated, and no job is ever simple.

Unlike all of the examples of smart advice you can get in tutorials, we don't have the advantage of selecting jobs we want to work on. We have to sort out what we get. In doing so, we do have a fantastic range of tools available — the best ever, but if you only have a basic understanding of how to use them, or even which ones to use, you have a mountain to climb — with or without a Google map!



Hybrid Services expands sales team with Andrew Edwards

Exclusive UK and Ireland Mimaki distributor, Hybrid Services, has added long standing print industry professional, Andrew Edwards to its team, in the newly created role of Partner Sales Manager (Sign & Graphics). Edwards joins Hybrid's sales team supporting the company's reseller partners and end customers, working alongside Martin Southworth who takes the role of Partner Sales Manager (Industrial Products).

Welcoming Edwards to the company, Hybrid's Sales Director, Andy Gregory said, "Andrew has been selling, promoting and supporting wide format inkjet printers, flatbed cutters and



workflow software to end users and resellers for over 20 years, and brings valuable knowledge and experience to our business."

Mimaki's established range

of sign and graphics solutions comprises solvent and LED UV printers, integrated printer/cutters and standalone cutting plotters. These solutions offer

wide ranging opportunities for sign makers and print providers to invest in technology to build their business around.

On starting at Hybrid, Edwards commented, "The opportunity to join the Hybrid Services team has allowed me to explore a new and exciting range of products from a brand I have always admired. Mimaki's reputation is second to none and I'm proud to be able to work with our partners to represent the company's range of sign and graphics products in the UK and Ireland."

For information on Mimaki's line-up of sign and graphics, industrial, textile, cutting and 3D products, visit www.hybridservices.co.uk

SOYANG EUROPE WELCOMES DAVE NEWBERRY AS TECHNICAL SALES MANAGER

Soyang Europe, the manufacturer and distributor of digitally printable wide format and super wide format media and surface coverings, has announced the appointment of Dave Newberry to the role of Technical Sales Manager.

With immediate effect, Dave will focus on Soyang's extensive range of self-adhesive vinyls, working with customers to help them identify the most suitable solutions for their applications.

A highly experienced professional, Dave has been working in the print industry since the late 1980s. He started out as a screen printer before working across a wide range of roles within various printing companies.

In more recent years, he has moved into the supply sector, supporting companies around the UK with all manner of projects, from large format print applications to signage and display work.

"We are delighted to welcome Dave to Soyang Europe," Mark Mashiter, Managing Director of Soyang Europe, said. "He brings with him incredible experience having worked in and around the print industry for more than 35 years."

"Dave is an invaluable addition to the team and his appointment will be of significant benefit to our customers across all markets."

www.soyang.co.uk



Mimaki UV and DTF Printers receive EDP Awards

Exclusive UK and Ireland Mimaki distributor, Hybrid Services has announced that two Mimaki products have won European Digital Press Association (EDP) 2024 Awards. The EDP Technical Committee is made up of European print professional magazines, and every year, evaluates the

latest digital printing technology. In the 17th edition of the EDP Awards, Mimaki has been honoured in two categories: 'Best Roll-to-Roll Printer Less Than 170cm' and 'Best Textile Printer Direct to Transfer'.

The Mimaki UJV100-160Plus received the 'Best Roll-to-Roll Printer Less Than 170cm' title. The new model consumes less energy than printers that use alternative ink technologies, with a maximum power usage of 0.5kW, lowering energy and CO2 emissions costs. Customers can further reduce operating expenses and increase application possibilities with the help of innovative features that include Mimaki's ink saving function and up to three layer printing.

The Mimaki TxF150-75 and TxF300-75 models took home the EDP's 'Best Textile Printer Direct to Transfer' award. Thanks to their stability and reliability, these DTF printers have quickly gained traction in the printwear and garment decorating industry. With a long heritage in textile printing, Mimaki's DTF printers offer proven solutions for a wide range of printing applications, including personalised t-shirts, athletic wear and promotional products.

The UJV100-160Plus and TxF Series are available to demo through Hybrid's network of authorised reseller partners, and at the company's Cheshire showroom.

For further information, visit www.hybridservices.co.uk



From left: Arjen Evertse (General Sales Manager EMEA, Mimaki Europe), Jean Poncet (Vice President of the EDP Association), Marc Verbeem (Product Management Supervisor, Mimaki Europe), Danna Drion (General Marketing Manager EMEA, Mimaki Europe)

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The Print Show



The Print Show at the NEC

The Print Show is set to take place this month with its most impressive lineup to date, including names such as Fujifilm, Agfa, CMYUK, swissQprint, Konica Minolta, Morgana Systems, and more



Taking place from September 17th to 19th in Hall 17 of the NEC, Birmingham, The Print Show 2024 has garnered a real buzz due to the calibre of new and returning exhibitors.

With just a few weeks to go, the floorplan is over 90% and features major names such as Agfa, swissQprint, Fujifilm, Konica Minolta, Morgana Systems, and more, all bringing their latest technologies to the show.

A HOST OF UK-FIRST SHOWINGS

The return of drupa following an eight year hiatus saw the launch of a significant number of new technologies. As a result, visitors to The Print Show 2024 will be able to experience many UK-first showings.

Morgana Systems along with partner Plockmatic company, Intec Systems, will be using its stand at The Print Show to showcase several new launches from drupa to the UK market.

Included in the lineup will be the Morgana DigiFold Ultra creasing/folding machine with full-bleed trim capabilities; the new Intec SC7000 Pro-T and SC7000 Pro-T XL; Morgana's BM5000 bookletmaker with dual bin feeder and finishing module; the Morgana Power Square 160 system; Intec's ColorFlare CF-2500Pro laminating and foiling solution;



and the FB1180T digital flatbed cutter.

Other models from Morgana will include the AutoCreaser; AutoCut ProX; Uchida multi-function finishing machine; EBA's THE56 and the Mohr 66 cutting solutions; and the recently announced SpeedCut software for the EBA product.

Konica Minolta has revealed that it will showcase the newly launched AccurioPress C84hc press at the event.

The new technology uses high chroma toner to deliver consistently bright, vivid colours, making it a popular choice for creative commercial printers.



Also on show will be Konica Minolta's integration with the latest finishing technologies, including the IQ-501 Intelligent Quality control system and the TU-510 in-line finisher. The latter produces fully finished full bleed output, single flyers, and business cards in one pass.

Fujifilm will demonstrate its Print-on-Demand toner presses, the Acuity Prime wide format inkjet printer, and its new range of Apeos office printers.

The manufacturer will provide visitors with in-depth demonstrations and comprehensive insights into these cutting-edge solutions on its stand at The Print Show.



Vivid Laminating Technologies will debut the newly launched Veloton — a patented interchangeable system that can be retrofitted to any VeloBlade Volta+ and Nexus systems.

Vivid has also teased an exciting secret that it says will “revolutionise print finishing”, set to be revealed on its stand during the show.

AN INCREASE IN WIDE FORMAT SOLUTIONS

A trend being felt across the industry is the rise of printers diversifying and moving into new areas. As a result, The Print Show will see more wide format print exhibitors than ever before.

Exhibiting for the first time at a UK show in several years, Agfa will use its presence at The Print Show to launch the new Anapurna Ciervo to the UK market.



The 3.2m hybrid model offers enhanced print quality and higher productivity than its predecessor and includes an almost 70% increase in printing speeds in Production Mode.

Check out the CMYK stand for the Canon Colorado M5W from Canon's new M-Series printer series alongside the JWEI JCUT digital cutting technology available



in three sizes: 1600mm x 2500mm, 2100mm x 3100mm, and 3200mm x 3000mm; and Fiery Prep-it software for the prep, layout, and automated production of print for cut jobs.

SwissQprint will be showing the Kudu flatbed 3.2 x 2m high end UV LED printer with a productivity of 304m²/h, incorporating the latest printhead technology resulting in a resolution of up to 1350dpi.



On the Liyu UK stand, visitors will be able to experience the popular Q3XL pro, as well as the new Xline model and the recently launched Platinum KCXL+ flagship flatbed model.

Hybrid Services, the exclusive UK and I distributor for Mimaki Europe, will be demonstrating the latest Mimaki UV and solvent kit including the UCJV330-160 UV printer/cutter and the new TxF300-75 DTF printer.



HARDWARE OPTIONS FOR PERSONALISATION

InkTec's stand will feature a dedicated JETRIX area where the company says visitors can “learn more about the technology inside the printers, understand the capabilities of the range, explore their versatility, and discuss the ability to open up additional printing opportunities”.

Over on the Resolute stand where InkCups will launch its Helix ONE benchtop cylindrical printer. A compact yet powerful device, the Helix ONE offers high quality, full colour printing capabilities for a variety of cylindrical objects such as bottles, tumblers, and candles.

TRADE PRINTERS, RESELLERS, SOFTWARE, SUBSTRATES, AND MORE!

In addition to an impressive lineup of hardware manufacturers, trade printers including Venture Banners, Very Displays, Route 1 Print, Solopress, First Display Signs & Graphics, RMC Digital Print, Super Wide Digital, and more.

Resellers such as Colyer and Aurora will be offering exhibitors the chance to see additional hardware brands. A regular exhibitor, Colyer will be showcasing the latest technology from its brand partners, HP and Fujifilm.

Aurora will demonstrate Konica Minolta's high end production presses and Duplo print finishing equipment provided by CJB.

For any software queries visitors may have, exhibitors such as Print IQ, Accura MIS, VB Media, and Artworker will be on hand to discuss their offerings.



PrintIQ stand will launch a major new software release, version 48. This release brings a plethora of new features and enhancements designed to streamline operations, efficiency, and provide an even more intuitive user experience.

Artworker.com will be demonstrating its new artwork approval tool which automatically provides customers with feedback on artwork issues — such as missing bleed, incorrect file sizes, and low resolution images — at the point of upload.

Importantly, there will be a huge range of substrates and media solutions on show from exhibitors such as Premier Paper Group, EBB Paper, Soyang Europe, and more.

Premier Paper Group will be demonstrating its choice of media for digital and wide format print technologies, including the latest addition to its Drytac portfolio, Paper Fleece.

Soyang will be showcasing a range of materials for UV, solvent, eco-solvent, and dye-sublimation. The company also offer environmental solutions such as textiles made from recycled yarn and PVC-free banner materials.

INSIGHTS FROM KEY NAMES AND BRANDS AT THE KNOWLEDGE ZONE

Visitors to the Knowledge Zone will be able to gain valuable advice and access tangible skills to boost business such as how to attract more clients using LinkedIn and SEO advice.

Other topics will include how AI is transforming the print industry; a look at what the industry's emerging talent needs to succeed in the print industry; and how to bolster your online performance with effective SEO.

Individuals from LUSH, Dayfold Printing Services, and Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) will take part in a

panel discussion on September 19th to discuss the recent Creative Print Collab and how initiatives like this can help craft print's future.

Another session will highlight how print can be used to provide accessible and immersive experiences.

Mathew Faulkner, Director of Marketing and Innovation at Canon Europe will be joined by Dave Williams, Inclusive Design Ambassador at the RNIB to discuss how Canon's technologies helped to deliver the first completely accessible, immersive photography exhibition, World Unseen.

Key industry figures, such as Managing Director of Solopress, Simon Cooper, will also be sharing their journeys within print and the steps that they have taken which have led to large-scale business growth and success.

The full Speaker Schedule can be found here: www.theprintshow.co.uk/speaker-schedule/

RELAX AND NETWORK AT THE GALA PARTY

The Gala Dinner will return this year on September 18th, the middle day of the show, and is being held at the iconic National Motorcycle Museum.

Both exhibitors and visitors are welcome to attend with the evening

providing a space to meet up and network with peers, partners, and colleagues from across the print industry.

Guests will be able to sit down and enjoy a three course meal followed by musical entertainment.

The Gala Dinner venue is conveniently located next to the NEC and is just a six minute drive away.

Tickets are now available to purchase via The Print Show website and capacity is limited to 300 spaces.

Chris Davies, Event Director of The Print Show, says: "The Print Show always strives to improve and grow the event year on year and this year is no different. Whilst The Print Show is a smaller-scale show compared to its European counterparts with less than 100 exhibitors, the major names confirmed for this year's event have taken significant amounts of space within the hall.

"Fujifilm has taken 240sq m of space, Vivid Laminating Technologies and Liyu UK have both taken 210sq m of space, Agfa has taken 78sq m of space, and Hybrid Services has taken 78sq m of space to demonstrate Mimaki kit. The size of the stands confirmed already is testament to the scale and quality of hardware that visitors will be able to explore throughout the show floor.

"From wide format printers, toner presses, finishing kit, and cutters from names including Summa and JWEI, visitors won't be short of things to see!"

Reflecting on the key themes of the 2024 show, Davies adds: "Feedback from our customers so far has shown the key themes for 2024 are diversification, sustainability, and the demonstration of applications.

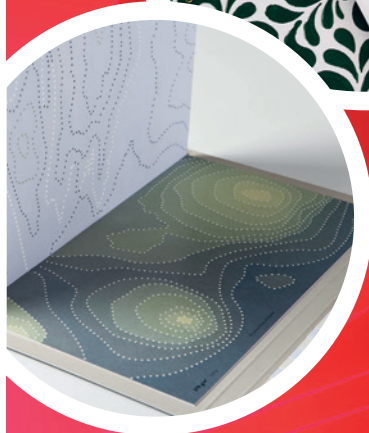
"A number of companies exhibiting for the first time operate and service the wide format and signage space, and these companies are keen to showcase their offering to the entire print industry, as more companies are looking to diversify."

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Win National Book Tokens In Love Paper Competition

National Book Tokens, the UK's book gift card retailer, has partnered with Love Paper for their Love Paper 2024 Competition. This partnership will inform consumers of the sustainable facts about paper, books and wider paper products.

Love Paper, a campaign run by the not for profit organisation Two Sides, promotes the sustainability and attractiveness of print, paper and paper based packaging. The Love Paper competition invites consumers to learn the facts about paper and the environment.

National Book Tokens' partnership with Love Paper aligns with its commitment to supporting the literary community and promoting environmentally conscious practices. National Book Tokens are committed to reducing their use of plastics and their carbon footprint. Since 2018, the standard National Book Tokens gift cards have been printed on FSC-certified board rather than plastic, and are printed in the UK. In 2022, National Book Tokens reduced plastic in their packaging even further by supplying gift cards to their retailers wrapped in paper bands (rather than plastic).

Love Paper & National Book Tokens Competition
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"We are delighted to partner with Love Paper again to support the 2024 Competition," said Lisa Bywater, Head of Marketing for National Book Tokens. "As a brand that is passionate about reading, and committed to sustainability in our own practices, we believe in the power of information to inspire positive change. Through this partnership, we hope to amplify the message of environmental responsibility while celebrating one of the world's oldest paper based objects – books!"

Supported by national publishers, Love Paper adverts can be found in newspapers and magazines featuring QR codes linking back to the Love Paper competition page. To

successfully enter the competition, consumers must answer three questions correctly on forestry, recycling and biodiversity.

"We are thrilled to have National Book Tokens as our partner for the Love Paper competition," said Josh Birch, Campaign Manager for Love Paper. "Their commitment to supporting literacy and promoting sustainability makes them a perfect collaborator for this competition. Together, we can inspire positive change and raise consumer awareness on how sustainable paper based materials truly are."

The Love Paper 2024 Competition is live from the 1st of July to the 31st of December 2024 and is open to UK residents only (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) aged 18 years or over.

The full Terms and Conditions can be found on the competition landing page: www.lovepaper.org/love-paper-2024-competition

For more information about National Book Tokens and Love Paper, please visit www.nationalbooktokens.com and www.lovepaper.org



Antalis reveals a new Conqueror finish

Relaunched in 2023, Conqueror paper carries a legacy of expertise, being developed with exacting processes and quality standards. Recognised worldwide, the paper range, available in 90gsm up to 400gsm, is made from a unique blend of ECF pulp and cotton, offering a subtle and soft touch.

Available in August, the brand will reintroduce its most luxurious finish, Conqueror Connoisseur 100% Cotton. The new Conqueror Connoisseur is manufactured on a mould cylinder paper machine. This gives a new prestigious light and shadow watermark and provides single layered boards in 300gsm and a new 600gsm. The new Conqueror Connoisseur is also now available in a fresh and captivating texture, Connoisseur Rag, a strong felt marked finish with a warm cotton touch.

Highlighting the complete Conqueror range, including Connoisseur 100% Cotton, Antalis has launched a new Conqueror swatch tool, curated



by Amsterdam based Design and Practice agency, to guide creatives and decision makers. This inspirational tool aims to show the quality, printability and many possibilities the Conqueror range offers, with rich finishes and inventive printing.

This tool includes a black wrapper, an embossed folder and printed cards on Conqueror's six shades of white and cream. It

showcases various print effects such as CMYK offset, embossing, screen printing, transparent foil, and bitmap hot foil. A leaflet presenting the paper ranges and envelopes, printing advice, watermark placement, and the new Conqueror Connoisseur is also enclosed.

For the new printed tool, Antalis commissioned nine graphic designers, photographers and

typographers from all over the world to reinterpret their most iconic works on Conqueror. Each artwork has been adapted by its creator based on the print technique and the finish chosen. Conqueror CX22 was the preferred choice of photographers thanks to its high smoothness and perfect colour reproduction, while multiple artists picked Conqueror Wove for its warm natural touch, and others chose Conqueror Laid either as a reference to their original design or to play with the contrast of a plain hot foil onto this ribbed texture.

Sales Manager for Creative Papers at Antalis, Vicky Weatherington, comments: "From stationery projects to premium publishing, Conqueror offers perfect colour reproduction and performs brilliantly for the most demanding print effects such as embossing or hot foil stamping. The new printed tools excellently demonstrate the beauty and printability of the Conqueror range."

www.antalis.co.uk

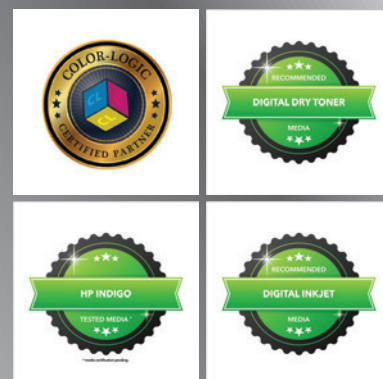


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21_0123

HP exhibit at Labelexpo Americas

HP will be at Labelexpo Americas 2024, 10 -12 September to showcase some of its latest innovations in label and flexible packaging printing technology and to demonstrate how converters can bring the value of HP Indigo digital print to any job, enabling them to grow faster and diversify into new businesses like flexible packaging and shrink sleeves.

With the widest L&P portfolio of presses and the 'HP Indigo First and Flexo-second' mindset, HP Indigo customers can bring on-demand high quality digital print to any job with broad print versatility regardless of its length. Plus, by assigning each job to the right press, they can increase efficiency, sustainability and improve TCO.

At the show, HP will exhibit the



HP Indigo 200K Digital Press with an add-on slit and the HP Indigo 6K Digital Press. This comprehensive portfolio, along with the HP Indigo V12 Digital Press, offers customers a wide range of options, leading to above market growth of HP Indigo users. HP Indigo digital press fleet is part of an E2E approach including

the Digital Pouch Factory, ABG Non-stop Winding and converting. The HP PrintOS software suite helps converters automate the entire production line and produce higher volumes thanks to its complete ecosystem across leading industry players.

At the stand, visitors will also be able to see live demonstrations



of the best seller and the industry standard for digital label production, the HP Indigo 6K Digital Press. Plus, adjoining stations such as PrintOS Spot Master, to show how to reach spot colours within minutes and streamline the print process, or automated workflow solutions to demonstrate how Intelligent Automation can address key customer challenges such as labour shortages, waste reduction, mass customisation, and on-demand production.

www.hp.com

New Ultima Displays customer experience centre

Based in the company's European HQ in Corby, Ultima Displays is ready to share its unique product display environment

Ultima Displays, a trade only manufacturer and supplier of portable marketing display products, has announced the full opening of its Customer Experience Centre. This incredible display incorporates realistic visual effects and Ultima's innovative products to deliver an immersive experience with a real WOW factor.

The new Customer Experience Centre is designed to give visitors an immersive first hand, 'in-person' feel of the company's latest creative display solutions, including Vector, FASTFRAME, Illuminova, and Modulate. Visitors go on a journey through a series of realistic environments. They walk through a range of scenes, including a high street, retail stores, a tube station and an exhibition hall showcasing a wide array of stand designs.

Andrew Cushing, Ultima Displays' Group Marketing Director, says, "This is a product display like no other. Whilst we have brochures, videos, and website content to showcase our products, the best way to understand what they can do is to see them in real life – and this is the closest you can get. We have recreated a range of popular applications and scenarios to provide a unique and immersive physical and visual experience."

He continues, "Our products create a magical Willy Wonka like atmosphere, with stunningly realistic printed floors, doors and surfaces. Our latest innovations, such as FASTFRAME and Illuminova, are featured alongside our popular heritage products, including street signage and flags."

"Our aim is to impress our customers with a space filled from floor to ceiling with products manufactured and printed to exceptional standards. From retail displays to custom exhibition stands and innovative lightboxes, we showcase the quality and range of our printing and Creative Display Solutions. We also want to demonstrate our capabilities and customer support that delivers the magic that is displayed," he says.

The centre's launch is part of Ultima Displays' celebration of 25 years in business. Andrew adds, "We have a fantastic facility at our European Headquarters in Corby, and we have taken advantage of the space to create exceptional visual examples using both custom and off the shelf



products. It is an opportunity to display products produced over our 25 year history for customers across our European Group. It also, of course, focuses on the most recent introductions to our range of products, such as the new and popular FASTFRAME."

HOW VISITORS WILL BENEFIT

The Customer Experience Centre offers an immersive in person view of Ultima Displays' products, with demonstrations and guidance on the best solutions for individual needs. "Customer visits keep us engaged with our clients and market trends, allowing us to stay attuned to changing needs and remain agile in our offerings. All our customers are from the trade, so the showroom also provides a demonstration facility they can use for their end user customers," says Andrew.

He continues, "As well as regular Open Days and customer visits, we invite people to come and explore the space at time to suit them and their customers. The Centre will evolve and change as new products are introduced, ensuring there is always something new to see. Additionally, we will use the Customer Experience Centre to educate and inform our internal sales teams, continually enhancing their product knowledge."

www.ultimadisplays.com

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X @theprintshow [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/theprintshow) The Print Show

New environmental Dorotape adhesives

Dorotape has announced the expansion of their LoopPET range of digital print films and laminates made from post-consumer recycled polyester (rPET).

The newest addition to the range, ASLAN Ultratack DRP07 is made using 30% rPET, which is the equivalent of 50, 1.5L recycled PET water bottles.

Coated with a special water based high tack permanent adhesive (solvent free), ASLAN Ultratack DRP07 is designed for short to medium term applications on to low energy plastics such as PE and PP as well as other difficult to bond to surfaces such as marble, granite and aluminium.

Being 100% PVC free and 30% recycled, with no plasticisers and no VOCs, the UK Gold Distributor for ASLAN hopes to meet soaring customer demand for environmentally focused digital print media and laminates.

ASLAN Ultratack DRP07 is printable using both Latex and UV Curable inks and has an outdoor durability of up to three years. It is available off the shelf at 1370mm wide in full rolls of 50 metres as well as part rolls in increments of 10 metres.



Michael Ingram, Managing Director at Dorotape, announced the exciting development. He said: "As well as being the perfect choice for apolar surfaces, the high tack adhesive of ASLAN DRP07 is also ideal for use for environmentally friendly signage and retail graphics and displays. He added, "This is the greenest solution for a printable high tack self-adhesive film in the market as far as we know".

01858 431642 sales@dorotape.co.uk
www.dorotape.co.uk/Item/ASLAN-DRP07

DRYTAC EXPANDS ECO-FRIENDLY WALLCOVERING OPTIONS

Drytac, the manufacturer of self-adhesive materials for the large format print and signage markets, has announced the launch of Paper Fleece Smooth.



Designed to meet the growing demand for high quality, eco-friendly interior décor solutions, Drytac Paper Fleece Smooth is PVC-free making it a sustainable option for stunning custom wallcoverings in settings such as homes, retail stores, hotels and offices.

Paper Fleece Smooth is a 180gsm non-woven wallcovering with a smooth satin finish. It features a repositionable, permanent adhesive backed by a micro-grooved release paper, allowing for easy, bubble free application and repositioning.

The digitally printable Paper Fleece Smooth has high dimensional stability and maintains its shape over time. It is compatible with eco-solvent, latex, and UV printers, ensuring versatility across different printing technologies. The product's photorealistic print quality produces sharp and detailed graphics with quick drying times.

"We are delighted to add Paper Fleece Smooth to our range of market-leading materials," says Kieran Blacknall, Academy Manager at Drytac. "The flexibility of the product means it can be used in a wide range of interior décor projects, while its sustainable features make it an even more attractive option for users."

Paper Fleece Smooth is supplied in rolls of up to 1,370mm wide and is offered with a five year durability guarantee when used indoors. It is available in the UK and Europe.
www.drytac.com

KONICA MINOLTA JOINS TWO SIDES

The print and paper advocacy group, Two Sides, has announced its newest member Konica Minolta Business Solutions (UK) Ltd, a provider of innovative digital printing and inkjet solutions.

Konica Minolta offers the latest printing solutions, printing systems, services, and related supplies to help its customers better manage their business demands. As for professional inkjet printing, Konica Minolta offers advanced, high performance solutions for digital production, including embellishment, label and packaging, and inkjet printing, catering to diverse professional printing needs with exceptional quality and efficiency.

"Konica Minolta takes its environmental, social and governance responsibilities seriously. We aim to be a robust and innovative company that keeps evolving and contributing to the sustainable growth of society and individuals, and we use an ESG framework to navigate our efforts and obligations. Our activities on climate change, the circular economy, and cutting pollution are integral to our commitment. Konica Minolta is delighted to become a member of Two Sides," says Malcolm Smith, Category Manager – Professional Print at Konica Minolta Business Solutions (UK) Ltd.

Konica Minolta has committed to becoming net zero by 2050, driving their global CO2 emissions to zero compared to fiscal year 2005 levels in procurement, production, distribution, sales and service and product use. What's more, by 2050, it aims to make its products from more than 90% of circulated resources (recycled materials and biomaterials).

"We're pleased to welcome Konica Minolta on board as a member of Two Sides. Our partnership with them will help us communicate the great environmental story that the printing industry has to tell, reaching many businesses and brand owners. It's always a pleasure to welcome new members on board and we look forward to working with Konica Minolta," says Jonathan Tame, Manager Director for Two Sides.

By joining Two Sides, Konica Minolta has access to a large library of co-brandable communications tools, consumer research, industry-leading information, sustainability advice, and events.

www.twosides.info/why-join-two-sides
www.konicaminolta.co.uk



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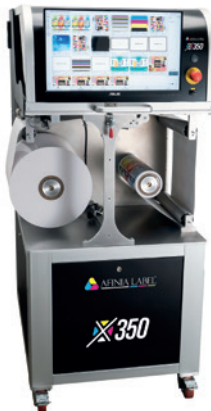
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AM Labels introduces new Afinia Digital Label Press and Taurus Laser Finisher

The new Afinia X350 digital roll to roll label press and the D.P.R. SrL Taurus label finisher are designed to work flawlessly together to create a seamless and efficient cutting and finishing label production.

The Afinia X350 digital roll to roll label press introduces label printing to another level for high quality printing tasks. Not only is it new to the market it offers a solution that couples high performance and new standards in productivity with the bonus of cost effectiveness.

Boasting a user friendly 21 inch touchscreen interface and cloud based RIP software, it is ideal for complex label designs. With a



print speed of 45 metres per minute (18 to 30 inches per second), it advances productivity. The roll width of 350 mm and the user friendly interface provide flexibility for a variety of applications and promote an enhanced workflow for the business.

The bonus of the extended life of the printhead, and eco friendly pigment inks, contribute to further savings by up to 33 per cent. It is a fast and cost effective solution for all businesses requiring high volume productivity and a consistent, professional and vibrant print finish.

The D.P.R. SrL Taurus label laser finisher complements the Afinia X350 digital roll to roll label

press to save time and resources. The finisher offers unwinding, laminating, label cutting, rewinding and slitting in a single pass at speeds of up to 70 metres per minute. It uses a sealed CO2 laser source to finish printed labels with impressive cutting quality and speed. The quality and precision of the label edges, with the multiple laser processes, enables greater flexibility in label design as it can kiss cut and perforate.

Brendon Bass, Sales and Marketing Manager, AM Labels Limited, comments: "We are delighted to expand our portfolio with the new Afinia X350 digital roll to roll label press and the D.P.R. SrL Taurus laser label finisher. The combination of both products produces high quality labels with a professional finish. Saving time and money is a huge benefit to those



producing labels in house, while the eco friendly, highly resistant inks offer long term durability. What's more the cutting flexibility, attained via the laser cutting system, on the D.P.R. SrL Taurus label finisher is a winner for those with complex labelling needs.

"The combination of label production machines is a game changer for print businesses looking for high quality printing and finishing of in house labels with the benefit of a superb and professional finish."

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sales@amlabels.co.uk

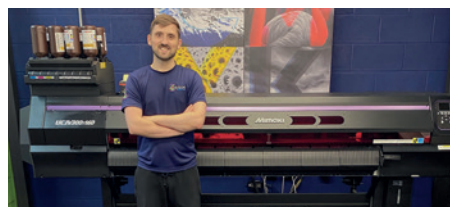
Origin Sign Co enters new markets

Two Mimaki industrial UV printers sit at the heart of Skelmersdale based sign maker Origin Sign Co's kit list and are allowing the forward thinking business to target new markets as it expands its operation with new applications and products.

Key to Origin's expansion is its multi award winning Mimaki JFX200 2513EX – an 8' x 4' flatbed LED UV printer that is used for direct to substrate printing when creating site boards, hoardings and, further, more creative applications. "The quality of the Mimaki JFX200 is outstanding," Digital Print Manager Joe Clark notes. "It's given us that level of consistency that's so important to the business."

The Mimaki JFX200 2513EX delivers high quality output, utilising a broad choice of instantly cured LED UV inks, including white and clear and an 8' x 4' bed size that suits industry standard boards and substrates. Capable of producing high volumes of print, it offers best in class performance coupled with impressive levels of creativity.

With its ability to print direct to acrylic, aluminium, foamboard and multiple other rigid materials, Origin has also benefited from the quality of the white ink, that's a key element in the company's more creative offerings. "When we're producing reverse prints on clear acrylic, the white ink is flawless," Clark explains. "And



it's not just the print quality we're benefiting from – in terms of efficiency, the JFX200 has really helped the business."

Allowing the team in the company's recently refurbished print operations room to cut out processes by printing direct to rigid materials, the Mimaki JFX200 is helping Origin save both time and media. The impact it's having on their eco footprint is a significant gain too. Drawing minimal power thanks to its cold cure LED lamps, the energy efficient flatbed is helping the company hit its sustainability goals. "As a business, we're making a conscious effort to operate more sustainably," says Production & Fabrication Manager, James Watterson. "From using offcuts of material to running energy efficient machines like the Mimaki UV printers, we're keen to demonstrate to our customers that we have that edge."

Origin is also working hard to develop its customer base, targeting new sectors with its range of printed and manufactured signage. "Whilst our core business is in the construction

industry, we're making great progress with new markets like holiday parks and care homes, with clients seeing real advantage in our bespoke approach to their signage requirements," Clark confirms.

Origin also benefited from the software that's included with the Mimaki printers. "The Mimaki RasterLink RIP supplied with the JFX200 changed the way we operate," recalls Clark. "It's so much easier to print multi layer designs, being more intuitive and user friendly."

In addition to their Mimaki flatbed, the company's trusty UCJV300 160 wide format LED UV printer/cutter plays an important role in Origin offering a diverse range of products, with punchy graphics reproduced on premium metallic films and window media thanks to its white ink and clear printing capabilities. "The Mimaki hardware is so user friendly," summarises Watterson. "It's easy to use and maintain and rewards you with great results every time. It's all you can ask of it."

The Origin Sign Co team has taken to social media to attract new clients and assist their current customers with entertaining and informative posts that promote the business to a growing audience. Follow their adventures on Instagram and TikTok – and pick up some design and sign making tips along the way.
www.hybridservices.co.uk

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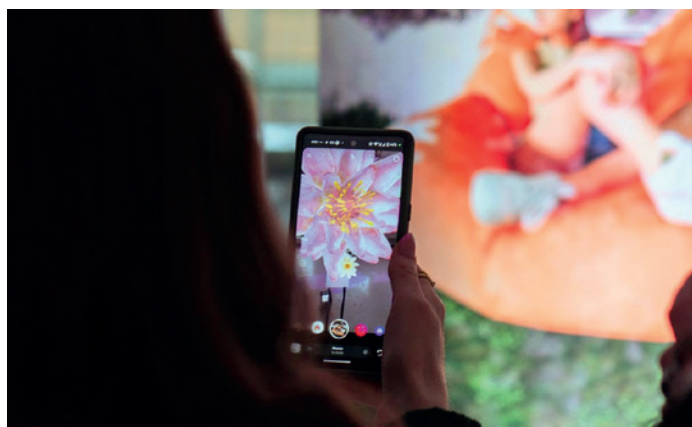
Combining immersive augmented reality environments with exquisite digitally printed imagery, experiential artist, Doddz showed printed canvases, floor graphics and 3D artwork in a private viewing held in Manchester's Northern Quarter. The "A Different Perspective" exhibition was Doddz' biggest solo show to date, and delivered a captivating evening enjoyed by over 200 guests.

"A Different Perspective was all about offering the opportunity to experience the future of storytelling and provided a rare glimpse into my life and emotions," described Doddz. "Presenting my work on some seriously creative substrates delivered an all-encompassing experience, and it was so powerful to see people participating and engaging with them throughout the event."

Doddz used a range of floor graphics, wallpaper and canvas from Soyang Europe's catalogue of digitally printable substrates, printed with Mimaki's recently launched UJV100-160Plus LED UV printer. These created a series of scenes that when viewed through a mobile phone, came to life as AR experiences, as well as an animated film and video game.

A particular highlight of the exhibition proved to be a full colour 3D printed piano, that came to life with a virtual performance by American rapper Tyler, the Creator. "I constructed the digital artwork for this piece in Blender, before Hybrid printed the file on the Mimaki 3DUJ-553 full colour 3D printer," recalls Doddz. "It was one of the most exciting pieces of art – a real game changer as the centrepiece for the show."

Preparation for "A Different Perspective" took months of effort, with Doddz and his team working alongside the applications specialists at both Soyang Europe and Hybrid Services. "We used a host of Mimaki's latest technology to produce the artwork for the exhibition, from the flatbed UJF-3042MkII that printed the plaques that incorporate the QR codes, to the TxF300-75 DTF printer that we created the t-shirt graphics with,"



recalls Hybrid's Application Specialist, Ashley Carr.

Reflecting on the exhibition, and the powerful emotions that AR can have on people, Doddz said, "During each show that I've put on, I've had the privilege of seeing the awe on the faces of those discovering Augmented Reality for the first time. Their reactions when static art bursts into life are the moments I cherish most. Witnessing the initial encounter that people have with the magic of AR art fills me with immense pride and confirms that the more people become aware of its existence, the more they'll fall in love with it."

Commenting on Hybrid's support of the project, the company's Head of Marketing & Business Development, Duncan Jefferies said, "When Doddz' team approached us earlier in the year, we realised very quickly what a unique opportunity it was to work with such a talented and visionary artist. Pairing cutting edge print and material technology with the wonderful creativity that Doddz incorporates into every piece made it a very special collaboration to be involved with."

Doddz shares digital art tutorials along with insights into his life and creativity on his social media accounts and website; his followers frequently engage in their keenness to see more of how he pushes the AR boundaries and combines it with the power of print. "I purposely seek new challenges to learn from and grow. Every piece of my art tells its own story," he remarks.

Subsequent projects for the artist included a giant mural featured in one of the fanzones at the Euro 2024 football tournament, as well as further development of his use of digital print. "Working with Hybrid and Soyang Europe was the difference between being the success it was and no success at all," Doddz concludes. "The guidance the team give me sharing their experience and expertise is why we're already working on new projects together."

www.hybridservices.co.uk

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Something to share?

COUPLES TIME

Why don't some couples go to the gym?
Because some relationships just don't work out.

WOMEN WANTED

Must be able to cook, clean, skin and gut fish.
Must own a boat with motor. Anyone interested
send pictures of boat and motor.

NO JUICING FOR YOU

A boy was bagging groceries at a supermarket.
One day the store installed a machine for
squeezing fresh orange juice.

Intrigued, the young man asked if he could be
allowed to work the machine, but his request
was denied.

Said the store manager, "Sorry, kid, but baggers
can't be juicers."

BACK TOGETHER AGAIN

My ex-girlfriend just told me she wants us to
get back together again. MAN, I sure am LUCKY!
I mean, first I win the lottery and now THIS!

FULL COLOUR JOKE

Where do bad rainbows go? To prism. It's a light
sentence, but it gives them time to reflect.

SHOW SHORTS

I went to a miniature wind turbine exhibition
yesterday. Got to say... not a big fan.

Why did the yogurt go to the art exhibition?
Because it was cultured.

Do I want a beer? A) Yes, B) A, C) B, D) All of
the above

What do you call a Magician without magic?
Ian.

What's the difference between a camera and a
foot? A camera has photos while a foot has five
toes.

I said to my wife, "I need to call the doctor
today." "Which doctor?" she asked. "No, the
regular kind."

FREE BEER ALL NIGHT

A salesman walks into a bar and orders a drink.
After noticing there are pieces of meat nailed
to the ceiling of the bar, he asks the barman
what they are for. The barman replies, "If you
can jump up and pull one of them down you get
free beer all night. If you fail, you have to pay
£100. Do you want to give it a try?"

The salesman thinks about it for a minute
before saying, "Nah, no thanks. The steaks are
too high!"

NAMING RIGHTS

My wife threatened to divorce me when I said I
was going to give our daughter a silly name. So
I called her Bluff.

TIME FOR PAY RISE

I told my boss that three companies were after
me, so I needed a rise in pay to stay with the
current job. He asked which companies? I told
him gas, electric, and Sky.

THE COMPETITION

Wikipedia: "I know everything."
Google: "I have everything."
Facebook: "I know everybody."
Internet: "Without me you're nothing."
Electricity: "Keep talking losers."

SHOW MEMORY

A salesman was introduced to a marketing lady
at the NEC, who was said to have a perfect
memory. Sceptically, the tourist asked, "What
did you have for breakfast on September
10, 2013?"

The lady answered, "Eggs."

The man scoffed, "Everyone eats eggs for
breakfast. She's a phony."

Eleven years later, the salesman met the same
lady again at a trade show. The salesman went
up to her and said jovially, "How!"

The woman answered, "Scrambled."

AN ARTIST WALKS INTO A BAR AND ORDERS A BEER

"I don't like the way the art world is going. I've
read that in the future many exhibitions will
only feature digital images displayed on plasma
screens in darkened, futuristic galleries," he
complained to the bartender. "I'm going to miss
the art formerly known as prints."

VARIABLE DATA

A man born in March has his birthday in
September. Although he was orphaned as a
young child he grew up and married his father.
How is this possible?

He was born in the town of March, about 25
miles north of Cambridge. He grew up to be the
mayor of his town and performed the wedding
ceremony for the head of his local church.

POST EXHIBITION REPORT

If you must schedule a meeting with your
Sales Manager or other people you do not like,
here are the best days to tell them, February
30th, April 31st, June 31st, September 31st, or
November 31st.

SEASONAL SCRIBES

September 15th is national camouflage day.
I hope I don't see anyone celebrating.

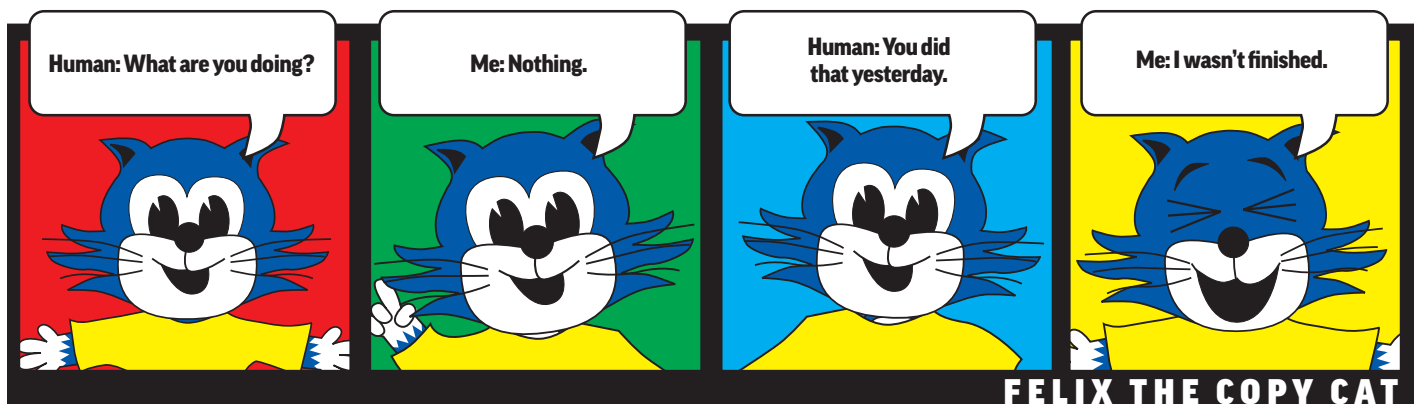
What is a tree's least favourite
month? Sep- timber

What do trees do in September? Turn over to
a new leaf.

How many seconds are there in one year? 12
of them: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd,
April 2nd, May 2nd, June 2nd, July 2nd, August
2nd, September 2nd, October 2nd, November
2nd, and December 2nd.

Where is a place where January comes
after February and December comes before
September. In the dictionary.

What did the tree say to autumn? Leaf me
alone.



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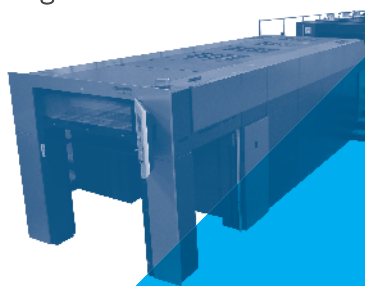
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