2025 ASIAN PRINT AWARDS

2025 ASIAN PACKAGING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

We are seeing solid growth in digital printing across Asia.

Interview with Tai Nizawa, Managing Director
Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia - Page 10

Modern flexo delivers multiple gains.
Guaranteed.

Meet us at the 5th ASEAN Flexible Packaging Summit
in HCMC, Vietnam

Learn more —
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miraclon

2025 ASIAN PRINT AWARDS

Start collecting your
best print work for 2025

Companies from across
Asia are welcome to join

Deadline for entries
Friday 8 August 2025

Awards Dinner Sept 19th BITEC Bangkok. **Don't miss out**

www.printinnovationasia.com

FREE ENTRY FORM DEADLINE **5pm August 8th 2025**

Categories 1- 8 : Offset Printing Only

1. **Calendars** – any format

2. **Sheetfed Magazines**

3. **Book printing** – less than 4 colours

4. **Book printing** – 4 or more colours

5. **Limited Editions & Artwork Reproductions**
   (under 1000 print run)

6. **Web Offset** – Coated stock 70gsm and above

7. **Web Offset** –LWC (light weight coated) 65gsm or less

8. **Offset Packaging products**

Categories 9 - 22 : Digital Printing Only

9. **Book Printing**

10. **Calendars**

11. **Personalised photo books** – any format.

12. **Posters**

13. **Showcards & Point-of-Sale material**

14. **Digital Magazines**

15. **Gold, Silver and Special colours**

16. **Restaurant Menus**

17. **Limited Editions & Artwork reproductions**
    (under 500 print run)

18. **Digital Proofing** (must supply the digital proof and the prinnted product)

19. **Digital Packaging**

20. **Digital Labels**

21 **Digital - Outdoor Billboard**

22. **Digital Embellishment**

Categories 23 - 28 : Specialty Categories

23. **Multi–Piece Productions and Campaigns**
    Any substrate or print process: Multi–piece Production must be 3 or more items such as folder, leaflets, ring binders, inserts, envelopes including their contents. Campaigns must be 3 or more items with a consistent theme produced during the year by the same printer for the same client.

24. **Embellishment**
    Any substrate – any combination - for example: embossing – diecutting – foil stamping –laminating - coating.

25. **Innovation / Specialty Printing / New technology**
    The entry must exhibit any innovative and/ special application of machinery, process, substrate or finishing. A short description must be provided for the judges, detailing reasons for entry into this category.

26. **Company Self Promotion**
    Any item printed to promote a product or company involved in the graphic arts industry. Self promotion cannot be entered into any other Category.

27 **Design and layout.** We look at the impact and visual effect.

28. **Security applications**

Send your entries by 8th August 2025 - by 5pm to:
Asian Print Awards Competition 2025
c/o The Thai Printing Association
311, 311/1 Rama IX Soi 15/1
Huaikhwang District, Bangkok 10310
Thailand Tel +66 719 6685-8

PLEASE ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

The Thai Printing Association

PRINT & MEDIA ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE

PACK PRINT INTERNATIONAL

CorruTec ASIA

FUJIFILM

IPA INNOVATION PRINT AWARDS

HEIDELBERG

Canon Delighting You Always

CGS ORIS

KONICA MINOLTA

IST METZ HOLDING more than UV

gmg color

UPM

GIX Nexus accelerating growth, transforming industry

The annual Asian Print Awards was founded to recognise outstanding achievement in the print and packaging industries across Asia. With more than half the world's population represented in this fast growing area, communication in the form of printed matter links Asia's diverse cultures. It is imperative that such print achievements do not go unrecognised, especially among the population base that Asia enjoys.

The Awards are judged on a wholly quality-oriented set of criteria to ensure that fair play is enacted at all times.

The Independent Judging Panel comprises highly qualified personnel from within Asia and around the world. The independent judging panel has no knowledge of the actual entrants details. ALL ENTRIES ARE NUMBER-CODED. Entries must be commercially produced work.

The Asian Print Awards is the only regional print quality competition of its kind in Asia. Supported by leading industry-supply companies, any progressive quality print house should enter and prove that they are the best - by winning the Gold, Silver or Bronze award. Proving pride in quality awareness is what customers love to see. It's not just empty words, you can prove it.

FREE ENTRY FORM ASIAN PRINT AWARDS 2025

Deadline for Entries Submission: **8th August 2025, 5pm**

Remember to submit 2 copies of each job! Why? - Just in case one is damaged.

If you win an Award, YOU MUST attend the Award Dinner in Person. This is part of the competition rules!

MAXIMUM 3 Jobs Per Catergory!

SECTION A (This will not be shown to judges). Please fill the form in capital letters.

Entered by (company name): _____

Contact Person: _____ Email_____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Country_____

Category entered: _____ **(Example Cat 4 Book Printing)**

Title of entry (ie: " Paul's Ice Cream"): _____

Printed by (Printers name): _____

Client name: _____

Designer Pre Press House: _____

Brand of Printing Machine used: _____

Stock supplied by (Merchant's name): _____

Ink Manufacture_____4-6-8colour_____

By signing here you accept the rules and conditions of the Asian Print Awards

Signature over printed name_____ Name_____

You MUST fill out these production details

✂ -

SECTION B Production information to be shown to judges (tape this securely to the back of your entries)

Category entered (Same as above): _____ _____ Entry number (Administrative use only) _____

Title of entry (ie: " Paul's Ice Cream")_____Print method: _____

Number of ink colours (4-6-8 etc) _____ Any Embellishment (foil stamping etc) _____

Quantity produced (Print run copies): _____ Other technical details (finishing processes etc) _____

Send all entries to - **Asian Print Awards Competition 2025**
c/o The Thai Printing Association - 311, 311/1 Rama 9 - Soi 15 - Huaikhwang District,
Bangkok 10310 Thailand Tel: +66 2 719 6685-8

PLEASE ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE WHEN SHIPPING ENTRIES

Declare "Non Commercial Value" - Printing Competition on courier ticket

All entries are **non-returnable**

The Awards Dinner will be held on September 19th at BITEC Bangkok - Thailand at PPi Exhibition

email:paul@printinnovationasia.com Tel.: +61 422 869728

The 2025 Asian Print Awards Checklist!

1. Have you pick your **best work** to be judged?

2. Have you checked the work to make sure it's **1st class quality** - no hickies - no scuffing - no deregister?

3. Check it **one** more time!

4. Are there **2 copies** for each entry and are they packed correctly for shipment?

5. Have you completed the entry form (Section A & B) correctly and stick Section B onto the entry?

6. Have you left enough time for shipment - **Friday, 8th August 2025** - **5pm** is the Deadline.

7. Check that you have written the **address** correctly.

Send all entries to - **Asian Print Awards Competition 2025**
c/o The Thai Printing Association - 311, 311/1 Rama 9 - Soi 15 - Huaikhwang District, Bangkok 10310 Thailand Tel: +66 2 719 6685-8

PLEASE ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE WHEN SHIPPING ENTRIES
Declare "No Commercial Value" - Printing Competition on courier ticket

All entries are **non-returnable**

The Awards Dinner will be held on September 19th at BITEC Bangkok - Thailand - during Pack Print International Exhibition

email:paul@printinnovationasia.com Tel.: +61 422 869728

Uncovering Total Solutions for the Packaging and Printing Industries
SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS
10th International Packaging And Printing Exhibition For Asia
17 - 20 SEP 2025
BITEC • Bangkok
PACK PRINT INTERNATIONAL

Unfolding the Future of Corrugated Packaging
17 - 20 SEP 2025
BITEC • Bangkok
3rd International Corrugated Technology Exhibition For Asia
CorruTec ASIA

24th YEAR

ASIAN PACKAGING EXCELLENCE AWARDS: 2025

In this issue

Digital print-finishing in China: "I was so wrong!"

Sitting in a meeting room in our head office in Switzerland about 2 years ago, I was asked how the digital print-finishing market in Asia was developing. My reply was: very slowly!

The Japan market is quite conservative when it comes to digital printing, and customers in smaller markets like Singapore and Taiwan are showing interest but are not really moving yet with few exceptions.

How about China? I was asked. My answer was that the China market really didn't need digital printing and binding anytime soon, as the average run-length of print jobs still were fairly long compared to the rest of the world and the stringent system in China with book numbering wasn't geared for digital production.

Was I wrong!

Such were the words of Sven L. Olsen, head of Muller Martini Asia-Pacific, when welcoming guests to Shengda Printing in Yongcheng China at a recent open house event co-organized by HP and Muller Martini.

Sven Olsen presenting Muller Martini's (changed) perception of the digital print-finishing market in China.

Shengda Print presented their operation to the 180 visitors and showcased the latest HP Advantage 2200 digital inkjet printer and the HP Indigo 100k digital press, while a full suite of Muller Martini and Hunkeler digital finishing solutions were on display running Shengda's regular daily jobs. The digital finishing equipment included the latest Muller Martini SigmaCompact in-line with the new Antaro softcover binder and the Infintrim for variable trimming, producing finished softcover books from the printed roll.

In addition, a couple of Muller Martini's Prinova Digital stitchers produced a variety of magazines directly from the printed roll, while the three Hunkeler PF7's produced glued book-blocks from printed rolls.

"So not only did this event show how wrong I was in my predictions on the developments of the digital print-finishing market in China, but it also shows how China - because of companies like Shengda Print - now are on the very front edge of the developments in the digital printing industry." says Sven L. Olsen.

While the digital production hardware at Shengda is impressive, the real secrets are really in the strong software and workflow solutions to control the processes from incoming orders through production to the outgoing logistic management. This has been ensured by linking Shengda's powerful IT set-up with Muller Martini's Connex solution. Sounds simple. It's not! But when it happens, it is a game-changer.

Interestingly, such linkage of systems has also led to a super-efficient handling of certain jobs for Shengda's conventionally produced products. As an example, it now allows Shengda to run up to 100 different stitching jobs per day on two Muller Martini Primera PRO saddle stitchers by digital job allocation and by using the latest multi-job control system on the Primera PRO first presented at Drupa 2024.

Driving the digital transformation is thus not only about switching from conventional to digital production equipment, but also about building more efficient digital processes for the conventional print-finishing business of our customers, says Stephen Liu of Muller Martini China.

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.

mullermartini.com/sigmalinecompact

Your **strong partner.**

We are seeing solid printing across Asia

We were lucky to have the opportunity to interview Tai Nizawa, the Managing Director of Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia, about how Konica Minolta is driving business across the region and increasing its presence. Enjoy the following interview.

Q: Please introduce yourself and your industry experience.

I'm Tai Nizawa **(TN)**, and I'm currently the Managing Director of Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia. Over the past 30 years, I've been fortunate to work across a range of markets , including the US, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Germany, the UAE, Vietnam, India, and Singapore , taking on leadership roles in business management. This global journey has given me a front-row seat to the changing ways we work, and the evolution of our industry, especially the exciting shift from traditional printing to smart, digital workplace solutions.

Q: Please introduce Konica Minolta and its regional presence.

**(TN):** Konica Minolta is a global tech company operating in over 150 countries,

and here in Southeast Asia, we have a strong presence across the region. We offer a full range of solutions from office MFPs like our bizhub i-Series, to industrial and production print systems such as the AccurioPress, AccurioLabel, and AccurioShine. But we're not just about printers anymore, we also help businesses with IT infrastructure, workflow automation, and creating smarter workspaces.

Q: How is the digital printing market performing in Asia?

(TN): We're seeing solid growth in digital printing across Asia. There's a clear trend towards shorter runs, more customisation, and faster turn around times. Businesses are moving away from analogue, especially in commercial printing, packaging, and labels. The agility of digital printing plus the fact that it's

The new Regional HQ in Singapore has been a game-changer
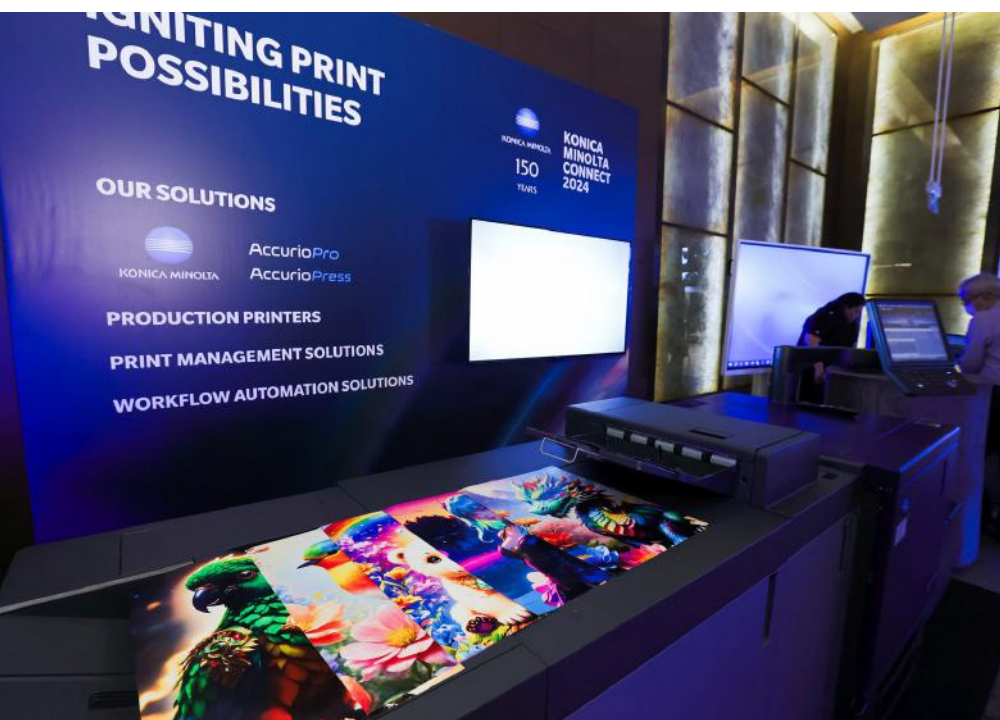
more sustainable for short to medium runs, makes it an attractive solution. While offset and traditional printing still have their place, digital is increasingly where the action is.

Q: What other growth areas are you observing—like embellishment or packaging?

(TN): Definitely! Digital embellishment is booming. Things like spot UV, foiling, and textured finishes really help brands stand out. Our AccurioShine series is a good example of this. Label printing is another hot area, especially with the push for shorter runs and personalisation. Packaging, too, is being transformed by

d growth in digital

KONICA MINOLTA

Tai Nizawa, Managing Director of Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia

digital, allowing for custom designs and fast production, particularly with the rise of e-commerce and targeted marketing. There's a lot of exciting innovation happening.

Q: Will Konica Minolta expand its presence in packaging?

(TN): Yes, we see packaging as a key growth area. Our AccurioLabel series has been a strong performer, delivering high-speed, high-quality digital label printing. But we're going beyond hardware, we're also offering end-to-end workflow automation to help customers streamline their operations. Our goal is to be more than a printer provider, we want to be a strategic partner, supporting businesses with both print and IT infrastructure as they grow and evolve.

Q: What are Konica Minolta's future plans for the regional print industry?

(TN): We're committed to helping businesses in the region with their digital transformation. That means growing our installed base while expanding services like IT infrastructure, ensuring security, and streamlining workflows. We're also focusing on smarter automation, cloud integration, and sustainable solutions to help our customers meet their ESG goals. As the industry evolves, we know it's important to bridge the gap between print and digital, so we're investing in cloud platforms, AI, and end-to-end connectivity. At the same time,

we're strengthening our cyber security capabilities to keep customer data safe. It's all about being ready for what's next and helping our customers get there with confidence.

Q: You've recently moved into a new headquarters. What impact has that had?

(TN): The new Regional HQ in Singapore has been a game-changer. It's designed around collaboration and innovation, with open spaces, digital showrooms, and smart tech that brings people together. Our Customer Experience Centre (CEC) in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia lets customers see our latest digital printing in action, it's immersive, hands-on, and has really helped spark new ideas. The

move has also improved cross-functional teamwork and created a more inspiring environment for our teams to thrive.

Q: With so many players in digital production, why choose Konica Minolta?

We're more than just a tech provider, we're a solutions partner. We bring together reliable hardware, intelligent software, and expert support to help solve real-world business challenges. Our AccurioPress series, for instance, is known for consistent quality and performance.

Whether you're starting small or managing high-volume output, we have the right mix of solutions, including label, packaging, and embellishment.

But it's not just about machines, we co-create solutions with our customers. We invest the time to understand your goals and challenges, and we're in it for the long haul. With strong support networks across Asia and a commitment to innovation, we've earned the trust of many businesses in the region.

Q: What technological advancements do you see shaping the future?

Innovation is happening across the board, from press to embellishment to post-press. Inkjet technology is evolving

AccurioLabel Printing

AccurioLabel Printing

AccurioShine Printing

fast, and AI is being integrated into smart presses that fit seamlessly into digital workflows. On the post-press side, we're seeing more automation, smarter material handling, and even robotics coming into play.

Ultimately, the big shift is toward connected intelligence bringing everything together to work more smoothly, more efficiently, and more creatively.

Q: Any advice for companies entering or upgrading in digital production?

(TN): The Do's:
• Know your market: Understand your customers and where digital can add value.

• Choose the right tech: Look beyond the machine, think about scalability, maintenance, and long-term ROI.

• Partner strategically: Work with providers who offer not just products, but experience and support.

• Manage the change: Communicate clearly with your teams and prepare them for the transition.

The Don'ts:
• Don't underestimate the learning curve, it takes time and training.

• Don't ignore software or network requirements, they're just as critical as the press.

• Don't assume digital is always cheaper, it depends on the job size and needs.

• Don't go it alone, get advice, ask questions, and learn from those who've done it.

Q:. Final thoughts?

(TN): The print industry in Asia is full of potential. As digital transformation continues, we encourage businesses to stay open-minded, experiment, and embrace new technologies. At Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia,, we're proud to be part of this journey, supporting innovation, sustainability, and the evolution of print. The future isn't just something we wait for, it's something we create together.

We aim to harness digital technology to help our customers overcome challenges and become an indispensable partner to their business.

IT'S TIME

The **2025** Asian Packaging Excellence Awards
Your Free Entry Form

2025
ASIAN PACKAGING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

NEW for 2025
Trade House of the Year Award

See inside on how to enter.
Submission Closes October 3rd 2025

THE 2025 ASIAN PACKAGING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Singapore - Malaysia - Hong Kong - China - Thailand - Vietnam - Japan - Korea - Indonesia
Philippines - India - Pakistan - Cambodia - Taiwan - Bangladesh - Sri Lanka - Myanmar - Brunei

The Asian Packaging Excellence Awards is the only regional Independent Packaging Print competition. Since 2001, awarding Gold Silver and Bronze for packaging printers who have excelled in producing world class quality. The judges are non-supplier but are retired educators or production professionals and come from all over Asia/Europe/Australia

* We MUST have 2 consecutive samples for each job in ALL catergories you enter
* ONLY 3 jobs allowed for each catergory that you enter.

FLEXO

1. Narrow Web Flexo
   (up to 500mm width only)
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

Trade House of the Year Award (New for 2025)
You must fill out the entry form and also include samples of the finished printed job, along with details of the printing company (in Asia)

WIN THE BEST IN SHOW 2025 = US$3000

This is you free entry form. please write **clearly** so we can read it

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 ☐ **FLEXO** ☐ **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 Quanity_____

*Paper/Board/Film/Label supplier_____

*Web Width _____Other detials_____

Send all entries to - **APEA Competition 2025**
c/o The Thai Printing Association - 311, 311/1 Rama 9 - Soi 15 - Huaikhwang District, Bangkok 10310 Thailand Tel: +66 2 719 6685-8

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email:paul@printinnovationasia.com Tel.: +61 422 869728

Submission For the Competition Closes October 3rd 2025

(vertical text, left margin) You MUST fill out these production detials

SHIFT25

**ASIAN LABELS AND PACKAGING
CONFERENCE PATTYA THAILAND
NOVEMBER 14th 2025**

Don't miss out on the regions longest running Packaging Conference - SHIFT 25.

We bring together the world's leading manufacturers/suppliers and customers for a full overview of what's happening in the packaging industry, covering all areas of technology, no matter what process you use.

Following SHIFT 25, the Asian Packaging Excellence Awards dinner presentation, where we recognise packaging excellence from across the Asian region. You really don't want to miss these 2 events back-to-back and give your company the knowledge it needs to move forward in the fast-paced changing world of packaging.

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

Agfa and Digital Packag for the industry

Digital packaging is the new buzz word, and one company has been at the top of its game here. We talked to Richard Cotterill, Head of Sales – Packaging, Agfa. with its focus already in the Asia/Pacific region.

Q: Please introduce yourself with your industry history and your role within Agfa (Industrial).

RC: My name is Richard Cotterill, and I am the Head of Sales – Packaging, Agfa. For more than two decades, I have held various commercial management roles with Fujifilm, BHS and EFI. What really drew me to Agfa was its leadership in single-pass inkjet technology - it's world-class and a true benchmark in the industry. At Agfa, I serve as Global Sales Manager for Packaging, helping customers adopt sustainable, high-speed digital solutions that are reshaping the future of packaging.

Q: Agfa has been an industry icon for many years and is widely known throughout Asia. What are the products that you will be bringing to the market for the region?

RC: Agfa offers one of the most comprehensive digital printing portfolios in the industry, from entry-level sign and display systems to high-speed industrial single-pass inkjet solutions. Beyond equipment, the company has made significant investments in inks, software, and services, creating a complete ecosystem that delivers real value to our customers and maximizes the performance of our technology.

My focus in the region will be on the packaging sector, with a particular emphasis on folding carton applications.

Q: How do you think digital packaging printing will impact our industry. We have seen this starting to grow over the last few years. Is it ready, and is it the future of packaging, or a complement to traditional print process?

RC: Digital printing is set to drive real growth and improve profitability as adoption expands. It's not about replacing traditional print entirely - it's about adding digital to the mix to unlock greater efficiency, boost productivity, and improve margins. The right technology, for the right job. When done well, digital complements existing equipment, helping customers get the most from both their current setup and new technologies.

Q : How has the quality changed and has the costs per printed board now compete with traditional packaging processes?

RC: Quality needs to match industry standards – that's non-negotiable. And, with 1200 dpi resolution and the world's most precise drop placement technology available on the SpeedSet Orca B1 press, we're delivering exactly that. Cost per board or copy has historically been a sticking point when evaluating digital

print, but if you look at early adopters in labels and corrugated packaging, they've already proven the value.

This spans from cutting waste and reducing obsolescence costs to innovation and improving efficiency on their analog presses. We expect to see the same trend unfold in folding carton and flexible packaging as digital printing continues to gain traction in those segments.

Q: What are the companies that you will be bringing this technology to, can they be traditional offset printers who do packaging, folding cartons etc , or will it be the corrugated companies?

RC: We see opportunities with both. For the folding carton segment, Agfa's investment in single pass technology - especially with the SpeedSet Orca B1 press - makes it a strong fit for traditional offset printers looking to expand into digital.

In the corrugated market, we're working through our technology partnership with BHS, a leading name in that space. So, whether it's offset printers or corrugated specialists, we're positioned to help both adopt digital and unlock new capabilities.

Q: Will brand owners accept this technology as they can be very

ging, whats in store

Richard Cotterill, Head of Sales – Packaging, Agfa

stubborn when it comes to the finished products.

RC: Brand owners are always pushing for innovation, ever-higher quality, and cost savings wherever possible. As the pressures rise, digital printing offers clear benefits, such as faster time to market, greater flexibility, and added resilience against supply chain disruptions - all of which aligns perfectly with what brand owners are looking for.

Q: Where do you see the future of the packing industry looking at 3- or 5-years' time.

RC: Different segments are moving at different speeds. Labels have the highest level of digital adoption today, followed by corrugated packaging. As the benefits of digital become more widely recognized - from flexibility to cost and waste reduction - investment has accelerated. We expect to see the same momentum build in folding carton and flexible packaging as technologies like the SpeedSet Orca grow across the market.

Q: What advice would you give companies who are looking to upgrade their equipment and what should they be careful about

RC: Choose a supplier that offers a true partnership, not just a sale or transaction. Take a consultative approach, involve your key customers early in the evaluation, and make sure you meet everyone, from field service engineers to senior management, to get a clear picture of the company's culture and long-term commitment.

About Agfa's Digital

Printing Solutions

Agfa's Digital Printing Solutions aims to advance the use of inkjet printing technology across diverse industries, helping businesses become more versatile, efficient, and sustainable. By understanding the unique needs and challenges of each sector, Agfa partners with its customers to deliver innovative printing solutions.

Agfa offers a comprehensive range of high-quality inkjet printers, inks, software, and services. These products can be provided as fully integrated solutions or as customized components within larger production workflows, ensuring exceptional quality, productivity, and cost-effectiveness. With global service and support, Agfa helps businesses achieve outstanding printing results and drive growth.

The entire digital Heidell

Heidelberg's all-in-one digital Customer Portal brings together all the company's apps into a centralised platform

Solving a business need can be a challenge, especially when it comes to getting short print runs produced cost-effectively. As operating a print shop is becoming increasingly complex, staying competitive means optimising the use of resources, materials, and time.

And with the print industry becoming more digital now than ever, software is taking centre stage in a space that has traditionally been heavily skewed towards hardware.

With these factors in mind, Heidelberg has reinvented production management with its Customer Portal – a cloud based all-in-one digital portal that allows users to manage their operations effortlessly.

It provides easy access to production workflow apps, analytics, service and maintenance, shopping, administration and a holistic 360-degree overview of a user's printshop. This enables businesses to simplify their operations with a single interface to access information and get support, streamlining their print shop responsibilities.

"With our digital tools and services, we are a pioneer in the digitisation of print shops around the world," Dierk Wissmann, National Sales Manager - Heidelberg Australia said.

"The Heidelberg Customer Portal provides everything a user needs to run their print shop smoothly and profitably, helping them optimise their print shop's efficiency, performance, and transparency.

"It is one customer portal with endless possibilities and it lets users reduce touchpoints and achieve full transparency in their print shops. It is a powerful tool that users can use to identify and eliminate weak points in production more quickly, thus increasing their efficiency and performance."

The portal houses up-to-date data, making it readily available at a user's fingertips – enabling simple access from any device, anytime. The easy-to-use interface makes it greatly convenient for a user to see what is important at the moment and allows them to have full transparency of their print shop so that they can take the relevant action immediately.

Since its introduction into Asia Pacific in 2023, there are over 350 users regionwide – with businesses taking on this software platform growing quickly.

The wide range of apps offered through the Heidelberg Customer Portal include:
1. **Analytics**: Print Shop Analytics provides real-time evaluation of status

and key performance indicators (Insights) including the possibility to benchmark the printing machines against others (benchmarking) as well as integrated advice/recommendations on how to improve the performance (PAT).

2. **Production**: Everything is located in one application to help users prepare, produce and manage their production workflows. The Inventory Management App provides users with up-to-date information on consumables.

3. **Support**: Users can obtain a complete overview of their current service incidents and maintenance status, including the Online Training App to get access to helpful resources in an array of topics.

figures which the app can then evaluate and interpret.

This analysis can be read with just a few clicks on the modern dashboard of the Insights app.

"Printshops will get real-time information about their pressroom and can quickly identify and eliminate weak points," Darren Brookes, Technical Sales & Product Manager - Heidelberg Australia said.

"Insights warns when set target values are not reached or problems occur within production that enable users to precisely narrow down where issues are occurring. These reports are then a basis for improvement with a focus on efficiency and improved performance in the pressroom."

Performance evaluations and comparisons with benchmarking is also another feature. For example, if a user is wondering how they're performing in terms of waste with heavier substrates or how good their makeready times are in comparison to the competition for complex job configurations, the Print Shop Analytics app shows benchmarking in detailed reports. A user's performance will be compared to their competitors within their market segment.

"Benchmarking also allows printshops to measure and track their performance within their market segment. Printshops will get real-time information about their pressroom and can quickly identify and eliminate weak points," Darren Brookes said.

"Insights warns when set target values are not reached or problems occur within production. This will make users more efficient and improve the performance of their pressroom."

In addition, digital assistants help Improve OEE with Performance Advisor Technology (PAT). Available as an app in Print Shop Analytics, the artificial intelligence PAT continuously analyses a user's pressroom and machine data and, if necessary, automatically recommends solutions, just like a human consultant would do.

4. **Shopping**: Users can get direct access to the Heidelberg eShop with straightforward ordering processes and offerings that are customised to their equipment. They can also track orders and get a full overview of all invoices (not available in all countries).
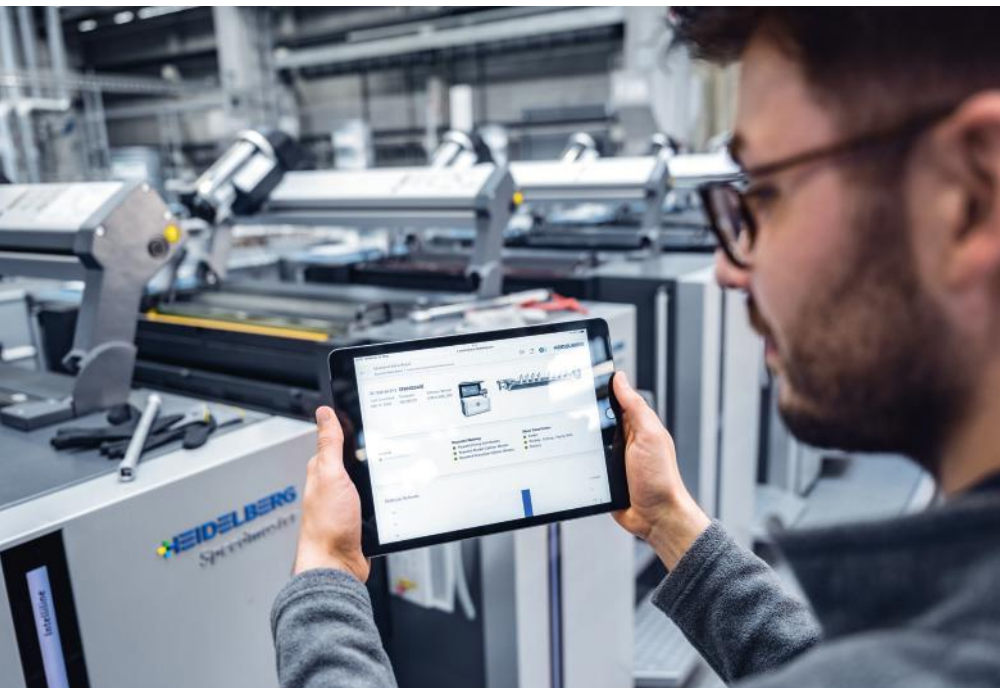
5. **Administration**: Users can enjoy the benefits of a thorough, quick, and easy overview of all their equipment and contracts.

One portal to manage all
Improved efficiency and analysis of performance with insights is the key benefit of the Customer Portal.
Using the Insights app, printshops can see, in real-time, important key production

PAT offers practical suggestions for improvement, highlights strengths and potential savings, generates comprehensive diagrams and data, and gives specific recommendations. PAT also monitors printing process, recognises deviations, and suggests suitable optimisation measures that will make a company more effective.

Efficient service ticket submission and tracking is also offered within the portal. A 'traffic light' logic design easily shows users the service status of their press and software modules (Prinect). The users can create a new ticket from a new issue directly via the app, using very few steps, including uploading a picture or video if necessary.

The status of the ticket can be easily tracked and with every update from Heidelberg's service colleagues regarding the issue, users will directly get a notification and are able to chat with the experienced Heidelberg team.

Reduced maintenance effort through process efficiency and professional instruction is also achievable through Heidelberg Customer Portal. The Maintenance Manager is a software system that offers the complete maintenance documentation to a user's dedicated Heidelberg machines.

Additionally, it supports the complete maintenance process administration including planning, due date monitoring and documentation of maintenance. These additional features are bound to a Heidelberg machine service contract.

Customer success

Heidelberg has seen global success in the uptake of its Customer Portal platform.

Edmonton, Canada-based Burke Group of Companies Limited is one of the companies that has successfully implemented and uses Heidelberg Customer Portal.

Aiming to be the best single source solution for its clients, the Burke Group of Companies has gone on to develop its print division into one of the top print production facilities in Canada by investing in the acquisition of other companies whose services add greater value for its current and future customers.

In line with providing an unparalleled and robust suite of solutions, the Heidelberg Customer Portal has enabled the business to continue providing a customer-first commitment.

"The new portal is a great tool. It would take hours to compile and analyse data that the portal provides in seconds," the company said.

Another company that is a strong advocate of the Heidelberg Customer Portal is Emibra Brazil, a packaging company in Suzano, Brazil.

With a focus on technological evolution, financial solidity and valuing people, Emibra goes beyond simply supplying packaging. Its mission is to offer customised solutions that meet the needs of customers in various segments, many of which are long-standing partners, with over 40 years of collaboration.

By using the Heidelberg Customer Portal, the company has been able to remain faithful to the values that it has always been guided by: innovation, quality and sustainability. The portal offers a solution to Emibra Brazil's customers that add value and strengthen partnerships.

"The new Heidelberg Customer Portal is a strategic innovation that expands our ability to make informed decisions at management level. By providing us with actionable data-driven insights, it not only

elevates operational effectiveness but also allows us to identify opportunities for growth and long-term improvements," the company said.

As evidenced by these companies' successes, Dierk Wissmann said, "Take your printshop to the next level with Heidelberg Customer Portal".

Benefits at a glance

Some of the benefits of the Heidelberg Customer portal include:

- Improved efficiency and performance through real-time production data analysis via the Insights app

- Performance evaluations and competitor comparisons with Benchmarking reports in the Performance Benchmarking App

- Automated improvement suggestions through AI-powered Performance Advisor Technology (PAT), offering optimisation recommendations

- Simplified service and maintenance processes with clear service and maintenance tracking

- Reduced maintenance effort through efficient process management and professional instructions in the Maintenance Manager

- Transparent shopping processes with direct access to the Heidelberg eShop and order tracking

- Comprehensive production management via apps like Inventory Management

- Cloud-based platform for easy, anytime access to important data and applications from any device

Turning challenges into benefits

The Heidelberg Customer Portal addresses several major pain points for print shops, including:

• The lack of real-time production visibility – It offers real-time insights and analytics, helping identify inefficiencies and bottlenecks quickly

• Complex workflow management – The platform streamlines production processes and inventory management, making it easier to handle multiple tasks

• Performance benchmarking – Print shops can compare their performance to industry peers, which is difficult to do manually

• Service and maintenance inefficiencies – The portal simplifies service ticket submission and tracking, along with predictive maintenance, reducing downtime

• Manual performance optimisation – The AI-driven Performance Advisor Technology (PAT) app provides automated recommendations for continuous improvement, eliminating the need for manual analysis

• Cumbersome procurement processes – Direct access to the Heidelberg eShop simplifies ordering and tracking, reducing administrative effort.

XSYS

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The new **nyloflex® eco series** provides a unique and new approach of printing plates which are using renewable raw materials as part of the plate build up. Beside of being more sustainable, this Flexo plates comes with the advantage of a 20% faster plate processing capability, leading to time & energy savings.

The **nyloflex® eco plates** have been developed to enhance the quality standard in flexographic printing and lifting it to a sustainable future.

Contains renewable raw material

Proven, consistent quality in a more sustainable way

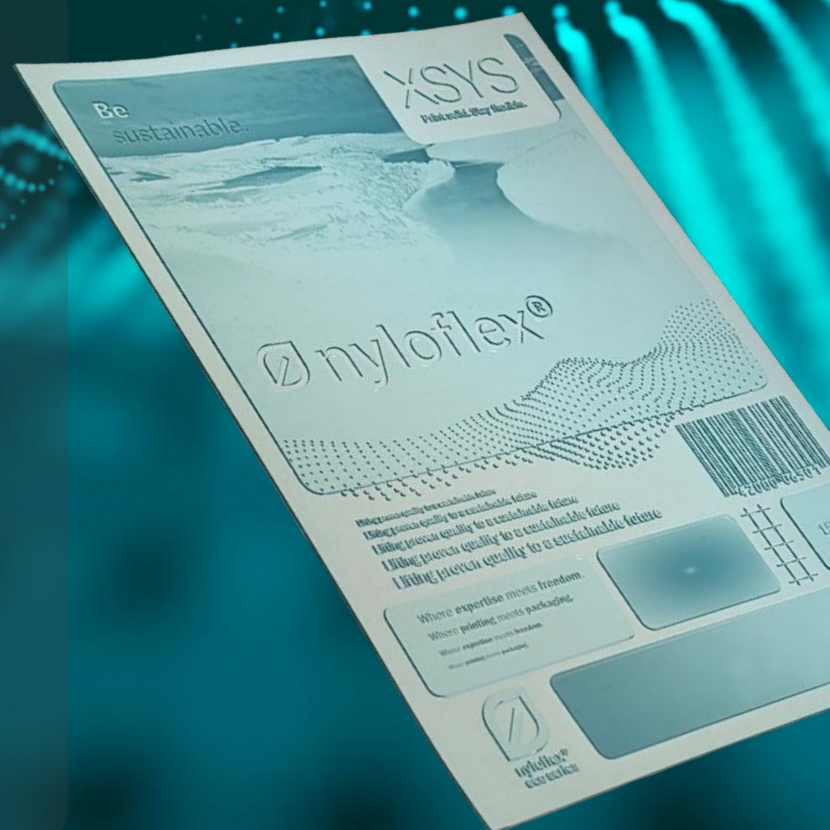**Suitable for bank- & LED exposure**

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Stable & reliable plate processing

eco ACT for paper & board applications with water based inks
eco FAC for high performance corrugated post print to cope with all requirements

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A company on the road to g
Packaging industry across t

We had the opportunity to talk to Yu Sen Long about the industry and how tesa tape is laser focused on growing their market across the region with investment and top notch service for its growing base of packaging clients

Q: Please introduce yourself, along with your industry experience.

YSL: My name is Yu Sen Long, and I currently serve as the Regional business unit head for Printing and Packaging Solutions at tesa tape, overseeing the Asia Pacific region. I bring over 16 years of professional experience, with 11 years dedicated to the printing and packaging industry. Prior to joining tesa, I held the position of Regional Commercial Director, managing sales across Asia. My career has encompassed various commercial departments, including account management, key account management, business development, marketing, and sustainability initiatives, all within the Asia region.

Q:Looking at the packaging industry today, do you see it growing, and if so, which areas (e.g., Wide web, Narrow web, Corrugated, etc.)?

YSL: Absolutely, the packaging industry is experiencing significant growth, particularly in the Asia Pacific region. The rise in e-commerce, increased consumer demand, and sustainability considerations are driving this expansion. Specifically:

• Corrugated Packaging: With the surge in online shopping, there's a heightened demand for corrugated boxes, necessitating reliable sealing solutions.

• Narrow Web Printing: The demand for high-quality labels and flexible packaging is propelling growth in this segment.

• Wide Web Printing: Industries such as food and beverage are seeking advanced packaging solutions, leading to growth in wide web applications.

Q: Has the introduction of digital packaging technologies had any impact on the tesa tape business?

YSL: Digital packaging technologies— such as smart packaging, connected solutions, digital supply chains, and data-driven automation—have not significantly impacted our core business in mounting and process tapes, but they are shaping how we engage with customers. For example, automation in plate mounting or workflow integration is increasing, and our customers are looking for tapes that enable faster setups, cleaner demounting, and less operator intervention.

While these technologies do not change the fundamental adhesive function, they raise the bar on consistency, efficiency, and sustainability—all of which tesa actively supports through advanced materials, precision manufacturing, and close technical collaboration with customers and OEMs.

Q: What is your direction when it comes to tape technology? How much can this area evolve over time, or is a tape just a tape?

YSL: Tape technology is continually evolving. At tesa, we view tapes not merely as adhesive strips but as integral components that enhance manufacturing efficiency and product performance. Innovations include:

• **More Sustainable Materials:** Developing tapes with recycled or bio-based content to meet environmental goals.

• **Enhanced Performance:** Creating tapes that perform under extreme conditions, catering to specialized industrial needs.

row and service the
the region

Q: What is the downside if a packaging printer selects the wrong tape for a particular job? How do you work with them here?

YSL: Selecting an inappropriate tape can lead to issues such as poor adhesion, print defects, or equipment downtime, resulting in increased costs and production delays. We collaborate closely with our clients, offering technical consultations and on-site support to understand their process, environment and specific needs, then we recommend the most suitable tape solutions, ensuring optimal performance and efficiency.

Q: What are the main questions your customers ask you as the industry moves forward?

YSL: Customers frequently inquire about:
•   Sustainability: Seeking tapes that align with their sustainability objectives.

• Performance: Looking for tapes that can handle specific substrates and conditions
.
• Innovation: Interested in how new tape technologies can improve their processes.

•   Cost-effectiveness: Balancing quality with budget constraints.

Yu Sen Long, Regional business unit head for Printing and Packaging Solutions at tesa tape, overseeing the Asia Pacific region.

Q: Looking into the future, where do you see tesa tape and its activities in the region?

YSL: tesa is committed to strengthening its presence in the Asia Pacific region. The recent opening of our production site in Haiphong, Vietnam, exemplifies this commitment, enhancing our ability to serve local markets efficiently. We aim to continue investing in more sustainable technologies and expanding our product portfolio to meet the evolving needs of our clients in the region.

Q: If you were a packaging company, what last piece of information would you like to know?

YSL: As a packaging company, I would be keen to understand how adhesive solutions can contribute to sustainability goals without compromising on performance. Specifically, insights into the lifecycle impact of tapes, recyclability, and how they integrate into circular economy models would be invaluable.

Thanks to "The Thai Printer Magazine" for the images used

China Print 2025 - Koenig & Bauer's Showcase Dazzles

• Live demonstrations with comparative prints in offset and digital printing impress trade visitors with the performance and quality of both technologies.• In addition to machine demonstrations, Koenig & Bauer provides information about printing technologies for special applications such as hollow container and metal decoration.•   Sales successes to well-known Chinese printing companies recorded on the very first day of the trade fair

With innovations rooted in a tradition spanning over 200 years, Koenig & Bauer is setting standards at the eleventh Beijing International Printing Exhibition (China Print), which is taking place in Beijing until 19th May. Koenig & Bauer has a stand covering over 1,000 m² in Hall 2 (W2-001) and, under the motto 'More choices, More agility, More efficiency', is showcasing the profound integration of traditional and digital printing.

The live demonstrations featuring an eight-colour Rapida 105 with additional coating equipment are attracting considerable interest from international trade visitors. The machine, renowned for its reliability and efficiency, and its digital counterpart, the VariJET 106 from Koenig & Bauer Durst, are delivering impressive printing products.

In a direct comparison of the sheets produced by the VariJET 106 and the live-demonstrated Rapida 105, the trade fair guests were able to see for themselves the high quality of the digital printing system in both four-colour and seven-colour productions. The VariJET

106 combines the flexibility of inkjet printing for versioning and the efficient printing of short and medium runs with the embellishment capabilities of offset printing.

Information on all facets of print
Beyond the machine demonstrations, visitors have the opportunity to learn in detail about digital solutions from Koenig & Bauer, the printing and decoration of hollow containers such as glass and plastic, and about metal decorating

machines at several information corners. The fully integrated digital production line MetJET ONE addresses the demand of metal printing companies for quickly realised, individualised short runs.

Through the synergies of traditional and digital technologies, Koenig & Bauer is addressing the key challenges faced by users in terms of product diversity, flexibility and production efficiency. This puts Koenig & Bauer at the centre of the trade visitors' interest and offers them

genuine added value for their business areas. The initial days of the trade fair already suggest successful business.

High level of customer interest from the very first day of the trade fair

On the first day of the trade fair itself, Koenig & Bauer handed over the exhibited Rapida 105 with eight printing units, a coating tower and double delivery extension to the Wuxi Hengchang Packaging Printing Company. The company, which has been using Koenig & Bauer technology for more than ten years, ordered the Rapida 105 as its third

sheetfed offset press. In recent years, the company has continuously expanded its presence in the production of spirits packaging in close cooperation with Koenig & Bauer and, with its extensive experience, has developed into one of the main suppliers for numerous leading spirits brands in China.

Foshan Guanxian Color Printing Co. Ltd. also decided on the first day of the trade fair to purchase a new Rapida 105 to expand its high-quality packaging business. The company will receive a five-colour machine with coating equipment. Back in 2020, Zhengzhou Huaying

Packaging Co. Ltd. acquired two Rapida 145 presses.

The increasing demand for large-format production capacity, combined with high automation, more colours and more embellishment, has now led to the order of further large-format Rapidas. The company ordered a six-colour Rapida 164 (max. sheet format 1,205 x 1,640 mm) with a coating tower and a seven-colour Rapida 145 (max. sheet format 1,060 x 1,450 mm) with double coating equipment.

Further interesting contacts and sales discussions also suggest successful trade fair business in the following days.

tesa® Softprint neXt

Foam plate mounting tape: FLEX Product Design

tesa® Softprint neXt, a double-sided foam tape, with the new innovative adhesive package enables an effortless plate handling through unique features now for every step. This makes tesa® Softprint neXt an unrivaled solution for unmatched efficiency and user satisfaction.

Product Features

Presenting tesa® Softprint neXt, our new plate mounting solution that offers neXt level performance throughout the whole process:

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- Outstanding performance against edge lifting during printing
- Innovative plate side adhesive for improved and easy removal avoiding damage to the printing plate during demounting

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to learn how our solution can transform your operations.

New Launch!

tesa.com

Manroland China Print 2025 is unprecedentedly grand, with continuous signings

Brand new ROLAND 700 Evolution equipped with advanced and environmentally friendly LED-UV, 8-color and extended paper delivery printing machine, is a wonderful demonstration.
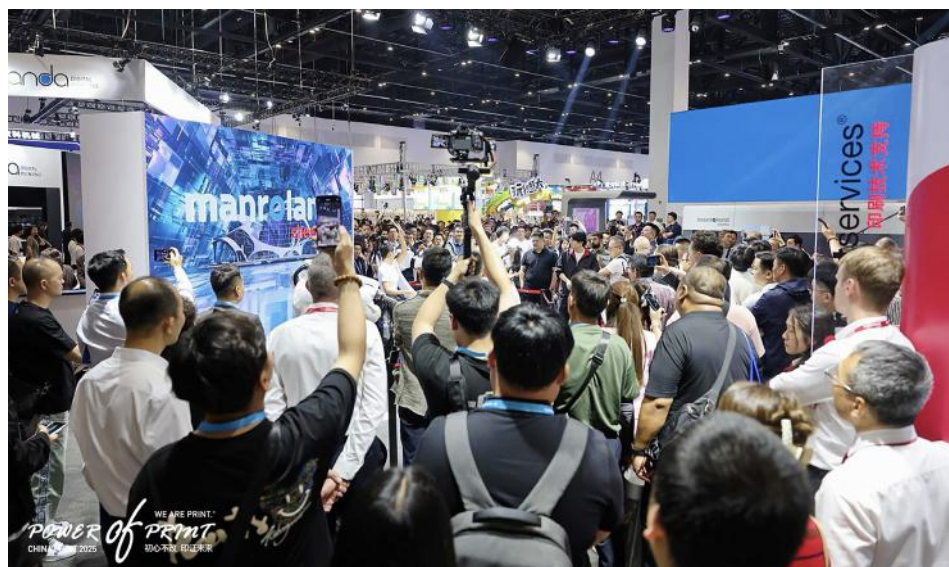
A printing unit that has been baptized for 25 years and still looks brand new. Each QR code on the scanned inkjet sample presents different content. Manling UV curing solution is more environmentally friendly and green.

The brand new AW603 automatic blanket washing device, Low VOC environmentally friendly varnish, German craftsmanship spirit, and localized development spark passion together. The stunning effect of naked eye 3D, the exhilarating human-machine drum music performance, and the surging crowds on three levels inside and outside. This is the real scene of manroland's booth at China Print 2025.

On the first day of the exhibition, manroland held its first signing ceremony: Wenzhou Bojie Packaging Co., Ltd. introduced the new generation ROLAND 700 Evolution excellent printing machine. Mr. Chen Minchong, General Manager of Bojie, and Mr. Mirko Kern, CEO of Manroland Flat Printing System Co., Ltd.

signed the contract on site, bringing a good start to manroland's first day.

Subsequently, positive news about manroland's exhibition booth continued to spread and contracts were signed continuously. The awarding ceremony of the strategic partner and environmental star of manroland expresses our sincerest gratitude to the esteemed customers who have worked hand in hand with manroland for many years. From this, it

can be seen that manroland's customers not only benchmark high-end printing, but also have their own sense of social responsibility, contributing their own strength to environmental protection.

The press conference held in the afternoon was attended by Mr. Mirko Kern, CEO of manroland Printing System Co., Ltd., Ms. Fanny Chan, Chairman of Greater China Region, Ms. Heike, Sales Director of Asia Pacific Printing Equipment Department, Mr. Roy Guo, General Manager of Greater China Printing Equipment Department, Mr. Bao Dingdong, Head of Services and Spare Parts, and Mr. Thomas Luk, Head of Materials Department.

They gathered with media friends and shared the highlights of this exhibition with them, as well as expressed manroland's determination to continue contributing to China's printing industry.

With the successful completion of the final machine demonstration, the manroland China Print 2025 event came to a perfect conclusion.

Heidelberg has successful China Print trade show that exceeded all expectations

• Packaging printing drives growth in China, too • Packaging sector's numerous investments in cutting-edge sheetfed technology result in high production capacity utilization in China • First Jetfire 50 industrial digital printing system sold in China

Heidelberg is pleased with its showing at China Print 2025 in Beijing from May 15 through 19. Customers from the packaging sector in particular invested in state-of-the-art sheetfed technology from Heidelberg. A total of just under 350 printing units were sold, which exceeded the company's expectations. "The huge interest in the innovations and displays at our booth provides impressive proof that Heidelberg is a leading market player in China," says Dr. David Schmedding, Chief Technology & Sales Officer at Heidelberg.

"We won over a large number of customers with our integrated solutions for packaging and commercial printing from a single source, many of which are manufactured locally. The resulting incoming orders have given us a strong start to the new financial year, which began in April."

Staged every four years, the event is China's largest trade show for the printing industry. This year, it drew some 120,000 visitors, including a large number from all over Asia and beyond, with Heidelberg recording the highest visitor numbers. In addition to the visitors flocking to the company's booth, around 1.3 million people tuned in online to watch its live presentations.

The live presentations at the Heidelberg booth were well attended throughout the event. Packaging printing is driving growth in China, too. Numerous packaging customers invested in state-of-the-art sheetfed technology from Heidelberg

"Packaging printing is proving to be a growth driver for our business in China, too," states Jürgen Otto, CEO of Heidelberg. "This development reaffirms our growth strategy – the continuous and targeted expansion of our portfolio as a systems integrator for this key market segment. The company is also benefiting from its comprehensive sales and service network and its local production operations, which largely cover demand in China."

Packaging printing drives growth

An annual increase of around 4 percent in

HEIDELBERG has started the first quarter of the financial year on a strong note thanks to a successful China Print trade show.

The Jetfire 50 industrial digital printing system celebrated its trade show debut in Asia. Shengda Printing Technology is China's largest online printing company and also this country's first Jetfire 50 customer.

China Print has shown that this country's printing industry is also following global trends, investing more and more in highly automated, efficient, and fully integrated solutions. Added to that is rising demand from end customers for more sustainable, paper-based packaging. All this makes the digitalized solutions from Heidelberg especially attractive for this important market," sums up Otto.

Trade show exhibits centered on digitalization for improved efficiency and productivity

Showcased on a footprint of over 2,000 m2, the company's packaging and commercial printing solutions focused on enhanced efficiency and productivity, end-to-end hybrid production using offset and digital printing and Prinect Touch Free control, the development of new business opportunities, and the digital transformation of the sector.

Heidelberg stood out at the trade show thanks to its interactive customer journey comprising over 100 digital touchpoints, the Digitalization Experience Center, and a comprehensive application gallery with almost 100 print products that demonstrated the options print shops can offer their customers.

paper-based packaging makes the Chinese packaging market a growth driver for Heidelberg. Packaging and labels already account for almost 50 percent of the Chinese printing industry, and this share is continuing to grow – a development that is emphasized by the numerous deals struck at China print:

• A leading packaging printer in northern China placed an order with Heidelberg for two Speedmaster XL 106 Peak Performance presses, representing a total of 13 printing units.

• A packaging manufacturer in eastern China invested in two Speedmaster XL 75 presses, corresponding to a total of 19 printing units, to complement its 2024 investment in a Speedmaster XL 106 and a Speedmaster XL 75 with FoilStar technology.

• Heidelberg also got an order from a packaging customer in southern China for two long Speedmaster CX 104 presses with UV technology. Founded as recently as 2016, this company particularly values the quality, efficiency, and productivity of the Speedmaster CX 104, which Heidelberg manufactures locally in China. The customer is looking to use the new UV presses to expand its business from standard packaging to include high-end solutions for products such as spirits and cosmetics.

Jetfire 50 digital system celebrates trade show debut in Asia

Just as in other countries, digital printing is also becoming increasingly important in China, which is why the debut presentation of the Jetfire 50 from Heidelberg at an Asian trade show proved to be a particular highlight for

many visitors. Heidelberg showcased the industrial inkjet printing press alongside a complete digital ecosystem consisting of machinery, software, consumables, service, and consulting.

Using the new Prinect Touch Free software, the system can be integrated into a hybrid production environment with offset printing. Assisted by artificial intelligence, the software determines the most efficient and cost-effective means of production.

Shengda Printing Technology, which is China's largest web-to-print company, keeps on growing, and generates annual sales totaling some 375 million euros, is the first Chinese user of a Jetfire 50. The company is continuously forging ahead with its digital transformation and increasingly focusing on digital printing.

"The Chinese market is driving innovation in the printing sector and

Chris Clarke: Paper offers a medium for truth, authenticity, and honesty

Chris Clarke works as an Editorial Creative Director at The Guardian. For him magazines and newspapers offer a finite capsule and a sense of completion in our tumultuous time.

"With the rise of artificial intelligence, we've realised the importance of truth, authenticity and honesty. Paper as a medium can offer that. At The Guardian we did all our UK election coverage last year using paper. We printed out pictures of politicians, cut them out by hand and then photographed them, creating hundreds of artworks over the space of a couple weeks. It offered a sense of realness and rawness and connected to the feeling in the country of a 'Broken Britain'.

Similarly, we had a Saturday magazine issue with Greta Thunberg on the cover, with oil dripping down her face – and that was a real image. We actually dripped oil on her face, rather than using computer generated imagery. With our covers, we are trying to capture the mood of the nation and the world.

> **"**
> **With our covers, we are trying to capture the mood of the nation and the world.**

For me, printed magazines and newspapers offer a finite capsule and a sense of completion. Their purpose is to be a snapshot of the day, week, month – and reflect it back to you. We have a weekly slow news magazine that goes on newsstands and pulls in the best of The Guardian. We launched a perfect bound magazine of long-read journalism. We have a yearly book called The Bedside that summarises the year. And we have our weekly Saturday magazines that offer moments of intrigue outside of the day to day. Each has a purpose, each is designed and tailored to the reader, where they might be, what they might be doing and the headspace they might be in.
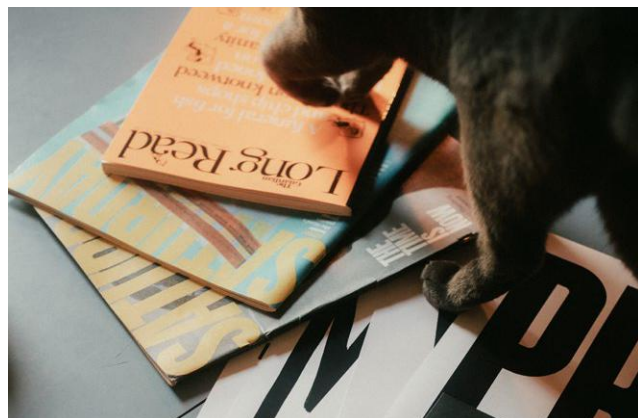
We should never underestimate the power of stopping somebody for that moment. And a moment is all we have at the newsstand. Even that can have an impact – if they see an image or piece of typography, and it is loud or bold or expressive enough, then they can understand or at least get a sense of the story, and that in itself is significant.

Philosophically speaking, I use design to engage in a conversation of change. I strongly believe in the power of design to make you feel or affect change, spark joy or engage conversation — I feel why I ended up in editorial is because it is a chance to tell stories and amplify the unnoticed.

Design should be human-centred, and human-focused. I never lose sight of its strength and power to influence, inform and demystify a confusing world. It can hopefully make things a little bit easier, clearer or simply more joyful for someone.

The Guardian has a very loyal print readership, and the value of print still stands for us because of our history and heritage. Print also serves a different purpose than digital and we aim to utilise the strengths of the different mediums to tell an impactful story.

Make it real.
Put it on paper.

UPM Communication Papers

UPM

UPM Raflatac becomes first labeling business to offer product footprints in customer quotes

UPM Raflatac has set a new labeling industry standard by embedding product footprint data directly into customer quotes. These product footprints, known as product passport prototypes (PPPs), provide label converters with transparent environmental data, helping them to make informed material choices and to reduce Scope 3 emissions* at source.
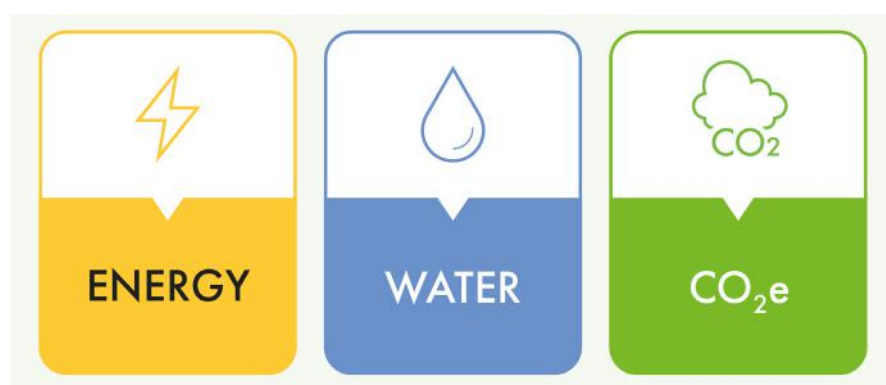
The PPPs are automatically linked to UPM Raflatac quote documents, giving its customers a full assessment of their label material's environmental impact. Each PPP offers an array of environmental metrics over the entire lifecycle of the label, enabling converters to assess and minimize their footprint, even at the early purchasing stage.

With raw materials accounting for 70–90% of converters' total environmental impact, access to real-time footprint data is critical for helping them make more sustainable decisions. PPPs also give converters a competitive edge by helping them respond quickly to customer inquiries about sustainability.

"The new feature is a game-changer for how we evaluate sustainable performance of materials and make better, more informed choices on the right environmental selection for our customers and our vision of No Waste," says Jason Fuller, Procurement Category Manager of COVERIS, a leading European packaging company.

As corporate sustainability regulations tighten, access to comprehensive environmental data is more crucial than ever. The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) will soon require certain products sold in the EU to include a digital product passport (DPP). This makes the introduction by UPM Raflatac even more timely. The PPPs featured in quotes are generated by UPM Raflatac's LCA service Label Life, which has been externally validated by DEKRA.

"The PPPs already cover over 90% of UPM Raflatac's label products by sales volume globally. We are proud to offer this exclusive service in our customer quotes as the first player in the labeling industry," says Flora D'Souza, Manager, Label Life, UPM Raflatac.

*According to the GHG Protocol, "Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions." These include emissions from purchased materials, transportation, processing, and disposal.
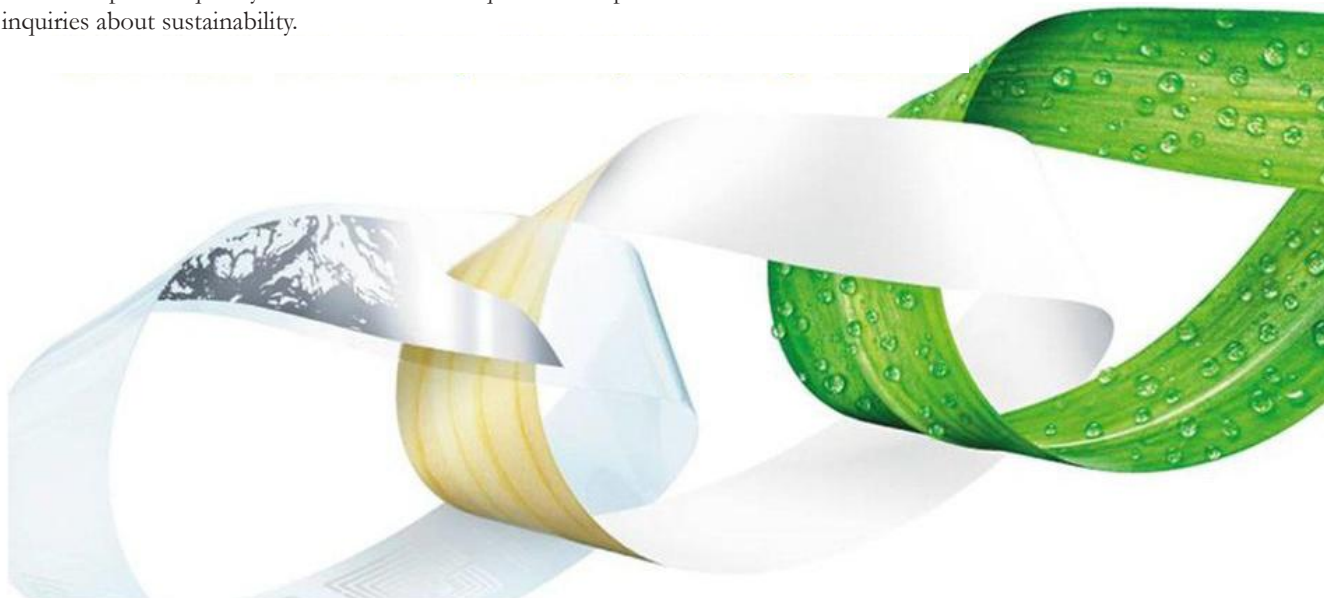
EF Next Generation

ACHIEVE THE LOWEST COST PER 1,000 LABELS

Boost efficiency and reduce costs with the EF Next Generation. Designed for maximum productivity, it delivers the lowest cost per 1,000 labels without compromising quality. Explore the key features that make this press a game-changer:

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- E-sleeve
- Open ink system with drawer
- Pressure automation
- i-Control
- i-Strip
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Connect to Grow

Canon's latest Large format technology delelopments at FESPA 25

Canon revealed its latest wide format portfolio developments at FESPA in Berlin, Germany.

Through real-world applications across the retail, interior décor, Point of Sale (POS) and promotional packaging segments, Canon inspireed sign makers and print service providers (PSPs) with an array of materials printed on the Arizona, Colorado and imagePROGRAF printers – as part of end-to-end workflow solutions that include both Canon platforms such as PRISMA XL Suite and multiple partner products. Under the overarching theme of 'The Power to Move', customer stories were brought to life, demonstrating how bold, high-impact print creates emotional connections, delivers real business momentum and transforms spaces into unforgettable brand experiences.

Canon's stand at FESPA 2025 featured a concept store demonstrating the creative and commercial possibilities of conceptual and real-world brands' wide format graphics applications, including interior décor, packaging and POS. A diverse selection of customer samples were displayed, including soft signage, corrugated and luxury packaging, POS

displays, posters and interior décor elements.

The breadth of opportunities with interior décor applications, using

Visitors had the chance to see the enhanced media handling capabilities with FLXflow technology in Canon's flatbed printer family, the Arizona series.

wallpaper, acoustic boards, prints on wood, glass, tiles, posters and mosaics, was also be evident. A number of customer case studies were featured, including Norwegian floristry business, Fiori, which illustrated in a real-world, interior décor, business case how strong collaboration in the value chain can maximise the potential of high-value, impactful print.

Elements of Canon's immersive World Unseen project were also on display: a unique photography exhibition which enables everyone – blind, partially sighted and sighted visitors – to experience imagery in an entirely new way, reflecting print's potential to enrich lives and businesses.

On the stand, the Arizona 2380 GTF flatbed printer with FLXflow technology with roll media option for flexible printing from roll-to-roll, demonstrated its uniquely intelligent way to not only

EXPERIENCE

iX

The varioPRINT iX-series revolutionises the commercial printing business experience. It combines stunning image quality and a wide media range with the high productivity and the attractive cost-efficiency of inkjet.

PRODUCTIVITY.

QUALITY.

VERSATILITY.

Proven Canon Experience

As a global market leader in sheetfed inkjet, Canon offers more experience in this segment than others. Invest with confidence to expand profit and opportunity! Experience iX!

The award-winning Colorado M-series

'Hold' and 'Float' media, but also perform an 'Instant Switch' between the two modes for easy media handling. As true flatbed printers, the Arizona series can work accurately and highly efficiently with various rigid and flexible substrates, including more challenging media such as cardboard, wood or glass, offering vast application possibilities ideal for a retail or hospitality environment.

Optimising the workflow, PRISMA XL Suite samples Showed how PRISMAelevate XL can be used to create printed layers to a height of 4 mm, helping users create stand-out, tactile artwork for elevated print applications that enhance and expand their product offering – including braille signage.

Highlighting to PSPs and print factories its productivity, modularity and in-field upgradability, the award-winning UVgel roll-to-roll printer, the Colorado M-series, was printing a variety of large format graphics applications live on the stand. The extensive and premium range of applications it can print were presented with bright and bold wallpapers, window graphics and soft signage made possible with a number of options, such as the hassle-free white ink, FLXfinish+ technology for printing both matte and gloss at the same time, and FLXture for subtle surface details.

Multiple current and new UVgel Factory configurations featuring the Colorado were also exhibited with different finishing partners to illustrate its broad application options, no matter what a PSP's volume requirements or budget are. These include the UVgel Wallpaper Factory, situated on Fotoba's stand, which showed how customers can automate production of mass-customised wallpaper at high volumes, unattended and around the clock.

This end-to-end solution demonstrates the capability of the Colorado M-series when used inline with the Fotoba jumbo roll feeder, cutter and rewinder to produce a variety of curated wallcoverings. Nearby, on Canon's finishing partner NEOLT's stand, they were presenting the UVgel Packaging Factory, which will display cost-effective and versatile digital printing for packaging as well as signage, and posters – perfect for short, custom runs.

Representing the Canon imagePROGRAF family of water-based inkjet printers the imagePROGRAF GP-6600S (60 inch, 152.4 cm), which produces stunning graphics, ensuring precise colour replication for images and corporate colours. Boasting seven colours including orange ink, the imagePROGRAF GP-6600S can create an eye-catching spectrum of colours with PANTONE™ precision, thanks to the innovative LUCIA PRO II inks making it perfect for printing graphic applications in brand colours.

The web-based poster creation software, PosterArtist, will illustrate to visitors how they can easily create auto-generated, attention-grabbing posters, banners and flyers to meet all their commercial needs.

Demonstrating real-life, end-to-end workflows across the stand, Canon highlight how its PRISMA XL Suite supports PSPs to deliver first-time-right prints and simplifies the production of complex jobs, whether it's printing five layers or creating textured or elevated applications. Visitors were able to follow the entire workflow management process, from online ordering including file preparation and printing the job, right through to shipment. Encompassing also the software of Canon partners ERPA, SKYCO, Symphony, OneVision and Onyx, each automated step will show PSPs how a holistic approach to workflow can help them respond to constantly changing challenges and to achieve greater profitability.
.
At FESPA Global Print Expo, the innovation story to life with exciting product developments and by demonstrating specialist applications expertise and agile business models that support customers to future-proof their businesses. In a world where grabbing and keeping attention is every brand owner's challenge, eye-popping, colourful print really has 'The Power to Move', stimulating the kind of emotional responses from consumers that are critical to commercial success. T
This could be the joy of engaging with beautiful artwork, the motivation to respond to an out-of-home (OOH) graphic, or the anticipation of unboxing a new product – we're celebrating print's unique 'attention power'.

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Increasing efficiency and productivity, reducing costs

Increasing efficiency and productivity, reducing costs, and improving customer service were the key drivers for Köstlin Prepress Services in Ditzingen, southwest Germany, when it recently made another investment in FLEXCEL NX Technology from Miraclon. The company supplies flexo printing plates to packaging printers who mainly produce flexible packaging.
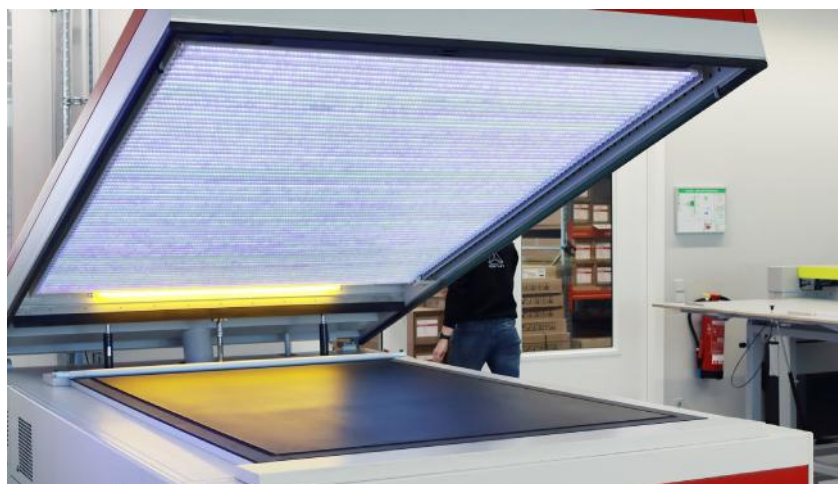
Köstlin experienced significant growth during 2024, which Managing Director Marc Talmon Gros attributes to brands launching new products and designs, as well as new customers with a highly diversified SKU portfolio who appreciate the benefits of the central repro service offered by Köstlin.

Flexcel NX Technology fully utilized
Köstlin has relied on Flexcel NX Technology from Miraclon for more than 12 years, and supplies customers with both solvent-based Flexcel NX H plates and water-wash Flexcel NX Ultra plates. These plates, which are produced on a Flexcel NX Wide 4260 imaging system, now account for over 75% of the company's total flexo plate production.

"Last year, Flexcel NX plate production increased by more than 10%, while plates from other manufacturers have stagnated," explains Marc Talmon Gros. According to him, one reason for this growth is because "Flexcel NX plates are still regarded as the gold standard for printers producing flexible packaging at a high, demanding production level and where they need to maximize efficiency and productivity without impacting quality or cost."

The advantages of switching to the larger format Flexcel NXX Ultra Solution
In November 2024, Köstlin invested in a Flexcel NX Ultra 42 Processing System, replacing the smaller NX Ultra 35 System it installed several years ago. This now allows Köstlin to produce Flexcel NX Ultra plates up to 1,067 x 1,524 mm in size.

"With 50% more surface area, the Flexcel NX Ultra 42 Processing System enables us to make much better use of the plate material. For example, when we are producing a bag for garden soil, previously only one color of the motif would fit on a plate, and around 35 to 40% of the surface area would be unused. We can now better optimize plate layout to minimize wastage," says Marc Talmon Gros.

Marc Talmon Gros says their use of PureFlexo™ Printing for both Flexcel NXH andFlexcel NX Ultra plates is also continuously increasing. "Over the last year and a half, we have reprinted our standard test form with FLEXCEL plates for the majority of our customers, and PureFlexo Printing with its multi-form surface patterning has proven to be the most suitable for controlling ink transfer and dot gain for most of them," explains Marc Talmon Gros. Köstlin now produces almost 70% of its Flexcel NX plates with PureFlexo Printing.

Shine LED Lamp Kit investment to increase exposure productivity
Kostlin at the same time also invested in a Shine LED Lamp Kit, innovated by Miraclon, to convert its large-format fluorescent exposure unit. The replacement of the UV fluorescent tubes with Shine LED lamps was carried out by a local electrician and took less than a day .

"It was a relatively low investment with little conversion work, which has brought us great benefits," adds Marc Talmon Gros. "The lower energy consumption, significantly longer service life and constant output of LED are, of course, clear advantages over conventional UV fluorescent tubes."

However, he sees the most important advantage in the productivity gains made possible by the Shine LED investment: "Compared to the previous fluorescent tubes and our other fluorescent exposure frame, which works with scanning LED imaging, we save around ten minutes per plate. That's incredible! On top of that, the Shine LED lamps don't need to be warmed up like the fluorescent tubes for us to start exposure.

This may only save us 10-12 minutes, but that's every day. Given our increasing productivity with Flexcel NX platemaking, this investment enables us to avoid a potential bottleneck which was sure to happen with fluorescent exposure."

The Köstlin Managing Director values his company's collaboration with Miraclon: "We find the partnership and the professional support we receive from Miraclon to be very positive.

Many customers see the discontinuation of print advertising in a negative light

Retailers that forego print advertisement risk seeing a drop in sales. This is the takeaway from a recent survey by IFH Köln retail research institute in Cologne. What it also revealed: The number of Germans surveyed who read print brochures at least occasionally increased in the last three years from 92 to 95 percent.

In 2022, as home improvement center chain Obi announced they would discontinue their advertising brochures, this raised a few eyebrows in the graphic industry. And as supermarket chain Rewe followed suit one year later, this sent even more waves of worry through the print industry. What the two large retailers may not have expected: Many customers see the discontinuation of print advertising in a negative light.

After all, according to the latest brochure monitor from IFH MEDIA ANALYTICS, which analyzes the reception of brochures and based on a representative survey of 1,000 people from various household sizes and income levels in Germany carried out last February, 52 percent of people who used to regularly read brochures miss print advertising. Only one-fourth consider the elimination of print ads to be a positive development.

95 percent read print brochures at least occasionally

62 percent find that they now receive less information from the respective providers, and in some cases they now purchase less from them (45 percent). Nearly half are now reading more brochures from other providers. 45 percent tend to reject alternative digital channels because they find them too complicated to use. It's no surprise that other retailers that followed OBI and Rewe are discussing reintroducing print advertising.

The significance of print brochures – which 87 percent perceive as more slow-paced and relaxed according to the survey – is made clear by one figure from the latest brochure monitor: 95 percent of Germans surveyed (3 percent more compared with three years ago!) read print brochures at least occasionally, while 78 percent (2 percent more than in 2022) do so weekly. The intensive use of online brochures is increasing, with 66 percent using them weekly, thanks to the growing prevalence of apps. "But the maximum group of users is stagnating, as the number of occasional users remains the same at quite a high level (2025: 86 percent/2024: 87 percent)," writes IFH MEDIA ANALYTICS in a press release.

Scoring deals, saving money, planning the weekly grocery shopping

And why do consumers read brochures? Primarily to find deals (print: 64 percent/online: 52 percent) and to cut costs while shopping (print: 56 percent/online: 51 percent). Nearly every second German (47 percent) also uses print ads to plan their weekly grocery shopping trip – a sharp increase compared with 2016 (26 percent). Online brochures play a significantly less important role in this area, coming in at 36 percent.

It's no wonder that around half of consumers indicate that they are personally affected by the discontinuation of print brochures. According to the latest brochure monitor, this is one reason that print brochures are making a comeback, reflecting current market dynamics. Nearly a third of consumers have already experienced the return of a brochure that was once discontinued. 63 percent of them see this revival as a good thing. And for nearly half (47 percent), this has made it easier to find good deals.

Hybrid use the prevalent model

"The results clearly show that, despite all the digital euphoria, print brochures remain a fixed part of the everyday life of consumers. Their enormous reach ensures that they can be found in virtually every household," says Andreas Riekötter, Managing Director of IFH MEDIA ANALYTICS. "We are also seeing that provider apps, which are recording the greatest growth among online media, do not replace brochures. Most users use both channels, and this hybrid approach will remain the prevalent model for promotional communication in the future as well."

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In five years' time global online shopping revenue is projected to reach 9.1 trillion USD from $6.09 trillion in 2024. This year, worldwide sales for retail e-commerce alone are estimated to exceed $4.3 trillion. And, by 2040, it is predicted that 95% of all purchases will be made online.

To meet this growing demand, logistics companies need to streamline their order fulfilment workflow and so reduce order processing time and increase throughput. In many cases printed materials are an important part of an order, ranging from order documentation to product related materials such as user manuals and safety instructions.

Embedding print production into existing fulfilment processes using near or inline printers and automated print workflows will reduce manual touchpoints and errors, save time and money, remove bottlenecks, and increase throughput.

It also opens the door to a greater use of personalisation.
This buoyant market is driving growth in parcels and packaging, providing

an opportunity for brands to improve customer experience, build loyalty, and increase response and conversion rates with personalised, targeted communications.

With 81% of customers preferring companies that offer a personalised experience and

60% of customers recognising when they receive personalised recommendations and finding them more valuable than generic ones, there is exciting potential through delivering a customer centric experience.

But we also see that brands fear that a personalised, customised approach is too complicated, leading to them missing opportunities to create more meaningful customer touchpoints.

They send out parcels without any marketing materials and, if communications are included, they are often 'one size fits all' or affiliate marketing – neither of which helps generate repeat business. There are three ways customer communications can be improved with intelligent logistics:

1. Changing from bulk print production to inhouse capabilities with near or inline

tunities e-commerce

printing that produces critical printed collateral at the point of need streamlines the fulfilment process. This can remove the need for warehousing, transportation, manual touchpoints, and waste related to pre-printing.

It can improve speed, reliability, and productivity with fewer devices and reduce print interruptions and print related helpdesk calls. Applications include on demand printing of delivery notes and labels near order despatch. This also opens the door to delivering highly personalised marketing messaging using white space or separate targeted promotional assets.

2. Inline "Drop in the Box" document printing that automatically drops print into the box along the conveyor at the point of packaging. This touchless delivery reduces manual handling and labour. Applications include automated printing and insertion of delivery documents and other critical print. It offers greater automation of the inclusion of personalised marketing assets

3. Integrated print automation delivers fully automated personalised print to each box using customised workflow to manage data, print, and delivery. A visual inspection system employs tracking barcodes to deliver full traceability. Applications include on demand, customer centric marketing and promotional materials and the inserting of product related materials such as instruction manuals and how to guides.

With the right logistics fulfilment capabilities, retail brands can move away from generic marketing. They can adopt customised communications that treat each recipient as an individual and deliver value added services. They can create engaging messaging that encourages brand loyalty and customer retention.

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Songunsa Completes Installation of Manroland's ROLAND 710

Songunsa Co., Ltd., a pioneer in Korea's packaging industry, has successfully completed the installation of the state-of-the-art ROLAND 710 from Manroland Sheetfed.

This cutting-edge 10-colour printing press is set to revolutionise Songunsa's production processes, delivering unmatched efficiency, precision, and superior print quality. With the Roland 710 now operational, Songunsa is poised to elevate its capabilities and meet the growing demands of high-end packaging solutions.

As a leader in the Korean packaging market, Songunsa has built its reputation on innovation, quality, and customer-centricity. The company operates under its unique Under One Roof System, integrating design, printing, post-processing, and box manufacturing into a seamless workflow.

This approach ensures exceptional efficiency and price competitiveness, enabling Songunsa to produce a diverse range of packaging goods, from high-end liquor cases and cosmetic boxes to intricate handmade packaging for jewellery and pharmaceuticals. With a commitment to sustainability and advanced automation, Songunsa continues to set industry benchmarks while prioritising customer satisfaction and environmental responsibility.

The installation of the Roland 710 marks a significant milestone in Songunsa's journey toward innovation and excellence. Known for its reliability and versatility, the Roland 710 is designed to handle complex printing tasks with ease, ensuring vibrant colours, sharp details, and consistent results.

This advanced press will empower Songunsa to expand its product offerings, cater to the evolving needs of its clients, and maintain its position as a leader in the competitive packaging industry. As Songunsa harnesses the full potential of the ROLAND 710, the company is set to redefine the standards of packaging excellence.

Manroland Sheetfed's Roland 710 is renowned for its precision engineering, user-friendly operation, and ability to deliver exceptional print quality across a wide range of substrates. By integrating this advanced technology into its workflow, Songunsa is not only enhancing its production capabilities but also reinforcing its dedication to innovation and sustainability.

Universal screen printing unit – can be integrated across manufacturers

Whether on a Gallus press or another brand – the new Screeny printing unit enables rotary screen printing to be used across all narrow-web machines, regardless of the manufacturer, and delivers more than just modern printing technology. It unlocks new creative possibilities – because screen-printed labels and packaging truly stand out at the point of sale with their striking visual, tactile, and sensory effects.

By Dieter Finna

Brilliant colors, high opacity, tactile varnish textures, or metallic effects – screen printing speaks directly to the senses, creating striking visual, tactile, and even olfactory experiences. No other printing process offers such a wide range of effects that not only capture attention but also significantly enhance brand perception. This creative potential is a key driver behind the continued growth of screen printing – even in emerging areas of application.

For converters looking to offer their customers high-end effects by retrofitting an existing narrow-web press with a screen printing unit, implementation has so far been anything but straightforward. The market offers only a limited number of standardized solutions, while users are increasingly seeking alternatives that meet today's state-of-the-art standards.

Gallus Screeny Print Unit
This is exactly where the new Gallus Screeny Print Unit printing unit comes in. It was specifically developed for retrofitting and integration into existing narrow-web production lines – regardless of press type or manufacturer. The new unit features an attractive

Importance of the senses on consumer behavior
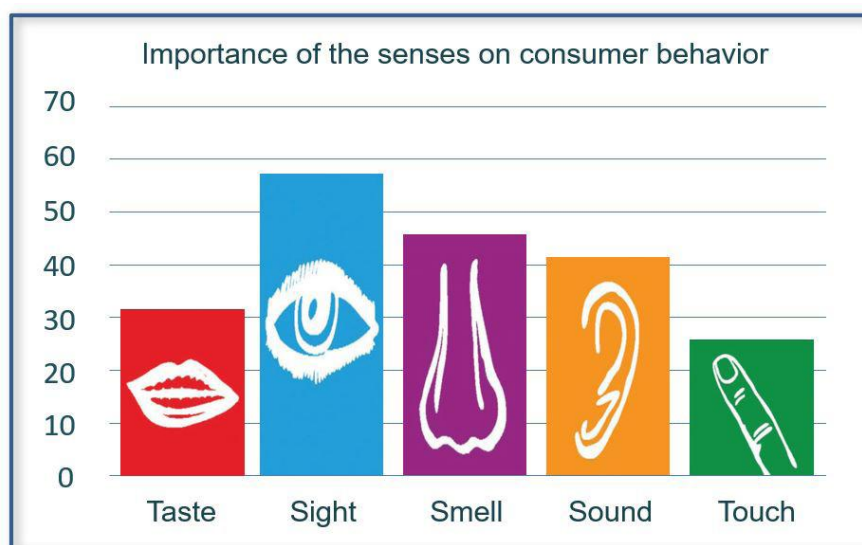
At 58%, visual perception has the highest significance in the influence of the senses, followed by smell at 45%. (Source: Martin Lindstrom 'Brand sense', Free Press, New York, 2005 p.69)

design and a carefully curated range of equipment options. The compact unit can be integrated on a rail system above the printing units – with no major modifications or extended downtimes. Alternatively, installation on a separate frame between printing units is also possible.

The Screeny Print Unit screen printing unit is available in printing widths of 340mm (13"), 440mm (17") and 580mm (23"). (Source: Gallus Ferd. Rüesch AG)

As a standalone unit, it requires only a power and compressed air supply – no speed signal is necessary. It begins printing as soon as the web runs through.

The Screeny Print Unit screen printing unit is available in printing widths of 340mm (13"), 440mm (17") and 580mm (23"). (Source: Gallus Ferd. Rüesch AG)

Alternatively, it is equipped with the necessary connections to be linked to a machine's start-stop signal.

The unit supports screen formats from 85T up to a maximum of 208T. It is available for print widths of 340mm (13"), 440mm (17"), and 580mm (23"), as well as a web width up to 600mm (23.6"). The screen is driven on both the drive and operator sides, features screen break monitoring, and a large ink collection tray.

Operation via 10" color touch panel
The unit is operated via a 10" color touch panel, which shows the operator all main functions on one level. This color display allows the operator to monitor and control all operating functions at a glance. For ease of use, the touchscreen includes a tooltip that indicates the function of the currently selected button. This saves the operator from having to search through the user manual during training or when questions arise.

Touch Panel

The 10" color touch panel with all main functions on one surface. (Source: Gallus Ferd. Rüesch AG)

The colored frame around the touch panel serves more than just a design purpose. It shows the operator the operating status in a simple way, no matter where he is at the machine. An orange frame means the unit is ready for operation. When the machine system starts and the printing unit is running, the frame turns green. A red frame indicates a fault and the operator must intervene.

Automated Format and Gap Adjustment

Far from being just a "nice to have," the automatic format and gap adjustment between the screen cylinder and the impression cylinder is a highly practical innovation. This adjustment is performed by two servo motors that automatically set the gap to 0.2 mm, replacing what was previously a manual process. The adjustment works for all printing cylinder diameters and is controlled by a specially developed software solution. Screeny Print Unit is the only screen printing unit on the market to offer this feature – effectively eliminating operating errors caused by incorrect settings.

Diagonal Register Adjustment

In addition to the standard longitudinal and lateral adjustments, the screen printing unit also features a diagonal register adjustment. This proves to be a particularly useful function on systems where printing units can be flexibly positioned on a rail system. Minor deviations in parallel alignment caused by the web path can be compensated for via the diagonal adjustment—up to 0.5 mm.

Doctor Blade System Compatible with All Common Types

The doctor blade system is compatible with blades from all major manufacturers, regardless of their construction. Whether it's a classic rubber blade, a carbon-reinforced variant, or a strip steel blade with bonded rubber—any type can be used. The pneumatically adjustable blade height of ±5 mm makes operating the unit especially easy.

Standard RCS Screen Rings

The compact design of the standard RCS screen rings used is noteworthy. They have no gears and, thanks to their compact size, allow for space-saving integration of the screen printing unit directly onto the rear wall of a machine system. This means that the web path is not affected.

Smart Mechanics Prevent Damage

In a screen printing unit, errors when gluing the welded screen tube to the screen rings quickly lead to the destruction of the screen. The Screeny printing unit has a sophisticated solution to this problem: When the screen is inserted, the two drive sides of the unit are mechanically decoupled for a short time. The screen rings, which are equipped with a precisely fitting lug on both sides, slide automatically into the designated locating pins of the drive coupling when closing.

From a Blank Sheet to a High-Performance Screen Printing Unit

Oliver Vetter: "Around two and a half years ago, we embarked on an exciting journey. The goal was clear – we wanted to develop our own autonomous screen printing unit. Not just any unit, but one that truly meets the current demands of the market. And, as is often the case with new ideas, it all started with a lot of questions.

What does a unit like this really need? What functions are essential? What would be nice to have? And what features would simply be cool – the famous 'nice to have'? From all these considerations, we gradually developed a comprehensive set of specifications. Every function, every feature, every possible use case was carefully thought through, discussed, and documented.

The path to get there was anything but linear – there was experimenting, discarding, improving, and rethinking. And it was precisely this process that moved us forward. Because what ultimately emerged from all these ideas and requirements is not just another autonomous printing unit. It's our Screeny screen printing unit – a thoughtfully designed, modern, and flexible solution built for efficiency, precision, and long-term viability. It combines the highest standards of integration capability, technology, user convenience, and durability."

Even if the lugs are not exactly aligned during insertion, they are reliably locked in place - the clutch closes automatically for operation and the mechanical connection is precisely re-established.

Configuration Options for Individual Requirements

Among the practical options available for the screen printing unit is a GEW UV curing system with an integrated chill roller. The unit is prepared for both conventional UV and UV LED systems and features an efficient water-cooling system. For coating applications, an additional 1-meter extension path can be integrated. Furthermore, the unit can be equipped with an integrated ink pump, which—when combined with an automatic ink level control system—ensures consistently high print quality and convenient operation.

Conclusion

With flexible integration capabilities, robust technology, and proven print quality, the Gallus Screeny Print Unit printing unit positions itself as a forward-looking solution for rotary screen printing. It is suitable for cross-brand integration in diverse press environments, for retrofitted finishing steps, or as an efficient inline module.

Another strong advantage of the Gallus Screeny printing unit is its full compatibility with the established RCS technology and existing Screeny peripheral equipment. Converters already working with Gallus systems can continue using their existing stencil rings, cutting tables, welding devices, and mounting tools without any limitations—saving time, reducing costs, and preventing unnecessary system disruptions.

Features

- **Fully independent screen printing unit**
- **Format size 85T - 208T**
- **Available in print width 340mm, 440mm and 580mm (13", 17" & 23")**
- **Web width 360mm, 460mm and 600mm (14",18" & 23.6")**
- **Speed and print register control**
- **Mechanical speed 1-120m/min (3-393 feet/min)**
- **Print substrate gauge 40-400mic (160 – 1600 gauge)**
- **Cross register +/-5mm (0.2")**
- **Diagonal register adjustment +/-0,5mm**
- **Squeegee positioning +/-5mm (0.2")**
- **Eye mark reader**
- **Dual driven screen**
- **Screen break sensor**
- **Ink collection tray**
- **Separate ink collection tray and holder for screen printing squeegee**
- **Screen rings without gears – RCS standard rings**
- **Automated screen gap setting (0.20mm)**
- **Format size in tooth, inch or mm, no limitation**
- **10" color touch panel, all functions on first level**
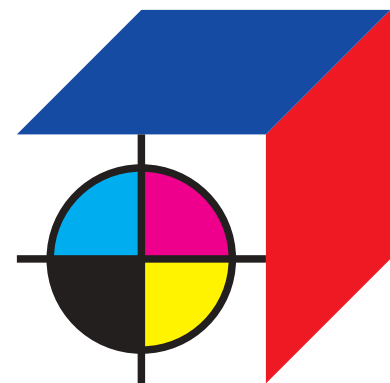- **Flexible squeegee system, Gallus, RKS or SPG**

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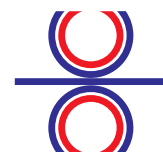Jointly organized by :

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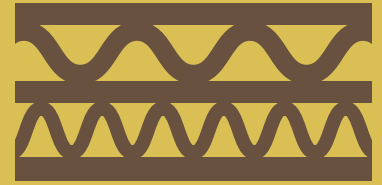THE THAI PACKAGING ASSOCIATION

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