

PRINT & PACKAGING INNOVATION ASIA

Serving Printing, Packaging and Publishing Industries across Asia Pacific since 1985 - Issue 3 2025



Digital embellishment, what you need to know.

We interview Michael Ebrahim from Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia about this growing process in our industry

Full interview from page 8





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

FREE ENTRY FORM DEADLINE 5pm August 8th 2025

Categories 1- 8 : Offset Printing Only

1. **Calendars** – any format
2. **Sheefed 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 printed 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

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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 Category!

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

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ASIAN PACKAGING EXCELLENCE AWARDS: 2025



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MÜLLER MARTINI

Digital embellishment - what now about this fast-growing

We were lucky enough to grab some time with one of the most knowledgeable industry professionals, Michael Ebrahim from Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia, who has been driving digital embellishing over many years, looking after the MGI range of products across most of Asia. We asked him the questions we know most are looking for answers about embellishment -. Enjoy the interview below.

Q: Please introduce yourself and your industry experience to our readers across the Asia region

My name is Michael Ebrahim. (M.E)

For the better part of my 30-year career, I have been involved in printing. I discovered my passion for this field early on while I was introducing digital printing to the Philippine market, which was then 100% analogue copying and conventional printing. Over the years, I have stayed abreast of developments in digital printing while also exploring offset and silk screen printing. Eventually, I became involved in print production for retail, working under the umbrella of the second-largest retail group in the Philippines.

In 2015, I had the opportunity to join Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia to handle the very first digital embellishment machine that Konica Minolta and MGI collaborated on, the MGI JETVARNISH 3DS. Given the nature of this machine, my passion not only shifted from printing to digital embellishment but increased severalfold. My 10 years here have involved traveling around the region, advocating for digital embellishment, demonstrating our machines, using our machines to produce collaterals and samples, teaching our customers how to use them, and providing support whenever needed.

It is because of the above that I remain passionate about Digital Embellishment.

Q: What is MGI and where does it fit onto our industry in terms of print production. Is it only available for digital print or is this a product that offset printers can look at?.

M.E I understand that not many people in our region know much about MGI, as most of its growth and expansion happened in Europe.

MGI Digital Technology (“MGI”) is a print and finishing equipment manufacturer founded back in 1982 in Paris, France. They are listed in the NYSE Paris Alternext stock market. Early on, MGI distinguished itself in digital printing by producing both high quality toner-based printing equipment and cutting-edge inkjet printing equipment.

Albeit Konica Minolta acquired a 42.3% stake in MGI starting in 2014, there



Michael Ebrahim from Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia

had been a strong relationship between MGI and Konica Minolta long before that. Konica Minolta would supply the electrophotography print engines and the inkjet printheads to MGI and MGI will then add their controllers, software, and their own technologies to produce the Meteor series of production printers and the various JET series of inkjet printers sold by them.

In 2008 at Drupa, MGI introduced the world’s very first digital Spot UV machine capable of embellishing both



Poster Sample

What you need to know about the process

Conventional and Digital prints, the JETvarnish. Since that time, MGI has continually innovated, producing pioneering, award-winning, and noteworthy technologies in the process: iFOIL, JETvarnish 3D Web, Image Editor, Cost calculator, Artificial Intelligence Smartscanner (AIS), the AlphaJET, to name a few.



KM AccurioShine 3600 + iFoil One

The culmination of this collaboration between Konica Minolta and MGI to date is our latest in small format (B3) digital embellishment machine, the Konica Minolta AccurioShine 3600. Whether users consciously realize it or not, there is a certain specific experience they benefit from when operating any product bearing the Konica Minolta brand. This experience can be summarized into three points: (1) High Quality, (2) High Reliability, and (3) Ease of Use. Hence, our AccurioShine 3600, which is the very first MGI powered digital embellishment machine to bear the Konica Minolta logo, offers this same experience.

As we further our efforts in trying to provide new value not just to our immediate customers – the print service providers -- but to the entire print value chain, I am very much excited because things can only become better. With Konica Minolta and MGI's strong partnership and innovative technologies, we are poised to continue leading the industry and delivering exceptional experiences to all our customers.

Q: If you look at say a normal digital print output, what do you think the impact of this type of technology can do to make it stand out

M.E This is a very interesting question because the more challenging type of prints to embellish are actually digital prints.

The challenge is not just because digital prints are lower in volume and therefore are more costly to embellish using conventional methods. Though very true, this is not the only reason.

Digital prints have variances in the position of the printed image relative to the sheet it is printed on. This variance changes from sheet to sheet and, depending on the printer, can be quite significant. Of course, without any overprint, these variances are normally not noticeable to the naked eye. However, when embellishment is applied, even if just a reasonable amount of precision in registration is required, we are able to discern a high occurrence of misregistration especially when using conventional embellishment methods.

Whether toner-based or ink based digital prints, just like in conventional printing, colour saturation can also lead to localized warping altering the shape of the paper and thus affecting the shape of the print. The result is more severe than the above case because with this, even the current non-AI-based registration technologies will not be very effective in catching and adjusting for these so called “localized warping.”

There was also the matter of compatibility between the conventional spot UV chemical and the digital print toner or ink. Not all digital prints can be laminated. Therefore, problems in spot UV quality

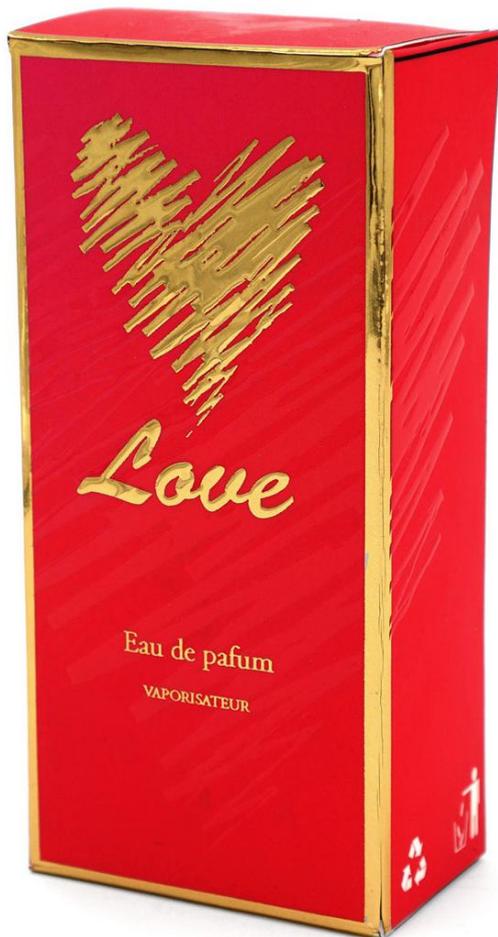
especially in wettability (surface quality, edge quality, no pinholes, etc) and adhesion would often occur.

As a post printing process, the costs due to waste at this point, can easily pile up. Because of Digital Embellishment and especially with technologies like the Artificial Intelligence Smartscanner (AIS), and a varnish formulation that allows for just one UV varnish to be used for various embellishment intents and on various inks, digital prints can now be made more impactful and stand out from the crowd.

Digital embellishment takes digital printing to a whole new level. When we say, “Digital Embellishment,” we mean the following special effects: (1) eye-



Book Sample



Packaging Samples

catching foil designs, and (2) tactile & emotional SpotUV and texture designs. Both effects are meant to transform a colour digital print from an also-ran to



MGI JETvarnish 3D Evo

something very unique, impactful, and effective. When it comes to printing, especially with digital, the more unique a print becomes the more impact a print has. Especially with MGI Digital Embellishment, the foil, SpotUV, and texture effects that can be done may even be unique compared to what other digital embellishment equipment can produce.

To understand the impact of digital embellishment on digital prints, we don't need to look any further than the 2024 Asian Print Awards. All the entries I've seen were absolutely mind blowing!

Let's take the entry of Jisung Print from Korea, which is the winner of "Best Digital Embellishment," you will see the use of unique effects that are probably only economically feasible through the MGI digital embellishment: multiple colours of foil, including holographic foil, embossed foil-on-embossed foil, texture-on-foil, SpotUV-on-foil, fine texture lines, tactile texture patterns, high-gloss SpotUV delivered precisely inside shapes bordered by foil, flat satin-like SpotUV, and various embellishment emboss heights delivered in one pass. It is THE example among examples, of what digital embellishment can do to a colour print.

What is equally interesting are the other winners in other categories where embellishments are not required. You can very well see the difference in impact between the embellished and the non-embellished in both the look of the entries and their ranking.

Q: Is this applicable to digital packaging as this is also an area that is fast growing and is a key point with standing out from isle clutter (shelf exposure in supermarkets etc for shoppers)

M.E Absolutely! In retail, there is a saying, "Unseen is unsold." Since the mid-2000s, there have been several compelling studies done by printing-related associations, the academe, and by the brand owners on

the immense positive impact that foiling, raised SpotUV, and/or textures can do to packaging. Such studies conclude that the effect of embellishment on the sale of a product ranges from being bought because it was seen first, being sought and was quickly found, being chosen over another because the packaging just looks more convincing and, being bought even if the buyer did not have any previous plan to buy.

However, not all product packaging can be embellished economically. In fact, all over the region, I have heard of cases whereby a local cosmetic or personal care packaging could still be produced using an offset press but could not have hot foil stamping anymore because of the cost. Hence, the only feasible way to create compelling, credible, impactful, or unique packaging for such types of products is through digital. And because it is digital, additional techniques appealing to the consumer can be employed: personalization, serialization, and mass customization.

To date, amongst our installations our AccurioShine 3600, which is our smallest machine, is also being used to embellish small items packaging.

Btw. The benefits above can also be realized in another application closely related to packaging -- book printing. Book covers, like packaging, play a crucial role in influencing a buyer's perception and purchase decision. As such, a lot of consideration is made in the design and production of a book cover.

Q: How can a company start with this technology, is it a massive outlay or can they start and build on the product as they get to understand the power of digital embellishment

M.E This is exactly what our entry-level digital embellishment machine, the AccurioShine 3600, is designed for. It can

Software solutions for labels and packaging printing.

-  Enterprise workflows
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-  Color management
-  3D prototyping & visualization
-  High-speed RIPs and DFEs
-  Printheads electronics

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our products





Francis Chua - General Manager, Regional Sales and Marketing HQ

grow with the customer. If our customers want, they can start with the most basic configuration, which can apply SpotUV and produce not only basic shapes and text coating effects, but also more powerful emotional effects like variable emboss thicknesses, textures, and patterns. When they are ready to expand into foiling, they can purchase and retrofit the iFOIL One. Additionally, there are other options available that will allow them to expand further by accommodating more substrates, automating file preparation, and/or automating variable data printing.

We appreciate that different printers have varying levels of understanding, readiness, and expectations regarding the power of digital embellishment. This is why we take time and care in working with our customers to understand their wants and needs and address each of their concerns through testing and proofs-of-concept. We work hand-in-hand with our customers from pre-sales to post-sales. We can do this because we arguably have the most extensive network in and around our region, and if needed, we can tap into the collective experiences of our global family.

Q: Where do you see digital embellishment in the next 3 years.

M.E Although digital embellishment has been around for 17 years, I still consider this area of the printing ecosystem to be in its younger stages of development. In fact, research agency IT Strategy estimates that the embellishment market CAGR is 5% from 2025 – 2027 so we expect a steady growth. Hence, the following is what I feel may be happening in the next three years.

Firstly, due to the increasing demand for sustainability, I believe different

manufacturers will develop innovative ways to work with a wider variety of substrates, especially recycled and uncoated paper.

Secondly, I believe AI will play a bigger role not just in automatic registration, as we have now, but in providing highly impactful designs and making operations more efficient.

Additionally, because foil has proven to provide the greatest impact while incurring lower costs, the types of foil available for digital embellishment will grow in variety and purpose: creative, practical, security, unique applications for specific verticals, etc.

Finally, due to the continual developments and improvements being made to these types of machines, digital embellishment will become part of our daily lives, just as it is in other parts of the world right now.

Q: Who will drive this, printers, brand owners, advertising agencies or other market influences

M.E We work closely and continually with our customers to advocate and educate advertising agencies, brand owners, and other market influencers. Although our activities vary from country to country, in general, we have worked with our customers to organize open houses, conduct seminars, and even go on roadshows. We are fully committed to helping our customers get their feet wet in digital embellishment.

In line with this, I would like to highlight one activity that has proven to be a very effective platform for showcasing the latest printing technologies while promoting a company's capabilities and skills: participating in important competitions such as Print Innovation Asia's Asian Print Awards and the Asian Packaging Awards. The learning gained from both preparing an entry and seeing other entries is invaluable. The exposure gained from winning an award makes



Koji Asaka - Senior Manager, IP Business Department & CEC APAC

the effort worthwhile. Hence, we will continue to encourage our customers – old and new – to join these competitions.

Q: In closing, what advice would you like to give companies as they move into this area, or are interested but hesitant to jump in.

M.E Looking at both global and local trends, we can see that print volumes, especially from conventional printing, continue to decline. On the other hand, volumes from digital prints are on the rise. Although these volumes may never reach the levels of conventional printing, the value per digital print is higher, creating an even greater need for differentiation. Amongst all the special effects printing available to digital printing today, the two that have consistently remained popular with both print buyers and print service providers are foiling and tactile prints. Entering this field early will provide you with early adopter prestige, market leadership identity, and greater ease in finding and securing new business.

We understand that it is not easy to just jump in. This is why we will be here every step of the way to clarify your doubts, get you up and running, and help you get your feet wet.

Looking forward to talking to each of you soon!



MGI JETvarnish 3D Web

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UV Days 2025: Mission to Zero

From 3 to 5 June 2025, IST METZ invites you to the world's largest in-house exhibition for optical systems in Nürtingen. Under the motto 'Mission to Zero', everything will revolve around sustainable curing technologies with UV, LED and excimer.

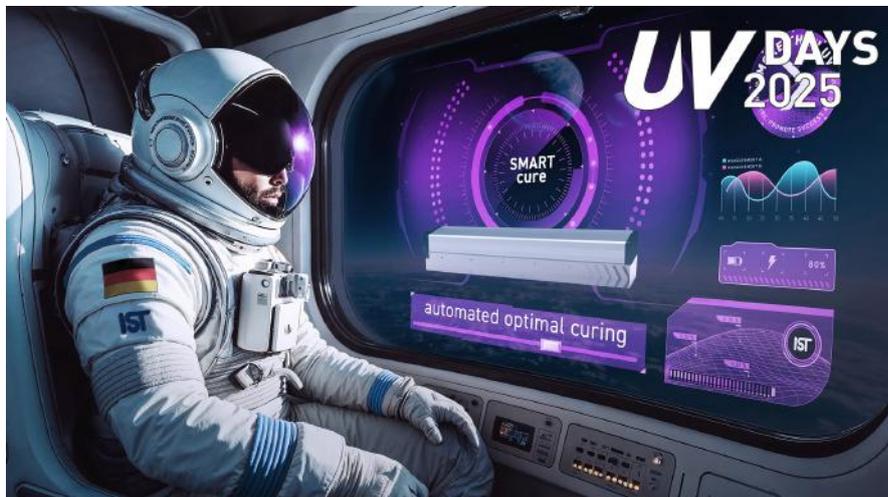
Discover ground-breaking innovations, meet industry experts and find out more about the latest trends in our LED LAB and on the UV Technology Campus. Join us and shape the future of curing technology - efficient, sustainable and emission-free!

Discover the future of sustainable curing technology with UV, LED and excimer technology and join us on a journey into new worlds of curing technology! From 3 to 5 June 2025, we welcome you to the UV Days - the world's largest in-house exhibition for optical systems at IST METZ in Nürtingen. Immerse yourself in the world of UV, LED and excimer technology and discover ground-breaking solutions that combine sustainability, efficiency and innovation. Meet numerous exhibitors from the printing and industrial sectors, learn more about the most important trends from renowned partners and be inspired by exciting presentations.

Be part of the 'Mission to Zero'

Be inspired by leading experts, discover pioneering innovation and shape the future of curing technology with us. Together, we are paving the way to zero emissions, zero waste and maximum efficiency.

Join us on our journey towards a sustainable future for curing technology.



Under the motto 'Mission to Zero', we are setting new standards and developing pioneering solutions together.

Take the opportunity to find out about the latest trends and research results in our LED LAB and on the UV Technology Campus. Experience at first hand the possibilities that these technologies offer for your applications!

We look forward to welcoming you to the UV Days 2025!

Our programme highlights Redefining sustainability

Our ground-breaking FREEcure technology reduces the use of photoinitiators to a minimum while optimising curing results. This solution not only fulfils the new printing ink

regulation but is also ideal for low-migration inks - especially for sensitive products and packaging. Thanks to the reduced number of dryers, you save energy and resources. Find out how FREEcure makes your production processes more environmentally friendly and efficient.

Digitalisation for greater efficiency

Digitalisation opens completely new potential for efficiency and quality. Our SMARTcure technology uses artificial intelligence (AI) to optimise energy consumption and extend the service life of LEDs. Intelligent data transfers between the system and the cloud provide you with important maintenance information that supports your production processes in a sustainable and resource-saving way. Our experts have revolutionised the UV curing process - for an environmentally friendly future.

Innovation in the curing process

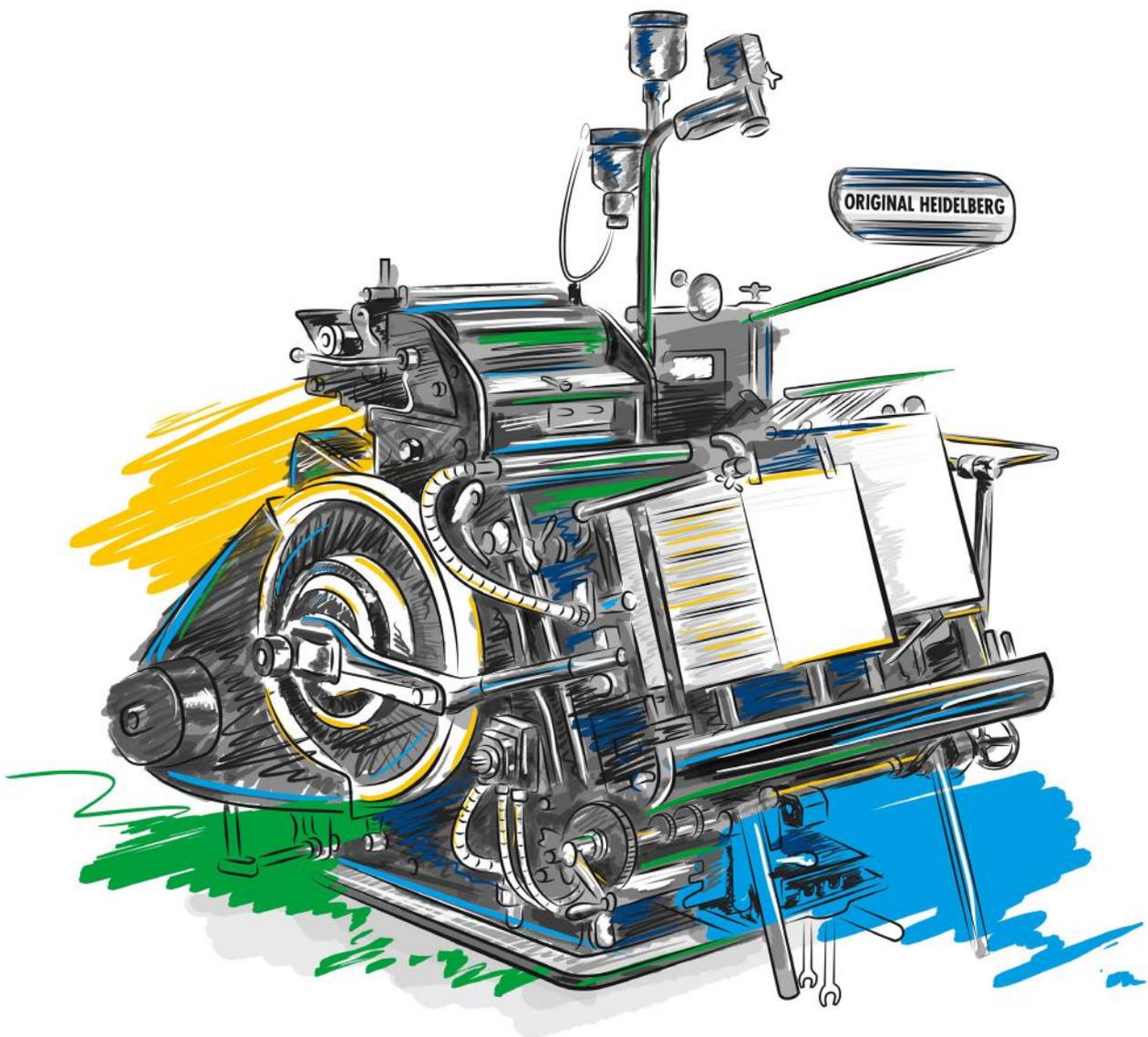
Experience the latest technological developments that make the curing process faster, more efficient and more environmentally friendly. Our innovative solutions are designed to exceed the requirements of modern industrial applications and at the same time make a contribution to sustainability. With our focus on top quality and resource conservation, we offer future-orientated technologies for the highest demands.



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Muller Martini presented exciting Smart Factory solutions with partners

Muller Martini demonstrated its innovative strength at the Hunkeler Innovationdays 2025, which took place in Lucerne from February 24 to 27. The three smart factory solutions presented are revolutionizing production processes in the digital printing industry for the long term

With 6,800 participants and 120 exhibitors presenting 40 live solutions, the event grew slightly once again. "We are proud that, together with our partners, we were able to present pioneering solutions during the four days of the trade fair that will shape the future of the digital printing industry," emphasized Bruno Müller, CEO of Muller Martini.

Impressive smart factory solutions

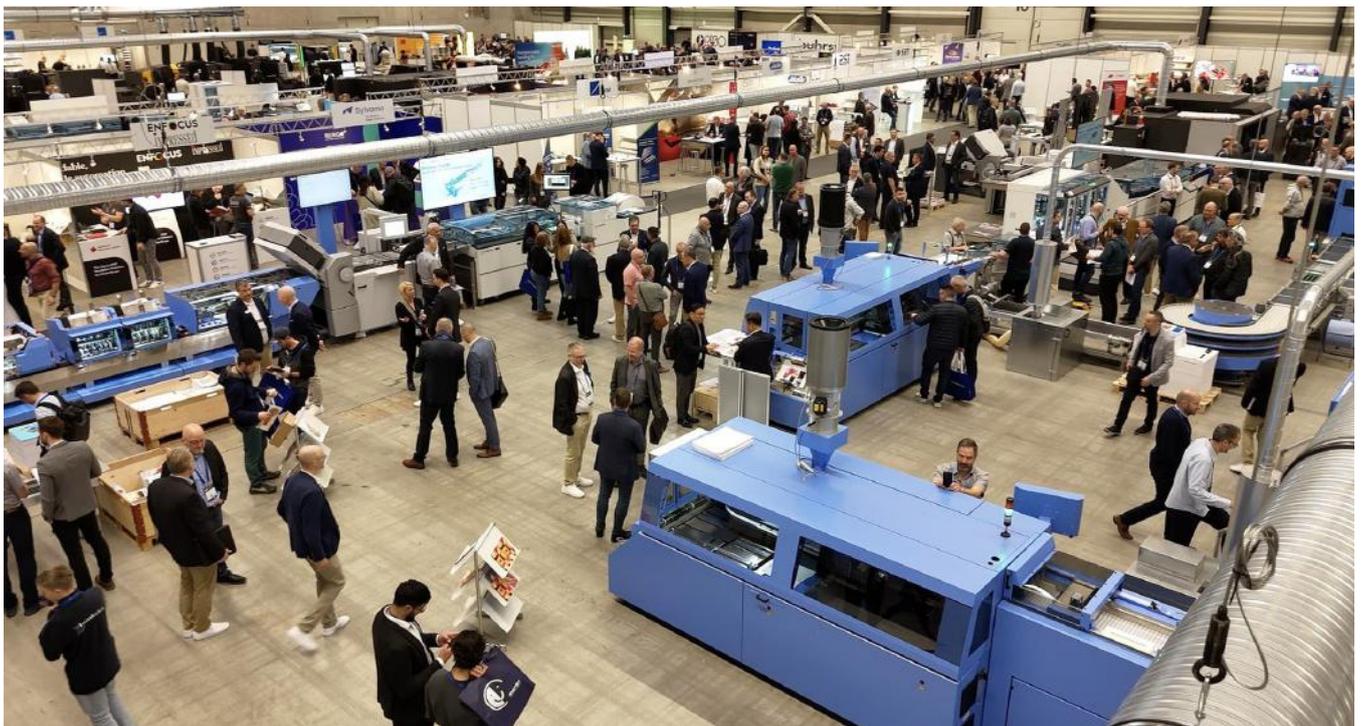
Three of these solutions captivated countless visitors to the Muller Martini booth. All three Smart Factory applications on display impressively demonstrated how Muller Martini can set new standards for end-to-end production processes in collaboration with its partners. Visitors experienced how a finished softcover book was produced inline from both the white roll and the white sheet – from the digital

web-fed or sheet-fed printing machine to the cutting robot with subsequent sorting line, fully automated and without manual intervention. The Prinova Digital saddle stitcher on show also produced eight different saddle-stitched products in very short runs from the roll in a continuous process.

End-to-end networking

Muller Martini played all the cards when it came to connectivity at its stand. The Connex workflow system, key technology for the production of individualized print products, controlled all three lines from the digital printing press to the finished sorted product stack. The seamless integration of all production steps, from impositioning the print data to sorting the finished products, fascinated the trade visitors.

Sebastian Birzele, Head of Bindery at the German printing company C.H.Beck, was also particularly impressed: "Muller Martini has networked everything that can be networked on its booth. From the white roll to the finished book – it's fantastic to see how everything works seamlessly." He highlights the Vareo PRO perfect binder and the InfiniTrim cutting robot, which are perfect for digital printing productions, especially due to the elimination of changeover times. "This is going in exactly the right direction." The ability to implement individual customer requirements quickly and efficiently with these networked solutions is a decisive advantage in today's fast-moving printing industry.



Three Smart Factory solutions captivated countless visitors to the Muller Martini booth. They impressively demonstrated how Muller Martini can set new standards for end-to-end production processes in collaboration with its partners

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

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Unlocking high-value recycled PET

UPM Raflatac RW85C was



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Implemented by



In cooperation with



The domestic recycled PET (r-PET) industry faces ongoing challenges in production efficiency and product quality due to non-recyclable design elements in PET bottles

Specifically, residues from traditional pressure-sensitive labels and their adhesives can contaminate the recycling stream during the label removal process, hindering high-value recycling of PET bottles. This was a core finding of a special report, jointly released by GIZ, short for Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, and the China Plastic Reuse and Recycling Association (CPRRA) at the 7th China International Import Expo (CIIE). The case collection focused on the Design for Recycling (DfR) and high-value application of recycled plastics.

Since the launch of WtR Program, short for “Waste to Resource: Upgrading the Value Chain of Packaging Waste through Improving Collection and Recycling in China”, GIZ has conducted in-depth research to address different industry recycling challenges. In collaboration with UPM Raflatac and Nongfu Spring, GIZ initiated a three-year innovative pilot case focusing on the DfR for PET bottles. By using UPM Raflatac RW85C wash-

off labels on one of Nongfu Spring's seasonal beverage bottles, this pilot case aims to explore a successful circular economy model of PET packaging.

An industry-first trial of wash-off labels in the real-life commercial PET recycling process

The trial aimed to explore an innovative labeling solution to eliminate contamination during PET recycling. As an industry frontrunner with expertise in sustainable labeling solutions, UPM Raflatac was honored to partner with GIZ and Nongfu Spring in this pilot case.

With the support and facilitation of GIZ, Nongfu Spring utilized UPM Raflatac RW85C wash-off labels on both the neck and body of one of its seasonal beverage bottles. These PP film labels, paired with the RW85C wash-off adhesive, wash off easily and separate cleanly from PET flakes during the hot washing process. The adhesive and PP facestock float to the top, carrying away contaminants, while clean PET flakes sink to the bottom,

achieving a higher yield of PET flakes suitable for bottle-to-bottle recycling.

‘As an industry-first trial, the aim of the WtR Program was to enhance the recyclability of PET packaging from the design phase without compromising the comprehensive labeling performance requirements of Nongfu Spring. We needed a wash-off label solution that was fully compatible with the recycling stream to achieve truly closed-loop recycling, and which maintained satisfactory performance in extreme conditions, such as ice cooling in the summer. Based on these considerations, UPM Raflatac conducted extensive experiments during the past three years of collaboration,’ stated Michelle Yu, UPM Raflatac's Sustainability Manager, APAC.

Bottle-to-bottle recycling for PET packaging with collaboration across the value chain

To better facilitate the WtR Program and obtain sufficient data, Nongfu Spring has invested 60,000 innovatively designed

Recycling of PET bottles with wash-off labels

PET bottles, sold through internal company purchases. These bottles are collected via a fully traceable recycling process after use. The collected empty bottles are then handed over to PET recycling partners for trial of the wash-off labels, including both lab tests and a commercial recycling process. The trials focused on three aspects: removal rate, recycle quality, and wastewater index

and contaminated pellets far below 600 ppm, meeting the quality requirements for food-grade r-PET pellets. Thanks to the excellent performance of the RW85C wash-off adhesive, more high-value, clean PET pellets could be recovered through conventional PET recycling, achieving the result of bottle-to-bottle recycling.

In the future, if these high-quality r-PET pellets can be commonly generated from PET flakes with wash-off labels, this

3. Wastewater index

The program commissioned a third party to test the wastewater generated during the trial. The results showed no evidenced impact on wastewater quality or adhesive residue on the filter screen.

All in all, the trials demonstrate that the RW85C PET wash-off labels significantly enhance the recyclability of PET packaging, compared to traditional pressure-sensitive labels. With removal

EXCELLENT WASH-OFF CAPABILITY

LAB TEST
99.6% REMOVAL RATE (traditional PS: 40%)

TRIAL on COMMERCIAL PROCESS
99.6% REMOVAL RATE

CONDITION: +85°C, hot washing

RECYCLATE QUALITY

MEET the requirements of
Food-grade rPET pellets

CLOSE the LOOP
Bottle to Bottle

WASTEWATER INDEX

NO naked-eye-visual
Adhesive residue on the filter screen

NO evidenced impact on
Wastewater Quality

1. Excellent wash-off capability

The recycled PET bottles were shredded and washed at 85 °C for 20 minutes following industry-wide standard testing methods. RW85C PET wash-off labels achieved a removal rate of approximately 99.6% after cleaning, flotation, and rinsing tests, which was significantly higher than the 40% removal rate of traditional pressure-sensitive labels.

will increase their market value by CNY 300–400 (USD 40–55) per ton compared to the ones with traditional pressure-sensitive labels. After the experiment, PET pellets were recycled into fibers to create fabrics for fashionable handbags, fully tapping into the potential of high-value recycled plastics.

rates at 99.6% for lab tests and 99.94% for the real-life commercial recycling process, the wash-off labels increase the availability of high-value recycled PET flakes.

In the future, UPM Raflatac will remain dedicated to enhancing the recyclability of packaging through innovative labeling solutions. Nongfu Spring also anticipates further commercialization of wash-off labels by partnering with frontrunners in sustainable packaging like UPM Raflatac.

Cleaning temp.	Rotational speed rpm/min	Cleaning duration	NaOH %	RP24 %	Flotation temp.	Flotation duration	Rinse temp.	Rinse duration	Unremoved rate %
85 °C	210-240	20min	2%	0.4%	60 °C	15min	30 °C	15min	0.41%
83 °C	210-240	20min	2%	0.4%	60 °C	15min	30 °C	15min	0.35%

Additionally, 15 batches of PET bottles with RW85C wash-off labels were put into trial in a real-life commercial PET recycling process under identical test conditions. Following sorting, crushing, hot-washing, flotation, rinsing, and drying with advanced food-grade PET recycling equipment, the removal rate of the RW85C wash-off label remained at 99.94%, demonstrating its excellent wash-off capability.

2. Recyclate quality

After testing, the residues in the PET recycling steam were well controlled, with the average amount of residual labels



Expands product offering with PC1120 installation

PrintUp, an online Polish calendar print business founded in 2018, has enhanced its capabilities, following the installation of a Revoria Press PC1120 in August 2024.

While the PrintUp brand is relatively young, it is backed by over 30 years of experience, as it is owned and was launched by established commercial Polish print house, Interak. A long-term Fujifilm customer, Interak was one of the earliest adopters of Fujifilm's Jet Press 540W roll-fed inkjet printing system around a decade ago, with the press still in full use today. Combining forward-thinking modernism with decades of experience, PrintUp offers its international client base service of the highest standard. In addition to calendars, PrintUp also produces leaflets, business cards, brochures, and catalogues.

Piotr Fortuniak, Digital Department & Project Manager at PrintUp, comments "The Revoria Press PC1120 brings exciting new opportunities to our business, enabling us to broaden our product offering while improving production efficiency. We are using the PC1120 to produce a wide range of calendars, including three-part and single-part options, with refinements such as

glossy foil, matte foil, or matte foil with selective varnish.

"We believe that success comes from both a skilled team and investing in the best technology. This investment allows us to create more complex, creative projects, which is especially important for calendar production, where functionality and aesthetics go hand in hand. We will also use the machine to produce leaflets, business cards, brochures, and catalogues.

"The ability to print in special colours truly captivates our customers," comments Piotr. "Personalisation is key in our industry, and the Revoria Press PC1120 enables us to offer customers truly unique calendars that stand out. The shimmering metallics are particularly eye-catching and the pink colour offers superb vibrancy. Additionally, we can now match a wider range of Pantone colours, which is particularly appealing to the packaging and fashion industries – and is enabling us to enter new markets."



Sustainability was another important factor in PrintUp's decision to invest in the Revoria Press PC1120. "Fujifilm is known for providing solutions that combine quality with environmental responsibility," said Piotr. "The use of low-energy toners and waste minimisation demonstrate this, and this aligned perfectly with our mission, as investments we make need to not only improve our product quality but also be environmentally responsible.





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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



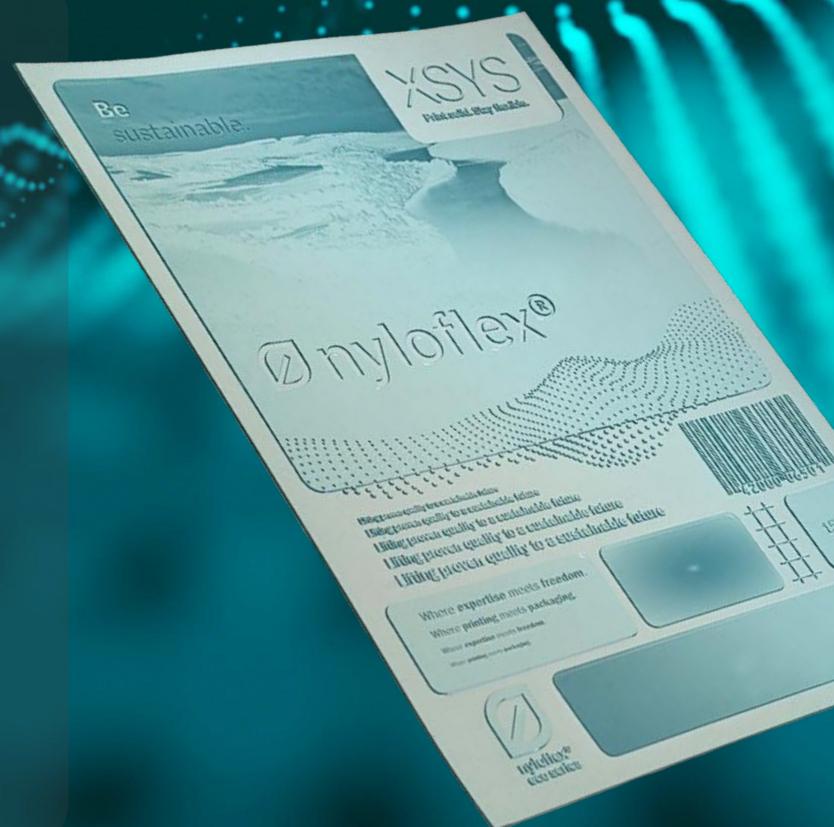
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eco ACT for paper & board applications with water based inks
eco FAC for high performance corrugated post print to cope with all requirements



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Heidelberg India Steals the Spotlight with Game-Changing Deals and

The curtain rose on PrintPack India 2025 with a clear sense of excitement. Heidelberg India has firmly established itself as a leader in printing technology by securing multiple significant deals right from the very first day.

The event has proven the perfect stage for Heidelberg to demonstrate its innovative capabilities, further solidifying its position as the go-to solution provider in the print and packaging industry.

At Print Pack, Heidelberg unveiled the impressive new Speedmaster CX 92 four-color press, a true showstopper that captivated the audience and dominated the event. This cutting-edge machine was acquired by Almat's Branding Solutions, a renowned Mumbai-based commercial print house with over 50 years of excellence in the printing industry.

Husain Asgar, Director at Almat's Branding Solutions, expressed his excitement about the new addition to their production line, "We are thrilled to add the high-performance Speedmaster CX 92 to our operations. This press will help us meet the growing demand of our customers while maintaining the highest quality standards. The decision to partner with Heidelberg India is backed by unmatched technology and their

support. The Speedmaster CX 92 is truly a game-changer, and we are eager to see the impressive results it will deliver."

The Speedmaster CX 92 has made waves at PrintPack India 2025, capturing the attention of industry leaders and businesses alike. This state-of-the-art press is designed for efficiency, precision, and versatility, offering unrivalled automation, cost-effective performance, and adaptability for a wide range of substrates.

The momentum did not stop there. Abhinav Print Solutions, another forward-thinking business, also chose the Speedmaster CX 92 as their printing solution, marking a clear testament to the machine's growing popularity and impressive capabilities in the commercial printing industry.

Throughout the exhibition, Heidelberg continued to build on its early success. The Diana Easygluer 115, a cutting-edge folding and gluing expert machine, was

a key highlight at the show. Sri Kaliswari Printers made a significant investment by signing on for the Diana Easy 115 Folder Gluer—an advanced solution designed to enhance packaging production with superior precision, speed, and efficiency. This move reinforces Sri Kaliswari's commitment to staying ahead in packaging innovation and delivering top-tier quality to its customers.

Replika Press, India's leading Packaging Publisher and a long-standing partner of Heidelberg solidified their relationship by acquiring the Speedmaster SX 102-8 Color Perfector, a press engineered to optimize printing processes with innovative automation features like Push to Stop, Intellistart, and Autoplate Pro. This strategic acquisition marks another milestone in Replika Press's commitment to advancing automation and excellence in print production.

Heidelberg's booth at PrintPack India had become a hub of innovation and activity, attracting a diverse range of visitors eager to witness the next generation of print technology. The company's presence is not just about closing deals, it is about highlighting the future of printing and packaging technology and demonstrating how their solutions are transforming the industry.

The Heidelberg Speedmaster CX 92, was a star at the booth, with live demonstrations highlighting its speed, efficiency, and versatility. The press has been a showstopper, reaffirming HEIDELBERG's leadership in high-performance printing.

Also, the Diana Easy 115 Folder Gluer, an innovative packaging solution



The Princt Team at the Heidelberg booth

Spotlight at PrintPack 2025

and Innovations



Committed for Excellence – The Heidelberg Team at PrintPack 2025

impressed attendees with its precision and adaptability, positioning it as the ideal choice for businesses looking to elevate their packaging operations.

Samir Patkar, President, of Heidelberg India, said, "At Heidelberg India, we are committed to driving innovation and excellence in the printing and packaging industry. PrintPack India 2025 has been an exceptional platform to highlight our innovative technologies and responses we have reaffirmed our position as the trusted partner for businesses seeking high-performance solutions. Our

continued success is built on a foundation of customer centricity, and we are excited to help our partners stay ahead in an increasingly competitive market. The future of printing is here, and Heidelberg India is proud to lead the way."

Heidelberg also presented Prinect Workflow Solutions, an integrated platform that optimizes print production by connecting pre-press, and press processes. The Saphira Consumables line, known for its premium quality and performance, has also garnered tremendous interest among visitors,

reinforcing Heidelberg's commitment to providing comprehensive, high-quality solutions.

Heidelberg commitment to customer satisfaction has been a standout feature of its presence at PrintPack India 2025. The service team had been working tirelessly to ensure the machine installations were completed swiftly, and efficiently within two days, highlighting Heidelberg's dedication to minimizing downtime and maximizing productivity.



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Ideal Packaging Group has launched 10-color with double coating printing

When innovative technology and intelligent manufacturing meet, a revolution in printing quality is quietly taking place!

Recently, the domestic packaging industry leader, Ideal Group, announced that its newly introduced Manroland ROLAND 700 Ultima 10-color with double coating press (9DLTTDV) was officially put into production. This is another milestone cooperation after the ROLAND700 7-color with double coating and Inline foiler. It not only marks the peak of Ideal's production capacity in the high-end packaging field, but also highlights Manroland's firm commitment to empowering the future of the industry with cutting-edge technology.

As Manroland's flagship Ultima model tailor-made for Adil, the ROLAND 700 Ultima injects strong kinetic energy into Adil packaging as an "ultra-all-purpose printing machine". The equipment has

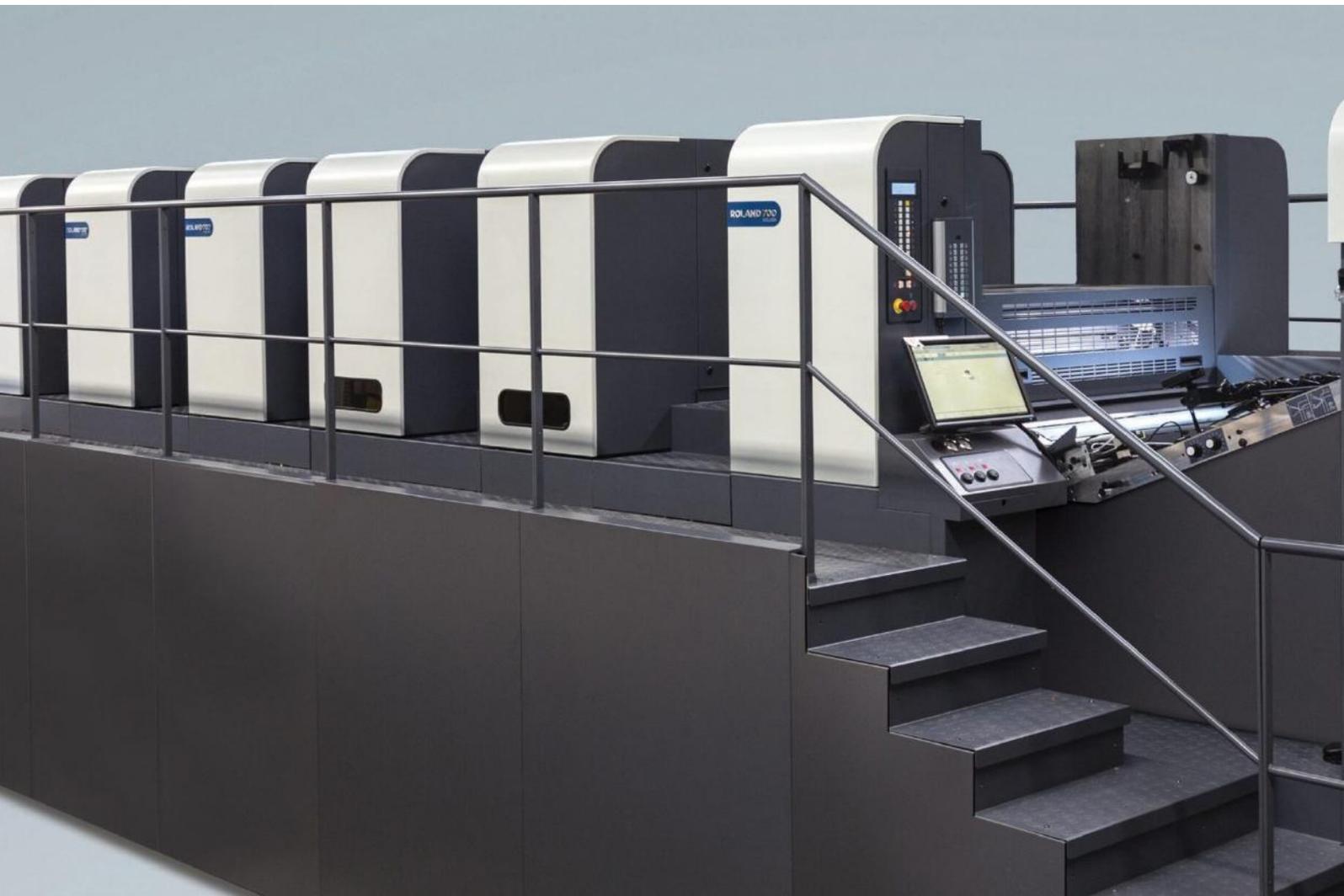
achieved a breakthrough in multi-process online production.

Through OnePass © one-time paper feeding technology, complex processes that originally required multiple loading can be completed on a single device, effectively reducing the loss of subsequent processes and shortening the product delivery cycle. Its dual glazing unit followed by a printing unit can not only meet the needs of conventional glazing, but also realize the accurate presentation of special processes, providing unlimited possibilities for high-end packaging design.

From equipment commissioning to technical training, the Manroland team provides "zero distance" service support

throughout the process to ensure 100% release of equipment efficiency. This cooperation is not only the delivery of equipment, but also a deep resonance of quality belief. As a strategic partner of Manroland in China, Ideal Packaging Group has introduced a total of 4 ROLAND 700 series equipment.

The commissioning of this Ultima model is not only a continuation of the trust of both parties for many years, but also marks the in-depth transformation of printing production from "large-scale" to "high-end customization". In the future, Manroland will continue to be empowered by innovative technologies and jointly explore cutting-edge fields such as smart factories and digital printing with Ideal, so that the packaging solutions



ed the ROLAND 700 Ultima g machine



of “China Intelligent Manufacturing” can shine in the global market.

In the future, Manroland will continue to use innovation as the engine and join hands with more industry benchmarks like Ideal to write a brilliant new chapter in China’s printing and packaging industry!

About Ideal Packaging Group

Ideal Packaging Group is a leading innovator in the Chinese packaging industry, specialising in high-end, customised printing solutions. Committed to excellence, Ideal integrates advanced technology and intelligent manufacturing to deliver superior packaging solutions

across various industries. With a strong focus on sustainability and efficiency, Ideal continues to set new benchmarks in the global market through strategic partnerships and state-of-the-art equipment.



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Seven ways AI is shaping commercial printing

We tend to overestimate the effect of a technology in the short run and underestimate the effect in the long run.” So states Amara’s Law named after its creator, Roy Amara.

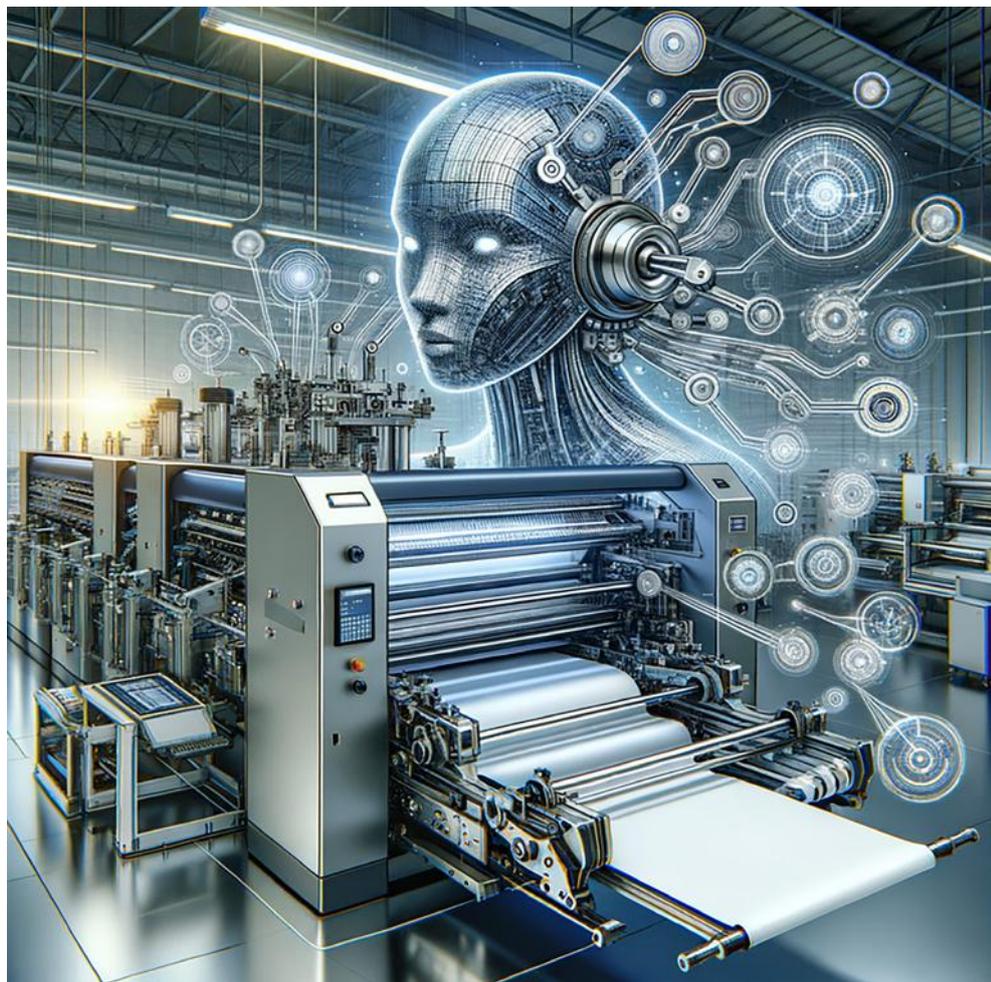
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a great example of Amara’s Law as I shared last night at an event as part of Hunkeler Innovationdays 2025. First studied in the 1950s, with programmes excitedly developed in the 1960s, commercialisation was slow. 60 years later applications are becoming more widespread, such as virtual assistants and chatbots emulating human interactions.

Today, with AI algorithms, everyday patterns from data are identified over time to educate recommendation engines for predictive maintenance and predictive forecasting. Multilayered neural networks that learn from vast amounts of data are refining natural language processing, image recognition, and autonomous driving.

In the printing industry AI is making its mark too. It is having a particular impact on seven key areas:

1. Enhanced print quality and consistency

AI algorithms monitor production in real time to ensure optimal print quality and consistency and Machine Learning (ML) systems detect potential defects early



and make automatic adjustments. This reduces waste, increases productivity by preventing downtime, and ensures consistent quality.

2. Predictive maintenance

AI excels at predicting equipment failures before they occur. ML analyses device usage patterns, maintenance records, and system logs to forecast issues and schedule maintenance proactively. This improves asset utilisation, extends equipment lifespan, and minimises operational disruptions.

3. Personalisation

AI enables unprecedented personalisation at scale in printing by analysing customer

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data to generate tailored designs, layouts, and content. This streamlines the creation of effective print campaigns, increases engagement and conversion rates, and enhances customer satisfaction

4. Workflow automation AI powered systems streamline workflows with the automation of end to end production processes by autonomously routing jobs and executing repetitive tasks. This optimises efficiency, reduces labour dependency and error potential, and allows employees to focus on more complex, creative, and collaborative work.

5. Sustainable printing practices

AI is promoting sustainability within the printing industry by analysing the environmental impact of production processes and materials. This ensures efficient resource usage, reduces waste, lowers energy consumption and provides eco-friendly material recommendations.

6. Advanced data analytics

AI processes vast amounts of operational data to improve outcomes via the provision of predictive and prescriptive

insights from collected ML data. This enables faster, more accurate decisions, streamlines operations, and fosters innovation for competitive advantage.

7. Innovative printing technologies

AI is advancing technologies like 3D and digital printing from smart layouts to automated die-cut algorithms and digital twin implementations^[1]. This enhances

precision and capabilities, empowers less skilled operators, and simulates and optimises production processes cost effectively.

AI can also support make-ready automation by scheduling tasks ahead of time. This streamlines operator workflows and informs remote support to predict potential failures and as a result minimises downtime and service calls. AI, once a futuristic concept, is now driving innovation across the graphic arts industry.

Commercial printing operations can enjoy:

- Faster ROI by overcoming production challenges and reducing costs quickly.
- Optimal prepress, printing, and post press workflows with automation.
- Improved print quality that ensures consistent output with real time monitoring.
- Personalisation at scale by tailoring print jobs effectively while maintaining quality and cost effectiveness.
- Fewer unexpected repairs and increased uptime with predictive maintenance.
- Boosted productivity with actionable insights and data driven decisions.

^[1] A digital twin is a digital model of an intended or actual real world physical product, system, or process (a physical twin) that serves as a digital counterpart of it for purposes such as simulation, integration, testing, monitoring, and maintenance.



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FUELING INNOVATION WITH COLLABORATION AND GAME-CHANGING TECHNOLOGY



Kirk Group has partnered with XSYS and Hybrid Software to deliver new industry-leading flexo plate innovation to RollsPack, in Melbourne.

The Australian reprographics expert leveraged a powerful combination of technologies, utilizing nyloflex® plates, ThermoFlexX imaging, Velvet Screening, Woodpecker surface patterns and Catena+ automated processing, to create a tailored solution for the award-winning packaging supplier.

Established in 1972, Kirk Group is known throughout the industry as an innovation leader. The reprographics company, headquartered in Sydney, works with global brands and major printing companies across the ANZ region and into Asia, supplying graphic services and image carrier solutions for packaging production. Manufacturing sites are located in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Auckland, and sales offices in Christchurch, New Zealand, and Mumbai, India, all focused on the company's stated mission "to bring inspiration and innovation to marketers and brands."

With decades of experience in delivering flexo excellence, Kirk Group understands that close collaboration with technology suppliers and customers is key to success. When long-term customer RollsPack Group challenged the team to find a more cost-effective and sustainable way to print high value flexible packaging, they knew exactly where to turn.

Ben Prout, Group Technical Manager, shares: "Kirk Group has worked with RollsPack for over 20 years, so we appreciate and understand their ambitions, requirements and workflow. For this project, we also drew on the technical expertise and experience of XSYS and Hybrid Software, as well as RollsPack collaborating closely to create a customized solution that not only meets or exceeds the quality of competitors but also offers a more competitive price point."

To meet RollsPack's specific criteria, the team carefully considered the

combination of plate and specialized screening technologies necessary to achieve the desired outcome. They were able to leverage the versatility of the ThermoFlexX imaging system and Catena+ automated processing line to implement these solutions:



- nyloflex® NEF D – a high durometer printing plate for flexible packaging developed by XSYS for the efficient creation of flat-top dots and reproduction of surface screenings with UV LED exposure.

- Velvet Screening – a new screening type from Hybrid Software created to meet flexo requirements. As the successor to hybrid XM screening, it uses an advanced dot removal algorithm to reduce harsh edges, leading to smoother and higher-quality prints.

- ThermoFlexX Woodpecker Nano – the finest surface micro pattern available for LAMS plates, suitable for platemakers and printers who need high frequency surface screens to increase quality and efficiency while reducing costs.

Pushing the boundaries of flexo printing

The nyloflex® plates with Velvet Screening and Woodpecker micro surface patterns provided by Kirk Group ticked all the boxes for RollsPack Group, meeting its demands for quality, sustainability and costs. A family-owned company founded in 1985, it specializes in flexible packaging production, including e-commerce, food, retail, and tamper-evident solutions.

“This solution offers a lot of potential. Set up times have been reduced significantly due to precise color profiles, and longevity on press is comparable to other major players on the market,” said Print Manager Thanh Huynh. Commenting on the print quality, he added, “There’s a



marked difference in the ink laydown on surface print; it’s one of the best I’ve seen in flexibles. Even when printing colors on a white ink base layer, where we typically experience a drop in density – the results with Woodpecker are impressive. In addition, Velvet Screening holds the dots really well, ensuring that there are minimum hard edges.”

As well as delivering top quality at great cost, RollsPack is also firmly committed to sustainability, developing environmentally friendly products for its customers. “We are dedicated to elevating the market by supplying innovations that benefit our customers and meet their sustainability goals. We successfully achieved the same high-quality print with water-based inks as with solvent-based inks. This drives a constant need to explore new avenues and Kirk Group plays a fundamental role in this endeavor. Together we are pushing the boundaries of brilliant flexo,” concluded Thanh Huynh.

Easy implementation in any workflow

In this scenario, advanced screening technology and dedicated plate surface structures simplified the challenging task of controlling the dots and the ink behavior on press. ThermoFlexX Woodpecker and Velvet Screening proved their individual strengths, to deliver a successful outcome for RollsPack. Both software solutions are truly open without any extra steps needed, meaning they can be implemented into any workflow.

Brenton King, Hybrid Software’s Sales Manager for Australasia, expanded on the flexibility of Velvet Screening, “The beauty of Velvet is that the software doesn’t require any proprietary information or special equipment, it just slots into the existing setup. Used at any resolution or ruling, it can be imaged

onto the plate of your choice on any CTP device and then processed through your existing exposure frame.” He added, “In this collaboration, Kirk Group simply applied Velvet Screening and then added the Woodpecker surface patterns during imaging. It’s a very clever combination.”

Maximizing opportunities and potential

On the hardware side, Kirk Group relied on ThermoFlexX technology from XSYS, including a Catena+ automated plate processing line installed at the Melbourne site in 2021. Kirk’s Chief Operating Officer Robert Selvaggio commented, “The investment in Catena+ has been a great success story for us. We were among the first in the market to realize the potential of this high performance, one-touch technology which tripled our capacity and elevated plate quality.” He revealed the company’s future strategy, “We’re now in the process of installing a Catena+ line in Brisbane and a third one is already planned for Sydney.”

“Kirk Group has been reaping the exceptional benefits of Catena+ for a few years, and we have witnessed the innovative solutions it enables, such as this special project for RollsPack Group,” said Roy Schoettle, VP, XSYS Asia Pacific. “We are delighted that this partnership has been so successful and look forward to taking the next steps with the team, as they equip all their manufacturing sites with full Catena+ lines.”

Robert Selvaggio concluded, “Flexo is still the largest printing technology for packaging, both in terms of volume and value, but we must maximize the market opportunities and the potential of each technology on offer. This is why collaboration is crucial for the future of our industry and for our customers.”



BHS Corrugated and Agfa announce strategic commercial agreement to enhance BHS Jetliner series

BHS Corrugated, a leading supplier in the corrugated industry and OEM of single-pass inkjet print systems, and Agfa, a global provider of inkjet systems and inks, proudly announce a strategic commercial agreement.

Under this agreement, Agfa will exclusively supply the printing engines for the BHS Jetliner Xceed and BHS Jetliner Monochrome to BHS Corrugated and become a BHS Certified ink supplier.

This agreement highlights BHS Corrugated's commitment to enhancing its BHS Jetliner Series of products.

The BHS Jetliner Xceed features the most efficient digital pre-print at the lowest possible cost, while the BHS Jetliner Monochrome is a fully corrugator-integrated single-pass inkjet print system that delivers superior value and introduces new and disruptive business models to its customers.

The BHS Jetliner technology brings significant innovation to the corrugated industry. Advanced automation enables digital single-pass inkjet printing at high speeds (up to 300 m/min or 1,000 ft/min for the BHS Jetliner Xceed and 400 m/min or 1,300 ft/min for the BHS Jetliner Monochrome).

This technology reduces the need for additional printing equipment, lowers working capital, and simplifies workflows, providing greater flexibility and efficiency. The BHS Jetliner Series offers flexible

operation models, from Roll-Roll to an entire inline RSR® (roll to printed sheet in real time) process. This flexibility allows customers to shape the future of their production, support their transformation from an analog production process to an entirely digital industrial converting process, and explore new ways to design, purchase, manufacture, and deliver boxes at the lowest possible cost.

BHS Corrugated will leverage Agfa's ink and inkjet system development expertise to advance its single-pass inkjet systems further. This collaboration demonstrates BHS Corrugated's proactive approach to driving innovation and excellence in the industry, particularly in digital pre-print and inline print solutions for corrugators.

By utilizing Agfa's high-performance inkjet technology, print engines, and industrial inks, BHS Corrugated ensures that the BHS Jetliner Xceed and BHS Jetliner Monochrome benefit from cutting-edge advancements in quality, reliability, and cost efficiency. Agfa's industrial inkjet solutions are known for their print quality and reliability, making them an ideal choice for the rigorous demands of high-speed single pass corrugated packaging production at the lowest possible cost.



The installation and ramp-up of the BHS Jetliner Monochrome, a first-of-its-kind, is in full swing, and the BHS Jetliner Xceed is expected to land at its destination by the third quarter of this year.

"We are excited to work together with Agfa and believe this agreement will significantly bolster our capabilities," said Helmut Kraus, Business Unit Head of Digital & Logistics, BHS Corrugated. "Integrating Agfa's inkjet technology aligns with our Box Plant strategy and reinforces our position as a leading innovator in the corrugated industry."

"We are honored to be chosen by BHS Corrugated as their supplier for the print engines of the BHS Jetliner Xceed and BHS Jetliner Monochrome and are delighted to be a BHS Certified ink supplier," said Arnaud Calleja, Agfa Vice-President Digital Printing Solutions. "We look forward to a successful collaboration that will drive mutual growth and innovation."



Powerful by nature.



SPEEDSET
ORCA
1060



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

Dive into a sea of opportunities

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

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AGFA 

Unlocking Printing Success Navigating challenges and

The printing industry is undergoing rapid transformation. Economic volatility, rising material costs, and technological lag have created an environment where resilience and adaptability are no longer optional—they are essential for survival and growth. Yet, amidst these challenges lies an opportunity: the chance to redefine success through innovation, efficiency, and strategic investment.



Embracing IoT
and Data Analytics

The Challenges Shaping the Industry

The journey to sustainable success begins with understanding the hurdles that stand in the way.

Economic Pressures and Market Uncertainty

Fluctuating commodity prices, inflation, and geopolitical conflicts have intensified financial pressures on printing businesses. The rising costs of raw materials, as highlighted in the FINAT RADAR 2024 report, continue to squeeze profit margins, making cost-effective operations more crucial than ever.

Inefficiencies in Production

Many printing businesses struggle with operational inefficiencies. Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) rates remain alarmingly low. Lengthy setup

times, high waste levels, and disconnected workflows hinder productivity and profitability.

Technology Gaps and Underutilization

The printing sector has been slow to embrace digital transformation. While industries worldwide leverage IoT and data analytics, many printing companies still rely on outdated, disconnected systems. This lack of connectivity leads to missed opportunities for efficiency gains, cost reductions, and improved decision-making.

The Solution: A Strategic Approach to Success

Overcoming these obstacles requires a fundamental shift in mindset. Instead of merely reacting to challenges, businesses

must proactively implement strategies that drive efficiency, profitability, and long-term resilience.

Investing in Reliable Press Technology

A printing press is more than a machine; it is the heartbeat of production. A reliable press minimizes downtime, ensures consistent quality, and enhances operational efficiency. When selecting equipment, businesses should prioritize:

- **Durability:** Robust construction for 24/7 operation.
- **Automation:** Advanced features that streamline processes and reduce manual intervention.
- **Speed and Precision:** High-speed capabilities with flawless registration for superior results.
- **Flexibility:** The ability to handle various substrates with minimal setup times.

MPS presses set the benchmark for reliability, offering cutting-edge solutions designed to optimize performance and



SS: and embracing innovation

Investing in Reliable Press Technology



profitability in the narrow web flexo printing space.

Embracing IoT and Data Analytics

Connectivity is no longer a luxury—it is a necessity. Smart technology solutions, such as MPSCoast, empower businesses with real-time insights into production performance, enabling smarter decision-making and increased efficiency.

Key features include:

- Press Performance Portal: Tracks key production metrics like speed, waste levels, and changeover times.

- Operator Enrichment Tools: AI-driven coaching and training resources to upskill teams.
- Benchmark Monitor: Allows businesses to compare performance anonymously with industry peers.
- Service Dashboard: Provides predictive maintenance insights to minimize downtime.

By integrating IoT technology, businesses can transition from reactive troubleshooting to proactive performance optimization, reducing costs and enhancing operational efficiency.

Building a Performance-Driven Team
Technology alone is not enough. Data must drive action. A dedicated performance team ensures that insights translate into tangible improvements.

Their responsibilities include:

- Monitoring Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Analyzing throughput, waste levels, and efficiency.
- Trend Analysis: Using data to identify patterns and areas for improvement.
- Continuous Improvement Initiatives: Implementing strategies to enhance workflows and productivity.

MPS takes this a step further with its Performance Program, offering:

- Monthly performance reviews to track progress.
- Technical optimization support to maximize machine capabilities.
- Workflow analysis for streamlined operations.
- Training programs tailored to specific team needs.

The Business Impact: Measurable Gains

The benefits of embracing technology and performance optimization are undeniable:

- 2–5% Waste Reduction: Lower material waste translates to higher margins.
- 30 Meters Per Minute Speed Gains: Faster production cycles drive efficiency.
- 10–20% Productivity Boost: Optimized workflows lead to higher output.
- Up to €150,000 in Annual Savings:

Smarter operations deliver significant cost reductions.

But the impact extends beyond numbers. With enhanced efficiency, businesses can take on more jobs, expand capacity, and position themselves for sustainable growth.

A Future-Ready Printing Industry

The printing landscape is evolving, and businesses that embrace change will emerge stronger than ever. By investing in reliable technology, leveraging smart data solutions, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement, companies can navigate challenges with confidence.

The future of printing belongs to those who innovate. The time to act is now—because success isn't just about keeping up; it's about leading the way.

Investing in Reliable Press Technology





Artificial Intelligence and Packaging: Opportunities, Applications, and Future Trends

AI is taking the world by storm, and the packaging industry is no exception. It's no longer simply theoretical. Rather, its practical abilities are not only solving previously perceived insurmountable challenges, they are generating tangible improvements in efficiency, creativity, and workflow optimization.

In fact, 73% of those who responded to Esko's Packaging Trends 2025 Survey indicated automation, artificial intelligence, and machine learning are going to have the biggest impact on the packaging industry in 2025.

However, AI is still largely uncharted territory requiring careful consideration and advanced knowledge. This article explores how AI is being utilized in the packaging industry and the opportunities it presents for 2025 and beyond.

AI: Opportunity or Threat?

Not everyone is convinced that AI is a

magical remedy. Many fear it's coming for their jobs, diluting the quality of work, and spreading false information. While progress always has its associated fears, it is important to balance the totality of enhancements achieved through AI independently and without prejudice.

AI is far from replacing human workers. Rather, it's designed to enhance human capabilities by taking over repetitive and mundane tasks. This shift allows employees to focus on more complex and creative aspects of their roles, leading to greater job satisfaction and productivity.

As Dries Vandenbussche, Director of Partner Ecosystem Development at Esko, elaborates, "Great solutions only work if there's a human next to AI making decisions. AI helps, but it can't replace human judgment."

Moreover, because AI is known to be a sometimes less than accurate source of information, human intervention will remain required to vet its quality. Thus, humans must continue to play a role in the management and maintenance of AI's capabilities. As such, concerns that AI will replace the role of humans completely are, at best, premature.

Simply put, AI, like any other business-related tool, rises or falls depending on how it is used. Businesses must approach AI integration with a clear understanding of where it can add value and where human judgment is still indispensable. Blindly incorporating AI in packaging processes without considering the implications may lead to inefficiencies and errors.

Integration of AI in Packaging Processes

AI's role in packaging is broad. As Rian Goossens, Senior Software Engineer



The Power of One

New all-in-One solution for an efficient
and profitable label production





for Digital Product Development at Esko, explains, “AI will be integrated throughout the entire packaging process, from the very first step of design to final printing and inspection, making it an indispensable tool for efficiency and quality control.”

For example, AI can assist in the design phase by generating multiple design options based on specific parameters, allowing designers to explore a wider range of possibilities quickly. In the inspection stage, AI-powered tools can identify defects that might be missed by human eyes, ensuring that only the highest quality products reach consumers. As AI continues to evolve, the scope of its application will continue to grow, making it an essential component of packaging processes from start to finish.

Generative AI is already making significant inroads in the packaging

industry, particularly in content creation and decision-making. Tools like ChatGPT and Adobe Firefly, which incorporate AI to assist in the design and content process, are becoming increasingly popular among designers and creators. These tools enable the generation of text, images, and even videos, allowing for faster and more efficient content creation.

While generative AI is primarily used for creation, there are other forms of AI that play critical roles in classification, defect detection, and data analysis. For instance, Esko showcased several AI-based prototypes at multiple industry events, including drupa 2024. Let’s look at some examples.

Reprint a Pack

Reprint a Pack is a unique prototype that will allow converters to replicate packages from physical samples. With a PDF and multiple measurement points from the

package, they will be able, using AI, to reprint designs on a new press with enhanced color accuracy.

Sales Assistant

The Sales Assistant prototype uses Vision LLMs such as ChatGPT to help customers visualize the design features being discussed with a sales representative. By combining AI with existing Esko technologies like Cape Pack and Phoenix, Sales Assistant will allow users to generate quotes in minutes instead of weeks. Normally, this would require the involvement of additional technical personnel in the process.

Remote Press Approval

Remote Press Approval uses custom made AI algorithms based on Neural Radiance Fields (NeRF) to accurately capture the 3D appearance of a package, including effects like foils and embossing. Esko combined this with VR technology to envision a world where brand owners don’t have to be on site to approve a printed product.

Additional Considerations for the Implementation of AI

Data security will remain a paramount consideration as businesses upload their data to the cloud. Developing a strong AI infrastructure requires more than just technology; it demands the right expertise. Vandebussche states, “Companies must invest in AI architects and engineers with a deep understanding of machine learning, among others, to navigate the complexities of AI integration successfully.”

The Future of AI in Packaging

While the potential for AI to catapult packaging processes into the future is undeniable, companies should avoid jumping on the AI bandwagon without careful consideration. Goossens opines, “It’s important not to forget about the amazing technologies already being used. AI can do great things, but we shouldn’t abandon logical reasoning or proven methods that work alongside it.”

A balanced approach to AI adoption, one that combines technological innovation with human expertise, will be essential for sustained growth and success. As the industry continues to evolve, companies that embrace AI thoughtfully and strategically will be well-positioned to lead the way in the next era of packaging innovation.



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Short runs, big impact: Meeting the demand for label personalization and versioning

Today's label market is dynamic and fast-paced – and the pressure is on for converters. Brand owners are increasingly demanding short-run, high-impact label solutions that offer personalization and versioning capabilities, so agility becomes key.



DIGITAL MASTER 340 All-in-One solution

From limited edition products to regional variations and seasonal promotions, the ability to deliver these solutions quickly and efficiently has become a key competitive advantage for label converters.

The growing need for agility

Personalization is one of the ways brands connect with consumers on a more direct level, so it's vital that label converters can deliver shorter runs with fast turnaround, without compromising on quality or color consistency.

Versioning has also become increasingly important as brands seek to optimize their marketing strategies across different demographics, regions, or sales channels. Whether it's language variations for international markets,

different promotional codes for tracking campaign effectiveness, or seasonal messaging that changes throughout the year, versioning enables brands to fine-tune their packaging. With advances in digital printing technology, what was once logistically complex and cost-prohibitive has become streamlined and economically viable.

The challenge for most is that today, labels need to do more than ever before. High-performing brands look for labels that can inform users, attract customers, ensure security, track products through complex supply chains, meet sustainability goals, and be produced with minimal notice. Advanced digital printing technology has emerged as the key enabler for meeting these evolving market demands.

The benefits of the All-in-One platform Digital Master series

BOBST's All-in-One Digital Master series exemplifies the evolution in label production technology, offering total versatility for short-run production without compromising quality or efficiency. The Digital Masterseries provides a fully digitalized and automated production line, from printing to embellishment and die-cutting, based on a modular and upgradeable architecture that enables customers to build their own press and evolve it over time.

Reaching speeds of 100 m/min at full native resolution of 1200 dpi, in four or six colors plus optional digital white, the Digital Master series bridges the gap between traditional digital and flexo machines. Available in both 340 mm and

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BOBST ACCUCHECK system is fully and seamlessly integrated in the DIGITAL MASTER 340

510 mm print widths, these presses offer exceptional versatility, handling standard labels, larger industrial applications, highly embellished labels and more.

The Digital Master series enables label converters to confidently enlarge their job basket, including the most challenging requests for personalization and versioning. With setup times measured in minutes rather than hours, the technology makes small batch production economically viable even at quantities previously considered unprofitable.

What truly sets contemporary label production apart is the ability to combine multiple processes in a single pass. BOBST's All-in-One solutions integrate digital printing, embellishment, die-cutting and quality control on the same machine, delivering ready-to-ship labels in one pass, and in one seamless workflow. This approach eliminates idle time between processes and reduces complexity, ensuring faster turnaround and accelerating time-to-market - critical factors for versioned or personalized labels tied to time-sensitive marketing campaigns.

Each print, embellishment and finishing module is digitally automated for exceptionally high uptime, low waste, and outstanding repeatability regardless

of the operator's skills. The modular platform can be configured to specific requirements and upgraded over time as needs evolve, protecting converters' investments while enabling them to adapt to changing market demands.

Inline inspection for labels with consistent production quality

When producing multiple versions of the same label, consistency becomes paramount. BOBST's proprietary ACCUCHECK system is a solution for inline quality control in label production. Consider that everything starts with millions of ink drops produced by hundreds of thousands of nozzles, when printing a label with inkjet technology. If just one nozzle malfunctions, it could result in thousands of defective or imperfect labels at production speeds of up to 100m per minute.

This has the potential to generate vast quantities of waste. ACCUCHECK addresses this challenge by providing a fully integrated, inline quality control system. It delivers automatic calibration and 100% inline inspection, ensuring minimal production waste, avoiding costly reprints, reducing dependence on highly skilled operators and maximizing machine productivity.

A connected future

The future of label production is increasingly connected through digital workflows. BOBST Connect, the company's cloud-based platform, enables label converters to monitor production in real-time, track job progress, and analyze performance trends. In turn, this offers crucial information for optimizing productivity, eliminating waste and boosting competitiveness.

By embracing the four pillars of BOBST's vision - connectivity, digitalization, automation and sustainability - label converters can position themselves to capitalize on the growing demand for personalization and versioning, transforming short-run production from a necessary challenge into a profitable opportunity.

As brands continue to seek new ways to stand out in crowded markets, label converters equipped with the right technology, such as those developed by the expert team at BOBST and its PL Label division, will be ideally positioned to deliver the agility, quality and innovation their customers demand, turning short runs into big impacts that drive business growth.

WASTE TO RESOURCE PROGRAM :

UNLOCKING HIGH-VALUE RECYCLING OF PET BOTTLES WITH UPM RAFLATAC RW85C WASH-OFF LABELS

GIZ, in collaboration with **UPM Raflatac** and Nongfu Spring, conducted a three-year pilot project to validate the removal performance of wash-off labels on a seasonal PET beverage bottles, aiming to develop a circular economy model for PET packaging in China.

- **An industry-first trial of wash-off labels in the real-life commercial PET recycling process** has validated the removal performance of wash-off labels and the improved recyclability of PET packaging.
- The trial results show that the removal rate of UPM Raflatac RW85C PET wash-off labels **exceeded 99.9%**.
- The superior performance of the RW85C PET wash-off labels effectively minimizes the impurity residue of recycled PET flakes, **meeting the quality requirements of food-grade r-PET pellets** and facilitating 'bottle-to-bottle' closed-loop recycling.

* GIZ, short for Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH



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groundbreaking trial

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Innovation and efficiency in corrugated displays and packaging

How Holbox Enhanced Efficiency and Expanded Short-run Packaging and Display Capabilities with Canon's UVgel and Arizona Technology

Objectives

Holbox, a leading producer of corrugated displays and POS materials, faced growing demand for smaller, more varied print runs and quicker production times. Traditional methods like offset were no longer able to offer the flexibility and efficiency needed.

Approach

Holbox, already experiencing success with the Arizona printer, decided to further expand their capabilities by investing in the UVgel Packaging Factory. This solution offered them the ability to produce high-quality prints with exceptional flexibility, all while handling smaller, more diverse print runs.

Challenges

Holbox faced the challenge of adapting to smaller, customised print runs driven by market demand for personalised packaging, all while maintaining efficiency and controlling labour costs.

Benefits

With the Arizona and Colorado M-series, Holbox is now able to operate continuously with greater precision, reduced costs, less waste and energy consumption and the ability to tap into new markets. These technologies have significantly improved both efficiency and profitability.

Holbox, established in 1976, is a prominent manufacturer of corrugated displays and POS materials, primarily serving major brand manufacturers in the retail and supermarket sectors. As the market's demand shifted towards smaller print runs, greater customisation, and quicker production times, Holbox recognised that traditional offset methods were no longer sufficient. They needed a digital solution that could adapt to these evolving requirements.

The Right Print Technology for Every Application

Having already achieved success with their Arizona flatbed printer—perfect for high-quality direct-to-substrate printing on rigid materials like Re-board—Holbox was confident in the reliability of Canon technology. Re-board, a sustainable honeycomb-structured board, requires



the precision of a flatbed printer, making the Arizona a crucial part of their production.

To complement this setup and further enhance efficiency, Holbox sought a solution that would streamline roll-to-sheet production for packaging

applications. Building on their positive experience, they invested in the UVgel Packaging Factory with the Colorado M-series, expanding their capabilities with flexible, high-quality finishes, including matte and gloss effects in a single pass.

Enhancing Capabilities with UVgel Technology

The Colorado M-series, alongside the Arizona, brought even greater efficiency to Holbox's operations. The printers can now run continuously, enabling Holbox to fulfill even the most complex orders with speed and precision.

“With Canon's digital printing solutions, we can easily handle smaller, customised runs that were once challenging with traditional methods.”





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The transition from printed rolls to sheets that can then be laminated integrates seamlessly with Holbox's existing processes, improving productivity even further. Whether they are producing small quantities or working with new designs, these machines offer the flexibility Holbox needs to meet the demands of today's market without compromising on quality.

Moreover, the UVgel technology allows Holbox to produce prints with a premium look, while also making it easier to handle smaller batches, prototypes, and seasonal packaging runs. This capability provides them with an edge in an increasingly competitive market where personalised and high-quality packaging is essential.

“The UVgel technology offers unmatched versatility and quality, allowing us to combine matte and gloss finishes in a single print effortlessly.”

Less Waste and Reducing Energy Consumption

As sustainability is a priority for Holbox, their digital print investments were made with environmental impact in mind. One of the major advantages of digital printing is the ability to print only what is needed, significantly reducing material waste. Additionally, the Colorado's UVgel technology eliminates peaks in energy consumption. Holbox further minimises its environmental footprint by operating over 3,000 solar panels on its facility, ensuring that production runs on renewable energy whenever possible.

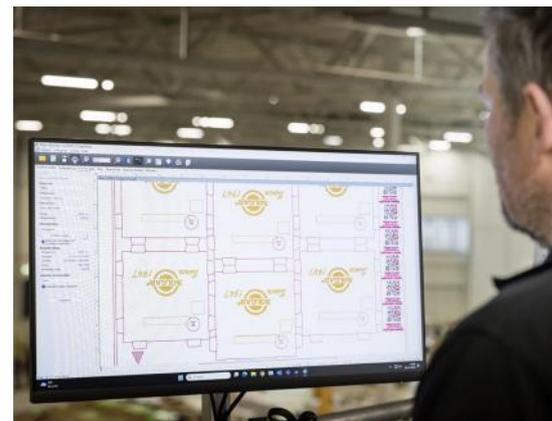
With production facilities in the Netherlands and Poland, Holbox strategically serves the European market, distributing displays efficiently across the region. Reducing transport emissions is a key factor for brands looking to optimise logistics and lower their environmental impact.

Impressive Results: Meeting New Market Demands

The results have been impressive. Holbox can now offer even more customised and

“We can run the Colorado non-stop, which is a huge advantage.”

high-quality solutions for their clients, improving their ability to cater to the growing demand for personalised and smaller packaging runs. This investment has not only enhanced their production capabilities but also opened up new opportunities for growth.





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The new matte finishing technology unlocking premium digital labels

- Gallus MatteJet-powered in-line matte finishing brings digital inkjet labels to profitable premium wine and spirits segments worth over \$3.5 billion
- Gallus MatteJet supports Gallus' 'System to Compose' concept, offering customers flexible technology to adapt to market challenges – future-proofing their investment and driving new growth opportunities
- New technology introduction further supports industry drive towards a thriving landscape of 'smart, connected, printing'

Gallus Group, a subsidiary of Heidelberg, today announces at Gallus Wine Label Days, the global commercial availability of its new matte finishing technology for the Gallus One, Gallus MatteJet. For the first time, this innovative technology allows converters to produce profitable digital labels inline with a high-end matte finish at the touch of a button – set to boost digital adoption in the growing wine label segment.

Initially unveiled as a research breakthrough at Labelexpo Americas 2024, strong market demand led Gallus to fast-track the development of Gallus MatteJet. Achieving a premium look by removing the traditional digitally printed gloss finish, historically one of the foremost barriers to digital label adoption, Gallus MatteJet paves the way for broader use in labels and packaging – particularly in high-end segments like wine and spirits where brands demand a sophisticated, premium matte finish.

With the value of the global wine label market estimated at over \$3.5 billion and on a steady growth trajectory, projected to reach \$5.8 billion by 2033, the new technology delivers a significant opportunity for converters to tap into a lucrative new revenue stream.¹

Dario Urbinati, CEO, Gallus Group comments: "Gallus and Heidelberg are delighted to announce the commercial launch of Gallus MatteJet technology and the opportunity it represents. Until now,

For the first time, Gallus MatteJet allows converters to produce profitable digital labels inline with a high-end matte finish, at the touch of a button.





Flexo Plate Making **Connected**

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

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

Esko - Flexo Plate Making Connected



Further enhancing Gallus' System to Compose concept, Gallus MatteJet is designed to integrate effortlessly with the Gallus One, in both the 340mm and the newly-expanded 430mm web widths.

matte finishing for digital inkjet has only been achievable through the addition of integrated flexo units or post-processing equipment to utilize matte coatings – adding time, complexity and cost.

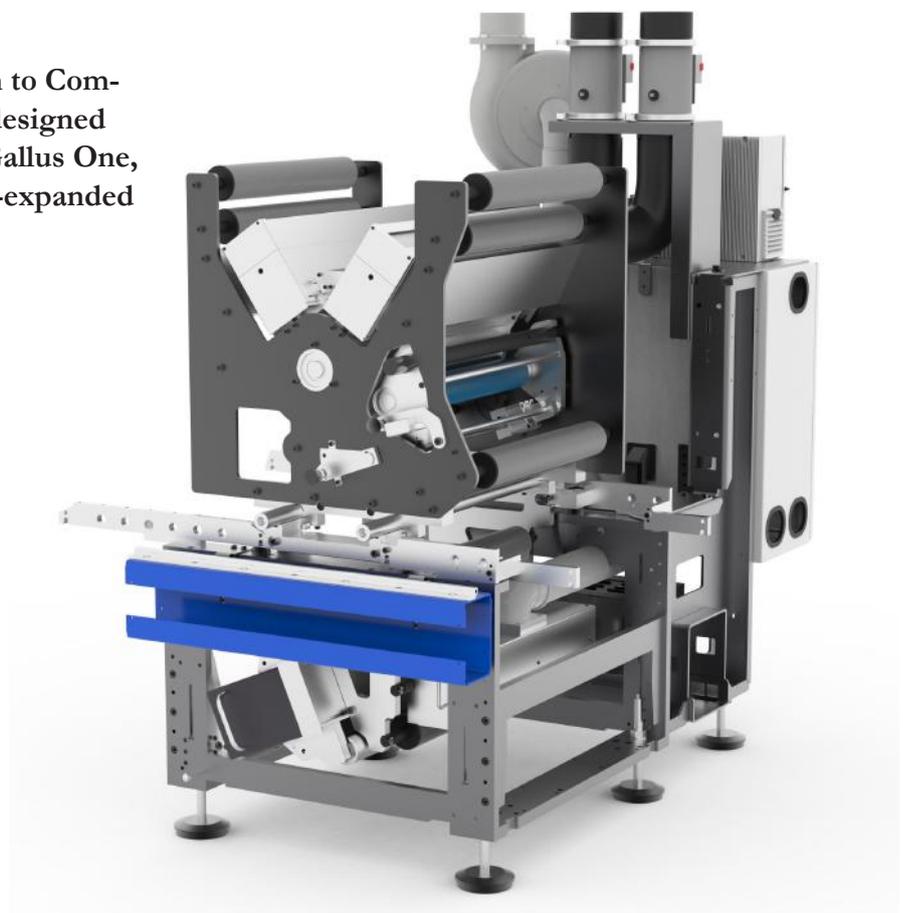
Now, by eliminating the need for these types of varnishes, customers can unlock various efficiencies whilst retaining the surface texture of their desired substrate. This also in hand eliminates any required tooling and cleaning of coating machinery, adding up to a significant overall benefit.

"Three years ago, with the launch of the Gallus One, we addressed the TCO barrier to profitable digital labels. With MatteJet, we've taken this concept further, bringing all the advantages of digitally printed matte labels to premium brands – including short runs, reduced inventory, enhanced sustainability, personalization, and on-demand printing.

These strategic developments demonstrate our commitment to closing the gap between the vast promise of digital technologies and the current reality for businesses across our industry. Making the embrace of digital solutions an accessible and profitable path for more converters and further supporting the drive towards 'smart, connected, printing', this innovation effectively completes the circle for premium digital labels."



Dario Urbinati, CEO, Gallus Group



Gallus MatteJet is designed to integrate effortlessly with the Gallus One, the company's flagship digital label press. The new innovation can now be incorporated into both the 340mm printing width and the newly-expanded 430mm web width, further enhancing the System to Compose concept and boosting performance and flexibility for businesses.

Offering a modular blend of workflow and service options as well as equipment, System to Compose provides compatibility across Gallus' leading product lines and enables converters to cost effectively adapt their technology offering to meet changing market needs for long term success. Furthermore, this new addition to Gallus' ecosystem further strengthens the future of 'smart, connected printing' by embracing the shift towards new digital technological advancements and reinventing processes across multiple areas in the printing industry.

Gallus MatteJet also represents the latest innovation from the Gallus Experience Center, launched two years ago as an industry touchpoint to foster innovation through collaboration.

Now a valued hub for education, training, R&D and industry advancement, the Center has served as the incubator for

a number of pivotal technology and business partnerships, uniting industry leaders. Among them, one of Gallus' longest-standing partners, GEW, even played a role in the development of Gallus MatteJet – demonstrating the power of collaboration in driving innovation and delivering effective, real-world solutions that drive the industry forward.

Dario Urbinati concludes, "It has been incredible to witness the enthusiastic response to Gallus MatteJet from our customers and to share in their excitement. We believe MatteJet exemplifies the innovation, expertise, and customer focus that Gallus and Heidelberg bring to the industry. We look forward to seeing its impact on the market and the opportunities it facilitates for label businesses."

The launch of the new digital technology reflects Heidelberg's position as a total solution provider for all modern printing processes – offering the entire spectrum from toner to inkjet, offset printing to flexo and all controlled from a common Prinect workflow. As a subsidiary, Gallus remains an important pillar in the company's growth strategy for the packaging and label market and will continue to play a key role in the Heidelberg future.



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CCL Hosts Inaugural “Sus

Asahi Photoproducts, a pioneer in flexographic photopolymer plate development and a subsidiary of Asahi Kasei, today reported its participation as a key partner in CCL ASEAN’s first event “Sustainability Day Southeast Asia,” held at CCL ASEAN’s headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand

The event brought together industry leaders, innovators, and brand owners from the ASEAN region to exchange ideas and strategies for advancing sustainability in packaging and printing.

Reinhard Streit, Vice President and Managing Director for Food & Beverage at CCL, kicked off the event with a welcoming address. The agenda included a panel discussion on Thailand’s direction in plastic management, followed by interactive sessions and demonstrations of cutting-edge sustainable innovations.

Mr. Ronnapop Viraratt, General Manager at CCL Label Thailand commented “The main purpose of this event is to show our audiences many aspects of sustainability in packaging, from label raw material to label applicator and from printing plate maker to plastic bottle recycler. Asahi always pushes the sustainability limit of plate making into the next step. We hope the audiences find the event educational yet interesting as we all contribute to our world.”

A key highlight of Asahi Photoproducts’ event contribution was sharing findings



from a recent study comparing flexographic and gravure printing in terms of environmental impact. The study demonstrated that flexographic printing using water-wash plates and water-based inks can reduce up to 35 times fewer carbon emissions than gravure printing with solvent-based inks. This significant reduction reinforces the environmental advantages of flexo technology and its potential to

drive more sustainable packaging solutions.

In the packaging market in the USA and Europe, flexo printing is prevalent, accounting for 70% of the market in the USA and about 50% of Europe. Despite these advancements, gravure printing is still prevalent in Asia, particularly in China, accounting for more than 90% of the market. These findings support Asahi’s long-standing commitment to sustainability through its water-washable AWP plates with CleanPrint technology, which eliminate the need for solvents in the platemaking process. This approach aligns with Asahi Kasei’s “Roadmap to Solvent ZERO,” aimed at reducing solvent use in flexo platemaking.

As global regulations and brand owners increasingly prioritize sustainability, Asahi’s AWP plates provide a proven, eco-balanced alternative that supports the industry’s transition toward lower environmental impact. “With increasing demand for environmentally responsible printing



Sustainability Day S.E Asia”

solutions, our CleanPrint water-washable technology provides a clear path to significantly lower carbon footprints without compromising quality or productivity,” said Tomohiro Ikawa, Marketing Director from Asahi Kasei. “Our participation in Sustainability Day reflects our mission to deliver sustainable innovations that align with customer needs and regulatory requirements.”

Asahi Kasei’s broader sustainability strategy is deeply embedded in its corporate mission of contributing to “life and living for people around the world.” The company is committed to achieving carbon neutrality across all operations by 2050. Events such as Sustainability Day ASEAN serve as a platform for driving collaborative efforts to accelerate this transition.

The event also featured key contributions from other partners, including Avery Dennison Thailand, Kronos Thailand, Envicco and Kurz who offered complementary insights into sustainable packaging and recycling solutions.



The day concluded with a guided tour of CCL’s state-of-the-art facilities, allowing attendees to witness innovations in sustainable production firsthand. The event

concluded on a high note with a compelling closing speech delivered by Geoffrey Martin, Chief executive officer at CCL.



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

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



More information

Gentle and efficient transport of metal sheets in coating lines

Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint presents an innovative solution for the gentle and efficient transport of metal sheets in coating lines: the Venturi air cushion transport. This new technology was developed to maximise the productivity of coating lines and sets new standards in transport technology for metal decorating.

- Gentle and efficient transport of metal sheets in coating lines
- High production speed and smooth sheet transport even with difficult substrates
- Smooth gliding of the metal sheets thanks to the air cushion effect

The system is based on an air cushion effect generated by precisely aligned air nozzles. These nozzles create a uniform air

cushion on the transport table so that metal sheets glide smoothly and almost contactlessly over the conveyors. Two narrow vacuum belts ensure precise and slip-reduced movement of the sheets. This technology enables the sheets to be transferred reliably to the loading machine.

Even with demanding substrates such as scroll sheets, the system enables high production speeds and particularly smooth sheet transport. The smooth transport and synchronised transfer to the downstream transport make the entire production chain more efficient. Adjustments to different sheet sizes are no longer necessary, and set-up times when changing formats are reduced. The user-friendly design also allows for quick cleaning.

The venturi technology is available for various conveyors in coating lines, for coating machine delivery, bridge transport and for loading and unloading machines.

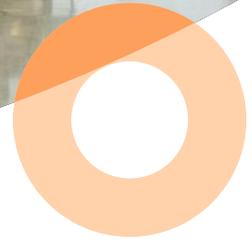
Successful Field Test with Satisfied Customer Confirms Advantages of New Venturi Technology

A field test of the new Venturi technology for metal sheet processing was successfully conducted. The test included the processing of tinplate and aluminum in various formats, including straight and scroll cut sheets. It was confirmed that the Venturi technology ensures a significantly gentler and more precise feeding of the sheets compared to conventional systems. Precise sheet transportation from delivery to loading machine eliminates loading area adjustments and reduces operator intervention.

Due to the convincing results, the customer has already implemented the Venturi technology in further production lines. With the Venturi air cushion transport, we are setting a new standard for coating lines," says Ralf Hipp, CEO of Koenig & Bauer MetalPrint. "This technology not only increases productivity, but also improves the quality and efficiency of the entire production process. We are proud to offer our customers a pioneering solution that will sustainably strengthen their competitiveness."

MetalCoat 483 with venturi delivery, transport and loading machine





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- i-Control
- i-Strip
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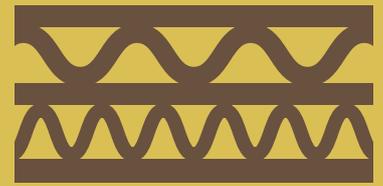
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