

PRINT & PACKAGING INNOVATION ASIA MAGAZINE

Serving Printing, Packaging and Publishing Industries across Asia Pacific since 1985 - Issue 8 2025



The Digital Market in China is Growing Rapidly

Article by Sven Olsen - Muller Martini - from page 10



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Digital Label Printing Market Outlook from 2025 to 2035

In redefining the speedy label printing industry and customizable as well as effectively digital label printing, it is adapted to short-run, on-demand, high-quality print work, including variable data capabilities.

This made digital label printing acceptable to the industries of food and beverages, healthcare, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and logistics. Hence, it is becoming one of the central strategies used by brands fast and green to include digital label printing in their packaging strategies.

By 2025, the market is expected to reach USD 12.3 billion and will grow at a 5.3% CAGR to USD 20.6 billion by 2035. An increase in demand for personalized packaging, a rapidly growing e-commerce industry, as well as the trend toward more sustainable, traceable, and recyclable labeling solutions drive demand.

The innovations in inkjet, electrophotography, and hybrid digital presses are also fast tracking adoption. Digitization is quickly penetrating the market where brand owners are increasing aesthetic value in shelf appeal, for example, high-resolution graphics in textured finishes. Companies can adjust their designs quickly and respond immediately to consumer trends and quick responses to regulation changes.

Demand for multilingual labeling boosts the application of digital labels to products distributed around the globe. Now you can achieve real-time updating and customization of labels



through cloud-based print management platforms. As industries are ushered into digital transformation, digital label printing becomes part and parcel of agile packaging strategies.

Regional Market Trends

Asia-Pacific

The fastest-growing digital label printing market is in the Asia-Pacific region. A growing demand for packaged goods, nutraceuticals, and consumer electronics in countries like China, India, Japan, and

South Korea, all requiring high-quality, fast-turnaround labeling, leads the way. The demand for digitally printed labels is increased by the strong manufacturing base in this region and the growing replacement of traditional production lines by automation. The adoption of sustainable printing technologies is being supported by regional governments, which in turn drives the demand for water-based labels and compostable materials.

National converters are adapting hybrid printing technologies to manage shorter and longer runs efficiently. Additionally, as e-commerce continues to thrive, there is an increase in demand for smart, scannable, and secure labels to enable real-time tracking and brand protection.

North America

Digital printing of labels is truly an advanced and innovative market in North America. The USA and Canada are the leaders in smart labels, augmented reality tags, and serialized packaging; and, across them, digitally printed labels are ubiquitous for the food & beverage, pharma, CBD wellness, and premium

Metric	Value
Market Size in 2025	USD 12.3 Billion
Projected Market Size in 2035	USD 20.6 Billion
CAGR (2025 to 2035)	5.3%

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personal care segments. Brands require print-on-demand capabilities, regional customization, and sustainable substrates. Direct-to-consumer brands now rely quite heavily on labels for their digitally printed, small batch products, influencer kits, and subscription models. Also on the rise is the consumer engagement with labels themselves, through QR codes, NFC chips, and radio frequency identification (RFID) use to establish linkages with supply chains.

All these have acted as a catalyst for fast tracking the already ongoing speed-up in the ongoing changeover toward compostable and recyclable label formats by sustainability rules and consumer pressures.

Europe

Sustainable and regulatory-driven advancements in digital label innovation have engulfed Europe. For mono-material packaging and eco-certified, the onus has been especially on countries such as Germany, UK, France, and the Netherlands. Label substrate choice and the formulation of digital inks would be influenced by the circular economy goals of the EU.

Brands use digital label printing, looking for acquisition and extraction purposes for quick prototypes and personalized product launches or multilingual packaging compliance. Therefore, label converters in Europe are going to invest more on the cloud-connected digital press, which provides end-to-end workflow automation based on a new service business model.

Digital label application by retailers and CPG companies is set to drive shopper engagement through gamification and digital storytelling. The requirements of the region from traceability concerns are propelling opportunities for developing tamper-evident and trackable label formats.

Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Label Printing Market Challenges

Cost scalability and substrate compatibility

While digital label printing offers flexibility, it may not be cost-effective for high-volume applications where flexographic printing still dominates. Maintaining consistent color quality across diverse substrates and ensuring durability in variable environmental conditions are ongoing technical challenges.

Opportunities

Smart labels, automation, and sustainable innovation

The rise of smart labels with embedded tracking, temperature monitoring, and interactivity offers enormous potential. Digital printing enables personalization at scale, allowing for hyper-targeted marketing and variable data integration. Advancements in recyclable adhesives, biodegradable inks, and linerless label technology are expanding sustainable label solutions.

Market Shift	2025 to 2035 Projections
Regulatory Landscape	Mandatory traceability, recyclable substrates, and anti-counterfeit labeling mandates.
Material Innovation	Expansion in compostable liners, linerless labels, and mono-material label constructions.
Industry Adoption	Widespread use in pharma, logistics, e-commerce, and multilingual FMCG packaging.
Market Competition	Consolidation of global converters and rise of platform-based digital label marketplaces.
Market Growth Drivers	Circular economy demands, smart packaging adoption, and supply chain transparency.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	Industry-wide use of linerless labels, compostable adhesives, and net-zero label production goals.
Integration of AI and Process Optimization	AI-optimized color management, inline finishing, and automated prepress-to-postpress ecosystems.
Advancements in Printing Technology	Integration of smart sensors, storytelling graphics, and AR/VR consumer activation.



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Shifts in the Digital Label Printing Market from 2020 to 2024 and Future Trends 2025 to 2035

Digital label printing thrived between 2020 and 2024, for speed and agility-oriented brand owners, during the pandemic, low-inventory packaging gained importance. Disruptions in supply chains along with initial capital investment problems became pain areas.

Intelligent labeling systems, real-time production analytics, and modular printing platforms will characterize the 2025 to 2035 decade. Operational efficiencies will improve through AI-based workflow optimizations and on-press inspection systems. Brands will use digital labels in packaging to incorporate storytelling, transparency, and sustainability.

The quality of print across applications will be further improved through enhanced color accuracy and substrate compatibility. Cloud-connected print management systems will allow remote customization and production monitoring of labels. An added layer of augmented reality for consumer interaction will provide immersive label experience.

Segmentation Outlook - Digital Label Printing Market

Inkjet, Electrophotographic, and Hybrid Printing Drive Market Growth Amid Rising Demand for Personalization, Smart Packaging, and Sustainable Labeling

The inkjet, electrophotographic, and hybrid digital label printing segments propel growth with speed, personalization, and sustainability. Product development targets enhancing resolution, print permanence, and substrate suitability while embracing AI and IoT technology. Inkjet platforms are developing with improved drying speeds and enhanced pigment stability. Electrophotographic technology is becoming energy efficient with low-heat fusing. Hybrid printing is also embracing automated registration control for enhanced multi-process alignment.

Inkjet Printing Strengthens Market Expansion

Inkjet technology is in a commanding lead due to its high-speed, full-color printing ability, low cost of startup, and broad material compatibility. Firms invest



in water-based, UV, and latex ink systems for a variety of applications ranging from food packaging to industrial labeling. Improvements in single-pass inkjet systems and variable data printing enable mass customization.

Electrophotographic Printing Gains Momentum with High Precision and Quality

Electrophotographic presses are still essential for high-resolution, photo-quality label production in health, cosmetic, and beverage markets. Their high image quality and toner resistance are best suited for short-run and high-end label work. Suppliers investigate eco-toners and LED-based curing to enhance efficiency and environmental responsibility.

Hybrid Digital Printing Expands with Flexibility and Efficiency

Hybrid presses that integrate digital and flexographic units are picking up pace for their versatility in marrying variable data with inline finishing capabilities. Companies use hybrid systems for greater design flexibility and economical long-run production. Embellishment features, foil stamping, and tactile effects fuel growth in luxury and premium label markets.

Advancements in Digital Label Printing Technologies

Studies on AI-powered workflow automation, reusable substrates, and low-migration inks improve productivity and sustainability. Intelligent labels with sensors, security printing, and interactivity aid digital transformation of labeling.

Cloud-connected print systems and predictive maintenance software further minimize downtime and streamline press operation. With changing consumer preferences towards customization, transparency, and sustainability, digital label printing has become a leading driver of rapid, effective, and intelligent packaging solutions in world markets.

Digital Label Printing Market Maintains Market Relevance as Demand for Customization and Short-Run Flexibility Grows

Digital labels continue to be a major disrupter in packaging and label making industries for all things personalized and sharply cost-effective and timely for short to medium runs. This is pivotal across a whole plethora of applications, from food and beverage to personal care, pharmaceuticals, and logistics, allowing brands to move swiftly when there is an apparent shift in the market.





Arguably, the entry of digital label printing into high volumes of e-commerce packaging, seasonal promotions, and personal product lines earned a significant boost in revenue returns. More than 65 percent of fast-moving consumer goods have specifically taken digital label printing on board for SKU proliferation and faster time-to-market.

To meet demand for sustainability and flexibility, manufacturers are investing in both inks as well as inkjet and electrophotographic (EP) technologies, combined with variable data capabilities and eco-friendly inks. New innovative concepts such as inline finishing, hybrid presses, and embellishments in labels are bringing superior aesthetics but with faster turnaround times.

Compatible substrates include paper, film, biodegradable materials, and advances in digital embellishments such as foil stamping, varnishing, and tactile effects,

giving brands even more appeal on the shelf. The impetus behind localized printing, a decrease in inventories, and mass personalization is a growing demand from the small business to the global brand.

FMCG and Beverage Segments Drive Market Growth as Demand for Speed and Customization Increases

Digital label printing excels within the FMCG and beverage segments where versioning, multilinguality, rapid design modification, and fast packaging adaptation are essentials. Digital printing is utilized by brands to produce limited editions, introduce new flavor tests, and create regional versions of labels with the cost constraints of traditional plate-making avoided.

Late-stage personalization is aided by digital technology that allows packaging decisions to be made near the point-of-sale. This adaptability is particularly useful for event or season-based campaigns, allowing marketers to react quickly to trends and changes in consumer behavior. Beverage Industry Expands Adoption of Digital Label Printing as Personalization and Promotion Take Center Stage

Beverage companies rely on digital printing for producing labels that require high-quality pictures that may be personalized and tracked. From craft beers to flavored waters, the need for labels for small-batch production and targeted marketing campaigns varies among producers.

Studies show that over 70% of specialty beverage brands utilize digital printing for packaging differentiation with customized designs, QR codes, and augmented reality features engaging consumers interactively. With increasing numbers of regulations and languages in exports, the ability to print labels digitally gives the utmost flexibility to comply and localize variants with ease.

Although fast lead times and low setup costs are attractive, sometimes their high unit cost for long runs and inability to achieve certain specialty finishes are hurdles. Nevertheless, hybrid printing systems and digital embellishment technologies are closing these gaps.

Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Industries Drive Market Demand as Regulatory and Branding Needs Converge The pharmaceutical and personal care markets are embracing digital label printing to address rigid serialization, anti-counterfeiting, and brand requirements. Variable data printing and security elements like microtext, invisible inks, and track-and-trace components are seamlessly integrated into digital workflows.

Personal care companies utilize digital printing to provide seasonal label updates, limited-edition packaging, and regional varieties that promote consumer interaction and speedy trend cycles. While computer-to-print label printing offers robust advantages in customization, limitations such as substrate constraints and UV ink conformability remain. However, steady progress in water-based inks, recyclable packaging, and digital varnishes is propelling sustainable expansion.

Competitive Outlook

The market for digital label printing is growing dramatically with takeup in FMCG, beverages, pharmaceuticals, and personal care. Top suppliers are concentrating on high-speed digital presses, autonomous color matching, and cloud-integrated workflow systems. Digital embellishments, optimized short-run prints, and environmental ink systems are the key trends.

Industry 4.0, print-on-demand strategies, and AI-managed print automation are also evolving the future of this market. Brands are also using blockchain technology to improve traceability and product authenticity through digitally printed labels. The use of augmented reality on labels is building immersive brand experiences for consumers. In addition, innovation in sustainable substrates and water-based inks is making environmentally friendly print solutions possible.



The Digital Market in Ch

After it had long seemed that graphic companies in China would continue to focus on conventional manufacturing processes, the Chinese digital market has recently undergone rapid growth. Sven Olsen, Managing Director of the Asia Pacific region at Muller Martini, explains why this change came as a surprise to him, what reasons there are for this development, and how Muller Martini is preparing for it.

Until 12 to 18 months ago, most digital production systems in China, with a few exceptions, were “show lines.” By that I mean that they were basically systems that customers installed so they could claim to be in the digital printing business. Most of these systems were not operated commercially. However, that has changed dramatically in recent times. Today, we are seeing many of our conventional customers rushing to find out how they can set up commercial digital printing production.

A first highlight: Open house at Shengda Print Technology in Yongcheng

We recently took advantage of two excellent opportunities to showcase Muller Martini’s unique Smart Factory solutions live. The first highlight was the joint open house with HP at our digital flagship customer Shengda Print Technology in Yongcheng. This innovative company, one of the largest commercial printers in China, placed a large order at the last drupa for a SigmaLine Compact digital book block production system with an Antaro perfect binder, two Primera PRO saddle stitchers, and Prinova Digital as well as two PF7 Plowfolder book solutions from Hunkeler. This move is driving the company’s digital transformation forward at full speed.

We took advantage of the unique opportunity to present our Smart Factory solutions installed at Shengda Print Technology, live to 130 Chinese customers at the open house in Yongcheng. Although many of them had seen our innovative solutions live before, for most of them it was the first time they had experienced our Smart Factory systems in a production environment rather than at a trade show. Unsurprisingly, interest in our machines was high – especially in the Connex workflow system, which is crucial for efficient production processes with minimal manual intervention.

Visitors to the open house really appreciated that we took the time to talk to them to find out how and what they want to produce (which they don’t always know) and then show them the most suitable solutions from Muller Martini and Hunkeler. Thanks to the many contacts we made, we are confident that our business will benefit from this in the months to come.

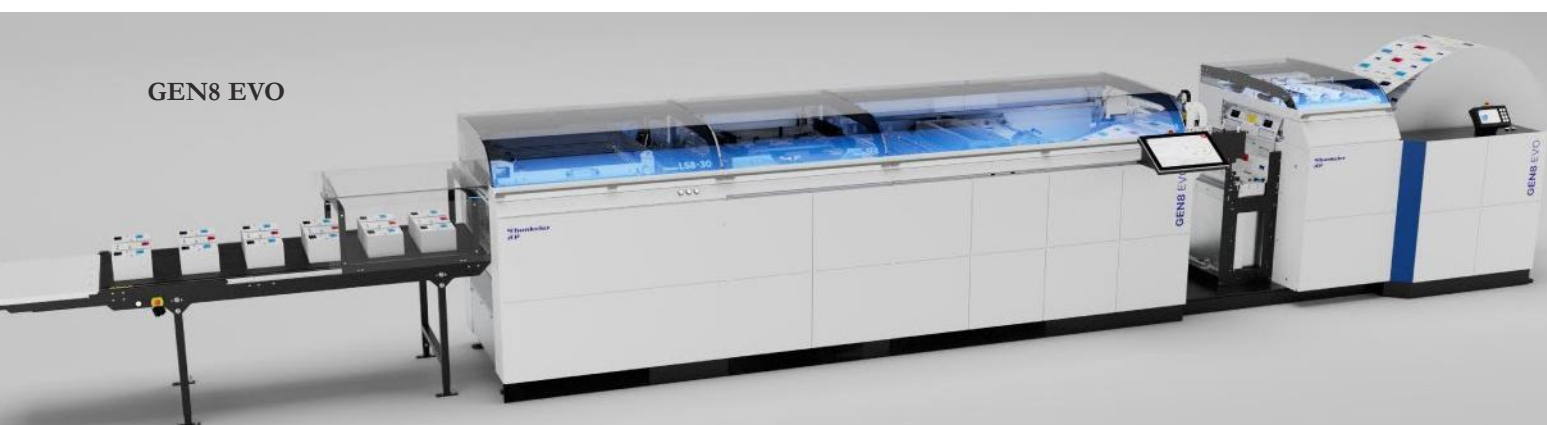
A second highlight: China Print in Beijing

We met almost all of the open house visitors again at our booth at the five-day China Print in Beijing – the second highlight of this spring. From our perspective, it was an extremely successful trade show. Visitors were



particularly impressed by the smooth live demonstration of variable digital book production on the SigmaLine Compact/Vareo PRO/InfinitiTrim line.

The machines presented at our booth were already pre-sold and will be installed at customer sites in China in the coming weeks. The bestseller at the Beijing China International Exhibition Center was the Hunkeler Gen8, which we also presented live. Four customers decided to invest in this roll-to-stack solution,



China is Growing Rapidly



SigmaLine Compact

which impressed them with its high performance.

I was also delighted to attend a special event at the trade fair for a group of students from the Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication. We gave them a first-hand look at the latest developments in digital print finishing. For me, this was wonderful proof of the newly discovered interest younger people have in our industry.

I was surprised myself

After it had long looked as if graphic companies in China would continue to focus on conventional production processes, we have recently been proven wrong. To be honest, I was surprised myself by how fast things moved.

In my opinion, the change was primarily triggered by two developments. First, publishers began to reduce their order volumes and order more frequently, allowing them to maintain lower inventory levels. Second, I've noticed that small and medium-sized printing and finishing companies are struggling to manage smaller print runs on their conventional equipment.

These short runs are now being shifted to digital printing and consolidated by digital printing specialists like Yongcheng Shengda. While around 15 percent of the printed products manufactured in China

are exported, digitally produced printed products are almost exclusively produced for the domestic market. The range is very diverse, extending from annual reports, brochures, foreign book titles, and catalogs to textbooks (especially for after-school classes).

We are well prepared for the change...

Muller Martini China is well prepared for the digital transformation – both in sales and technical service. We have a number of specialists who have acquired extensive expertise in our Smart Factory solutions through internal training, customer interactions, and relevant project work.

China Print showed that there are many lower-cost solutions for digital print finishing on the Chinese market. So while Muller Martini and Hunkeler may not be the solution that everyone can afford, we must continue to ensure that we offer solutions and brands that all customers aspire to own and use.

...and closely monitor developments

Even though the digital market is growing, conventional manufacturing will continue to play an important role in China. Not only do our customers have many high-volume orders that can be produced more efficiently on conventional equipment, but there will also be an ongoing battle between digital and conventional production lines over the print run length at which it makes sense to switch from one production type to the other.

“How will the graphic market in China develop over the next five to ten years?” I am often asked. Having already been wrong with my forecast for the digital market, I'll refrain from predicting where we will be in five to ten years. But one thing is clear: We are monitoring developments closely and continue to offer our new and existing customers the systems and services they need to remain competitive in this market.





The Potential of Security Printing Technology

In 2024, Japan issued new banknotes for the first time in 20 years, drawing renewed attention to the importance of anti-counterfeiting technology.

Since developing and delivering its first banknote printing press in 1958, Komori has been Japan's sole manufacturer of such presses and has supplied printing presses to 39 countries and regions worldwide. The key to maintaining the trustworthiness of banknotes lies in advanced security printing technology, which combines offset presses, intaglio presses, and numbering presses. This article explores how Komori's technology helps ensure safety and trust in society, highlighting recent examples.

Komori's entry into the banknote-printing field began in 1958 when we developed a two-color sheetfed relief printing press for paper currency and delivered it to the Finance Ministry's Printing Bureau.

In the 1980s, Komori expanded into the global market and, today, Komori is the only manufacturer of banknote printing presses in Japan.

We supply printing machines to Japan and 38 countries and regions worldwide, continuing to instill trust in banknotes and create security across the globe.

First new banknotes in 20 years issued in 2024

A major reason for the periodic issuance of new banknotes is to prevent counterfeiting.

Each banknote incorporates a range of anti-counterfeiting technologies throughout the manufacturing process. The banknote-manufacturing process is broadly divided into the paper production, materials, and printing stages. In the printing stage, which Komori handles, counterfeiting is prevented by combining specialized printing techniques using offset presses, intaglio presses, numbering presses, and number coater machines.

Komori leading global banknote production with cutting-edge technology

The new £10 polymer banknote issued by the Bank of England in September 2017 was printed on two new production lines delivered by Komori to De La Rue's factory in Britain.

Polymer banknotes enhance anti-counterfeiting capabilities by combining advanced security printing technology with polymer banknote design.

The new £10 note also includes tactile identification marks -- the first of their kind on a British pound banknote -- for the visually impaired, along with complex security features (such as 10 key characteristics) to strengthen protection against forgery.

Examples of specialized printing on the new £10 polymer banknote

SIGMALINE COMPACT



New Level of Flexibility

The SigmaLine Compact sets another milestone in digital book block production. With a web speed of up to 200 m/min, it impresses with rapid changeover times for job and format changes. Changing the folding schemes – for example from 3-across to 4-across – takes less than 10 seconds. Digital printers can therefore produce more end products in the smallest of space (40 m²), with fewer staff and a lower waste rate.

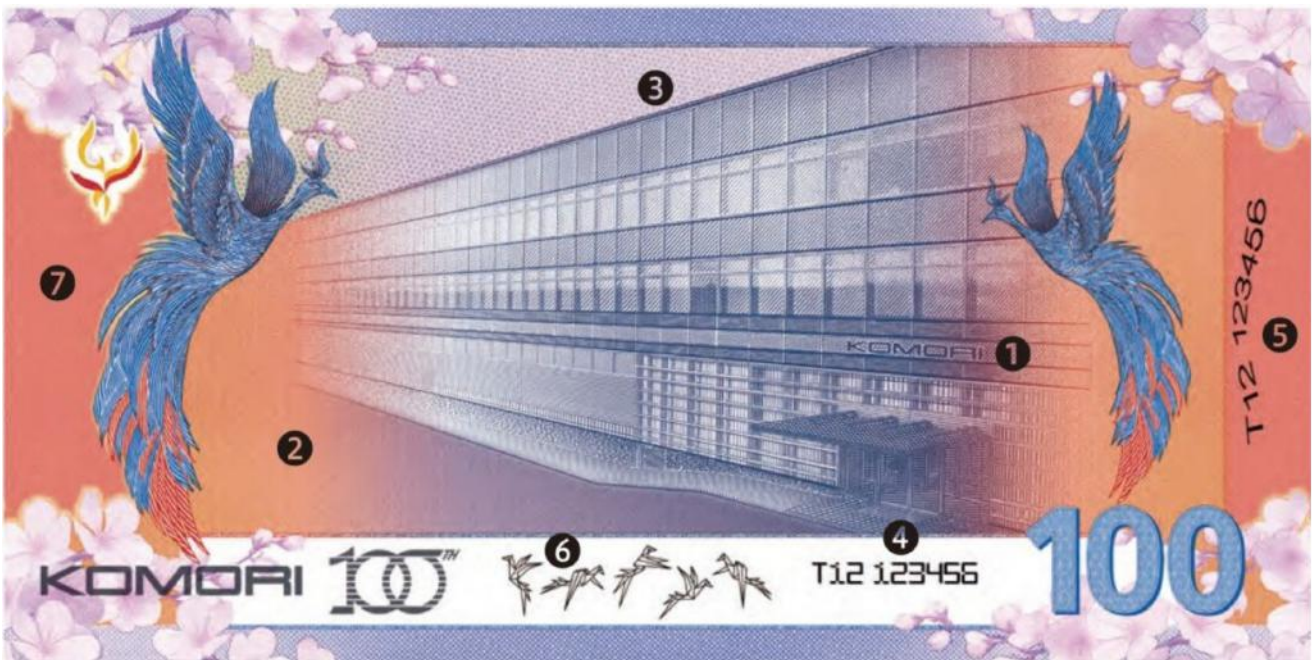
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1. Watermark pattern in the transparent oval "window" 2. Watermark pattern (gold on the front, silver on the back) 3. Gradient pattern that changes from purple to orange 4. Hologram of "Ten" and "Pound" 5. 3D hologram of the crown 6. "Bank of England" and "10" in intaglio printing, with tactile identification mark on the top left of the £10 note 7. Sharp and vivid lines and colors 8. Microtext 9. Text printed with ultraviolet-absorbing ink



1. Microline screens expressed through dry offset printing 2. A distinct feature that allows hidden information to be viewed using a smartphone or special lenses 3. Microtext that is impossible to discern with the naked eye, printed by offset printing 4. Replacement with innovative inkjet digital serial number printing 5. Modulated digital serial numbers printed in a wave-like distortion 6. "Origami" phoenix expressed through digital printing, with the movement and sequence of the phoenix differing on each individual sheet 7. Authenticity verified by dedicated smartphone application

"Komori Centenary House Note"

This "House Note" was created by bringing together Komori's advanced security printing technologies developed over the years. It combines the counterfeit prevention technologies we have refined over the years with new technologies such as digital printing presses. The printing

machines used in the process include the offset press "Currency LC," the intaglio press "Currency IC," and the digital printing press "Impremia IS29s."



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- * **ONLY 3 jobs allowed** for each category that you enter.

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 - 1.a Paper/Board
 - 1.b Film
- 2. Mid Web Flexo**
(501mm to 914mm width only)
 - 2.a Paper/Board
 - 2.b Film
- 3. Wide Web Flexo**
(915mm and over)
 - 3.a Paper/Board
 - 3.b Film
- 4. Carton & Cups**
- 5. Post Print for Corrugated**
- 6. Pre Print for Corrugated**

LABELS

- 1. Flexo**
- 2. Letterpress**
- 3. Offset Labels**
- 4. Gravure Labels**
- 5. Combination Printing**
(Many different processes)
- 6. Non Pressure Sensitive material**
- 7. Digital Labels**
 - 7.a Up to 4 colours
 - 7.b 4 to 5 colours
 - 7.c 5 to 6 colours
 - 7.d 7 + Colours

GRAVURE

- 1. Paper/Board**
- 2. Metallised Paper/ Aluminium Foil Surface Print**
- 3. Film**
 - 3.a Surface Print
 - 3.b Reversive Print
- 4. Speciality Gravure**
(Must provide written explanation)

OTHER PROCESS

- 6. Embellishment**
- 7. Digital Embellishment**
- 8. Mockup/Sample**
- 9. Digital Packaging**
- 10. Hybrid Printing**
- 11. Offset Packaging**

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PLEASE READ: Asian Packaging Excellence Awards are open to all packaging companies across Asia. It is free to enter and winners will be presented Gold Silver Bronze awards live on stage in Thailand 14th November 2025. **If you do not attend, we will not send awards to you.** Jobs must have been produced from November 2024 till October 3rd 2025.

SECTION A - MAXIMUM 3 JOBS PER CATERGORY

PLEASE SELECT ☐ FLEXP ☐ LABELS ☐ GRAVURE ☐ MOCKUP
☐ DIGITAL PACKAGING ☐ HYBRID ☐ OFFSET PACKAGING ☐ TRADE HOUSE

Catergory Entered for this job (See catergory opposite page) _____

Company Name _____ Contact Person _____

CompanyAddress _____

Country _____ Contact Number _____ e-mail _____

Title of Entry _____ Printer _____

Your Name _____ Signature _____



SECTION B - CUT AND TAPE THIS TO THE BACK OF THE JOB ENRTY - *fill out each process

Catergory Entered _____ Print Method _____ Number of colours _____

*Brand of Machine _____ *Ink Supplier _____

*Plate Supplier _____ *Tape Supplier _____

*Pre Press by _____ *Printed Quantity _____

*Paper/Board/Film/Label supplier _____

*Web Width _____ Other detials _____

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In 2024 - Vietnam, we had over 450 people who attended the SHIFT 24 Conference and the Asian Packaging Excellence Awards.


More information will follow in the coming monthson reserving your seat and not missing out.

To see in full last years succesful Vietnam event, click on or copy the link below

<https://www.printinnovationasia.com/copy-of-apea-2023-1>



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Dragon Printing unleashes Digital Press

With the new Gallus One Digital Press firing up at Sydney-based Dragon Printing, the company enters a new phase, one that gives their clients even better options, whilst greatly increasing the workload the company can handle. Investing in advanced technology is a signature move of Dragon Printing, keeping them at the forefront of label manufacturing, why they can produce such a variety of work to an exceptional level.

Dragon Printing has always been one to move with the times, having shown a willingness to invest and give themselves the edge over the competition. Already boasting a fleet of Gallus presses, there's almost nothing they can't do. This has meant that the presses are fully loaded. And though it's a good problem to have, it has created the need for faster, more agile systems that truly harness the power of digital press systems.

"Today, so much more of our work is suited for digital press systems," says Paul McCullum, Director, Dragon Printing. "We saw the need to alleviate the workload on our current presses, using them for more hybrid work. What we needed was a press that would fit well with our existing systems, but also be a natural progression in terms of the work we are doing, where the market is heading, and still be able

to deliver the standard of work we are known for."

As with any significant investment, Paul and the team at Dragon Printing did their due diligence, looking at multiple options from selected manufacturers.

"We did look at all the available presses that might suit our needs," says Paul. "We have seen them running and know what the issues are. We were obviously already very familiar with – and extremely happy with – the Gallus Labelfire presses that we have in operation. After speaking with Dierk Wissmann and the team at Gallus, and seeing what the Gallus One could do, we knew it would be the right fit for our business and the work we need it to handle."

Modularity benefits enhance flexibility

The Gallus One is a unification of all Labelmaster modules.

The press is built around the idea of 'modularity', so that it can adapt to changing needs and market trends. Businesses running the Gallus One can easily add, remove or replace units up and downstream, including flexo and screen printing, cold foiling, die-cutting and more. This level of flexibility means that print manufacturers can expand their services as their business grows, but without having to make significant investments in other types of printing systems and presses. It can all be done on the one press.

"A press with this level of flexibility is perfect for us because of the 'hybrid' work we do," says Paul. "We handle a lot of cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, food and wine labels that we do as one long pass on our Gallus Labelfire. At the same time, we are also running a lot of very simple jobs that are just die-cut and varnished. So, we will split the work between the systems, doing the more complicated jobs on the Labelfire, whilst the more straightforward jobs will be done on the Gallus One. Because of the speed and print capabilities of the Gallus One, it will become the 'work-horse' of our operations."



Dragon Printing installed the Gallus Labelfire hybrid Press in 2018

shes Gallus One



“The running speed of the press is one of the significant features that attracted our interest, and of course we know the technology and we know the inks. We won’t be wasting valuable time colour-matching jobs; it’s a straight swap from one press to the other. We will achieve huge time savings because this press is an all-in-one process.”

The Gallus One can print up to speeds of 70 metres per minute, even with high-opacity white of 85%. With a printing width of 340 mm or 430 mm, the press can run a variety of self-adhesive materials such as papers, plastics and unsupported materials.

As impressive as the stats are, it’s the modularity of the press that is really something special.

The dawn of a new era

“The Gallus One represents the dawn of a new era,” says Dierk Wissmann, National Sales Manager – Australia, Heidelberg Australia & New Zealand. “The options with the Gallus One are nearly endless. You can start your journey with a simple roll-to-roll configuration with CMYK+W and later on expand the machine according to your needs. This new ‘system to compose’ allows business owners to add to or change the composition of the machine system at any time of the journey.”

Options include the expansion of the colour gamut by adding Orange and Violet, flexo printing units, screen printing units, RDC Top, SDC ABG and RDC quick die-cutting solutions, as well

as a cold or hot foil, rotary embossing, web turn bar, de-lam re-lam, mono and PS laminating and MR touch.

“In Dragon Printing’s case, it is a Gallus One CMYK+W with a flexo unit for varnish or lamination, as well as a semi rotary die-cutting unit at the end. And of course, all of this comes with the highest print quality in 1200 x 1200 dpi and at 70 metres per minute – including white!” Dierk explains.

“The new Gallus One ‘system to compose’ allows business owners to add to or change the composition of the machine system at any time of the journey.” Dierk Wissmann, Heidelberg Australia and New Zealand



“In addition to high print quality, high speed and high flexibility, to be truly successful there is one more important piece of the puzzle, and this is high machine uptime. We have taken everything we have learned from our clients using the Labelfire systems and poured all that knowledge into the development and design of the new Gallus One press.

We have added new automated features such as automatic ultrasonic print-head cleaning, for example, to reduce downtime. The overall new design comes with many improvements to extend the life of vital parts and thus increase the machine uptime to a new level.

“In addition, Heidelberg Australia & New Zealand has a very strong Service team on the ground, ready to jump in and offer support should it be required. Finally, there is no purging required; therefore nearly 100% of the purchased ink is used to produce labels with virtually no ink waste. Which brings us to the final puzzle piece – high affordability. With its lower entry price, high quality, speed and uptime, and nearly 100% ink utilisation, the new Gallus One truly tears down the TCO barriers there might have been in the past.

“Driving the press is our market-leading Prinect workflow system from Heidelberg. This was jointly developed by Heidelberg and Gallus and combines the digital printing and software know-how of Heidelberg with the extensive expertise

of Gallus in label printing. The Gallus One is the perfect solution for Dragon Printing who need a very fast, versatile press that still delivers exceptional print results,” Dierk concludes.

The abilities of the Gallus One press were not the only reason why Dragon Printing chose to re-invest with the company. They have a strong partnership with Heidelberg and know they can rely on service and support if, and when, they need it.

“We’ve been dealing with Heidelberg for over five years now,” says Paul. “Right from the start we insisted that any servicing was done by Heidelberg, which they have done, and we always have access to online support. If we need to, we can always pick up the phone and speak to them directly. For us, being able to rely on the manufacturer is extremely important because we cannot afford unnecessary downtime.”

Market competition, and the developing trend of shorter, more varied runs in faster time, means that label manufacturers such as Dragon Printing cannot afford downtime. They must be able to perform when the customer needs them and to a level that befits their reputation.

“Despite the capabilities we have and the results we can achieve, what we are really known for is our honesty,” says Paul. “Our customers deal with us because they know we are straight up. If there’s

a problem, we will say it. With a press like the Gallus One, and the service and support we get from Heidelberg, we know we can promise our customers exceptional results with very short turnaround time.”

Minimal installation to learning curve time

The Gallus One has been up and running for a few weeks now at Dragon Printing’s Sydney headquarters. Finished jobs are already flowing because the installation time to learning curve was minimal as the Dragon Printing team was already familiar with the Labelfire press.

“We are very happy with how things have gone and the results we are getting,” says Paul. “It hasn’t taken our people long to adapt to the new press because it shares some basic similarities with the Labelfire, and we are already very familiar with Prinect. You can certainly notice the speed difference; that’s something we are still getting used to. We can run a large volume of work through the Gallus One and still have room for more because it is so quick.”

What the Gallus One represents is a significant leap for digital press label manufacturing. The combination of speed, print quality, automation, and the ability to grow and change with the needs of the manufacturer, means that Dragon Printing has the firepower necessary to handle any job.

The Power of One

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g1 Gallus One

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UPM Adhesive Materials: A new chapter built on a legacy of performance

In a strategic move that reflects its ambitious growth and evolving portfolio, UPM Raflatac has announced the renaming to UPM Adhesive Materials. This change is far more than a new logo or tagline; it represents a significant evolution in the company's scope and a strengthened commitment to its partners across the value chain.

From Labels to a Broader World of Adhesive Solutions

The decision to adopt the name UPM Adhesive Materials was driven by a need to accurately communicate the expanded breadth of the company's offerings. While pressure-sensitive labels (PSL) remain a core and flagship product, the business now encompasses innovative solutions in graphics and specialty tapes, thanks to recent acquisitions like Graftyp and Metamark.

"The new name makes it easier for our partners to recognize the full scope of our solutions," the company states. "It reinforces our commitment to serve the industry more broadly." Crucially, for loyal customers in the labeling sector, the highly respected UPM Raflatac brand will remain the premier name for its label

materials, ensuring continuity and trust. Centering on Performance and Partnership

The name "UPM Adhesive Materials" was chosen to put product performance at the heart of its narrative. It reflects the creativity and expertise of its people and signifies an unwavering commitment to the quality and reliability that customers and end-users depend on.

This renewed focus is captured in an updated brand promise: "Renew the everyday with adhesive material performance." This philosophy aligns with UPM's broader dedication to developing sustainable solutions that make a tangible impact on people's daily lives.

Synergy, Stability, and Future Growth

Internally, the organization is evolving to better serve its customers in an increasingly volatile global market. The company is leveraging its expanded asset base and the new capabilities from its graphics acquisitions to foster synergies and drive innovation in adhesive materials science.

Feedback on the change has been overwhelmingly positive. PSL customers have expressed strong loyalty to the UPM Raflatac brand, while customers across all segments—labels, graphics, and specialty tapes—have applauded the clarity of the new business name and its focus on material performance.

What Customers Can Expect Next

Looking ahead, UPM Adhesive Materials is positioned to directly enhance its customers' competitiveness and growth. Partners can anticipate:

- **Strengthened Product Differentiation:** The UPM Raflatac brand will continue to deliver high-performance label materials that help customers stand out in the market.
- **Access to New Opportunities:** The expansion into graphics and specialty tapes will unlock new applications and markets, providing customers with innovative pathways for growth.
- **Ease of Partnership:** With industry-leading expertise and a customer-centric approach, UPM aims to build true, end-to-end partnerships that help customers achieve their business and sustainability goals.

The transition to UPM Adhesive Materials signals a deep, strategic commitment to the entire value chain. It is a promise to not only supply superior materials but to create partnerships that drive sustainability and competitiveness for all.



UPM Adhesive Materials business area



UPM label materials



UPM graphics solutions



UPM specialty tapes

UPM Label Materials



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conventional- and digitalprint? GMG ColorServer Multicolor automatically converts all spot colors into the desired output color space.

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"PURE Flexible Packaging" successful roadshow across Asia

WINDMÖLLER & HÖLSCHER (W&H) just finished their second round of PURE Flexible Packaging seminars here in Asia Pacific. This time in Vietnam, Malaysia and South Korea.



Besides the presentations about the latest trends, news and innovations for the flexible packaging industry, the events have been great venues to meet old friends and to get to know new people from the flexible packaging industry.

Here an overview of the topics that were presented.

First of all, despite the current economic uncertainties, the flexible packaging business remains a good business to be in. In Asia Pacific, the flexible packaging business was valued at 80.5 Bn USD and is expected to grow to 120 Bn USD in 2031. Growing at a CAGR rate of 5.2%.

The main reasons for this growth are the increasing demands for convenience and lightweight packaging. Flexible packaging uses less material, is less costly to make, has a lower carbon footprint and is easier to transport and easier to dispose of than rigid packaging. Urbanization is fast in Asia Pacific and the middle-class population is growing with changing lifestyles. This is all contributing to higher consumption of ready-to-eat meals and packaged goods, which flexible packaging can efficiently provide. Lower production costs in some countries in

Asia Pacific attracts investments from global packaging companies.

Sustainability is the talk of the town today. There is a growing awareness and concern about environmental issues in Asia Pacific. Globally, about 80% of the consumers feel that environmental sustainability is important. They like the idea of being sustainable and want to live more sustainable lives. Governments, brand-owners and consumers are concerned about the environment.

Making sustainable packaging that can be recycled is important. As one of the world leaders in manufacturing machines for the flexible packaging industry, WINDMÖLLER & HÖLSCHER (W&H) plays an important role in the development of sustainable packaging products.

Extrusion

Most pouches and sachets are made of PET/PE Duplex, Triplex- and other multi-layer laminates. Each layer of the laminate has different chemical characteristics. Unfortunately, when materials have different chemical characteristics, recycling is difficult. The

solution is either working with mono-materials or with lamination layers that are chemically uniform within certain guidelines.

One example is MDO-PE film - Machine Direction Oriented - PE film. This is a type of film that is 100% recyclable and environmentally friendly. It is made by stretching PE films in the direction it is being produced. This process improves the film's properties and makes it suitable for making pouches using PE only. This will make recycling much easier to do. W&H has tested MDO-PE film-based pouches with different types of barrier coatings and films. There is a solution for mono-material packaging for almost every type of application. From food to chemicals.

Using recycled plastics is another way to contribute to a sustainable environment. Collecting used plastics and converting these into resins (PCR / PIR) for making films is used in more and more applications. For example, bags for industrial packing and secondary packing like stretch films. W&H plays an important role in the development of the use of recycled materials and has a



W&H makes its mark again with Asia



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PASSION FOR INNOVATION

very large and modern technology center to test new materials, technologies and applications.

Reducing waste during the production of film at lower energy are other areas where W&H is launching solutions. For example, the TURBOSTART® function for extrusion lines reduces the hundreds of steps for the machine set-up to just seven buttons on one screen. Saving a lot of time and film waste in the process. New camera technology acts as the digital eye of the blown film operator. Enabling consistent film quality without the need of years and years of operational experience.

Printing

Producing recycled materials is one thing. But what about printing it? We all want to see nicely printed pouches in the supermarket. Especially the brand-owners. Making pouches with resins made of recycled materials (PCR) has some negative effects on the way the film behaves in the web printing machines. You

can have issues with repeat tolerances, web shifts, web breaks and/or creases.

By continuous measurement of the actual print repeat length under tension conditions and dynamic repeat length corrections during production, the W&H CI flexographic press range and the HELIOSTAR® gravure presses ensure a perfect register. Even during ramping up and ramping down or at full production speed.

Printing barrier can replace certain barrier films. This is beneficial for recyclability. Pouches made of laminates of one material, like MDO-PE and LLDPE, with barrier coatings can have the required barrier functions for many applications. The cost of barrier coatings could be slightly higher than PET/PE barriers. But, they are easy to master and quickly to implement. No need for a primer.

Barrier coatings are not for all applications though. There is no solution that fits all applications. All solutions

have advantages and disadvantages. Depending on the individual application. The experts at W&H can advise you.

One technology that has been in the spotlight for many years is digital printing. A technology that has completely taken over the commercial print world, the sign & display world and is making further inroads in label printing and even our flexible packaging world. In flexible packing the adoption has been relatively slow. Some main reasons are that we are working with many different substrates, high coverage of e.g. white ink and often with food-related packaging. A digital machine for this is quite different from the digital presses that we see in the commercial print and label print business. W&H has created the solution. A digital hybrid press that fits into our flexible packaging world.

70 years ago, W&H invented the central impression technology. This technology characterizes modern flexographic printing today. The base of W&H's





digital press is a central impression cylinder. This technology characterizes high quality flexographic printing with excellent register accuracy even with the most challenging substrates. W&H's digital printing machine can be equipped with up to 7 inkjet printing units located above the central impression cylinder, supported by 4 flexographic printing decks for processing coatings, white or other inks, which are often used within the flexible packaging industry.

This enables printing Expanded Color Gamut mode or to print process colors with spot colors. The addition of four flexographic printing units makes it also possible to print on a wide range of substrates with substantial cost benefits. The W&H digital press can reach a maximum speed of up to 150m/min. Please stay tuned for the market launch of W&H's digital press.

The Power of Data

Sensor technology is changing the way we manage our operations. We are seeing sensor technology everywhere around us these days. In our cars, at home, on planes, in the medical industry, etc. It is affecting our flexible packaging industry as well. The use of factual data from our machines makes our production world transparent.

No need for manual input. No need for guessing. We can look at facts instead of listening to opinions when we make decisions on operation improvements. In today's world, digital transformation isn't just an option. It's an essential step for staying competitive. The 5th industrial revolution (AI) is already knocking on our doors. The use of data is the foundation of future growth. The longer you wait,

the more you have to catch up and the more difficult it is to implement the use of big data in your operation.

Statistics show that while 90% of companies recognize its importance, 80% are still in the early stages of implementation. Why? Perceived barriers like complexity of implementation, integration in existing set up, cost and steep learning curves often hold them back. The connectivity system of W&H - RUBY - makes the implementation easier. RUBY offers flexible, scalable solutions. Ruby enables you to start small, grow the use of connectivity and data at your own pace. Our recommendation is, don't wait too long. This technology is growing very fast.

Converting

W&H Asia Pacific has for years a distribution agreement with the advanced bag and pouch making machine manufacturer B&B Verpackungstechnik. In 2024, W&H Asia signed a distribution agreement for South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines with the market leader in lamination equipment Nordmeccanica, Italy.

Early this year, W&H Asia Pacific and the market-leading slitting machine manufacturer Kampf/Atlas signed a distribution agreement for Indonesia, Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand.

The paper-bag making machine manufacturer GARANT Machinery is a subsidiary of W&H and contributes to the sustainable packaging solutions, as only paper substrates are converted to e-commerce-, shopping- flat-and satchel-and/or SOS bags.

Further, W&H makes a series of equipment for the production of multiwall paper sacks. So, W&H Asia Pacific is very well positioned to advise you objectively on a wide range of converting solutions for the flexible packaging.

W&H Asia Pacific – a very strong service support organization

With 180 people in Asia (excluding the India region) of which 70 engineers and 40 service support staff, W&H's Asia Pacific hub in Bangkok, Thailand has a very strong presence in Asia with 11 entities and is ready to take care of you. Not only for new equipment, but also to get more out of your existing machines. A range of upgrades and retrofits are available to boost the output, speed or performance of your existing machines. This combined with production support and a complete program of trainings.

If you have any questions or want to know more about the W&H solutions, please contact the local W&H representative in your country or visit the W&H website www.wh-group.com



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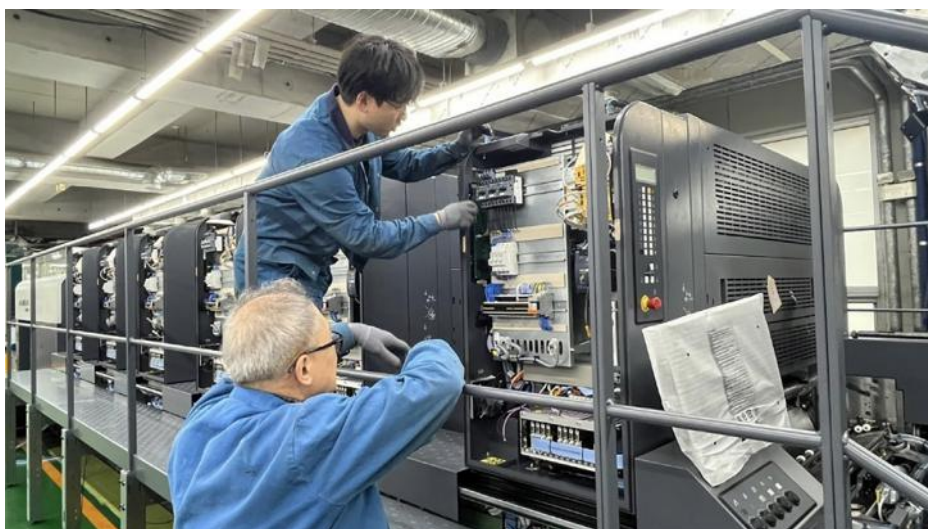


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ROLAND 700 Evo Drives Growth at SEJONG C&P, Korea

In the heart of Korea's dynamic print landscape, SEJONG C&P has taken a major leap forward with the installation and commissioning of the ROLAND 706 Evolution from Manroland Sheetfed.



This marks a significant milestone for one of Korea's most versatile communication powerhouses, as the new press is now fully operational and already delivering exceptional results across a wide range of applications.

With over 35 years of expertise, SEJONG C&P has built its reputation as a Total Communication specialist, providing integrated solutions that span from marketing and design to printing production and visual merchandising. Known for its commitment to excellence and innovation, the company saw in the ROLAND 706 Evolution a natural extension of its forward-thinking philosophy.

Designed for peak performance and ultimate print precision, the ROLAND 706 Evolution has not only met expectations but exceeded them.

Since going live, the press has demonstrated outstanding speed, seamless makeready times and impeccable color fidelity. It has quickly become a vital component of SEJONG C&P's production infrastructure, enabling the company to elevate the quality and efficiency of its printed output to new heights. The advanced

automation and user-centric engineering of the ROLAND 706 Evolution have significantly optimized workflow while reducing waste, an essential factor in today's competitive and sustainability-driven market.

SEJONG C&P's team has expressed strong satisfaction with the new installation, noting the immediate impact it has had on their operations. A company spokesperson shared that the ROLAND 706 Evolution is more than

just a machine. It is a strategic tool that empowers them to deliver faster, better and more reliably for their clients. The quality is extraordinary and the speed at which they can operate gives them a tremendous edge.

The successful installation was made possible through seamless collaboration between SEJONG C&P and Manroland Sheetfed's dedicated team of experts. The project underscores the shared commitment to innovation and excellence that defines both organizations. As SEJONG C&P continues to shape the future of print communication in Korea, the ROLAND 706 Evolution stands as a powerful symbol of what is possible when technology and vision align.

This partnership reinforces Manroland Sheetfed's growing presence in the Korean market and highlights the trust that forward-looking companies like SEJONG C&P place in its world-class engineering. With the ROLAND 706 Evolution now at the heart of its operations, SEJONG C&P is clearly printing with purpose and with power.





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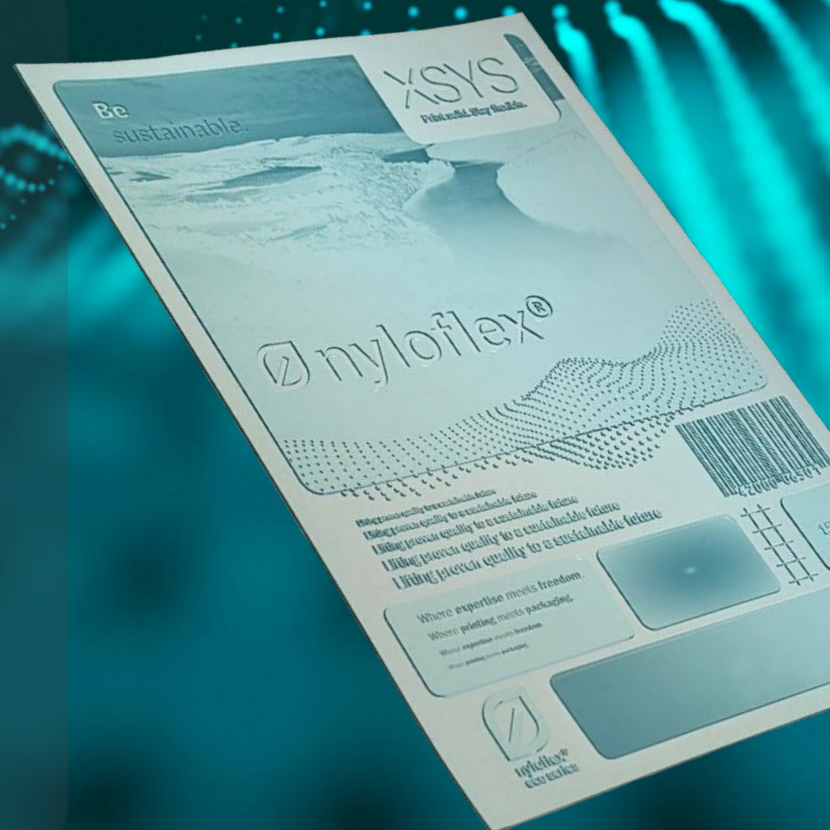


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Heidelberg and Gallus for the growing label market

- New solutions from Heidelberg and Gallus set to address key customer challenges, including demand for high-volume digital production
- Expanded portfolio strengthens the group's position across all market segments and applications, whilst extending Gallus' System to Compose concept – enhancing agility and flexibility for label converters
- Heidelberg also showcases sheetfed offset solutions for efficient production of wet glue and in-mold labels

At Labelexpo Europe 2025 (Booth 3E23-3E29), Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (HEIDELBERG) and Gallus will unveil a new chapter in its vision for smart, connected printing with the debut of two new machine solutions. As the label industry faces increasing demand for shorter runs and faster turnaround times, converters are challenged to maintain productivity and profitability while navigating complex market dynamics and tightening margins.

HEIDELBERG and Gallus' new launches at the show, represent a significant expansion of its portfolio which spans across all market segments and application areas, driving performance for converters regardless of size, market focus, or production challenges. Specifically developed to tackle these pressing industry needs, the

solutions will enable label converters to scale efficiently, respond rapidly to shifting market demands, and remain competitive in a fast-evolving landscape.

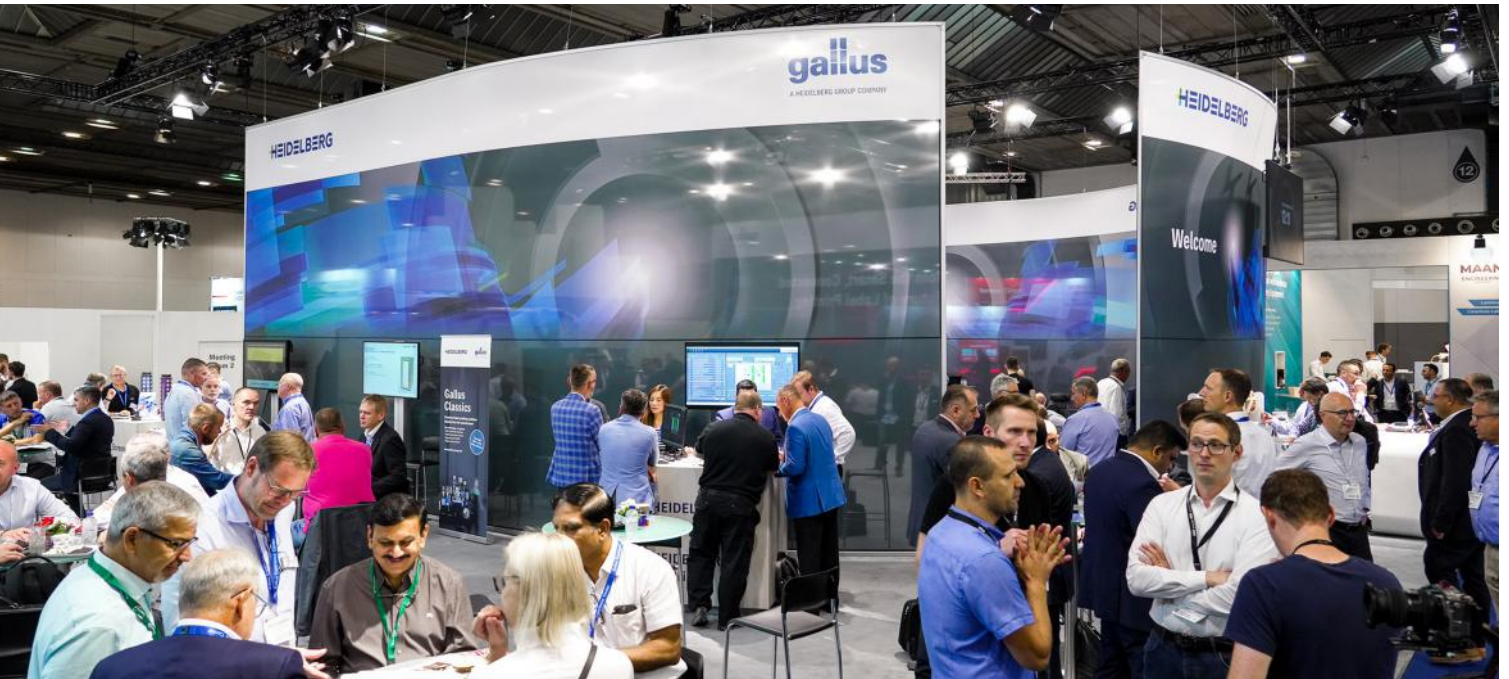
With the digital label printing market projected to grow to over \$20 billion over the next ten years*, the segment represents a key driver of innovation and value creation across the packaging and print industries. The joint appearance of HEIDELBERG and Gallus at the show reflects its commitment to leveraging this momentum as part of its growth strategy for the packaging and label segment – showcasing new technologies and end-to-end solutions that drive efficiency, productivity and quality, to meet the evolving demands of brand owners and converters.

“HEIDELBERG and Gallus's joint presence at Labelexpo underscores the strategic importance of label printing within the group,” says Dr. David Schmedding, Chief Technology & Sales Officer at HEIDELBERG. “As a total solution provider and systems integrator of both digital and conventional solutions, we are ideally positioned to address evolving market trends and meet diverse customer needs across all segments. Our customers benefit from a seamlessly integrated ecosystem that delivers end-to-end solutions focused on maximum efficiency, productivity, and quality – and Labelexpo provides the ideal platform to share this vision and strengthen our growing global network.”

Expanded portfolio strengthens group's position across all market segments



to unveil new solutions arket



Visitors to the HEIDELBERG and Gallus booth will experience firsthand how, underpinned by Gallus' System to Compose concept, existing and new innovations launched at the show, will enable converters to futureproof their operations, with Gallus' modular solutions designed to work seamlessly not just within its own ecosystem, but also alongside complementary partner technologies from across the production line.

These collaborations demonstrate the company's commitment to whole-industry advancement through shared purpose, vision, and a connected, end-to-end print ecosystem. The booth will feature a robust, unified lineup of technologies and samples, including sheetfed offset innovations for the efficient production of wet glue and in-mold labels, HEIDELBERG Prinect, Gallus Screeny, Gallus Services, and Gallus Classics.

"Together with the continued strength of our partnership with HEIDELBERG and a growing network of partners and collaborators, we're looking forward to a successful event in Barcelona, where

Labelexpo's dynamic new home will no doubt inspire new thinking, fresh momentum, and exciting opportunities", says Dario Urbinati, CEO Gallus Group. "Labelexpo has always been an inspiring world stage where innovation and collaboration come together, serving as a reminder that real, meaningful industry transformation doesn't happen in isolation.

Success in this industry requires collaboration across the value chain, and the more expertise, ideas, and ambition we bring together, the greater the opportunities for everyone to thrive.

"The latest innovations and strategic partnerships we're unveiling at this year's event demonstrate how Gallus is steadily removing barriers to digital adoption, growth, and lasting success," he continues. "Through close collaboration with industry leaders and by truly listening to our customers, we're turning our vision of a smart, connected print future into a tangible reality – empowering converters to confidently embrace what lies ahead and reshape their trajectory for greater success."

The upcoming show announcements build on the momentum of recent developments from Gallus, including the recent launch of its new Gallus MatteJet technology for the Gallus One. Developed at the Gallus Experience Center and launched earlier this year for the production of profitable, in-line digital labels with a high-end matte finish, the solution has already seen a strong initial reception from the market.

MatteJet in turn followed previous milestone innovations such as the Gallus One and the continued evolution of the System to Compose modular platform. Collectively, these launches reflect Gallus' focus on addressing customer challenges, removing barriers to digital adoption, and supporting the long-term transformation of the label printing industry.

Dario Urbinati, concludes: "We're really looking forward to welcoming visitors to the joint HEIDELBERG and Gallus booth at Labelexpo – not only to reveal our latest solutions, but to invite the industry to explore what's possible when we solve challenges together."

Paper's next chapter: innovation, sustainability, and growth

The digital evolution has transformed demand for paper and sparked a wave of innovation.

Future growth in the paper and forest products industry will reflect population expansion, economic development, and rising consumer preferences for environmentally friendly products, according to research from McKinsey.

Demographic shifts and consumer trends such as the demand for convenience and sustainability will influence consumer packaging while e-commerce will promote growth in transport packaging over the next several years.

This changing landscape is driving pioneering approaches and fresh product diversification that meet the expectations of environmentally conscious consumers.

They include innovative alternatives to:

Pulp fibres A wide variety of renewable sources can be used including agricultural residues (e.g. straw, corn stalks), grasses (e.g. switchgrass, miscanthus), and fast growing crops like bamboo and hemp. Moving away from traditional wood fibres helps paper manufacturers reduce their environmental impact.

They can also support the production of high quality, environmentally friendly pulp and paper products that meet the increasing consumer demand for sustainable products. Examples include Favini's Tree Free family that uses bamboo and Shiro Alga Carta conceived as a way to use the damaging algae in the Venice Lagoon, Fedrigoni's Bamboo WS FSC self adhesive range, and Antalis's Curious Particles options.

Plastic Renewable and biodegradable paper based packaging offers a solution to the international reliance on single use plastics. The challenge is to create a solution that meets the expected environmental and performance standards. Finland's Metsä Group has developed its Muoto™ 3D fibre line, that uses moulded pulp technology to create lightweight, durable



packaging solutions. Smurfit Westrock's Better Planet Packaging Initiative aims to redefine packaging as a sustainable, circular solution, and has resulted in the creation of AgroPaper™, a degradable paper alternative to plastic film in agriculture, which can enrich the soil post-use; TopClip™, a recyclable alternative to shrink wrap for multipack beverage cans popular among breweries; and paper pallet wrap, a stretchable paper that can replace plastic stretch film in logistics.

Synthetic textile fibres Dissolving pulp has been developed to replace non-renewable synthetic fibres like polyester and nylon that are made from fossil fuels and used in textiles. Derived from wood cellulose, dissolving pulp can be transformed into regenerated fibres like viscose, lyocell, and modal. Many global pulp and paper companies are expanding their production to meet the textile industry's demand. Innovations in blockchain technology are also enhancing traceability - a growing priority for the fashion sector.

For example, Sappi's dissolving pulp brand Verve partnered with a key customer on 'Green Track' blockchain technology to provide a forest to garment traceability solution. Södra's OnceMore® initiative focuses on the circularity of textile fibres. The industrial scale recycling process combines textile waste with responsibly sourced wood fibres to

create virgin quality dissolving pulp. It separates polyester from cotton, reusing the cotton to create OnceMore pulp while incinerating the polyester to generate energy for its operations. Antalis's Refit also transforms textile remnants into sustainable paper grades.

Advances in the papermaking process itself have resulted in high density papermaking and long-fibre papermaking. The former is ideally suited to applications in packaging and industrial sectors where robust materials are essential, while the latter's superior printability and aesthetic appeal make it a preferred choice for premium publications and marketing collateral.

Innovations in machine learning have also optimised fibre blending processes, allowing for precise control over paper properties such as strength, opacity, and surface finish. While Nanotechnology is being used to incorporate nanoparticles into paper coatings to improve printability, moisture resistance, and durability. It enables powder fixation processes that reduce the environmental footprint of paper production by minimising chemical usage.

These solutions illustrate how the industry is progressing in many ways to address consumer demand for environmentally responsible solutions.

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Sagar Scan brings modern flexo to India's Eastern region with FLEXCEL NX System

East Indian printers and converters have a new source of flexo prepress services following Sagar Scan Pvt Ltd's investment in a FLEXCEL NX Wide 4260 System from Miraclon. The device was sold and installed at Sagar Scan's new flexo-only production hub in Kolkata by Monotech, Miraclon's channel partner in the region.



Sagar is an established name in the Eastern zone for gravure and offset prepress solutions. The company was founded in Patna in 1988, initially serving the gravure market, and expanded into offset in 2004. In 2023 Sagar completed its portfolio of prepress solutions, diversifying into flexo prepress with the acquisition of Kolkata prepress provider Fine Flexo.

“With the addition of flexo we are now a ‘holistic’ pre-press solutions provider,” explains Subodh Gupta, managing director of Sagar Scan, adding that the Eastern zone “presents significant opportunities for the company to build a presence in the mid-web market for flexo

labels and packaging. Flexo is taking off in the region — in the last year or so a number of new flexo presses have come on-stream, serving Kolkata and beyond, including West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand. Our plan is to grow alongside this expanding base of presses and enable printers to maximize the benefits of modern flexo with FLEXCEL NX Technology.”

Several trends account for flexo's take-up in the region, believes Subodh. “Talking to customers, there's a recognition that offset has its limitations in terms of automation and inline production, both of which matter when skilled operators

are scarce. Flexo is an excellent choice for printers and converters looking to grow through diversification — it has the distinct advantage of providing consistent, predictable and repeatable print results on short and long runs, which is a big advantage over other processes.”

Amit Koul, sales manager for North & East India and Bangladesh, concludes: “The FLEXCEL NX Wide 4260 System delivers benefits to a wide range of players in the flexo printing industry: trade shops, flexo platemakers, and even printer-converters looking to bring their plate production in-house. By minimizing press stoppages, improving printing speeds, and helping achieve sustainability goals, the FLEXCEL NX System delivers the benefits of modern flexo to printer-converters. It also empowers them with ease of use; from prepress operators to pressroom personnel, everyone involved in the packaging value chain experiences a simplified workflow.”

“gives our customers access to the best flexo plate technology that enables them to get the most out of their press investment. FLEXCEL NX Plates are known and chosen for their quality and consistent performance on press, and the control that is vital for producing challenging work. Any leading trade shops that wish to cater to a wide spectrum of customers, especially those looking for technology that brings greater value on press, invest in FLEXCEL NX Technology.”



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UPM Specialty Papers



Technologies for the entire process chain

Koenig & Bauer has always been present in the growth market of label production with sheetfed offset technology. Recently, we have been offering technical solutions for the entire label production process chain – printing, die-cutting and blanking.

From printing to blanking

Let's begin with Koenig & Bauer's classic domain of printing. As a high-end sheetfed offset press for the 3b format class, the Rapida 106 X sets the standards in terms of automation with production speeds of up to 22,000 sheets/h. That level of output yields a printed area equivalent to 2.4 football pitches every hour!

Koenig & Bauer has installed a Rapida 106 X configured specifically for label production in the Customer Experience Centre at its Radebeul location – with an RS 106 X reel-to-sheet feeder, seven printing units, an inline coater, extended delivery and a cold foil module. By combining flexibility, quality, performance and a diversity of finishing options, it is the ideal sheetfed offset printing press for label production.

High substrate flexibility

The Rapida 106 X handles the full range of substrates found in the labels segment: label papers in sheets and from the reel, mainly between 70 and 90 g/m², coated and uncoated, and of course in-mould films as well, for example as reel stock with a thickness of 50 to 90 µm and in white or transparent variants.

The conversion from sheet feeding to reel-based production, or vice versa, is completed within two to three minutes and with a bare minimum of manual intervention thanks to the RS 106 X reel-to-sheet feeder. The feeder and sheeter are designed to ensure full accessibility and thus guarantee maximum substrate flexibility.

Broad variety of economical inline finishing options

Economical, high-quality inline finishing has always been a strength of the Rapida sheetfed offset press range. Two innovations at the coaters are pivotal for the automation of job changeovers:

1. All functions of the fully automatic coating plate changer CPC+ can be controlled from the press console. There is essentially no longer a difference between printing and coating plate changing: all manual intervention is eliminated, no tools are required, and the changing times are also identical.

2. The AniloxLoader system has also allowed anilox roller changes to become highly automated. Three different anilox rollers are stored in the magazine on the coater and can be selected at the press



Rapida 106 X in a typical configuration for label production: seven printing units, RS 106 X reel-to-sheet feeder, cold foil module, inline coater with AniloxLoader and extended delivery

the label production



RS 106 X reel-to-sheet feeder in production with IML film

of a button. It goes without saying that the anilox rollers in the magazine can be swapped at any time. That provides for practically unlimited flexibility when it comes to coating application.

The cold foil module FoilTronic further extends the finishing options to include 3D effects, counterfeiting protection and other special effects used to visually refine labels and folding cartons. And as if that were not enough: process automation – for example, automatic threading of the foil web – has slashed makeready time further still and also ensures that optimum use is made of the expensive cold foil, allowing savings during the production process.

Non-stop IML production

Another innovation for IML production is the automated hurdle delivery. This provides for smear-free and non-stop production with small batches of the conventionally printed IML labels gathered into separate piles. The individual hurdles are created fully automatically by the Rapida in the process, allowing the operator to insert the supports and board with no stress whatsoever. Higher production outputs are possible and the smear-free, unblocked pile can be passed on for further processing without problems.

Ultimate print quality

Koenig & Bauer offers various equipment packages for print quality control, each of which is tailored precisely to the needs of the respective application. The standard system is QualiTronic ColorControl for inline colour density control based on measurements in a colour bar. A brand new alternative is QualiTronic Image+, a control system which does away with colour bars. Measurements are performed directly in solid colour elements that are part of the image, or else placed in the print-free spaces between the individual

blanks. It is no longer necessary to set aside space on the sheet for a colour bar. Further expansion levels in inline quality control are:

- QualiTronic PrintCheck: sheet inspection
- QualiTronic PDFCheck: additional comparison of the printed sheet with the pre-press PDF
- QualiTronic PDF HighRes: especially high-resolution inline inspection at 290 dpi, thereby also enabling content monitoring

The rotary die-cutter CutPRO X 106 sets new standards in terms of die-cutting output, job changeover times and die-cutting quality in label production



Unrivalled performance – also in die-cutting

With the rotary die-cutter CutPRO X 106, Koenig & Bauer has had a perfect means of production for label finishing in its portfolio for some years now. The die-cutter runs at speeds of up to 16,000 sheets/h and is therefore on a par with conventional printing presses. It handles both ultra-thin in mould films and label papers of all kinds.

A film-handling package with high-performance antistatic systems forms the basis for stable processes and precise pile formation when using particularly sensitive materials. The “Click & Cut” register pin system positions the process forms on the cylinder without additional manual intervention. Makeready times can thereby be reduced to less than five minutes. The perfect pile quality also permits immediate further processing of the die-cut sheets.

On both the in mould and paper label markets, it is often the case that small pieces of waste must be removed from within the blanks. To cater for this, Koenig & Bauer has developed a special hole punching and extraction feature



The hurdle delivery improves pile formation when printing on IML films and similar substrates

for the CutPRO X 106. In a separate die-cutting unit, waste elements ranging from ones with a diameter of 5 mm up to small windows can be cut out within or between the blanks and be removed immediately – all in an inline process. Master Blanker BLK for high-speed blanking

The Master Blanker system separates the individual blanks making up a sheet. In

this case, too, fast job changeovers and ultimate production speeds are placed in the foreground. This process involves separating blanks from the remaining waste by way of pins or a blanking tool. The combination of rotary die-cutter and blanker can handle the same throughput as several flat-bed die-cutters. The system delivers precise blank stacks for direct further processing or shipment to the customer.



UV ANALYZER FOR UV AND LED UV UNITS

The UV Analyzer is a app-based UV radiation measuring device.

The measuring is quite easy. Put the strip on your substrate, irradiate it with UV and measure the strip with the stick. The app will show you the measured dose in mJ/cm². This dose value can be compared with your reference value to determine aging.



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Giving Shape to Ideas

New era in high-speed inkjet printing begins

Agfa's latest inkjet innovation passes key milestone as SpeedSet Orca begins daily operations at The Delta Group

Agfa is celebrating a major innovation milestone as its customer The Delta Group completed beta testing of the new SpeedSet Orca – a versatile single-pass water-based digital press that redefines inkjet printing as we know it.

The Delta Group, a London-based visual communications leader, made headlines in 2024 when it agreed to become the first company in the world to trial the SpeedSet Orca. After a successful installation and testing phase, the press is now making daily production runs and will begin shift work imminently – a major milestone in the Orca's journey to full commercial availability.

The SpeedSet Orca is a single-pass water-based solution that promises to be the most productive B1 Inkjet press on the market, with top speeds of up to 11,000 B1 sheets per hour. Its flexibility enables it to produce short run jobs more cost-effectively, while offering comparable quality to offset and flexo printing. As a digital solution, make-ready times and printing consumables are eliminated, supporting converters in reducing waste and cutting changeover times between jobs, improving efficiency across the production floor.



"I want to thank the team at Delta for their commitment and cooperation. Putting the SpeedSet Orca through its paces in the real-world production environment of a market leader like The Delta Group has been a privilege for us. We could not ask for a better proving ground for this pioneering innovation.

Richard Cotterill
Global Sales Manager - Packaging

Its offset-like quality, wide color gamut, and inline digital primer and varnishing capabilities mean it can be used to complement existing offset and flexo production lines. It can also handle an extensive range of substrates including folding cartons, microflute, and paper, putting it in a class of its own compared to other digital presses on the market.

Martin's enthusiasm for the new press was matched by Richard Cotterill, Global Sales Manager – Packaging at Agfa's Digital Printing Solutions division. "Our friends at Delta have proven the SpeedSet Orca is the most advanced digital press that can meet the needs of today's converters. But it's also designed for tomorrow, supporting converters as they expand into new markets with better print quality and a wider range of substrates. SpeedSet Orca is the crest of the digital wave, marking a new era for digital print and packaging."

"We had high hopes for the new press and we are delighted to see that it has exceeded them. It offers speed, quality and sustainability benefits that are key to our digital transformation.

The press is so versatile that we can utilize it for a wide variety of applications using different fiber-based substrates. We can run jobs that we would have traditionally run on our offset lines, giving us much more flexibility on the production floor without compromising quality.

Martin Shipp
COO of The Delta Group



Powerful by nature.



SPEEDSET
ORCA
1060



Productivity	Up to 11,000 B1 sheets/hour
Width	Up to 1060 mm x 750 mm (41.7 inch x 29.5 inch)
Colors	CMYK (up to 7 colors optional) + primer + varnish

Dive into a sea of opportunities

Are you a packaging converter seeking a cost-effective way to print short runs of packaging? Capable of printing at killer speeds, the SpeedSet Orca 1060 sheetfed water-based inkjet press is set to make massive waves in the packaging printing market. With its stunning quality and its capability to handle a wide range of media, this cost-effective solution will enable you to dive into a sea of opportunities.

> www.agfa.com/orca

AGFA 

Replika Press Pvt. Ltd. Commissions the ROLAND 708 Evolution

Replika Press Pvt. Ltd., one of India's foremost providers of advanced packaging solutions, has successfully commissioned the ROLAND 708 Evolution from Manroland Sheetfed.



The installation was completed smoothly thanks to close collaboration with Manroland's expert team, and the press is now fully operational. This milestone represents another significant step in Replika's ongoing commitment to technological advancement and industry leadership.

With state-of-the-art facilities and a strong focus on quality, Replika delivers premium solutions for rigid gift boxes, printed folded cartons, liner cartons, and corrugation boxes. The company's extensive in-house finishing capabilities, ranging from lamination, UV, foil stamping, embossing, varnishing, to advanced security features, allow it to provide complete end-to-end services.

Serving leading brands across sectors including mobile devices, perfumes, pharmaceuticals, fast-moving consumer goods, electronics, and retail, Replika has built a reputation for excellence and reliability.

The commissioning of the ROLAND 708 Evolution strengthens this foundation by equipping Replika with cutting-edge printing technology designed for maximum efficiency and precision. The Evolution series is renowned for its advanced automation,

consistent color stability, reduced waste, and faster makeready times. With these capabilities, Replika is positioned to further optimize its production processes while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

For a company that consistently seeks to anticipate and exceed customer expectations, the integration of the ROLAND 708 Evolution underscores

Replika's long-term strategy of continuous investment in innovation. By expanding its technological capabilities, Replika ensures that it can respond to the increasing demands of global markets where speed, flexibility, and flawless execution are crucial to success.

This successful commissioning also highlights the strong partnership between Replika and Manroland Sheetfed, rooted in shared values of innovation, expertise, and customer focus. With the ROLAND 708 Evolution now in full operation, Replika is not only enhancing its capacity but also reinforcing its position as a leader in the Indian packaging industry, ready to set new benchmarks in print performance and production excellence.



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Oji opens South Asia's second-largest corrugated plant in Sri City

In March, Oji India Packaging, a subsidiary of the global Oji Group, inaugurated its Sri City plant. This was its fifth and largest unit in India for producing corrugated boxes and packaging accessories in South Asia.



The new automated plant in Sri City spanning 43,000 square metre is also touted to be the largest unit producing corrugated boxes and packaging accessories in South Asia

This expansion underscores Oji India's dedication to meeting the escalating demand for sustainable and high-quality corrugated packaging solutions across South India.

As per a statement from the group, "Backed by the confidence of our valued customers, our Sri City plant has taken off smoothly and is now operating with precision and consistency."

A company spokesperson said, the Oji India Packaging factory at Sri City is "A plant where systems, people, and machines work in perfect sync. From raw material to final dispatch, every stage reflects our commitment to quality, consistency, and customer satisfaction."

Hiroyuki Isono, the president and Group CEO of Oji Holdings Corporation, has been emphasising India's pivotal role in Oji Group's global growth strategy. He highlighted the new plant as a comprehensive solution for South India's packaging needs, built on principles

of sustainability and innovation, and acknowledged Sri City's support in facilitating the timely establishment of the plant.

The Oji India plant is an automated facility spanning 43,000-sqmt, designed to meet the increasing demand for corrugated boxes in South India with an annual capacity of 100-million-sqmt. The company employs more than a hundred people and plans to expand its workforce to 300, demonstrating its commitment

to job creation and skill development. Specialising in heavy-duty boxes and packaging solutions, Oji India supports various industries, enhancing product protection, efficiency, and sustainability. Its presence in Sri City strengthens the industrial ecosystem and optimises supply chains for manufacturers.

Established in 2012, Oji India has INR 245 crore of authorised capital and INR 242.95 crore of paid-up capital.



Consul General of Japan in Chennai, Muneo Takahashi, lighting a lamp to inaugurate the plant of Oji India Packaging Private Limited, at Sri City in Tirupati district on Friday.



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Connect to Grow —

Advancing Real-Time Packaging Visualization and Artwork Automation

Hybrid Software's Brandz business unit announces the release of iC3D version 11, delivering powerful new features that enhance three-dimensional packaging visualization and artwork automation. Built for packaging designers, brand owners,...

Hybrid Software's Brandz business unit announces the release of iC3D version 11, delivering powerful new features that enhance three-dimensional packaging visualization and artwork automation. Built for packaging designers, brand owners, and prepress professionals, iC3D v11 accelerates packaging development and ensures design precision across every stage of production.

The latest version introduces expanded artwork layout tools with support for custom stand-up pouches, sachets, and pillow bags. These new layout editors allow users to design uniquely shaped flexible packaging while generating accurate, print-ready artwork layouts. This update reduces manual setup time and improves layout precision, making it easier for prepress and design teams to prepare packaging for production.

Also new in version 11 is the Capture 3D Analyzer, a tool that evaluates the

repeatability of shrink sleeve and metal can production processes. By comparing multiple models and generating a color-coded heat map, the analyzer quickly highlights inconsistencies, helping brands maintain quality control and make more confident production decisions.

iC3D v11 now supports the Adobe Illustrator 2026 plugin, offering seamless integration with creative workflows. Combined with iC3D's real-time 3D rendering and flexible layout tools, users can move from concept to production faster—without waiting for external rendering or relying on disconnected file handoffs.

"Our goal with iC3D version 11 was to remove friction from the packaging design process," said Heath Luetkens, Sales Director of Americas at Hybrid Brandz. "By combining fast, accurate 3D visualization with precise layout tools, we're helping brands eliminate delays,

iC3D for beers, wines & spirits



For POS and cartons



reduce costs, and confidently move from digital to physical packaging—at their own pace, without workflow restrictions."

Trusted by global brands in food, beauty, and retail, iC3D supports Hybrid Software's 3D solutions and works alongside Artflow, Hybrid's cloud-based artwork approval platform. Together, they provide end-to-end control for brands looking to streamline packaging development, ensure brand consistency, and speed up time to market. Learn more at www.ic3dsoftware.com.

For the beauty industry



Food



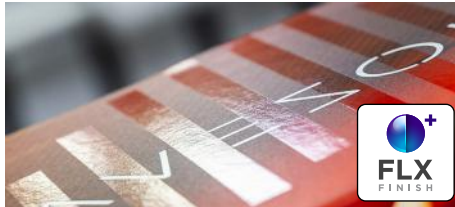
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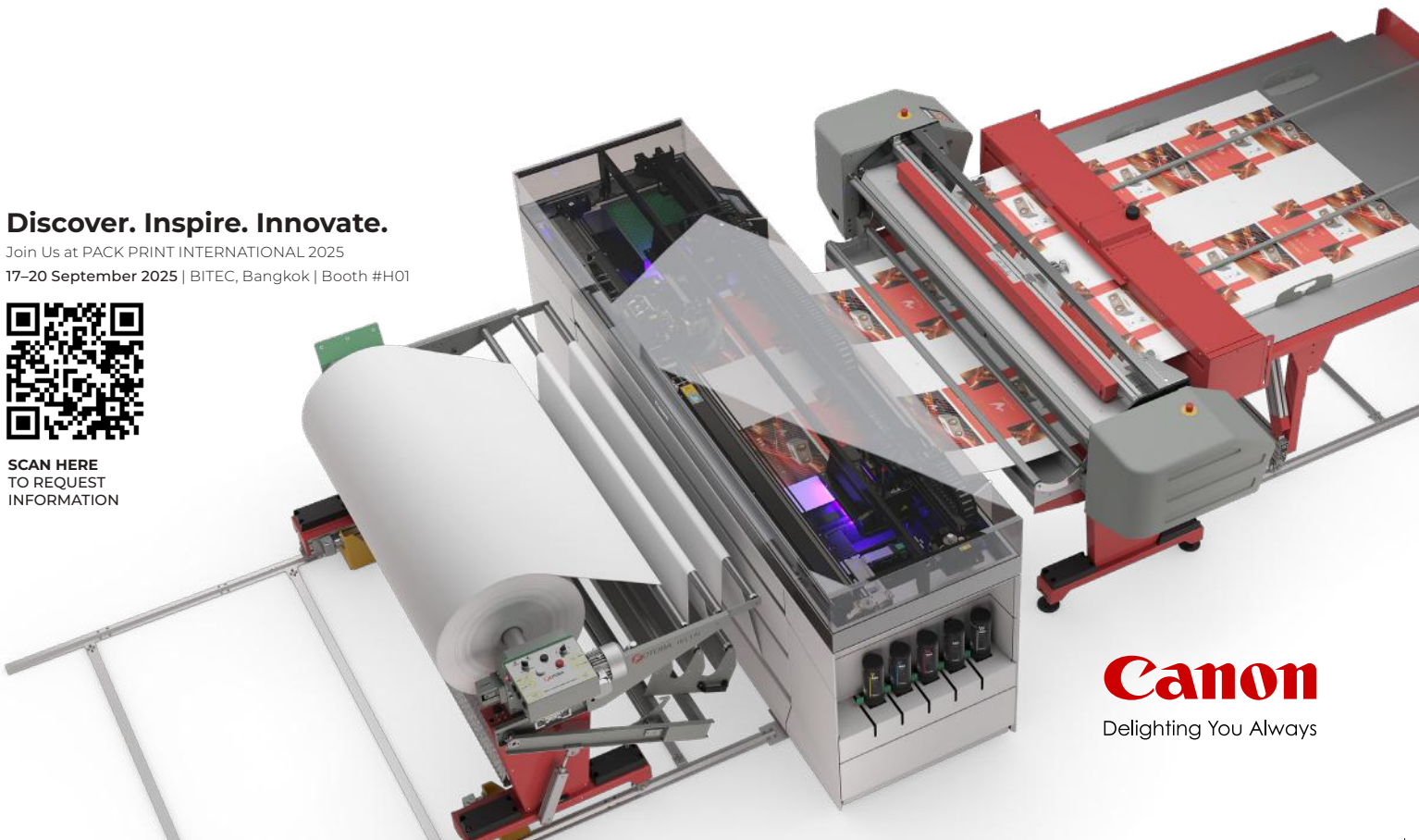
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Profit generation: Why embellishments are helping PSPs shine

Profitability has been the number one concern for printing operations in multiple surveys recently.

Fears that competitors are pricing below cost topped the British Printing Industry Federation's Printing Outlook Q2 2025. Profitability was the leading area of concern for respondents in a Printing United Alliance and NAPCO Research state of the printing industry survey.

Competitive pricing is a major theme shaping the industry with pressure on cost effectiveness and operational efficiency driving many technology developments.

However, while productivity improvements may support greater capacity, this often leads to tighter profit margins.

Larger businesses can benefit from appropriate economies of scale and absorb price first strategies, but this makes it harder for smaller operations to compete solely on price.

As such, attention is turning to exploring ways of increasing profit margins and there is growing interest in embellishments.

In fact, generating profit was the main reason the majority of respondents (54%) in the 2025 Taktiful/WhatTheyThink Digital Embellishment Study added digital embellishment capabilities.

The findings also showed:

- Two thirds of respondents (65%) are satisfied with the profits they make from digital embellishment jobs.
- 35% said that digital embellishment jobs were “always” more profitable than regular CMYK jobs, while 44% said they “usually” are.

So, it was no surprise to hear the survey also found 88% of respondents said

their clients are keen to learn more about digital embellishment capabilities.

This interest is obviously affecting investment plans. According to Keypoint Intelligence's 2024 Color Embellishments 30% of respondents were looking to purchase a printer or press that can produce embellishments inline in the coming year.

However, the digital embellishment study found that only 37% of respondents are satisfied with their sales of these jobs. This is where partnering with the right technology expertise can be critical.

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HEIDELBERG

From screen printing business to full-service large format print provider

QPS Print, a English large format print specialist, has installed a Fujifilm Acuity Prime flatbed printer to expand its production capabilities and take on higher volume work.

Now in its 40th year, QPS Print began as a screen printing business before evolving into a full-service large format print provider. With a team of 25 skilled staff, QPS Print serves both trade and end-user customers across many sectors, including retail, leisure, hospitality and education to name a few – producing everything from signage to point-of-sale displays, murals and wall graphics and much more.

The business offers an end-to-end service, from concept and design through to manufacture, dispatch and installation, and has a long-standing relationship with Fujifilm, having worked with the company since the start of Fujifilm's digital print era.

Jamie Copeland, Managing Director, QPS Print, comments: "Along with other Fujifilm products, the Prime will be our fourth Fujifilm Acuity machine. We looked at a number of machines, but the confidence we've built over the years in Fujifilm's products, service and support made it an easy decision to opt for the Acuity Prime."

Installed early 2025, the Acuity Prime has already delivered major gains in speed and productivity. Despite having the same bed size as previous machines, the uplift in performance has enabled QPS Print to take on longer print runs that were previously unfeasible due to time constraints or cost.

Mr. Copeland adds: "The Acuity Prime offers a significant uplift in productivity over our older machines; the speed and capacity were the biggest drivers for us. The additional throughput allows us to remain competitive and deliver on larger jobs that we could not do previously. The Acuity Prime has also helped us become more efficient in production – partly due to the efficiency of LED curing lamps compared to the previous less efficient ink curing system, reducing both energy



costs and the need for ongoing lamp replacement."

The printer utilises Fujifilm's Uvjet UV ink range, which is specially designed for the Acuity Prime. Mr. Copeland comments: "The vibrancy of colour is excellent along with increased ink coverage giving a great print finish onto all substrates".

With the improved speed and capacity, the new Acuity Prime has allowed QPS Print to target nationwide opportunities.

Mr. Copeland comments: "The investment in the latest machine allows us to expand our market and has given us new opportunities to go beyond local clients. We now have the capacity and are in a much stronger position to manage larger orders and service clients nationwide."

Looking ahead, QPS Print is considering replacing older printers with new Acuity Prime models. "For the speed and cost in use, the Acuity Prime is an exceptional

machine," says Mr. Copeland. "There's every chance we'll look to upgrade in the near future with additional Fujifilm machines."

With an ongoing partnership of twenty years, QPS Print was supported in the sales and installation process. Mr. Copeland comments: "The Fujifilm team were excellent throughout – we visited Fujifilm's Broadstairs facility for machine demonstrations, and Fujifilm then conducted site surveys here at QPS and ensured everything was in place ahead of installation. The installation itself was completed in just a few days."

Andy Webb, Head of Inkjet and Packaging UK, at Fujifilm, comments: "We're delighted to see QPS Print building on their long-standing relationship with Fujifilm by investing in the Acuity Prime. It's a versatile, efficient and high-performing printer designed to meet the challenges of today's large format market. We're proud to support QPS Print as they expand their capabilities and take on exciting new opportunities."

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Explore the possibilities
beyond the standard
CMYK printing with
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Cutting edge technologies and industry shaping collaborations

ACTEGA, manufacturer of specialty coatings, inks, adhesives, sealants and compounds for the print and packaging industry, will showcase its latest solutions, partner and customer collaborations and advanced labelling technologies at Labelexpo Europe 2025

Combining quality, functionality, and sustainability, these innovations demonstrate how ACTEGA helps brands achieve their environmental and performance goals.

ACTEGA's Growing ECOLEAF Partnerships Helping to Set a New Standard in Metallic Embellishment

Visitors will see live demonstrations of ECOLEAF, ACTEGA's on-demand metallization technology, configured with a Gallus One Digital Press. ACTEGA and Gallus' established partnership has recently been extended to include ECOLEAF technology, as Dario Urbinati, CEO of Gallus Group, explains, "Our collaboration with ACTEGA is built on the shared mission to foster industry-wide innovation and drive smart, connected printing."

By combining ECOLEAF technology and the Gallus One platform, printers and converters will gain new opportunities for creative, flexible, and sustainable digital label production."

Considered the 'new standard' in sustainable, metallic label embellishment, on-demand metallization is helping converters and brand owners reduce their carbon footprint while delivering eye-catching labels and packaging designs.

Marco Van Hooff, CCO, Reynders label printing, comments, "1kg of ECOLEAF flakes replaces 3,000kg of foil. As industry innovators, this is a carbon footprint reduction that we cannot ignore. Our on-demand metallization solution, called S-Sential, is a true game-changer, and we're proud to integrate it into our portfolio of technical capabilities that make Reynders known in the market.

All the brands we have spoken to about S-Sential are excited about the opportunity and sustainable benefits it brings. It's not just the CO2 and waste reduction, such as eliminating the PET carrier film, that makes S-Sential compelling. It's also the quick turnarounds achievable and the creative possibilities to use shiny metallization to differentiate your products."

Samples from several well-known industry leaders utilizing ECOLEAF technology to provide brands with stand-out labels will be showcased on the ACTEGA stand, including Reynders and All4Labels.

Paola Iannone, VP Marketing & Communications at All4Labels, commented, "Our STARSHINE™ product range leverages on-demand metallization to deliver stunning metallic effects for self-adhesive labels. The rapid expansion of our STARSHINE™ offering across Europe demonstrates our commitment to delivering this solution to the brands we serve. Our sites in Italy, Germany, and the UK are already equipped with this cutting-edge technology, and plans are underway to install it in Romania and France this year." Signite® Applicator Technology to Make Labelexpo Debut

ACTEGA's strong partnership with All4Labels extends to another product within the company's STAR™ Portfolio. Signite®, developed by ACTEGA, is a unique decoration technology combining patented sustainable solutions and state-of-the-art application machinery.

This transformative decoration solution for glass and PET and aluminum



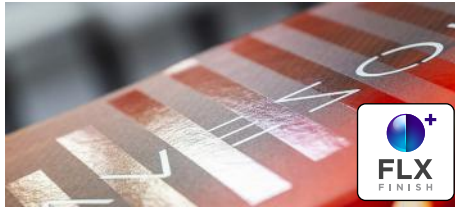
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FLXfinish+

Achieve matte, gloss, or mixed finishes in one pass with FLXfinish+, adding vibrant textures to your packaging and labels.

FLXture

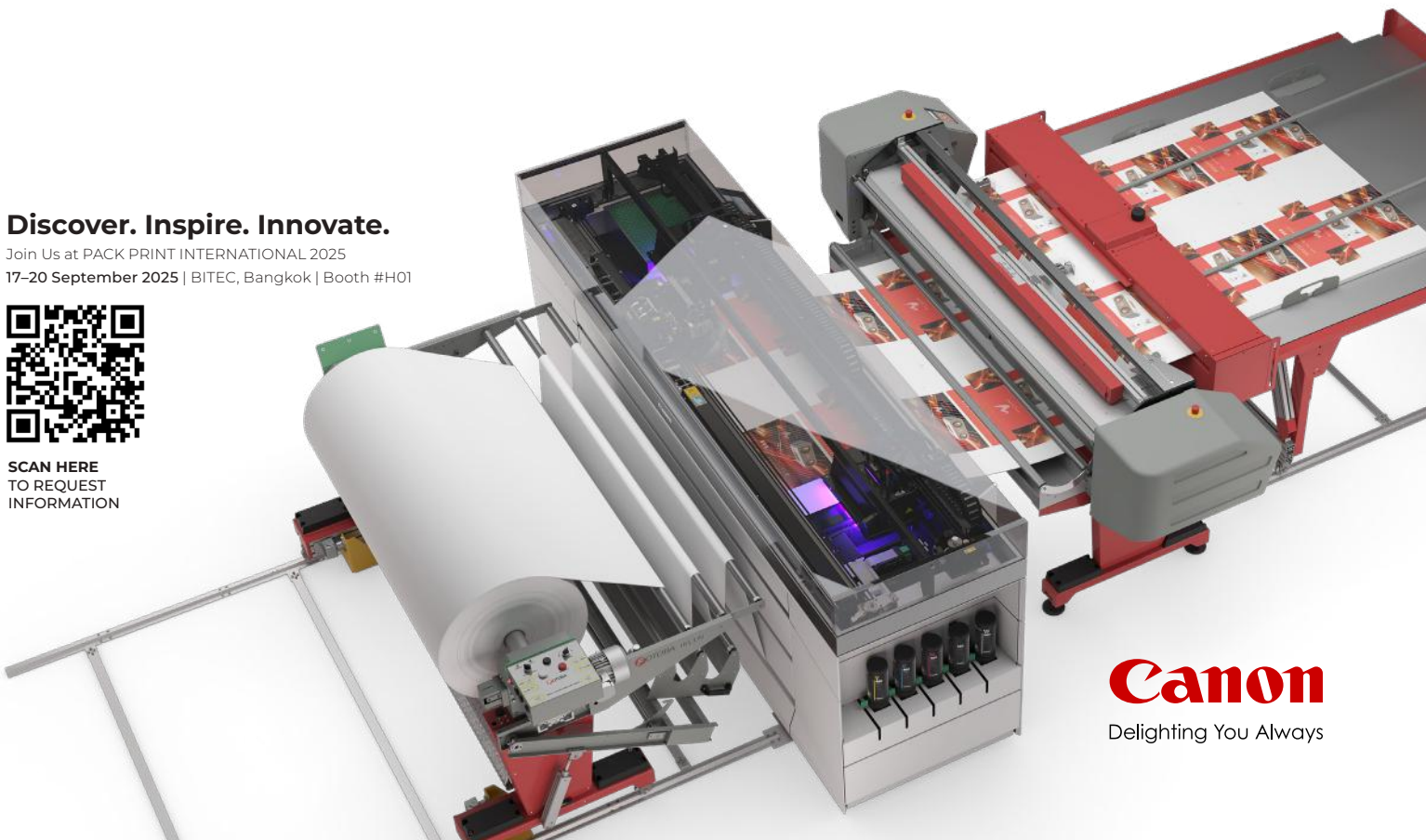
Add a luxurious tactile feel with FLXture. Create unique surface details for a next-level sensory experience using PRISMAguide XL software.

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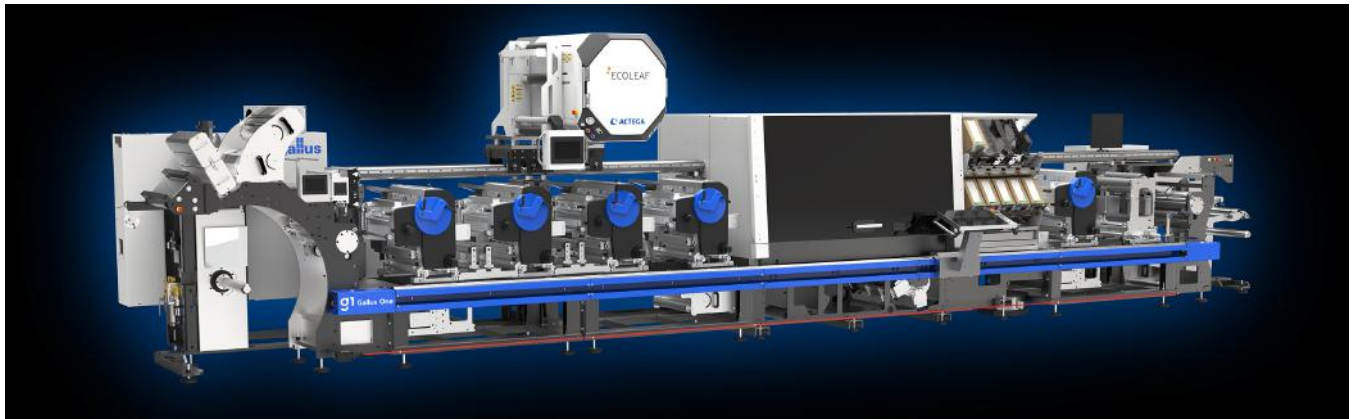
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containers will be making its Labelexpo Europe debut this year and is exclusively available through All4Labels in Europe, South and Central America under the STARDIRECT(TM) brand.

This innovation delivers approximately 30% lower Global Warming Potential (GWP 100, kg CO₂ eq.) than similarly sized pressure-sensitive labels or shrink sleeves. This is due to the dramatically reduced substrates required to create this high-quality 'no label look', with no die-cutting required and therefore, no label matrix to dispose of either. In addition to the sustainable benefits, these ultra-thin decoration with no face-stock allow customers to produce over 40% more Signite® labels per roll, reducing label shipping costs and changeover times.

ACTEGA's Latest High Performance, High Impact Label Coatings

Under the motto "From Challenge to Collaboration", ACTEGA will also showcase its innovative coatings product portfolio for pressure-sensitive labels, shrink sleeves, and in-mold labels. ACTEGA's advanced coatings include gloss, matte, motion effects, and cutting-edge UV and LED coatings.

With these products, ACTEGA empowers printers and converters to achieve exceptional aesthetics, functionality, and durability while addressing key technical challenges such as scratch resistance, slide angle, and adhesion. An extensive selection of print samples will be available to view and take home.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to see ACTEGA's coatings being applied to labels being printed around the show. The Gallus stand will feature ACTEGA coatings in live production with their presses as well as numerous, stunning coated samples for visitors to study and take inspiration from. It promises to be a

hands-on opportunity to see exactly how these two companies' combined expertise can deliver exceptional end results.

They have also announced a new partnership with FUJIFILM Integrated Inkjet Solutions, a leading developer of integrated inkjet products. The collaboration has enabled the latest technical advance to be made to ACTEGA's 'mindful metallization' ECOLEAF solution. All ECOLEAF units can now be equipped with a FUJIFILM 46kUV Inkjet Printbar to print a higher resolution trigger image consistently and reliably.

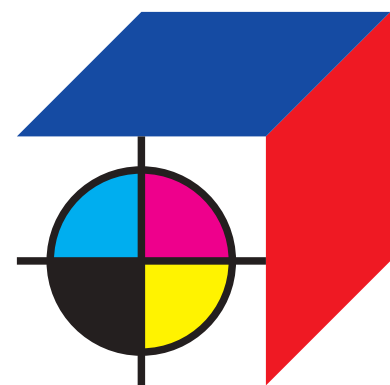
The ECOLEAF on-demand metallization process is already renowned for its benefits over traditional foiling methods when it comes to embellishing intricate

image details or even small text elements on a label. The FUJIFILM 46kUV Printbar further increases this accuracy from 600dpi to 1200dpi whilst also ensuring the process can be fully digital, therefore, strengthening the flexible, on-demand, short notice production benefits that customers opting for a fully digital process can take advantage of.

The collaboration between ACTEGA and Fujifilm also further strengthens ACTEGA's global customer support network. With ACTEGA's innovative approach to sustainable solutions and Fujifilm's trusted reputation for robust, cutting-edge technology, businesses can have even more confidence in their decision to switch to ECOLEAF metallization to support their customers' ESG targets.



- Visitors will discover stunning new customer samples and live demonstrations of ACTEGA's on demand metallization technology, ECOLEAF, configured with a Gallus One Digital Press
- For the first time at Labelexpo. Signite® application machinery will be decorating glass and PET bottles
- ACTEGA will also showcase its innovative coatings product portfolio for pressure-sensitive labels, shrink sleeves, and in-mold labels
- Partnerships with industry leaders will underpin ACTEGA's story of continued success and market excellence



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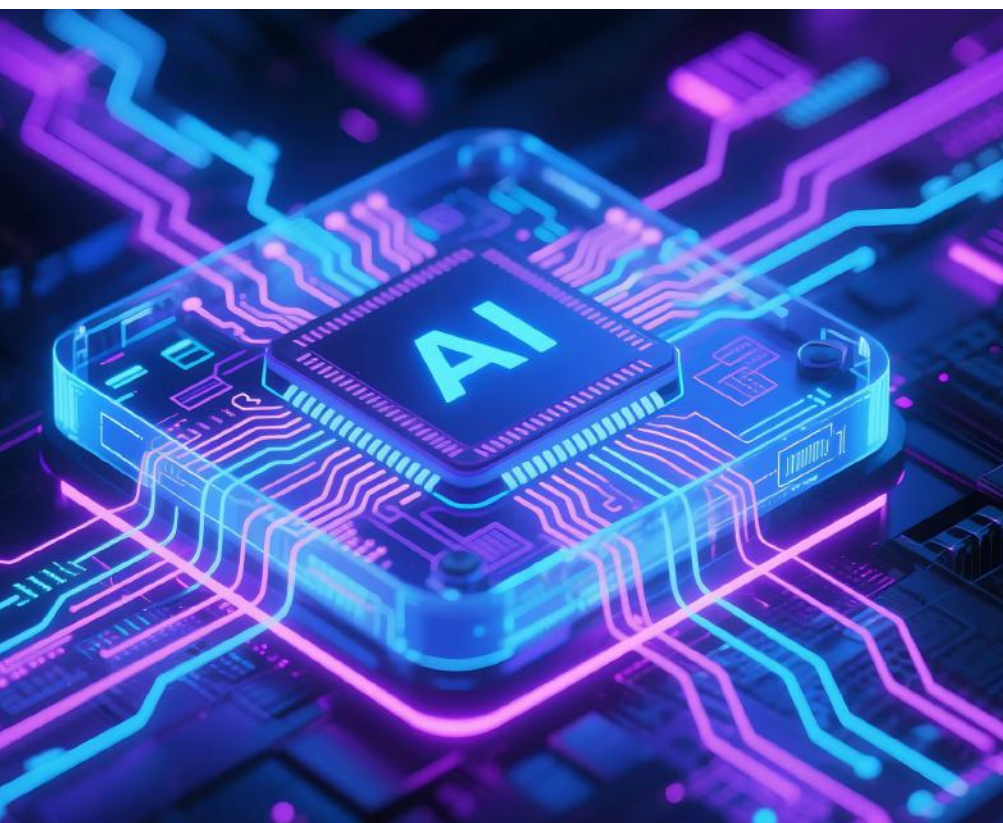
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How PSPs can drive client engagement with AI

What is Artificial Intelligence's role in the printing industry? For many it is limited to powering chatbots on their websites, automating order intake, managing prepress tasks, optimising some press settings, or informing predictive maintenance. All very useful of course.



47% of organisations use basic AI tools like ChatGPT and Google according to Keypoint Intelligence. Just 13% reported a deeper company wide use of the technology.

Keypoint Intelligence's research went on to show operations can use AI to not only optimise existing processes, but to innovate and create new opportunities.

For example, AI can help anticipate market trends, enhance supply chains, and deliver highly personalised products or services based on customer behaviour and preferences.

AI-driven decision making can also enhance strategic planning by uncovering insights that may go unnoticed through human analysis alone.

Those operations that adopt advanced AI applications, can revolutionise how they operate and engage with customers too.

They can power predictive analytics, personalised customer experiences, and even dynamic decision making systems that continuously learn and adapt.

Marketers across many industries are already capitalising on what the technology can deliver:

55% that use AI rely on it for text based content creation. Additionally, 38% use AI for multimedia, including videos, images, and audio.

60% believe AI helps them personalise the customer experience.

51% apply AI to email marketing and newsletter platforms.

Print service providers (PSPs) can also incorporate AI possibilities into their services.

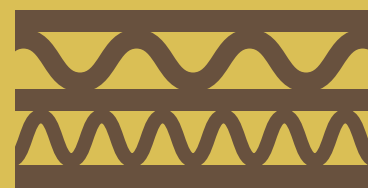
Those with in house design departments can enhance creativity and streamline the design process with tools that provide automatic suggestions regarding layouts, colour schemes, and even typography, based on the main body of work's content and context. They can quickly automatically enhance images, correct colours, remove backgrounds, and upscale resolutions without losing quality.

With campaign data analysis PSPs can help their clients produce highly customised designs that resonate well with the target audience. They can also review past orders and interactions to help predict future needs and better tailor marketing. This can help clients successfully manage their campaigns as well as develop and deliver more impactful customer engagement.

Artificial Intelligence provides a powerful toolkit to optimise current processes and push the boundaries of creativity, efficiency, and client engagement.

Internally it can help PSPs drive innovation and stand out in an increasingly competitive market by working smarter. Externally, it can allow stronger relationships to be created with clients by using up to the minute data to inform highly targeted, intelligent personalisation, which elevates their customer communications activities.

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Beyond the Box

How protected packaging is opening up new business models for printing companies

In today's dynamic economy, packaging has long since moved beyond its original function of simply protecting a product. It has evolved into a versatile tool that safeguards brands against counterfeiting, strengthens customer loyalty, and enables a transparent supply chain.

Pioneering technologies, presented by industry giants such as well-known brands, leading printing companies, are transforming the inconspicuous packaging into an intelligent asset. Let's delve into this exciting development and shed light on how it is sustainably expanding the business models of printing companies and the brands they serve.

Evolution of packaging: the emergence of a multi-talent

The latest industry presentations send a clear message: modern packaging does far more than just protect products. Today, it offers authentication, connectivity, traceability, and customer interaction possibilities all in one unit. This is made possible by innovative product protection solutions that are seamlessly integrated into the printing process. The focus here is on technologies such as:

Stegano – This elegant method invisibly conceals data within the artwork or varnish during the prepress stage. Even under strong magnification, these codes remain hidden to the naked eye and do not affect the original design. Verification

is straightforward via a smartphone app. Stegano is flexible in its application and offers various security and customisation levels, from simple varnish applications to full integration into the design and the development of bespoke apps.

Ovjera ("Certification") – A robust solution for the clear identification of products and packaging.

Daktylo ("Fingerprint") – This technology focuses on the unique characterisation of the individual features of a product or its packaging.

A crucial advantage of these technologies lies in their simple integration into existing printing processes. They can be used with standard inks, making their application particularly practical. The focus is on non-invasive and sustainable solutions that work both offline and offer multi-layered security. The visual appearance remains unchanged.

New perspectives for printing companies: from print service provider to security expert

For printing companies, these

advancements open up enormous potential for the further development of their business model.

Evolution into a value-added security consultant: Printing companies can expand their role beyond mere print services and position themselves as competent consultants for product and brand protection. By offering integrated authentication and traceability solutions, they provide a crucial added value that protects the integrity and sales of their clients.

Tapping into new revenue streams: Offering these advanced packaging solutions creates new business areas. These include licensing the technology, fees for the implementation and management of security features, as well as consulting services. The 'protected at print' initiative, highlighted in industry discussions, underscores this shift.

Stronger customer loyalty and new customer acquisition: Brands are increasingly looking for solutions to combat counterfeiting and intensify customer engagement. Printing companies that offer these technologies can attract new customers and build long-term, stronger relationships with existing ones by providing answers to these central needs.

Differentiation in a competitive environment: In a saturated market, a printing company can stand out from the competition by offering state-of-the-art security and interaction features.

This demonstrates innovation and a commitment to comprehensive solutions. Seamless integration into existing processes: Technologies like Stegano are designed to integrate easily into existing





prepress and printing workflows. This allows printing companies to offer these advanced services without necessarily having to completely overhaul their current processes or invest in entirely new machinery, especially for lower levels of protection.

Scalable offerings for different needs: The ability to offer various levels of protection allows printing companies to serve a broad spectrum of customers – from small businesses that need basic authentication to large corporations with complex traceability and individualised app experience requirements.

Strengthening brands: protection, interaction and valuable insights

For brands, the introduction of intelligent packaging solutions means significant competitive advantages and new growth opportunities, first and foremost, of course, robust brand protection – from protection against counterfeiting and



grey market control to the prevention of return fraud. Combating counterfeit products not only protects revenue and brand reputation but also the safety of consumers.

The simple verification of authenticity via smartphone acts as a strong deterrent.

Authentication also offers a clear advantage with returns by ensuring their legitimacy, thus significantly reducing losses due to fraudulent returns.

Thanks to the ability to track products along the supply chain, unauthorised distribution channels can be identified and contained. Tracking from production to end consumers is also crucial for quality control and recall management.

Another advantage of intelligent packaging solutions lies in the data that can be collected. For example, anonymised data on scanning times and locations provides insights into consumer behaviour, sales focuses, and potential market gaps. Using this data enables the optimisation of marketing strategies, supply chain logistics, and product development.

The central advantage lies in the transformation of simple packaging into a multifunctional tool that protects, informs, connects, and invites interaction. This maximises the return on investment for packaging design and production.

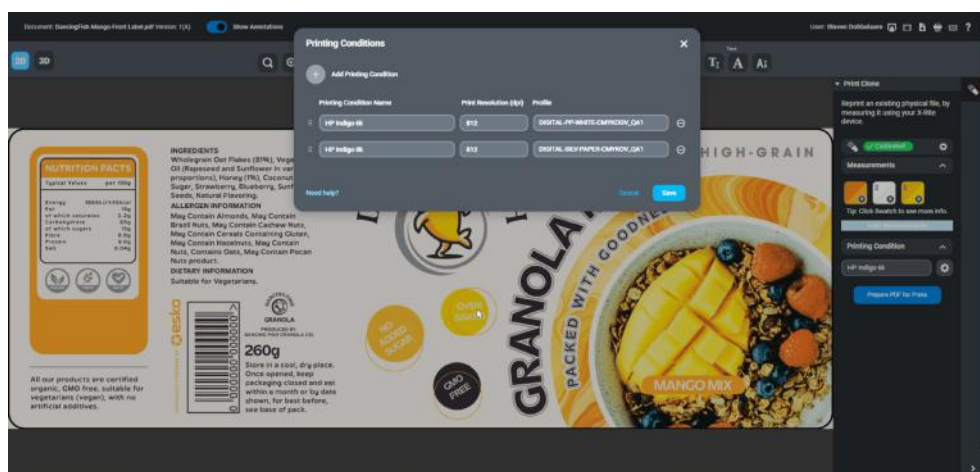
The future is printed and protected

The integration of sophisticated protection technologies directly into the printing process is no longer a distant vision of the future, but a lived reality. For printing companies, this is an opportunity to significantly expand their role and offerings. For brands, it is an effective strategy to protect their values, build a deeper connection with their customers, and unlock new value creation potential. The acceptance of these innovations enables companies to ensure that their products are not only perceived but also secured, verified, and experienced.



New Print Clone from Esko set to revolutionize color matching for digital print

Esko has today (5 June, 2025) unveiled its new Print Clone solution, an advanced cloud-native color matching software set to transform digital print production.



- AI-powered precision: advanced algorithms ensure colors match specifications perfectly

- Consistency across runs: maintain uniform color across different substrates and print jobs

- Production-ready files: dynamically adjusted PDFs match original artwork seamlessly

“Once a PDF file has been drag-and-dropped into Print Clone, a spectrophotometer guides the operator to carry out a real-time color comparison,” explained Jan. “The AI-powered algorithms then optimize color accuracy to deliver a high-quality, color-accurate output with minimal manual adjustments.

“Print Clone matches the color profile from any previously printed package, saving hours of manual corrections on press. It completely eliminates the trial and error of multiple iterations and test prints to determine the correct color composition, significantly reducing manual prepress interventions” said Jan De Roeck, Esko CMO

Esko Print Clone leverages artificial intelligence and automation to enable digital press operators to replicate colors from previously printed packages with unmatched precision, regardless of the original printing process.

“Print Clone delivers high-quality results with minimal manual intervention,” said Esko CMO Jan De Roeck.

“This innovation eliminates the traditional trial-and-error approach, significantly reducing manual interventions and accelerating job completion times for packaging and label converters.”

The ultimate color-matching solution, Print Clone reduces job completion times and boosts digital printing productivity, eliminating lengthy trial-and-error cycles and helping minimize waste and subsequent environmental impact.

“Decreased press downtime serves to improve profitability, and the fact that Print Clone is cloud-native, requiring no installation, means users can just log in, upload, connect, and measure,” said Jan.

“Moreover, Print Clone is exceptionally user-friendly,” he said. “The ease of use makes it possible for anyone to prepare files for digital printing.”

With Esko Print Clone, packaging and label converters can benefit from:

- Real-time adjustments: operators can instantly refine colors by uploading PDFs and using a spectrophotometer

- Quick measurements: replace tedious trial-and-error methods with just a couple of clicks





Flexo Plate Making **Connected**

The Esko CDI Crystal XPS sets the benchmark for flexo plate making productivity & quality. High imaging quality and unique exposure consistency result in excellent flexographic print. Automated plate transport and integration with prepress provide for unseen productivity levels.

Esko Print Control Wizard software adds a new level of simplification and turns flexo plate making into a coordinated and streamlined process, enabling operators to quickly create premium flexo plates.

Esko - Flexo Plate Making Connected



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2D Code: One for All

Unlocking the potential of migrating from linear barcodes to dynamic 2D codes

Since its beginnings in the 1970s, the barcode has played a decisive role in shaping our shopping experience. Now, we stand at the threshold of a new era of product identification.



with the GS1 Digital Link standard, we refer to it as a dynamic 2D code. Unlike static barcodes, they allow the provision of product-specific, granular information – such as expiry dates, batch numbers, or additional digital content. This enables improved recalls, personalised offers, and efficient fulfilment of regulatory and sustainability requirements – all via a single code. The dynamic 2D code on the product remains the same, but the information behind it is variable, depending on where, when, and with which device the code is scanned by whom.

In general, do you think there is sufficient awareness of the transition changes that could come from as soon as next 2028?

The familiar 'beep' at the checkout, made possible by the barcodes managed by GS1, is now facing competition. The 2D code, whether as a data matrix or QR code, offers far more than its one-dimensional predecessor and promises a revolution for retailers, manufacturers, and consumers.

We spoke with Thomas Fell, Lead GS1 Germany, and Thomas Vollmuth, Head of Brand Owner Management at Koenig

& Bauer, to shed light on the potential, challenges, and future of this pioneering technology.

What do you see as the opportunities and future of 2D codes?

Thomas Fell: The future of 2D codes is groundbreaking. These codes, such as the QR code and the GS1 DataMatrix, go far beyond the functions of the traditional barcode. They enable the linking of significantly more extensive information – in real time and at the product level. This opens up new potential for track- and trace, counterfeit protection, and direct consumer communication. For industries such as food, healthcare, or consumer goods, 2D codes are a key component of digital transformation.

What are the key benefits of the introduction of dynamic 2D codes over one-dimensional codes?

Thomas Fell: When we link a 2D code

Thomas Fell: First of all, it is important to understand that the transition to 2D codes on products is not mandatory. Through the migration project, we offer manufacturers the opportunity to add a 2D code by the end of 2027 and to replace one-dimensional barcodes with 2D codes on their products from 2028 onwards. The migration ensures that by the end of 2027, checkouts will be able to read prices from 2D codes. Which barcode appears on a product is entirely up to the manufacturer.

Currently, early adopters are engaging with the technology and implementing it in selected cases. Certainly, a large proportion of companies – especially SMEs – are not yet sufficiently prepared. That's why it's important that we stay connected, continue to exchange ideas, and use real-life use cases to illustrate the potential of 2D codes.

Thomas Vollmuth: Although the switch to 2D codes is not required by law for brand manufacturers, there is a possibility



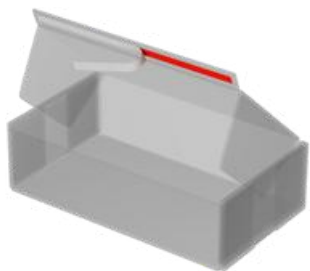
Thomas Fell, Lead GS1 Germany



Paper-based packaging closing tape

tesa® 61346 for secure transport closing and recyclable paper-based packaging solutions

Packaging made of paper and board material protects valuable goods during transport and storage. Part of a functional and well-perceived packaging is the convenience of quick and easy 'box closing' without requiring additional tools or equipment. At the same time, recyclability is – and should be – becoming more and more important. This can be achieved by 'mono-material packaging', completely avoiding the use of plastic material, which also applies to integrated closing tapes.



Our paper-based closing tape tesa® 61346 enables secure closing of cardboard boxes or mailer bags and upon disposal, the tape can be recycled along with the box material.



Want to know more?

The QR-code leads to our web page where you'll find more information.

Get in touch

For more information, please email: Marketing.SEA@tesa.com



Thomas Vollmuth:

that retailers will make it mandatory. Major retailers such as Migros and Coop have already announced that they may switch to 2D codes entirely.

How important is the 2D migration project in helping with the wider education of stakeholders?

Thomas Fell: The 2D migration is a flagship project of crucial importance, guiding the industry through this complex transformation. With clear target visions, timelines, best practices, and joint implementation support, we provide orientation and security. The fact that we are shaping the transition together with users fosters trust among all stakeholders – from manufacturers and retailers to technology partners. Conversely, broad information sharing among all parties is essential to drive the project forward.

What suggestions do you have for how organisations can move forward together with their partners?

Thomas Fell: It's part of our GS1 DNA



customers a neutral platform for exchange.

Sharing knowledge, learning from each other, and shaping things together helps us move forward more quickly and sustainably – including on this topic. Specifically for the 2D migration, this is being lived out in an expert group of users from industry, retail, and solution partners, alongside our standards professionals.

It is also important to involve packaging manufacturers early in strategic discussions and inform them about technical requirements. Brand manufacturers benefit from best-practice examples to understand the concrete benefits and ROI. Retailers should be involved through pilot projects and test environments to experience the advantages in practice – at the checkout, in logistics, or in customer interactions.

How important is a coordinated approach?

Thomas Fell: As mentioned: together is better than alone. A coordinated approach is absolutely essential. No one can make significant progress alone. A fragmented or proprietary implementation would lead to inefficiencies, uncertainty, and higher costs. Only through a shared understanding of standards, technical requirements, and timelines can the full potential of 2D codes be realised.

Thomas Vollmuth: From a global perspective, all this also requires a harmonisation of the regulatory requirements for 2D codes in order to facilitate international trade – and this is precisely the issue that GS1 is currently addressing.

What benefits do you see for your customers?

Thomas Fell: The 2D migration allows us, as enabler for our customers, to anticipate trends, co-create solutions to challenges, and effectively support their digitalisation. The shift to the new barcode generation helps market players continue their journey as competitive actors who see dynamic 2D codes as a response to growing demands from legislation and consumers.

Thomas Vollmuth: Dynamic codes



open up a wide range of opportunities for 'early-stage customisation'. By means of track & trace, this enables improved supply chain transparency and optimised inventory management. The codes can be used, among other things, as data carriers for quality data (production data and best-before date) and for recording CO2 emissions.

In addition, 2D codes enable seamless integration into the world of Connected Packaging by directing consumers directly to product pages, individual offers or interactive brand experiences. Companies gain valuable real-time data about customer interactions, which can be used for personalised campaigns and optimised marketing strategies. In this way, Connected Packaging becomes not only a tool for higher engagement, but also a disruptive game changer for brand loyalty and data-driven marketing.

What is GS1?

GS1 is a global organisation with members in 118 countries that develops and manages standards for the identification of products and services. The most well-known standard is the barcode, which can be found on nearly all consumer goods. GS1 standards are used by companies worldwide to improve efficiency and transparency in their supply chains.

What seems to be the biggest hurdles for the implementation and which key benefits do you see for the CPG market?

Thomas Fell: The biggest challenges in transitioning from linear barcodes to 2D codes lie in integrating new technologies, training supply chain managers, shop floor and checkout staff in retail, as well as consumers, managing costs, handling data, and embedding within supply chains.

At the same time, the CPG market stands to gain enormous benefits: improved product safety, more efficient recall management, reduced food waste, and the fulfilment of sustainability goals. Consumers receive transparent information directly on the product.

How do you see the role of Koenig & Bauer helping those companies to proceed with the transition?

Thomas Fell: Koenig & Bauer, like other GS1 Germany Solution Partners, plays a

strategic role as a technology partner. Their printing systems enable the integration of high-quality, dynamic 2D codes on an industrial scale. Thanks to their close ties with packaging manufacturers and brand owners, they are ideally positioned to support implementation both technically and in an advisory capacity.

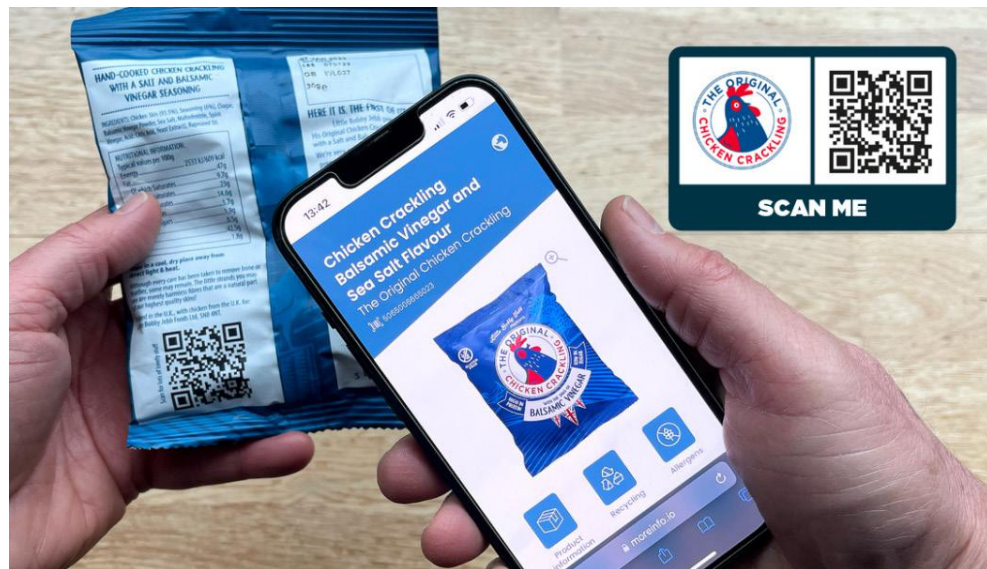
Thomas Vollmuth: Koenig & Bauer can play a key role in this context because we offer both printing and marking solutions for applying unique 2D codes to packaging – both in printing machines and directly on the packaging line. Furthermore, we have broad process knowledge here. With our new Connected Packaging solution, we also offer consumers the opportunity to access digital product information via the code. This broad range of solutions is currently not offered by any other company in the packaging market. We have already conducted brand workshops and presented our diverse technologies.

How can the consumer benefit from this new transition?

Thomas Fell: 2D codes provide instant access to information such as origin, ingredients, sustainability data, and much more – directly via smartphone, right at the shelf, and later, i.e. at home.

Take, for example, a pair of Bluetooth headphones. When making a purchase decision in-store, I want more information than what's printed on the packaging. I scan the QR code and receive details such as technical specifications, test results, or customer reviews. Scanning the same code again at home, a video tutorial helps me with the initial setup and guides me to an app for sound personalisation.

And because I've used the headphones intensively over a long period and now notice a defect, scanning the code tells me whether the product is still under warranty and how to contact customer



Do you see any preference to implement new equipment either at the Brand Owners manufacturing lines to print unique codes or to ask the converters to provide packaging with (unique) 2D codes?

Thomas Fell: Both models are valid. Brands that want full control over serialisation tend to opt for in-house systems. However, for many – especially medium-sized – companies, it is more efficient to outsource coding to packaging partners. What matters is that both options remain viable – with clear, uniform standards as a common foundation.

service. One code for everything. This creates many positive product experiences and strengthens the relationship between consumer and brand. Finally the product itself will become the communication channel to the User along the entire Lifecycle of the Product.

Thomas Vollmuth: Companies gain valuable real-time data about customer interactions, which can be used for personalised campaigns and optimised marketing strategies. In this way, Connected Packaging becomes not only a tool for higher engagement, but also a disruptive game changer for brand loyalty and data-driven marketing.

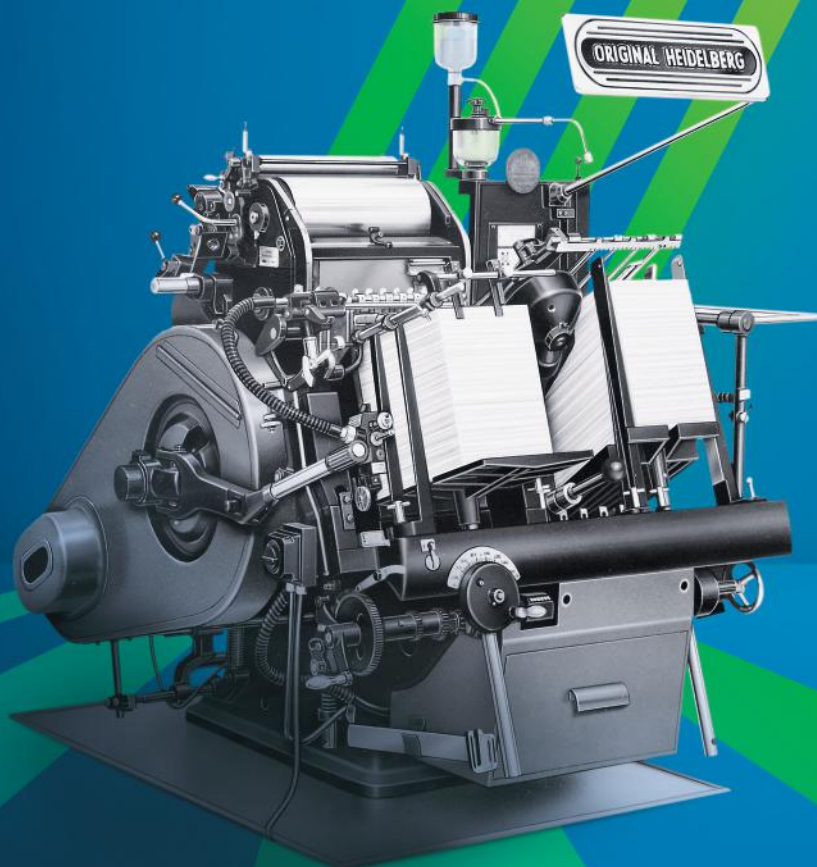
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At the heart of everything we do is a commitment to innovation, quality, and reliability – values that have driven us for 175 years, and will continue to guide us into the future. As a leader in the packaging and printing industry, we develop solutions that set new standards, looking far beyond our core sector. Thanks to our expertise built on 175 years of experience, we are constantly providing new impetus and actively helping to shape the future. We would like to thank all the customers, partners, and staff accompanying us on this journey.

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