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Tuesday, 09. October 2007

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Dear readers,

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

1) **SGIA '07: From 24 to 27 October in Orlando**

The Expo is maxing out its capacity at the Orange County Convention Center (243,650 net square footage), and that means attendees will have a mammoth Expo floor to explore the latest hardware and software technologies for the specialty imaging industry. "SGIA '07 exhibitors need even more space to show off cutting-edge equipment and consumables", said Sylvia Hall, SGIA's Vice President of Conventions and Conferences. "It's one more indicator the SGIA Expo will feature the best and most expansive representation of the imaging community." In addition to hosting the leading suppliers and manufacturers, SGIA '07 will offer 54 educational sessions guaranteed to deliver profit-building ideas.

More information: www.sgia.org

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2) **viscom germany 2007: A fresh breeze for visual communication**

From high-end digitals to classical engraving: the variety of visual communication is bigger than ever. Proof of that could be seen at this year's viscom which presented itself full of new vitality. With a total of 8,900 trade visitors the organizers, Reed Exhibitions Deutschland GmbH, recorded a result at a similar level with that of the previous event (2005: 9,023). In this context, the proportion of visitors from advertising agencies and of customers from the industrial and the department store sector who found their way to Düsseldorf this year was significantly higher. "The new orientation of viscom as a trade fair for visual communication is beginning to bear fruit", commented Hans-Joachim Erbel, Managing Director of Reed Exhibitions Deutschland GmbH. This is because in addition to the advertising technicians who traditionally make up the classical core of viscom, there was a marked increase in visitors from advertising agencies, from industry and from the department store sector, among them many newcomers particularly interested in the modern forms of visual communication. The viscom germany takes place again from 30th October to 01st November 2008 at the exhibitions centre in Frankfurt.

More information: www.viscom-germany.com

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Sincerely

Yours

Susanne Aschoff

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3) Teckwin presents its TeckRouter at SGIA
 Teckwin announces the demonstration of its new TeckRouter, using i-cut vision, the preeminent vision workflow solution, worldwide, for short run graphics with workflow integrated all the way from design through the RIP for accurate digital finishing. Now these same capabilities will be available to the smaller digital print shop, as the TeckRouter will allow for the routing/finishing of short run graphics, whether laminated or directly printed on rigid substrates, with automatic precision. Since lamination introduces stretch and shrinkage issues to a graphical shape, and digital printers are not as accurate in register as the analog printing presses they replaced, using the print file to determine the correct contour to maintain graphical edges does not always work well enough to satisfy a client. The i-cut Vision system ensures that a graphic will be finished as it was printed, rather than as the design file expected it to be printed. While flexible materials can be cut by hand and rigid materials with semi automated CNC technology, quality cutting of the rigid materials printed by Teckwin's UV flatbed will be easily and profitably handled by the Teckwin TeckRouter utilizing the i-cut equipped cutting system. The new TeckRouter will further extend the Teckwin family, which already offers a full range of both hybrid and flatbed UV printing systems. TeckRouter is targeted at screen printers, graphic display shops and commercial printers producing rigid output. **SGIA: booth 0232**
More information: www.teckwin.com

[Top](#)**4) Mutoh Europe announces "Blizzard series"**

Wide-format piezo inkjet printer manufacturer Mutoh Europe has announced a new line of high-performance variable drop mild-solvent printers, called "Blizzard series". These new Mutoh printers offer impeccable production output quality up to 40 sqm/h and top speeds up to 80 sqm/h. The new Blizzard wide format printers are an addition to Mutoh's existing Spitfire Extreme mild-solvent printer family. This new Mutoh printer line consists of two models: Blizzard 65, offering a printing width of 1640 mm a Blizzard 90, offering a printing width of 2230 mm. The Blizzard series print directly onto standard available uncoated vinyl, banner and soft signage. The machines are targeted at small sign businesses needing versatility or larger operations wanting to extend capacity while gaining flexibility. Application possibilities encompass corporate signs, stage and window graphics, backlit box signage, construction announcements, vehicle graphics, indoors graphics such as photo blow-ups, floor graphics, etc. The new printers incorporate Mutoh's Intelligent Interweaving print technology (i² - pronounced isquared). Mutoh has taken a totally new approach with its i² technology. Ink is laid down in carefully optimized wave forms. This approach will drastically reduce or even eliminate typical inkjet printing artefacts such as horizontal banding, step mismatch banding, ink mottle, etc. The printers will become available during the second half of October 2007.

More information: www.mutoh.eu

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5) **TEPEDE: successful viscom**

The already at FESPA announced but due to some transport problems delayed 3200 mm solvent printer TeckStone from Teckwin together with the two UV-printers TeckStorm and TeckThunder also from Teckwin have been successfully introduced at viscom in Düsseldorf. TeckThunder and TeckStorm incorporate the new Xaar omnidot heads allowing variable drop size starting with 8 pl. Whereas TeckStorm is a flat bed printer for up to 2440 by 1220 mm size, TeckThunder is a hybrid printer allowing roll to roll and rigid board printing up to 1640 mm in width. Length is just a question of the RIP and disk space. Finest details are possible to print and even color transitions are smooth and clear. Even letters less than 5mm can be read (if magnifier is available). Lot of internal control mechanism organize a stable ink flow. Important to know: both printers always have white for printing on transparent or colored boards and other media. The used inks from SUN chemicals show high class adhesion on many substrates. Also of interest was a new very lightweight and stable so called X-board from Xanita.

More information: www.tepede.com or info@de.tepede.com

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6) **Multi-Plot: The variety of visual communication is bigger than ever**

Printed stools, individually designed carpets, brilliant shining fruit motives are still very interesting products for viscom visitors. Multi-Plot presented a fresh, fruity and colorful fair booth. The possibilities and creativity of digital textile printing are enormous. Multi-Plot has made very good new contacts, a large number of new interested visitors came to the stand and the visitor quality was excellent. The showroom from students of the University Kassel received very positive feedback. They presented the project "Floral digital" with different types of furniture for seats. The students designed several motives and Multi-Plot has printed the textile covers. The showroom which made clear how many creative possibilities Industrial Inkjet Printing offers. It was a professional platform to present this project. Both the Multi-Plot fair booth and the student showroom gave the viscom visitors a number of important ideas to take home.

More information: www.multiplot.de

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7) **GBC unveils its laminators 620os and 5031 systems at viscom Italia**

GBC Commercial Laminating Solutions Group will unveil its newest laminators for digital print finishing at viscom Italia taking place in Milano November 8 – 10, 2007. GBC is broadening their offerings to the Digital Print-On-Demand market and will introduce the new GBC 620os and GBC 5031 laminating systems to finish one-sided and double-sided narrow-format digital output from HP Indigo/Xerox/Xeicon/Nexpress and Océ Variostream-printers. GBC will demonstrate a wide product range of laminators, which includes low-entry level up to very professional high quality models, for short-term indoor and long-term outdoor applications. viscom Italia marks the debut of the GBC 620os, a single-sided laminating system combining sophisticated technology with ease-of-operation. For two-sided lamination GBC-Professional will launch the GBC 5031 laminating system. This laminator is safe and easy-to-use in your commercial printing or in-house production environment. At viscom Italia GBC will further demonstrate the entry-level GBC 1064 WfT, and the GBC 2064 WF for semi-professionals. New innovative films and consumables for the wide format printing market are also on display. GBC will also display its Signmaker range, available in two widths (65cm & 109cm) to enable production of store signage, window graphics and vinyl banners for short-term outdoor use.

viscom italia: hall 3, booth R09/S10

More information: www.gbcfilm.com

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8) **MegaInk launches new bio ink: BioMGInk**

MegaInk announced that it has developed a revolutionary renewable resources-based ink for large-format commercial printing use. Made from renewable sources rather than traditional chemical solvents, BioMG Inks bring a new element of environmentalism to the ink industry. In addition to being environmentally friendly, under stringent testing, BioMGInk has proved to be notable for UV resistance, to be scratch and alcohol resistant, and to have a less abrasive odor than traditional solvent-based inks. Commenting on the success of the new product, MegaInk's Director of Business Development, Avi Bukai said: "We are extremely excited to be successfully bringing a bio ink product to the market. This is a truly unique product which is unlike others that have been tried before, and we are confident that as soon as users have a chance to try the product they will be convinced not only that this is a positive direction for the industry, but that BioMGInks are superior to others in their category". Fully compatible BioMG Inks are available now for Mimaki and Roland printers.

More information: www.megaInk.biz

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9) Roland DG: New Sublimation Ink for FP-740

Roland DG Benelux has introduced their new SBL2 sublimation ink, packed in 1-liter bottles for heat transfer printing with its Hi-Fi Express FP-740 sublimation inkjet printer. "Soft signage is a visual communication medium that showcases the unique look and texture of fabric," said Yohei Shinomura, Roland DG color product manager. "In addition to its visual appeal, fabric is an excellent choice for environmentally-conscious customers. To maximize this medium, the FP-740 featuring SBL2 ink delivers vibrant color and exceptional color fastness on lightweight, flexible fabrics for beautiful flags and banners." The new SBL2 ink for the FP-740 features are: New lower-cost sublimation ink makes soft signage production highly profitable; generates dense, vivid colors for stunning flags and banners and dries quickly in the transfer paper's surface for maximum ink transfer to the final fabric. The ink will be distributed from their headquarters on Oevel/Belgium through his dealer network in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovakia and Switzerland.

More information: www.rolanddg.com

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10) ONYX Graphics announces ONYX Workflow Software Version 7.1



ONYX Graphics is pleased to announce the upcoming release of Version 7.1 for its popular workflow software packages: ONYX ProductionHouse, ONYX PosterShop and ONYX RIPCenter. New features in Version 7.1 include a new profile download client that makes it easier to obtain media

profiles; support for the PANTONE® Goe color system; support for Microsoft's Windows Vista® operating system; and dual-mode printer drivers for continuous-tone and half-tone printers. Also included are improvements in RIP-and-Print, Layout and Media Manager functions including RIP-and-print-on-the-fly for PostScript and PDF files, with a print buffer control in RIP-Queue for optimal print speed. ONYX Version 7.1 also supports a variety of new printers such as Canon imagePROGRAF 8000S and 9000S and Epson Stylus Pro 11880. ONYX Graphics will be demonstrating Version 7.1 on its **booth 2812 at the SGIA**, ONYX Graphics workflow software version 7.1 will be available free of charge for registered licenses of Version 7 mid October 2007.

More information: www.onyxgfx.com

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11) Caldera unveils SUPER 7 with new features at SGIA

Caldera will be introducing the new SUPER 7 update for all its RIP software: CopyRIP, CopySHOP, ReproSHOP, VisualRIP, VisualRIP+ and GrandRIP+. The new Super7 update includes Tiling+, a powerful Tiling module with a new improved interface and new features which will make the wide format tiling jobs as easy and accurate as possible. New features include: fully configurable grommets (size, shape, color...), manual positioning of the grommets, full management of the covering, printing of the name of each tile to facilitate identification and placing, easy modification of the tiles with the mouse, real time modification of the tiles and a new tile editor to enable you to have the essential tools easily at hand. Caldera also launches a new option: FlipMax - a lenticular module enabling you to create 2D Flips by interlacing images directly from within the RIP interface. FlipMax is powered by Human Eyes technologies.



SGIA: booth: 0200 and viscom Italia: hall 3, booth V06

More information: www.caldera.eu

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12) ColorGATE: Version 5.0 with an impressive range of new highlights

Already in its fifth generation, ColorGATE PRODUCTIONSERVER5 now offers one of the most flexible and highly productive software products for digital, centrally controlled high-end large-format printing. As a result, PRODUCTIONSERVER 5.0 now offers "The universal RIP solution for all applications", even more productive and with enhanced color output capabilities. The highlights of the ColorGATE 5.0 generation: PRODUCTIONSERVER 5.0 is the first large-format print RIP solution ever to employ DeviceLink technology. In addition to the trusted, but limited ICC color management, that's a big step ahead for demanding print production tasks. Innovative MEDIA DEVICE SYNCHRONIZATION (MDS) optionally calibrates identical printers in the event of system- or environment-related deviations to guarantee maximum color consistency following the upgrade from Version 4 to 5.0. A refreshing facelift of the user interface allows for an even better workflow in the future. As do a completely revised online help, comprehensive whiteprint support and the optimizations of the container function and horizontal tiling.



More information: www.colorgate.com

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13) SAI presents PhotoPRINT 6 and Flexi 8.5



SA International (SAi) announces the release of PhotoPRINT 6. As technology moves forward, SAi brings a new era in color management. Progressing along with the large format industry, PhotoPRINT 6 is designed to help the productivity ascend to new heights while maintaining SAi's signature ease-of-use interface. PhotoPRINT 6 highlights include compatibility with Windows Vista operating system, a redesigned user interface, dual roll printing and Application Direct Printing through dynamic PPDs. Also, continuing their efforts in ease-of-use, they introduce Print Wizard, which offers inexperienced users a fool-proof path to high quality output and a new point-and-click color variations tool. Users of all skill levels will appreciate the improved Color Profiler, which simplifies the workflow of ICC output profile generation while adding time-saving features. Also SAi announces the release of Flexi 8.5. By integrating finely tuned technology with years of feedback from their partners and users, Flexi Family 8 maintains its status as the number one choice for dependable, feature-rich Sign Making Software with uncompromising quality. Flexi 8.5 features compatibility with Windows Vista operating system, dual roll printing, Application Direct Printing through dynamic PPDs and repeat job function. Also, continuing their efforts in ease-of-use, they offer a point-and-click color variations tool and context-sensitive help files.

More information: www.PhotoPRINT6.com and www.Flexi85.com

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14) Wasatch SoftRIP releases support for new devices

Wasatch Computer Technology has released 17 new drivers for popular inkjet printers and cutting devices. This SoftRIP release includes drivers for Epson's new Stylus Pro x880 and x450 printer models, as well as devices from d.gen, DGI, Mimaki, Mutoh, and Roland. "When Epson's new Stylus Pro devices begin shipping, Wasatch will be ready," says Wasatch Vice President Jay Griffin. "SoftRIP was the first inkjet RIP to introduce 16-bit rendering for high-definition output. Demanding users with premium devices will appreciate the difference 16-bit color makes in their output quality." Internal testing in the Wasatch labs has produced excellent quality color separations for screen and flexo printing using the new Epson printers. The Epson inks released for these devices block UV light better than the previous formulation, making these printers particularly well suited for the separations market.

More information: www.wasatch.com

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15) RATIO: CAD|STATION supports new CANON iPF large format printer

CAD|STATION, the solution that combines up to three CANON iPF plotters into one virtual multi-roll printer, supports the new CANON imagePROGRAF printers iPF510, iPF610, iPF710, iPF5100 and iPF6100 with the upcoming service pack. CANON imagePROGRAF iPF8000, iPF500, iPF600, iPF700, W6800PG and W8400PG models are also included. Thanks to the flexibility of up to three separate rolls, CAD|STATION in combination with the high-quality CANON printers offers a unique solution that efficiently processes a high quantity of large format documents in a fast and controlled workflow. Without the need to change rolls manually, a broad range of formats from A0 (E) to A4 (A) can easily be printed. Paper waste and the time required for post-print trimming can be reduced to a minimum, as CAD|STATION automatically chooses the right output device equipped with the correct size roll to get the job done. A wide variety of supported technical file formats and a very high throughput speed make the CAD|STATION solution in combination with CANON iPF large format printers an innovative printing solution for the CAD and GIS market.

More information: www.cadstation.com

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16) Inedit to attract wide interest at ITMA 2007

The software company Inedit Software S.L. from Barcelona presented its latest developments at ITMA 2007 in Munich. The specialist of solutions for designing and digital textile printing showcased neotextil (expert textile designing modules for Adobe Photoshop) and neostampa, the professional color rip and print management solution. neostampa supports all major digital textile printers on the market, such as Reggiani, Robustelli, Konica-Minolta, Dupont, dGen, Hollanders, Mimaki, Mutoh, Roland and many more. The innovative human color management allows color calibration with ICC RGB printer profiles and therefore provides full soft-proof capability and in-gamut editing in various image processing software, such as Photoshop and Illustrator.

More information: www.neostampa.com and www.neotextil.com

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17) ErgoSoft: Successful ITMA Show

ErgoSoft AG, based in Altnau/Switzerland, can look back on a successful ITMA show. During the runtime of the trade show in September, 118,000 visitors from 149 different countries found their way to the ITMA exhibition in Munich. And many of them came to the ITMA booth of the ErgoSoft AG where they could learn more about TexPrint, the software for digital textile printing. In small workshops the interested visitors had been introduced to the easy to handle software and how it can simplify the workflow and increase the output quality. With this RIP software from the Swiss color management specialists, even difficult color gradients are printed in the expected colors on every textile. Thus quality is increased. Costs of misprintings are reduced. The know-how and the experience of many years of interaction with the printing media, printer hard- and software made the ErgoSoft Team to a qualified contact person and support partner. Support was given for calibration and installation to digital printers manufacturer at many ITMA booths. Already after a short time the full capacity of the printer was available and the printout results had increased – and customer convinced.

More information: www.ergosoft.net

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18) GMG: Version 4.5 of color proofing and color management

GMG, supplier of high-end color management and proofing solutions, announced the version 4.5 launch of its color management and proofing systems, named GMG ColorProof, GMG ColorServer, and GMG InkOptimizer. All solutions feature new profile and driver updates, as well as stronger image sharpening, working with more inkjet printing systems, and providing easier hotfolder use. They also deliver multi-core processor support and can operate on the Windows Vista operating system. The new version of proofing software, focuses on new drivers and spot color support, including calibrated spot colors, support of new HKS and Pantone Goe spot color sets, sharpening for proofing profiles with a number of options, missing dot simulation for gravure printing processes, support for new printers, including the HP Z3100 printer and a lot more. New features also in InkOptimizer 4.5, a solution that automatically reduces chromatic colors, thus providing cost savings by reducing unnecessary ink usage. Shipment of the updates is planned for middle of October 2007.

More information: www.gmgcolor.com

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19) x-film presents JETREX for dye inks

x-film offers a completely new, top-coated media range for water-based dye inks (large format printing) – JETREX for dye inks – which was launched during the FESPA 2007 in Berlin. These imaging materials meet high requirements in terms of resolution, color fidelity, reproduction and quality. The range comprises ten different media types: Three self-adhesive PVC qualities in white matt (90µm), white glossy (100µm) & transparent (100µm); One 100µm PET Backlit quality (non-adhesive); Four self-adhesive PET films: 100µm in gold & silver glossy and 75µm transparent glossy & matt and two premium, non-adhesive photo papers in matt (120 g/qm) & glossy (200 g/qm). Application areas for the JETREX dye media are POS displays, banners, sign board, graphics at fairs/exhibitions, poster & prints, CAD drawings/graphs, gallery proofs, project plans, prototypes for packaging, maps, proofs and many other areas.

More information: www.x-film.com

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20) Hexis USA will show its complete product line at SGIA

At the SGIA, Hexis will show their complete line of self-adhesive cast vinyl films together with Hex'Press adhesive technology for vehicle wraps and fleet graphics. Totally new at the show is the HX5000 Series, a 65µm high performance colored vinyl with structured Hex'Press polyethylene liner that makes the product repositionable during application while allowing easy elimination of air bubbles. The Hexis product line up is headed by their HX100WG1, a 50µm cast vinyl film for solvent inkjet printers. The HX100WG1 also features an embossed PE coated liner with a structured adhesive and an extremely comfortable vinyl formulation for fast and risk free transfers. Also on show will be the recently launched KG10000, a 50µm cast vinyl for cutting plotters, available in 31 gloss colors. It features an outdoor durability of up to 10 years and is thus the ideal high-end solution for corrugated or riveted substrates and all substrates with long life cycles.

SGIA: booth 2388

More information: www.hexisgroup.com

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21) ILFORD's GALERIE GOLD baryta paper for inkjet printing

Recently ILFORD has created the GALERIE GOLD Fibre Silk, an authentic baryta paper for inkjet printing. It is a 310 gsm inkjet media featuring a traditional barium sulphate (baryta) base. The baryta enhances the media surface, which gives the creamy whites and velvety blacks that form part of the unique look and feel of a true

fibre print, the standard amongst art photographers worldwide. The media also produces real high definition images with an extended tonal range, making it a must for exhibition quality images ranging from vivid color to dramatic black and whites. The assembly is completed by a backing layer, which ensures that the final printed image has minimal curl. GALERIE GOLD has been specifically designed with no unnecessary additives in the media to guarantee the image lasts and lasts just like a traditional photo print. Just as traditional silver halide photographs demonstrate, extreme emotions can be captured in an image through warm or cold tones. These same results can be produced digitally, and ILFORD has created specific recommendations on using filter factors to create "digital toning".

More information: www.ilford.com

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22) Regulus enters the market of photo papers

After more than 15 years of experience in the production of inkjet special media, the first photo paper developed and produced by Regulus now is commercially available. The high resolution and color gamut of the successful "Power-Sol" product line for solvent based inks lead to the decision to enter this market segment. The visitors of the recent viscom exhibition in Düsseldorf were impressed by the print quality and the drying time, which make the products suitable for competitive poster prints on all printers using eco solvent or conventional solvent inks. Small print shops and sign makers working with solvent technology only will now be in a position to accept orders for high resolution poster prints. The papers are PE-coated on both sides and are available in glossy and semi-matt. The grammage of both qualities is 235 gsm, the maximum width available is 1520mm.

More information: www.regulus.de

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23) EFI: Doublet SAS has installed a VUTEk QS3200

Doublet SAS, French provider of printed materials and graphics for corporate entertainment and events applications, has installed a VUTEk QS3200 large format digital inkjet printing solution from EFI to enhance its capability for printing high-quality large-format graphics and signage. Luc Doublet, CEO of the Lille-based company, explains: "We are very familiar with large format inkjet printing technology and felt that we needed to boost our operation by investing in equipment that delivers extra benefits to those currently achieved through our existing line-up of printers." Launched only last year, the VUTEk QS3200 is the newest addition to EFI's family of UV-curing digital inkjet printers and provides Doublet with the ability to print onto a wider range of rigid and flexible substrates up to 3.2 m width and up to 5 cm thick. Immediately following an end of June installation, the QS3200 was quickly set to work on production of visually arresting graphics for July's Tour de France race. As a long-running official supplier to the Tour, Doublet was once again responsible for producing eye-catching sponsors' banners for the race.

More information: www.efi.com

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24) Roland DG offers a new Eco Product Labeling System

Roland DG Benelux has introduced a new environmental labeling system for the company's products, which has gone into effect September 1st 2007. Roland DG's new "eco-labels" are based on standards, stipulated by ISO 14021 for Type II environmental labeling and certify that Roland products comply with the company's internal environmental standards. Products certified by Roland's new eco-labels are required to meet the following criteria: Prevent global warming, use recyclable resources, increase environmental awareness, and disclose information on the environmental aspects of the product. Roland DG's new AdvancedJET AJ-740, SOLJET PRO III XJ-740 and SOLJET PRO III XJ-640 wide format printers are the first products to be accredited with the eco-labeling system. The company will apply this eco-label system to all future products. Roland's new eco-label system reflects the company's commitment to providing highly reliable, environmentally conscious products and to clearly inform consumers about the company's environmental standards.

More information: www.rolanddg.com

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25) Matan Digital Printers joins forces with MGI

Matan Digital Printers, a manufacturer of specialty digital printers, has announced that it has joined forces with MGI Digital Graphic Technology, to promote Matan's Digital Sign & Label printing solutions in the French market. This business collaboration will leverage the marketing, training and support of the Matan Spring in France as well as throughout the European market. The fruits of the partnership will bring to the French market the benefits of the Spring supported by the MGI know-how. MGI has presented the Spring on their booth at Viscom France 2007, Paris Expo, in September. During the live demonstrations, visitors have seen the Spring's printing capabilities with the following main benefits: High performance: Durability of up to 10 years

for demanding applications and quick printing of up to 6 colors simultaneously. Versatility: Metallic, opaque white and vivid spot colors on a wide variety of media. Environmentally friendly: Office environment with “green” dry inks. Ease of Use: User friendly, intuitive software with variable data capability. Created in 1982, MGI Digital Graphic Technology designs, manufactures and markets in France and internationally a full and innovative range of multisubstrate (paper and plastic) digital presses and a line of finishing products for paper and plastic.

More information: www.matanprinters.com

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26) HP announced an agreement to acquire MacDermid ColorSpan

HP has signed a definitive agreement to acquire MacDermid ColorSpan Inc., a manufacturer of wide-format digital inkjet printers, from MacDermid Printing Solutions LLC, a subsidiary of privately held MacDermid Incorporated, which is based in Denver. Based in Minnetonka/Minn., MacDermid ColorSpan is a leading supplier of UV-curable inkjet printers for display graphics and a key supplier to sign shop franchises, quick printers and other small to midsize sign-making and screen-printing businesses. The acquisition extends HP’s presence into the sign shop and quick-printing markets as well as its position as a one-stop partner for print service providers. In particular, HP plans to provide lower-cost platforms and UV technologies to print service providers that are expanding into outdoors applications and more industrial workloads. The deal also broadens HP’s Graphic Arts portfolio of digital presses and wide-format printers and furthers HP’s Print 2.0 strategy to digitize analog prints by extending the company’s overall digital content creation and publishing platform.

More information: www.hp.com

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27) HumanEyes Technologies Partners with Fujifilm Graphic Systems

HumanEyes Technologies, a lenticular 3D software developer, and Fujifilm Graphic Systems USA Inc., distributor of graphics systems products in the United States, recently have announced their partnership. HumanEyes has certified the Fujifilm Acuity HD 2504 flatbed UV printer for the production of lenticular and LensFree prints using HumanEyes’ market-leading lenticular software solution, PrintPro2.0. The companies will together promote the 3D and lenticular printing opportunity to Fuji’s flatbed customers. The Fujifilm Acuity HD 2504 is the latest breakthrough in wide-format UV digital imaging technology. Specifically designed for print applications requiring finely detailed, high-resolution images, the Acuity HD 2504 produces both rigid and flexible point-of-purchase signage that hold up visually, even at the closest of viewings.

More information: www.humaneyes.com and www.fujifilmgs.com

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28) Marabu acquires Clearstar Coatings

Marabu GmbH & Co. KG has announced that it has acquired the assets of USA-based Clearstar Coatings Corporation, a leading manufacturer in the production of liquid laminates and inks for digital printing. Stephen Berman, founder and President, joins Clearstar L.P., the US operating company, as General Manager. The acquisition of Clearstar is an important step in Marabu’s growth strategy, further enhancing the firm’s digital product range. Clearstar’s high-quality liquid laminates and digital printing inks add an important product portfolio for Marabu. In addition, this establishes Marabu’s physical presence and adds a manufacturing facility in the important American market. But the acquisition goes beyond the manufacturing capability. “Having Stephen Berman on board means having one of the most knowledgeable persons in the sign industry on our team,” said Dr. Roland Staehlin, Marabu’s head of Printing Ink Division – Marketing and Sales. “Stephen brings more than 25 years of experience to our group.”

More information: www.marabu-inks.com

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29) EFI: Epson and EFI strengthen alliance

Seiko Epson Corporation (Epson) and EFI have launched a new solution for proofing and large-format production. The new Epson Stylus Pro 4880, 7880, 9880, and 11880 printers are supported by the new version of EFI ColorProof XF. Demanding users in the proofing community, as well as those in industries such as photography, fine art, and print production, who purchase the solution of ColorProof XF and the Epson Stylus Pro series are able to print various levels of proofs with accurate, consistent, and wide gamut color. The new solution dramatically extends color gamut as well as accuracy and consistency by taking full advantage of Epson’s newly developed UltraChrome K3 ink with Vivid Magenta technology. EFI ColorProof XF has long supported Epson Stylus Pro printers. It is the winner of the 2007 BERTL’s Best Wide Format Pre-press/Proofing Solution. The new version of EFI’s Bestcolor technology-driver inkjet proofing solution includes several enhanced and new features.

More information: www.efi.com

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30) Alwan Color Expertise partners with Gradual Software

Alwan Color Expertise has announced a partnership with Gradual Software of integrate Alwan's preflighting, standardization and CMYK Optimizer color technology within the SWITCH product line from Gradual. The agreement offers users a combined technical solution that delivers advanced automation and file optimization. Alwan Color Expertise is well known for its efficient color standardization tools that can be easily integrated into existing working processes. The integration of CMYK Optimizer in the Gradual SWITCH environment facilitates higher levels of integration in various user workflows. The added metadata capabilities enable users to build a fully automated workflow from start to finish – beginning at the front end (order intake) all the way to the back end (prepress) of automatic graphic processing. Gradual Software has developed a specific configurator whereby Alwan CMYK optimizer is easy installed and managed from within SWITCH. This integration allows users to open and use only one single application und thus, benefit from a single view of all processing jobs taking place. User feedback about the combined packaging has been extremely positive.

More information: www.alwancolor.com

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31) FESPA Digital 2008 bookings already match total for 2006 Event

Suppliers of digital equipment and consumables are substantially increasing their stand space reservations at FESPA Digital 2008 compared with the 2006 exhibition, with some even doubling their stand bookings. Enquiry levels are buoyant, with many blue-chip manufacturers endorsing FESPA's role as a premier forum for the digital and screen printing community. With seven months to go until the exhibition opens, confirmed space bookings for the second FESPA Digital exhibition already match the 16,000 qm occupied by the inaugural event in Amsterdam in 2006. On this basis, FESPA expects the eventual floorplan to show a significant increase in the total size of the show, facilitated by the flexibility of the Geneva Palexpo exhibition centre, which is designed to allow the show to grow organically around the original core. Managing Director for FESPA Events, Frazer Chesterman explains: "The exhibitors that have enlarged their stands for FESPA Digital 2008 tell us that the additional investment is more than justified by the sales successes that they generate at FESPA shows. This is backed up by the feedback we had from exhibitors at our flagship FESPA 2007 exhibition in Berlin, 92% of whom said that the exhibition had met or exceeded their expectations."

FESPA Digital 2008: April 1 to 3 in Geneva Palexpo, Switzerland

More information: www.fespadigital.com

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32) INTERGEO East 2008 will take place again in Belgrade

INTERGEO East 2008 is returning to its roots and will take place from February 18 to 20 in Belgrade. For a third time, Serbia will be a meeting point for experts from the areas of land management, geoinformation, construction and the environment. The 5th congress trade fair will benefit from two new partners: the Bulgarian Association for Geospatial Information in South-East Europe (AGISEE) and the Serbian Chamber of Engineers will augment the INTERGEO EAST network, thereby opening up new opportunities. Although the increasing importance of international dialogue was not revealed for the first time at the previous INTERGEO East, which was held at the end of February/beginning of March in Sofia, the event did reinforce this. Compared to the premiere, INTERGEO East had grown by a third, with 87 companies from 21 countries providing an overview of the latest developments. More than 3,500 experts from business, science and public administration are expected to attend the congress trade fair at the exhibition centre in Belgrade. The cross-national subject areas, interdisciplinary approaches and the presentation of new technologies create a mix that is ideal for supporting and, above all, encouraging the requisite dialogue. Scientific lectures, discussions, seminars and workshops provide visitors with the opportunity to get comprehensive information on just the areas they are interested in.

INTERGEO East 2008: February 19 to 20 in Belgrade, Serbia (Conference starts February 18)

More information: www.intergeo-east.com

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