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Latest News about [Large Format Printing](#)

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Monday, 30. June 2008

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Dear readers,

here you will find something about interesting innovations and news about Large Format Printing.

1) **photokina: More than 90 percent of the available space is booked**

In 2008, photokina, leading international trade fair for the photographic and imaging sector, is continuing its long history of success. With still about three months to go before the fair opens, the available exhibition space is nearly sold out, with more than 90 percent of the space already booked. Companies continue to show very strong interest in the trade fair. Koelnmesse reports, for example, that more than 100 new exhibitors have already registered to present their companies and products for the first time at photokina. A total of about 1,600 companies from roughly 50 countries are expected at photokina.

photokina 2008 from September 23 to 28, Cologne
More information: www.photokina-cologne.com



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2) **viscom frankfurt 2008 enlarges exhibition area**

viscom frankfurt is growing: Five months before opening, the International Trade Fair for Visual Communication can report a lively demand. Even at this early stage, the exhibiting companies have already booked an area ten percent larger than was the case for the previous event in 2006. So far, a total of 145 exhibitors from 17 countries have confirmed their stand booking. The organizers, Reed Exhibitions Deutschland GmbH, are expecting 200 international exhibitors and 7,500 visitors from 30 countries. In addition to an extensive supporting program with numerous seminars, workshops, lectures and practical examples from the entire field of visual communication, viscom addresses topics such as Digital Signage and Industrial Inkjet Printing and presents a special show with innovative materials. After the successful premiere of the viscom INNOVATION AWARD this prize will be awarded again at viscom frankfurt 2008.

viscom frankfurt 2008 from October 30 to November 1, Frankfurt exhibition centre, hall 3.0
More information: www.viscom-messe.com

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Sincerely
Yours
Susanne Aschoff

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3) Durst: New Rho 320R UV Inkjet printer
 Durst launched at drupa the new Rho 320R UV inkjet printer. Precision components developed and perfected by Durst, such as the innovative Quadro Array printhead technology and the new print carriage concept which includes a magnetic linear drive system, are important features of the Rho 320R. The unique and reliable high quality white printing option, the light color option and the enhanced user software with an integrated maintenance program further support this new quality standard. An important feature of the Rho 320R is the environmentally friendly, low odor Rho Roll Ink which offers a wide color gamut and high color density. It enables economic printing of offset quality particularly for large format indoor applications. Demanding and profitable applications such as lightbox displays, illuminated posters, window graphics, POP displays and advertising textiles can be achieved with the Rho 320R in a previously unattainable quality. The Rho 320R prints widths up to 320 cm on a wide range of coated and uncoated media. There is an option for printing two rolls side by side up to a width of 160 cm each and a further option for perfectly registered doubled sided printing, which includes a media tracking facility. The high productivity of the Rho 320R means that it will print up to 130 sqm/hr.

More information: www.durst-online.com

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4) HP Designjet L65500 – First printer with new HP Latex Inks

HP presented at drupa the 104-inch HP Designjet L65500 printer; it's the first of a new category of large-format signage printers with HP Latex Inks and HP Wide Scan Printing Technology. The L65500 has a resolution up to 1200 x 600 dpi. Print service providers can expand their offerings with this single, versatile printer that can produce a variety of outdoor and indoor applications – from point-of-purchase displays, transit signage, wall murals and exhibition graphics to vehicle graphics and fleet marking. Prints produced with HP Latex Inks are odorless (printers using HP Latex Inks use internal heaters to dry and cure the latex polymer film. Some substrates may have inherent odor) and emit extremely low levels of volatile organic compounds. No special ventilation is required to meet occupational exposure limits, and there are no requirements for air discharge permits, facilitating an improved printing environment. HP Latex Inks are not classified as hazardous waste and are non-flammable and non-combustible. The inks also do not produce ozone emissions during printing, contain no hazardous air pollutants or sensitizers and comply with the industry-leading certification, Nordic Swan. HP's 14 new large-format media include five recyclable substrates that are compatible with HP Latex Printing Technologies. Using a new, proprietary HP media surface-treatment technology, HP Tyvek Banner and HP High Density Polyethylene Reinforced Banner provide high image quality and durability when printing with HP Latex Inks or HP low-solvent inks.

More information: www.hp.com/go/designjetL65500

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5) **Mimaki: UJV-160 UV LED large format printer**

Another innovation at the Mimaki booth on drupa was the prototype UJV-160 UV LED large format printer. While conventional UV curing is executed by UV lamps UV LED technology uses UV LED (Light Emitting Diodes) which at light ranges of between 365 and 395 nm cure the specifically sensitized inks. UV lamps need a high dose of energy and need to be cooled in order to cure the inks through properly whereby they emit lots of heat as well as sometimes ozone and VOC (Volatile Organic Components). All these negative effects of UV printing are reduced or eliminated with UV LED technology. The LED, which in contrast to conventional UV lamps can be switched on and off without any pre-heat and cool-down time, only emit low temperatures. Thus, only a small cooling element, cooling unit etc. is needed and the use of cooling fans etc. is eliminated. In case of a smaller print area than the full area of the printer, the UV LED lights are only switched on and off whenever they are needed thereby reducing energy costs. In addition UV LED technology does not emit ozone or VOC, which makes it far more environmentally friendly in comparison with conventional UV lamps. Danger from radiation is reduced as UV LED does not emit UV-B and UV-C rays.

More information: www.mimakieurope.com

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6) **Seiko presented at drupa the ColorPainter H-104S**

Seiko I Infotech Inc. (SIIT) presented at drupa the ColorPainter H-104S. The new 104-inch solvent inkjet printer has a printing speed of 55 sqm/hr with 8 colors while maintaining extremely high image quality and density. This printer achieves this speed by utilizing 8 super-wide, piezo inkjet heads. The new inkjet heads offer true 720 dpi resolution and bigger droplet sizes by firing multiple drops to maximize ink density levels – even at high print speeds. The printer offers new “mild solvent” ink set that has excellent color and adhesion. The H-104S comes with 8 heads and can be configured two different ways: 8 colors with 1 head per color (Y, M, C, K, Lc, Lm, Grey and Light Grey ink colors) for maximum image quality, or 4 colors with 2 heads per color (Y, M, C, K ink colors) can almost double the speed 8 colors for maximum productivity. The H-104S incorporates new features, “Smart Pass Technology” to optimize pass-to-pass dot placement for smooth spot colors and gradients and “Automatic head height adjustment” to ensure the best image quality. In combination with these features as well as high speed and high ink density, this printer meets requirements for professional quality outdoor graphics and high volume users. The ColorPainter H-104S will be sold through SIIT channel partners worldwide. SIIT expects to make an official product announcement for the ColorPainter H-104S in early September and start shipping at the beginning of October 2008 worldwide.

More information: www.seiko-i.com

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7) **Océ Arizona 200 GT: Ticket to ride**

Océ announced at drupa the new Océ Arizona 200 GT, which delivers the same image quality as the Océ Arizona 250 GT but is configured for light production environments, making it accessible to print shops and sign makers with lower volume demands. The Océ Arizona 200 GT is based on the Océ Arizona 250 GT platform that combines a true flatbed architecture with a separate, dedicated roll-to-roll system. It can print onto rigid media up to 49” wide x 98” long x 1.89” thick. By adding the Roll Media Option, users can print onto flexible media up to 87” wide, in an automated and unattended manner. It uses Océ VariaDot imaging technology and four-color (CMYK) UV curable inks to produce near-photographic image quality at a true production print speed (sellable prints) of 9.3 sqm/hr. Contact the local Océ office for availability in your area.

More information: www.oce.com

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8) **Epson launched Stylus Pro 7900 und 9900 at drupa**

Epson launched the Stylus Pro 7900 and Stylus Pro 9900. An improved ink formulation, a new printer mechanism and a raft of new technologies make these two new additions to the Epson Stylus Pro range ideal for production and contract proofing, as well as the highest quality fine-art and photographic applications. They will also enable printers to extend their business into the demanding packaging proofing and flexographic markets. In addition an optional calibration and verification system, the Epson SpectroProofer, means the Stylus Pro 7900 and the Stylus Pro 9900 can be a confidently used for remote proofing. The new printer mechanism implemented in the Stylus Pro 7900 and 9900 builds on Epson’s MicroPiezo TFP (Thin Film Piezo) print head, introduced with the launch of the Stylus Pro 11880 last year. It delivers perfectly spherical dots with high precision dot placement and can deliver resolutions up to 2880 dpi. The new printer utilizes a new 5th generation pigment ink, which is key to the quality of print output. Epson UltraChrome HDR (High Dynamic Range) ink is an 11-colour ink set consisting of Pk, Mk, Lk, LLK, C, VM, Y, Lc, VLm, Or and Gr available in 350ml and 700ml cartridges.

More information: www.epson-europe.com

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9) Canon: High-speed printer for CAD and GIS market

Canon showcased its first ever 44" large format printers specifically designed for the Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) markets at drupa. The Canon imagePROGRAF iPF810 and iPF820 are both five-color dye and pigment printers that combine fast output production speeds with efficient ink usage. The imagePROGRAF iPF810 and iPF820 are capable of reproducing A0 prints in 47 seconds. In addition, they can reproduce fine line widths down to 0.02mm, with a range accuracy of 0.1%, a factor that is crucial in the CAD / GIS markets where precision in building plans, maps and technical designs is critical. The major difference between the printers is: The iPF820 is equipped with a dual roll capability with auto switching, enabling it to handle large print runs with different types and sizes of media. The iPF810, on the other hand, has an optional take-up unit for fast consecutive printing and enabling unmanned printing. The products will be available in Europe from September 2008.

More information: www.canon-europe.com

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10) Contex and Vidar launched SD Series

Contex, developer of wide format scanning and imaging solutions, and VIDAR, a Contex Group company, have announced the launch of the SD Series – a revolutionary, affordable range of user-friendly scanners with all-new enhanced CIS technology. The SD Series is ideal for customers who primarily scan technical documents and maps. Combining powerful scanning technology and walk-up simplicity, the scanners increase productivity and simplify scan-to-file and scan-to-print tasks for in-house users, eliminating the need to send scanning jobs out of house. The SD Series also serves copy shops with high-volume technical document archiving projects. At 44 inches, the SD Series can handle wide documents. And with 1,200 dpi optical resolution and intelligent image cleanup, the scanners effectively capture all fine lines and details.

More information: www.contex.com

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11) ColorGATE: QAM – Available for PRODUCTIONSERVER5

ColorGATE was always and still is a trendsetter and its next innovative offer is the QUALITY ASSURANCE MODULE (QAM) for PRODUCTIONSERVER5, the fully integrated quality assurance technology for high-end large-format printing. "Many of our customers who are active in digital large image communications were lacking in a solution to standardize processes in large-format digital printing as they have been standardized in offset and newspaper printing for years. With QAM, we now have an easy-to-use solution for quality assurance, including verification, which is based on trusted technology in these fields. Now, it is finally possible to make reliable statements on color consistency in digital printing as well," said ColorGATE Managing Director Thomas Kirschner, summing up the history of the QAM. Put into actual practice, this means: standard assessment, regular checking, reporting, archiving and labeling – any fluctuations in quality are detected easily and at any time. QAM will be available from any authorized ColorGATE retailer from July 30, 2008. All product details and a list of the retailers can be accessed at www.colorgate.com.



More information: www.colorgate.com

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12) SAi sponsors Mutoh America's Sign Shop Makeover Contest II



SA International (SAi) announces its sponsorship of the second annual Mutoh America's Sign Shop Makeover Contest. Last year's outstanding success has compelled SAi to again be a sponsor of Mutoh America's "Sign Shop Makeover" Contest for 2008. The Contest will award one winner approximately Dollar 100,000 worth of equipment, supplies and services, including an inkjet printer, cutter, laminator, software, a scan-to-print system, training and remodeling. SAi will provide

the winner with the latest FlexiSIGN-PRO software package as well as a SPRINT spectrophotometer with SNAP software for easy color profiling. To enter the Sign Shop Makeover contest, each contestant will be asked to submit an essay or video explaining why their sign shop should be chosen for a makeover. The entry deadline is December 6th, 2008. Any entries after this date will not be accepted. The winner will be announced at the 2009 ISA Show on April 16-18, 2009 in Las Vegas, NV. For detailed information visit the following homepages.

More information: www.saintl.biz and www.mutohmakeover.com

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13) PerfectProof PrintFactory: Banner, Poster and Sign Production revisited

PerfectProof announces the availability of PrintFactory, its new production suite for the large format printing market. PrintFactory provides a set of professional-level file correction and job preparation tools needed to produce more and with color-accurate results. This new solution builds on the heritage of PerfectProof ProofMaster, which has a proven track record in the graphic arts industry. Most large format printers today come bundled with a RIP. However, a multi-printer environment then often implies a multi rip-environment. Operators, both in production and in the studio have to be educated on all these products to ensure permanent production continuity. As a complete production suite, PrintFactory offers the opportunity to streamline the digital workflow with the specific tools needed in the different parts of the workflow. The PrintFactory Editor handles all the job preparation within PrintFactory. It allows users to set up advanced manual and automated tiling, generate eyelet markers, add seam lines and many other things. PrintFactory operates in a completely mixed environment, enabling studio operators to work comfortably on their Mac while the RIP can reside on a PC. From start to finish PerfectProof drives inkjet solutions to be more accurate, versatile and productive. Founded in 1996 PerfectProof offers a complete range of products for the proofing, banner and sign and packaging markets.

More information: www.perfectproof.com

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14) GMG presents GMG ColorProof o5

Four years after introducing GMG ColorProof o4 at drupa, GMG, supplier of high-end color management and proofing solutions, introduced at drupa 2008 GMG ColorProof o5. GMG ColorProof o5 is a major version upgrade of its highly successful color management software system, providing the most accurate way of calibrating digital inkjet proofing engines to produce digital contract color proofs, precisely matched to the printing press. GMG ColorProof o5 builds on its knowledge, and the consistency of, industry standards – along with a completely new, redesigned user interface – to make proofing easier and accurate for the experienced and novice user. It includes all the tools to calibrate and consistently and efficiently manage the proofing process. The central element in the software, the unique “4D Color Transformation Engine”, guarantees the best possible quality and color accuracy when producing contract proofs on a variety of output devices. The prominent new features of GMG ColorProof o5 are geared to making the application user-friendlier and more clearly implemented among a variety of workflows. GMG ColorProof o5 will be available to customers in October 2008.

More information: www.gmgcolor.com

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15) X-Rite and Epson: Automated remote proofing to Large Format Printer

X-Rite, Incorporated and Epson announced at drupa that they have joined forces to develop the SpectroProofer, an in-line, off-carriage calibration and verification system for Epson's newly launched Epson Stylus Pro 7900 / 9900 large format printers. The new SpectroProofer was showcased for the first time at drupa 2008 on the Epson stand. Powered by X-Rite's In-Line Spectrophotometer (ILS), the Epson SpectroProofer tool turns the Epson Stylus Pro 7900 / 9900 into reliable, consistent and repeatable proof verification and printer calibration solutions. The embedded Epson SpectroProofer brings fully automated in-line proofing capabilities to the Epson Stylus Pro range to make remote proofing a reality. By enabling a high level of transparent automation, it significantly reduces workload, operation costs and increases workflow efficiency.

More Information: www.xrite.com and www.epson-europe.com

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16) ColorArena: Portal for the display and analysis of color measuring data

Jochen Günther is a renowned color management expert. His “ColorTrainings” (color management trainings) have an excellent reputation in the industry. He also gives lectures and workshops dealing with color in the graphic and photographic industry in collaboration with leading institutions and publishing houses. Resulting from his many years of experience the color expert presented at drupa his first software solution, the ColorArena in cooperation with leading technological companies. The portal is addressing manufacturers of printing systems as well as users. ColorArena serves for the display and analysis of color measuring data e.g. for proof, production print and digital print. ColorArena allows the comparison of printing systems to a reference or to other printing systems as well as the set-up of a printing system by the user (printer, operator) and technicians following maintenance work. For the end customer it is possible to achieve a standard for one or several machines and to compare prints on different papers on one or several machines as well as proofs with media wedge and print results of printing systems.

More information: www.colorarena.de

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17) Caldera: Strategic partnership with PANTONE

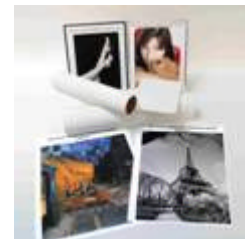
Caldera in strategic partnership with Pantone has announced a license agreement to integrate industry standard PANTONE Color Libraries in all of Caldera's software. Caldera has become licensed by Pantone in order to offer wide format digital printer clients the most accurate and "on the mark colors" for the globally accepted PANTONE Color standards. A complete PANTONE Color Library that includes the PANTONE MATCHING SYSTEM, the PANTONE Goe System and also the PANTONE PAINT + INTERIORS Color System will be directly integrated into the RIP for seamless color matching on any large format inkjet printer which is supported by the Caldera RIP solutions.

More information: www.caldera.eu and www.pantone.com

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18) Sihl: Four new types of paper for photorealistic fine art prints

At this year's photokina, Sihl presents two different types of artist paper – each with 320 g/sqm and 240 g/sqm grammage. Both Sihl's Artistic Creative Smooth Paper 320 and 240 and the Artistic Creative Textured Paper 320 and 240 are acid-free fine art paper made of 100% cotton fibre and finished with a special porous, matt coating. As their names suggest, "Smooth" and "Textured" differ in that the latter is slightly structured whereas the "Smooth" surface has an even appearance. Now available both in sheet form (A4 and A3+) and in the reel widths 17", 24", 36", 44", and 60", this fine art paper is perfect for high-quality photo prints or art reproductions. The paper needs no optical brightening agents and guarantees a long life thanks to its base material and special coating. When pigment inks are used – and this is specially recommended – a long-term stability of around 55 years can be expected. Mounted behind glass, 85 years is even possible. Museum glass with UV filter extends the life of the framed work of art even further. Sihl's Artistic Creative Paper dries quickly and is resistant to water and moisture. Thanks to its compatibility, Sihl's Artistic Creative Smooth Paper 320 and 240 is perfectly suited to all common dye and especially pigment-based printers by Canon, Epson and HP, producing excellent printing results on current models. This is also true of Sihl's Artistic Creative Textured Paper 320 and 240. Even when maximum quantities of ink are used, Sihl's fine art paper remains stable and wrinkle free.



More information: www.sihlgroup.com

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19) SEAL Graphics expanded its range of Print Shield (PS) laminates

SEAL Graphics has both re-engineered and expanded its popular range of water-based Print Shield (PS) laminates for use in cold, pressure-sensitive applications. Typically, these are for short-run, quick turnaround items such as Point of Sale and other promotional uses but the range extends to offer three to four years durability outdoors. The improved PS Base is an affordable film newly available in a Lustre finish, as well as Matte and Gloss, which will provide protection for up to two years. PS Plus is a new film in Matte, Gloss and Lustre finishes that can be offered to end-users as part of a warranted solution for up to two years life. It's ideal for everyday usage where the finished graphic requires additional protection from dirt and abrasion and greater longevity. The newly-developed PS Premium now offers an outdoor life of between three and four years. It, too, is available in a choice of three finishes and delivers outstanding protection for graphics products produced to remain in-situ for some time.

More information: www.sealgraphics.com

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20) Berger: More than 7000 sqm Berger fabric printed at drupa

The new AquaJet 3324 from GandInnovations was printing 14 days at drupa nonstop on 7000 sqm Berger fabrics. The size of 310 cm width, the speed and the outstanding quality of the fabric was convincing customers from all over the world to move into textile printing. The new designed "+w"- coating from Berger for water based dye sub inks convinced customers in image quality, textile appearance and price. Berger offers a wide range of knitted and woven fabrics for dye sub printing. Topsellers printed at the show: Eco flag 117 FR, Creasefree heavy satin FR +w, Eco Display 210 FR +w, Eco satin 140 FR +w and Back-Lightex FR +w. Free printed „AquaJet 3324“ – samples are available now.

More information: www.bergertextil.com

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21) Bob Mats: Some new products

Middle of July Bob Mats will launch some new products. Their direct dye sub printable PTT (modified polyester) carpet will be available in different width. There is a choice between different backing, fiberbinder very light backing for use on walls. Latex backing, non slip gello foam latex for use as carpets or mats. 3 mm thick recycled rubber backing for use as floor mats. 1.5 mm nbr rubber backing for use as floor mats. They will also introduce a new polyester felt on latex quality, available in 300 cm width. Rolls can be cut to smaller sizes on request.

More information: www.bobmats.com

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22) Mehler Texnologies: New label for commitment to the environment

The responsible way in which the company deals with energy and resources, its use of environmentally sustainable materials and its activities related to the recycling of coated textiles have now been bundled by Mehler Texnologies under one all-embracing label. The Mehler eco-care concept accompanies Mehler products throughout their entire lifecycle, including in the incorporation of ecological criteria in the selection of raw materials, the use of environmentally friendly production processes, the utilization of recyclable packaging materials and in the company's participation in the development of recycling systems. For many years, Mehler Texnologies has been working tirelessly in its R&D department on the use of ecologically raw materials and the ongoing development of production methods that save on both energy and resources. The department bases its works in this area not only on the EU REACH Directive, but also researches and tests substitutions of both ecologically and economically relevant materials. Since January 2008, Mehler Texnologies has been a part of the Low & Bonar Group, thus opening the way for the company's participation in the group's own 'Bona eco' recycling program. When it comes to packaging and transport, Mehler Texnologies keeps a close eye here too on consideration for the environment and resources. The company uses predominantly recycled materials for packaging, while the establishment of storage facilities in the countries where it has local sales companies ensures not simply just-in-time deliveries for clients, but also reduces transport activities, transport costs and environmental pollution. Acting responsibly towards the environment and preserving resources is a duty towards future generations.



More information: www.mehler-texnologies.com

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23) Agfa Graphics: Successful drupa trade fair

Agfa Graphics announced that the 2008 edition of the four-yearly drupa printing trade fair has been a great success. The company's stylish stand caught the eye of the crowds and its innovative solutions met with general approval from numerous print professionals. As a result, Agfa Graphics reported a solid order intake for both the prepress and the industrial inkjet segment. The attention of the drupa 2008 visitors was clearly focused on industrial inkjet systems and ecological prepress solutions. This confirms Agfa Graphics' growth strategy in both areas. They were already a hype at drupa 2004, but since then industrial inkjet solutions have developed into a mature technology, playing a central role at drupa 2008. This market evolution confirms Agfa Graphics' strategy for industrial inkjet. The company invests heavily to become a reliable global player in this new segment of the printing industry with a full range of industrial UV curable inkjet systems. In the wide format UV arena, Agfa Graphics took orders from all over the world for over 100 systems, with the new Anapurna XLS, launched at the show, as a star performer.

More information: www.agfagraphics.com

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24) GCC UV-curable inkjet printers received acclaim from drupa attendees

GCC, a global forefront equipment-manufacturing provider in the visual-tech industry, supplying a broad range of hi-tech and high-performance laser engraving / cutting / marking systems, cutting plotters and UV inkjet printers to the global market, is pleased to announce that their innovative StellarJET UV curable inkjet printers received great acclaim from drupa attendees. Since they launched their first UV-curable inkjet printer, the GCC StellarJET 250UV in the first quarter of 2006, its excellent output printing quality and productivity have received wonderful feedbacks. Apart from StellarJET 250UV, GCC StellarJET family also includes StellarJET 183UVK and StellarJET K100UV as well to meet the remarkable market growth and fit customers' different needs. With customer-oriented innovation, great versatility and superior quality, the GCC StellarJET UV-curable inkjet printers are designed for a wide variety of applications including interior designs, displays, banners, signage and personalized/customized gifts.

More information: www.gccworld.com

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25) TEPEDE and Teckwin: Successful drupa

TEPEDE and Teckwin are really satisfied about their participation at drupa. At 2 booths, their own one in hall 3 and the Xaar booth in hall 4, they mainly have introduced the TeckStorm UV flat bed printer. Both printers run all 2 weeks from morning to evening at highest print quality. For people just passing by we heard “ahs and ohs” and remarks like “this is the best quality and best performance at an attractive price performance”, Wolfgang Hey, marketing manager of TEPEDE commented. But more: more than 20 print / cut solutions have been ordered just from the show. Even the new 2 x 3 m printer attracts big interest. Even the possibilities and the seamless workflow from print to contour routing convinced the international audience. In fact, using the Xaar 760 Grey Scale heads for CMYK, always having white and a lot of highly innovated features build in to have a constant print quality, make the TeckStorm a real hi score player.

More information: www.tepede.com and www.teckwin.com

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26) EskoArtwork connects with success at drupa

EskoArtwork reports that the company registered successes throughout its entire product portfolio and that drupa 2008 far exceeded all business forecasts. Carsten Knudsen, EskoArtwork's President and CEO, acknowledges EskoArtwork's satisfaction with its drupa results: “At this year's edition the interest in our range of solutions was significant, especially for our packaging tools, flexo platesetting systems, and commercial print workflows and solutions for digital printing and converting. EskoArtwork's drupa orders exceeded our target by more than 50% and surpassed the combined results of Esko and Artwork Systems in 2004 by more than 75%.” Two new partnerships were announced at the opening of the drupa: Presstek will offer EskoArtwork's Odystar workflow solution under its own Latitude brand, and the SmartColour group at Sun Chemical will cooperate with EskoArtwork to bring innovative solutions for brand color management to the entire packaging supply chain. On the closing day, EskoArtwork also announced signing a Letter of Intent regarding the acquisition of Mikkelsen Graphic Engineering, Inc. (MGE), the industry reference in vision controlled finishing solutions for cutting tables in the sign-making, screen-printing and digital printing marketplaces.

More information: www.esko.com

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27) STAEDTLER Ink Jet at drupa: Strong demand for water based inks

STAEDTLER Ink Jet's premiere at the drupa was born under a lucky star. The announcement of HP to convert the large format Ink Jet field into environment-friendly water-based latex inks from 2009 on furnished to be a fit occasion for the ink manufacturer from Nuremberg. Four years ago, STAEDTLER was already able to demonstrate with their Lumocolor Jet inks ([LFP-Newsletter.com 03/2004](http://LFP-Newsletter.com)) that water-based inks can be used for printing on almost every surface. Therefore, it had been quite bustling behind the scenes. The compatible STAEDTLER ink cartridges for the HP Designjet series, including the new HP 4500, were the reason for a keen demand at the stand.

More information: www.staedtler-inkjet.com

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28) Marabu: “Advanced Specialist Printing“

For the second time Marabu Printing Inks was exhibited on drupa 2008 in cooperation with Fimor and Kiwo. A lot of visitors from Europe, USA and Asia informed themselves about the newest product launches in the graphical and industrial segments like for example Labels, Membrane switches, Container printing and much more. During the exhibition Marabu was demonstrating the solvent-based Marajet DI-CP on a wide format Seiko Colorpainter. Customers and interested visitors were convinced with best printing results showing best quality, highest resolution and brilliant details. During the entire exhibition Marajet DI-CP proved its excellent characteristics like color density and high productiveness on frontlit banners, self adhesive foils and textiles. Much attention was drawn to Marabu's demonstration of screen printing inks being cured with a speed of 40m/min by using the new UV-LED technology. This was shown live during the entire exhibition at the booth of their co-operating partner IST-Metz.

More information: www.marabu-inks.com

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29) Spandex installs Europe's First Gerber Solara ion

Spandex has announced the first European installation of its recently announced Gerber Solara ion flatbed/roll-to-roll, wide-format, UV inkjet printing solution. UK-based, Alpha Sign Systems took charge of the versatile Solara ion at the end of April, after deciding that the printer's numerous feature-rich attributes and cost-effectiveness provided the best all-round package to enhance its wide-format digital offering. According to John Teteris, Alpha Sign Systems' Managing Director, the Gerber Solara ion stood out from the competition,

thanks to its very favorable price/performance ratio, which he believes, will reduce production time to around a third. Mr Teteris was also impressed with Gerber's low-temperature Cold Fire Cure technology and advanced GerberCAT cationic UV inks, which are cured at room temperature to expand the range of printable substrates. The combination means that heat sensitive plastic, vinyl, fabric and paper-based materials can be printed without concern over ink adhesion or material damage. Alpha Sign Systems celebrates twenty years in business this year and provides full project management across a large and diverse portfolio of signage applications; including banners, POS, advertising hoardings and modular sign systems.

More information: www.spandex.com

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30) Neschen: A fresh new look



Neschen AG's web presence (www.neschen.com) has been given a makeover.

Featuring the very latest technologies and with a design which is both attractive and fresh, the Neschen website is somewhere you'll want to visit again and again. The online content is also highly informative, taking in the entire portfolio offered by the Bückeberg coating specialist and including technical data sheets, test certificates, shelf

life certificates and fire safety certificates for all media. All of these documents, along with instructions for processing and use, are available for download. Customers, interested parties and shareholders alike can now access the Bückeberg-based company on the Internet in a much improved format. Much emphasis was placed on user-friendliness when redesigning the site. Neschen supplies printable, coated and enhanced sheet media such as plastic and paper foils to destinations all over the world. Its portfolio also includes textiles for printing service providers. Neschen is particularly well-known for its super-size media for large-scale printing formats. Printable wall coverings for that personal touch in interior decor are the latest highlight to be added to the range.

More information: www.neschen.com

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31) Mimaki Engineering Co., Ltd. acquires nbn Industrie GmbH

Mimaki announces at drupa 2008 the acquisition of its German distributor nbn Industrie GmbH. Based in Herrsching, Germany nbn has been, up to the acquisition, responsible for distributing Mimaki products into the German market. nbn was founded in 1968 as a small system-house for measurement equipment. The company focusses on innovative products and today nbn offers a complete range of products for the digital printing market. Its customers are well known dealers all over Germany who are specialists in their area. "We felt that the time was right for another step in the development of Mimaki Engineering as Germany is one of our main markets. By acquiring nbn Industrie GmbH we are pleased to work directly with the existing dealer network and look forward to fruitful and long relationships", says Akira Ikeda, President from Mimaki. "Mimaki will continue its focus on innovation not only in the sign and graphics markets but also even more in the industrial markets which is one of the main future business fields of Mimaki Engineering. Furtheron we will supply German print service providers with the unparalleled service and equipment via the establishment of Mimaki-nbn GmbH." "As a company with exactly 40 years of experience in distribution we have gained the knowledge to meet the requirements of the German market. With a high level of effective marketing and know-how we always meet the requirements of our customers", says Raoul Nippold, General Manager nbn Industrie GmbH. "Our aspiration is to continue to provide our customers the best products and services in the market. We are pleased that through the acquisition we will be in an even better position to fulfill these goals."

More information: www.mimaki.co.jp/english/top/index.php

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32) viscom italia: Record figures of exhibitors

viscom italia, exhibition for visual communication industry, is getting ready to celebrate "20 years Sign Italia" with a record figures of exhibitors (as of middle of June 2008 plus 12%). viscom italia the place where more than 20,000 modern graphic producers, designers, advertising agencies and decision makers from all over the world, meet up once a year with more than 600 suppliers to actively do business on the tradeshow floor and to learn about the impact of new technologies and communication trends during the Visual Communication Forum. viscom Italia stands for: large format digital printing/image solutions, signs and digital signage, billboards and point of purchase solutions, innovative screen printing and pad printing solutions, engraving and laser solutions, digital communication solutions and Event Services. evexcom., the dynamic event industry, today part of every extended communication plan, has found its perfect setting within the exhibition profile of viscom italia as the vicinity of the traditional suppliers provide the ideal platform to find synergies among the various sector. With 6 months to go, 87% of the further increased exhibition space is already booked by the most important players of the industry who have chosen viscom italia as their prime selling event.

viscom italia 2008 from 13 to 15 november in Milano

More information: www.visualcommunication.it

33) drupa 2008 further develops its global significance

The mood at 2008, the world's largest and most important fair for the printing and media industry, can hardly be better. The investment climate is extremely good and has by far exceeded expectations. At the end of the 14-day fair the 1,971 exhibitors from 52 countries were unanimous in reporting an extremely high number of promising contacts and successful deals concluded. "drupa 2008 has sent out a clear signal: thanks to numerous innovations and new fields of business the print media sector is as agile as ever," summarizes Albrecht Bolza-Schünemann, drupa President and CEO at Koenig & Bauer AG. "This is clearly reflected in the numerous deals concluded with virtually all key business regions." Overall, drupa exhibitors announced deals concluded worth more than Euro 10 b. Sectoral insiders suspect the actual investment sum to be considerably higher. Around 391,000 visitors from 138 countries and 3,000 journalists from 84 countries traveled to Düsseldorf to gather information on innovations, further developments and new fields of business. Accounting for 59 % of visitors the proportion of international visitors rose by 4 percentage points over the last event four years ago. In tune with its motto "one drupa ends and another begins" the points are now already set for the next drupa to be held in Düsseldorf from 3 to 16 May 2012.

More information: www.drupa.com

Good bye, see you next month
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