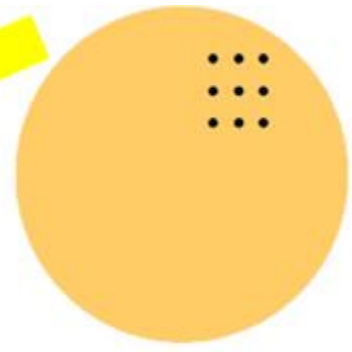




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[To the Table of Contents](#)

Dear readers,

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

1) **Visual communication Europe 2006**

From 20 to 22 September 2006 leading players in the sector will converge on Visual Communication Europe in Paris to showcase a huge range of visual communication solutions. With 17 shows already under its belt, Visual Communication Europe is growing constantly, as some record-breaking figures since 2000 attest: 57 percent exhibition area – 47 percent exhibitors – 38 percent visitors. Now in its 18th year, the visual communication show is richer than ever with new products, new players and new areas of application. Communication always involves exchange. That's why this year's Visual Communication show is giving pride of place to a series of conferences with leading guest speakers from the world of visual communication. Excitement is the guiding concept at Visual Communication Europe 2006, and the show will appeal to all this senses: The 5 senses – with special visual presentations showcasing what's on offer; practical sense – with theme-based trips; common sense – at the debates and conferences; business sense – with the professional guide. Visual Communication Europe will explore, explain and exhibit the latest in large- and extra large-format visual communication.

Visual communication Europe 2006: 20 to 22 September 2006, Paris

More information: www.visualparis.com

[Top](#)

Sincerely
Yours Susanne Aschoff

Headlines:

- 1) Visual communication Europe 2006
- 2) Océ: Two new inkjet printers
- 3) Solaris 1500FB is upgraded for higher quality
- 4) Multi-Plot presents smallest HeatJet for big requisition
- 5) Eisfeld Datentechnik: PosterJet 7.5 for Mac OS X
- 6) AIT claims world first with LF RIP drivers
- 7) BASF and Stork launched pigment ink solution at ITM
- 8) Fillink had a phenomenal FESPA Digital
- 9) Fujifilm showcases digital offer at European shows
- 10) Qualimage: New photo paper for solvent printing
- 11) Continental Grafix offers the new panoStick
- 12) Avery Graphics: New light on reflective films
- 13) Junkers & Müllers launches multi-purpose Aqua
- 14) GBC launched further finishing solutions
- 15) photokina 2006: The latest trends in professional printing
- 16) EFI: JMD uses VUTEk PressVu UV
- 17) TEPEDE: Concentration of all purchasing activities
- 18) KANGWOO Co. changed to STARFLEX Co.
- 19) Agfa-Gevaert splits into 3 independent businesses
- 20) Mutoh America Inc: Arthur Vanhoutte becomes Managing Director
- 21) Jetrion names Jason Oliver Managing Director in Europe
- 22) GretagMacbeth: Color seminar for SignMaker
- 23) Xaar: 10-year anniversary of student program

Alphabetical index:

[Agfa-Gevaert \(19\)](#), [AIT \(6\)](#), [Avery Graphics \(12\)](#), [BASF \(7\)](#), [Continental Grafix \(11\)](#), [EFI \(16\)](#), [Eisfeld Datentechnik \(5\)](#), [Fillink \(8\)](#), [Fujifilm \(9\)](#), [GBC \(14\)](#), [GretagMacbeth \(22\)](#), [Jetrion \(21\)](#), [Junkers & Müllers \(13\)](#), [Multi-Plot \(4\)](#), [Mutoh America \(20\)](#), [Oce \(2\)](#), [photokina 2006 \(15\)](#), [Qualimage \(10\)](#), [Solaris \(3\)](#), [STARFLEX Co. \(18\)](#), [TEPEDE \(17\)](#), [Visual communication Europe 2006 \(1\)](#), [Xaar \(23\)](#)

2) Océ: Two new inkjet printers

The new Océ CS9090 is a 2.28 meter-wide, high quality, production speed printer that can use either low-solvent or eco-solvent inks to create outdoor-durable prints. It joins the Océ CS9065 (165 cm wide), introduced in March 2006, in expanding the company's line of outdoor-durable printers. Both printers offer true 720 x 720 dpi resolution at print speeds up to 13 sqm/h in production (four-pass) mode. In high speed (two-pass) mode, print speeds up to 22 sqm/h can be achieved with a resolution of 360 x 720 dpi. The second new printer is the Océ CS7100 UV curable 2.5 m inkjet printer and it joins the popular Océ CS7000 Series UV curable inkjet printers that can print onto either roll-based or rigid media. The Océ CS7100 is part of the Océ CS7000 Series printers, which includes the CS7075 and CS7070 models. The CS7100 prints up to 2.5 meters wide and the company will deliver it with newly developed, heavy duty roller tables to support a wide range of rigid substrates up to a thickness of 12.7 mm. Typical applications include indoor and outdoor point-of purchase signage, vinyl and textile banners, exhibition displays and window graphics. The Océ CS7100 can print full bleeds onto rigid substrates, eliminating expensive laminating and time-consuming mounting steps.

More information: www.oce.com

[Top](#)

3) Solaris 1500FB is upgraded for higher quality

Since the UK launch of the Solaris 1500FB, Solaris has received a great deal of feedback from Sign Makers. Nevertheless, the resolution at 400 dpi was simply not high enough for many applications. Solaris has worked to upgrade the printer to use the latest XJ126/300 print heads to give an effective resolution of 600 dpi. As before, the 1500FB will print onto Foamex, Foam-X, Correx, PVC Banner, Blueback and more and there is no change in the print speed. More importantly, the price has not changed and the printer still ships with 12 liters of ink, motorized take-up unit, removable tables and Onyx RIP Center included. Also newly available are the new Solaris 3300LL and 2000LL Liquid Laminators. With widths of 3.3 m and 2 m respectively and with a range of water-based outdoor durable coatings available these laminators offer a cost effective way to laminate outdoor prints and give extended durability. In line with the release of this new equipment, Solaris is now able to offer a range of finance packages to customers purchasing printers and laminators.

More information: www.solaris1504.com

[Top](#)

4) Multi-Plot presents smallest HeatJet for big requisition

Till now, Multi-Plot's HeatJet 24 was the smallest HeatJet. But now, the HeatJet 24 is available with a passage width up to 68 cm. Media holder, rewinder, digital controller and emergency buttons are some technical features. The machine is designed for roll-to-roll and sheets. The HeatJet 24 is perfectly suitable for the production of shirts, towels, home fashion, decoration textiles, scarfs or other textiles. The final products are washing proof and UV proof and have brilliant colors. The HeatJet 24 is for the desktop market and a supplement for the Epson 3000 and 4000 printers.

More information: www.multiplot.de

[Top](#)

5) **Eisfeld Datentechnik: PosterJet 7.5 for Mac OS X**

During the Mac Expo 2006 fair in Cologne (Germany) Eisfeld Datentechnik has unveiled its new PosterJet 7.5 for Mac OS X. The new PosterJet version for Mac OS X convinced a critical audience with many new features and a hassle-free and easy handling. The new PosterJet 7.5 client for native Macintosh OS X was specially developed to enable a hassle-free and comfortable large-format printing in an Apple Mac OS X environment. The frequent demands of the Mac users were highly considered to create perfect tools for Mac-specialists, with impressive functionality specially optimized for photographic and fine-art printing. With printouts starting within a few seconds and an easy handling PosterJet 7.5 is a most productive RIP-solution in the market. The PosterJet 7.5 client for native Mac OS X works perfectly with any PosterJet 7.5 server, even in a mixed environment together with a Microsoft Windows based PosterJet 7.5 server. Users can now choose a PosterJet 7.5 client for their preferred and well-known operating system and therefore improve their overall productivity. During the Mac Expo fair users could directly see the tremendous productivity of PosterJet 7.5. When high-quality print results, unmatched speed and absolute ease-of-use are required, users worldwide trust PosterJet – for the full bandwidth of large-format printing.

More information: www.posterjet.com

[Top](#)

6) **AIT claims world first with LF RIP drivers**

The UK's Applied Image Technology (AIT) claims a world coup at end of June by becoming the first third-party RIP developer to offer Mac OSX, Windows and Linux drivers for the new HP DesignJet 9000s and Canon iPF 5000/9000 large format printer ranges. The HP and Canon drivers, together with comprehensive portfolios of dedicated media profiles, are available with Shiraz V 6.3, the latest release of AIT's PostScript-compatible display RIP software. They complement the existing multi-platform drivers already available for the Mimaki JV3 and JV5, Epson, Grapo, Kodak, Mutoh and Roland printers. In its latest release, Shiraz V6.3 is available in four versions – Lite, Server, Server Plus and Photo. Each offer the same basic functionality – including AIT's newly developed Dot Placement Technology for optimum print head control – but has different features to meet varying user requirements. Shiraz is available in six European languages and is supplied by AIT on a DVD, which incorporates training video giving easy step-by-step instructions on setting up and operating the software.

More information: www.applied-image.com

[Top](#)

7) **BASF and Stork launched pigment ink solution at ITM**

Two major players in the textile printing industry – BASF and Stork Digital Imaging – have combined their expertise to develop a complete, easy-to-use, high-performance pigment ink solution for the digital textile printer. The new pigment ink solution has made its world début at ITM 2006 in Istanbul at end of June. BASF's extensive knowledge in the field of digital textile printing played a pivotal role in helping Stork Digital Imaging to launch the new pigment ink. Stork's research in areas of workflows and ink bulk feed systems and BASF's inkjet ink formulation knowledge enabled the development of a pigment ink with a larger color gamut and higher speed performance. Furthermore, Stork perfected the external ink system that guarantees a smooth, uninterrupted and stable ink supply, so nozzle performance is optimized throughout the longest of production runs. The new pigment ink is calibrated for the Stork PrinterServer software, ensuring reproducibility between individual print runs, along with an extensive back-up from BASF and Stork's global support networks.

More information: www.basf.com/textile and www.storkprints.com

[Top](#)

8) **Fillink had a phenomenal FESPA Digital**

FESPA Digital was the occasion for Fillink Technologies to celebrate a year of phenomenal growth since FESPA 2005, when the company declared its mission to provide affordable, high quality inks which meet the needs of print professionals for cost-effective alternatives to OEM products. Fillink had now launched a trio of new products to expand its range of generic ink solutions for digital wide and super-wide format printers. At FESPA Digital in Amsterdam, Fillink has shown product innovations for the ColorSpan DisplayMaker, Mutoh Spitfire, and NUR Fresco. The company has introduced the ink solutions available in 220 ml, and 440 ml cartridges and in 1 liter bottles, all with "smart card". Printers, who have visited Fillink's booth, could improve their understanding of the impact of ink choice on color gamut and density by taking advantage of a series of Fillink color seminars, hosted by an independent expert on color management for digital wide-format printers.

More information: www.fillink.eu.com

[Top](#)

9) Fujifilm showcases digital offer at European shows

At Ipex and FESPA Digital Fujifilm Sericol showed its impressive line-up of Inca equipment and consumables for wide and super-wide format printing. All equipment ran at full production pace – clearly demonstrating the speed, reliability and innovation that Sericol terms “total flatbed capability”. At both shows, there was a tremendous amount of interest in the Columbia Turbo and Spyder 320. The 6-color enhancement and practical implementation of white in the Spyder 320 the visitors received it well. The shows once again highlighted that Inca’s Columbia Turbo is still the fastest production flatbed in the market and – so the company – nothing comes close to its speed and quality. Both Spyder and Columbia machines featured Sericol’s Uvijet UV curing ink. For the wider market, Sericol showed Color+ - solvent-based, piezo drop-on-demand inks formulated for wide and super-wide roll-fed inkjet printers. Sericol’s line-up of equipment and ink products, with outstanding delivery, back up, and technical support is a total solution for digital print.

More information: www.fujifilmsericol.com

[Top](#)

10) Qualimage: New photo paper for solvent printing

The target markets for this new photo paper, suitable for all eco-solvent and solvent inks, are posters for POS applications, Fine Art prints and info panels for trade shows where a photographic print quality is required. Highest rates in color brilliance, line sharpness, high whiteness and an excellent color gamut make 894 Photo Gloss Solvent a great choice to communicate marketing ideas successfully. The haptics are identical to a real photo paper. As a smooth production is important for photographic applications, Qualimage use a PE-base paper in order to ensure excellent lay-flat properties during printing and processing. The fast encapsulation of pigments by the coating offers good scratch resistance and good drying times to provide the printer with a paper that is simple to use. Good lamination properties with cold and hot lamination films are also crucial to fulfill the high level of requirements in this market segment. The paper is available in widths from 91.4 cm up to 155 cm to match all typical widths that are requested.

More information: www.qualimage-swiss.com

[Top](#)

11) Continental Grafix offers the new panoStick

Continental Grafix has enlarged its product range. More and more requests have been rose by the market how they could stick the new non-adhesive perforated products panoVision, panoStar, and panoFilm onto the window. Now Continental Grafix presents a solution. The company has always pointed out that there is no more absolute need of a direct compound between window and perforated media but instead to apply the poster with hanging construction (e.g. with some distance between the room and the product presentation) printers and advertisement professionals have been keeping asking for a possibility to stick it onto the window. So they can go with the new solution that the own R&D department has developed: panoStick – available as of now. This panoStick is a tape available in rolls on which tiny adhesive dots have been applied. Apply this tape in stripe onto the surface that needs to stock in the window. By use of the supplied squeegee, the adhesive dots will be transferred and the perforated media is going to be self-adhesive. There is a big advantage: The transferred adhesive can only stick on the media but not in the holes. panoStick can be obtained in roll size 125 mm x 25 linear meters. Later on, 250 mm width will also be available.

More information: www.continentalgrafix.com

[Top](#)

12) Avery Graphics: New light on reflective films

Self-adhesive reflective films have been around for many years, in many qualities, for many different applications. The result is that printers and signmakers get confused about which film they can safely use for which application. To help signmakers gain confidence, and to throw new light on the subject of reflective films, Avery Dennison Graphics Division Europe have put together a “Handy Guide” on their full range of Avery-brand reflective films. It incorporates clear, easy-to-follow guidance for signmakers and printers on the applications for which each type of material is suitable, plus sound guidance on how best to follow the generally established rules on reflective usage. For vehicle graphics applications, only one pan-European directive applies to the use of reflectives: UN ECE 104 supplemented with ECE 43, which covers uniformity of retro-reflectivity values, passed by the UN in 1995. Most countries recommend following its proposals. However, as the Avery Dennison “Handy Guide” counsels, it is advisable for signmakers and printers to check local legislation to ensure there are no requirements additional to those of ECE 104/43. Copies of the new Handy Guide to Reflective Films are available on request from Avery Graphics distributors throughout Europe, who can be located via a quick-reference feature on the Avery Dennison Graphics Division website.

More information: www.europe.averygraphics.com

[Top](#)

13) Junkers & Müllers launches multi-purpose Aqua

The chief characteristics of Aqua, the new material in the MEDIATEX range, are flame resistance, lightness (it weighs just 110 g/sqm) and a high level of whiteness. Developed especially for use in direct printing, the temperature-resistant, waterproof material is particularly suitable for back-lit displays, interior tent decorations, lightweight advertising hangings and inflatable advertising systems. Aqua is available in widths of 100, 137, 162 and 200 cm and is compatible with practically every digital printer. Junkers & Müllers' MEDIATEX product range includes textile materials suitable for digital direct printing with aqueous, solvent, eco-solvent and uv-hardening inks. Possible applications range from sun shades, blinds, awning and large format advertising up to 3.10 m to artistic canvases (for painting and photography).

More information: www.jm-techtex.com

[Top](#)

14) GBC launched further finishing solutions

GBC Professional have developed further innovative laminating and finishing solutions to target market demand for added-value high quality finished products in the wide-format sector. GBC are targeting the wide format printing market as a key growth area for their lamination systems and wide range of innovative films and consumables. In order to position GBC-professional as a value added partner, the company has developed a very user-friendly applications-guide that will show the customers, which GBC-films they should use to produce a specific application. On the other hand, it will enable the customers to develop new ideas how they make more money by adding more applications to their service-portfolio, and will help them increase business and profits in these challenging economic conditions. GBC has launched at FESPA Digital 2006 a completely re-engineered cost-effective range of films – Arctic UV cast for outdoor-applications with durability up to three years, Arctic High-Volume with durability up to two years and Arctic Indoor for short-term applications.

More information: www.gbctfilm.com

[Top](#)

15) photokina 2006: The latest trends in professional printing



At photokina in Cologne, the range of products and systems for large-format and fine art printing has been expanding for several years. At the World of Imaging nearly some suppliers of this market segment will once again present the latest applications. In discussion forums and professional symposia, experts will give presentations on current market developments and address industry trends from the perspectives of theory and practice. The following is a first overview of the themes and developments that will be e.g. at the center of attention at photokina 2006. In addition to the printing on paper and films, textile printing, especially of flags and banners but also of displays, is becoming

increasingly important. It is not uncommon for "soft signage" printers to be based on existing platforms that are retrofitted and extended with textile inks. Increasingly, however, machines specially designed for textile printing are coming onto the market. In fine art printing, 2006 has been the year in which Canon and Hewlett-Packard, by entering this market segment of high-quality image printing, have generated competition where there was practically none at all before. Because so far, it was primarily Epson which set the standard for long-term service life with its K3 inks. Prints can be made on museum-quality paper with weights of up to 460 grams and a very broad variety of surfaces, as well as on canvas or conventional high-gloss paper. The latest development is paper whose surface and tactile qualities look extremely similar to the classic baryta coating. In any event, provided that museum-quality media are chosen, the service life of the printed image is on a par with or possibly even superior to, previous photo chemically developed pictures when pigment inks are used. Practically all the expected innovations and trends in professional printing will be presented to the public.

photokina 2006: 26 September to 1 October 2006, Cologne

More information: www.photokina.de

[Top](#)

16) EFI: JMD uses VUTEk PressVu UV

Delhi-based Indian digital printer, JMD, has installed a VUTEk PressVu UV 200/600 W+ digital print system. Its new rigid and flexible printing capabilities they recently used to print high quality images onto hessian coffee sacks and other rigid POP substrates for the launch of Costa, the Italian coffee house chain in India. By using a local Indian print shop for the job, Costa now can realize its creative ambitions, and print high quality interior wall graphics and POP signage on unusual substrates, while saving itself 60 percent over the cost of using a foreign supplier. Producing 370 square meter of print for installation at 10 coffee houses across Delhi, one of the most challenging issues JMD faced was how to print photo quality images into hessian bean sacks. The company solved this by using the flexibility of its PressVu UV 200/600 W+ to print to rigid substrates. In addition to the hessian graphics that adorned each wall, JMD also produced a variety of POP graphics. Due to

the success of this job, JMD is currently in negotiations to print the graphics for another 280 Costa coffee houses across India, Europe and the Middle East. In addition to its PressVu UV 200/600 W+, JMD has also installed a VUTEk UltraVu® II 3360. Driven by increased customer demand for frontlit applications, the company's new three meter printer is being used to produce billboards, hoardings, fleet graphics and traditional signage. Established in 1987, JMD currently employs 75 people. With an office in Delhi and one in Mumbai, JMD is one of India's leading and fastest growing digital printers, providing a range of services from graphic design to superwide printing.

More information: www.efi-vutek.com

[Top](#)

17) TEPEDE: Concentration of all purchasing activities

After TEPEDE has brought most of partnership agreements to a European level also the contracting with Xerox for Wide Format Solutions did follow in May. After the termination of the 3 year local contract for Germany and The Netherlands Xerox and TEPEDE signed a new long term contract allowing TEPEDE to serve the different EU-countries via the Dutch headquarter insuring availability of machines, supplies and parts for existing and new customers for long time.

More information: www.tepede.com

[Top](#)

18) KANGWOO Co. changed to STARFLEX Co.

STARFLEX means not only the PVC flexible substrate now, but also its manufacturer. Officially approved on June 1, 2006, manufacturer of STARFLEX, the former KANGWOO Co. Ltd. changed its company name to STARFLEX Co. Ltd. after its successful brand STARFLEX. The movement of "Egg changed Chicken" began already three years ago, when Kangwoo Co. Ltd. established its European sales office in Belgium with the name of Starflex Europe S.A. As one of the leading manufacturers of PVC flexible substrate, Starflex Co. Ltd. produces a very comprehensive range of Backlit, Front-lit, Blockout, and Mesh for wide & super-wide format solvent printers. Since 1995, the company supplies customers in Asia, the US, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific from its headquarter/factory in South Korea. Widely known as the "Excellent quality/price ratio" and, most of all, thanks to the outstanding performance of its local distributors around the world, STARFLEX products are now being distributed successfully over 100 countries.

More information: www.star-flex.com

[Top](#)

19) Agfa-Gevaert splits into 3 independent businesses

Agfa-Gevaert has decided to split the group in three independent businesses: Graphics, HealthCare, and Materials. The new business called Materials will group all of the film manufacturing activities with the niche products of Specialty Products and will be positioned as an independent supplier of film and related products. This structure will give each business the maximum flexibility to implement its growth strategy and to further reduce costs in line with the rapidly changing market circumstances. Agfa-Gevaert intends to achieve annual cost savings of an estimated 250 million Euro by 2008, primarily in general services and in traditional products across all business groups and regions.

More information: www.agfa.com

[Top](#)

20) Mutoh America Inc: Arthur Vanhoutte becomes Managing Director



The Board of Directors of Mutoh Industries Ltd., Japan, has appointed Arthur Vanhoutte as Managing Director of its U.S. subsidiary Mutoh America Inc., located in Phoenix, Arizona. Arthur Vanhoutte has take up this new position as from July 1st, 2006 and will keep assuming his current functions of Managing Director of Mutoh Europe n.v. and Director of the Board of Directors of Mutoh Industries Ltd. He will oversee Mutoh America's activities from Mutoh's European headquarters in Oostende, Belgium. Vanhoutte's new assignment has three main goals: consolidate Mutoh America's leading role in the commercialization of Mutoh's wide-format piezo inkjet printers and professional signmaking plotters, explore new niche markets in the US territory for Mutoh's innovative printing technologies and develop a strategic plan to ensure Mutoh's continued growth in North & South America and Canada.

Aged 57, Vanhoutte has been active in the peripherals business for over 35 years. During this period, he has held executive positions in manufacturing, purchasing, R&D, marketing & sales. Since 1991, he has been leading Mutoh's EMEA activities as Mutoh Europe's General Manager and Manager European operations. Under his leadership, Mutoh Europe has grown from ground up to become a company reaching an annual turnover of 80 million US \$ and employing 300 people.

More information: www.mutoh.com and www.mutoh.be

[Top](#)

21) Jetrion names Jason Oliver Managing Director in Europe

Jetrion LLC, a leading supplier of inkjet printers, inks and custom systems, announced the appointment of Jason Oliver as Managing Director, Europe. Oliver, formerly Director, Marketing and Business Development for Jetrion in the United States, will relocate to Germany to head the company's fast growing ink jet business throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Dr. Kenneth Stack, President of Jetrion, noted, "Our business has been growing rapidly in Europe. We've had a strong demand for Jetrion's advanced products and technology, particularly for our 3000 series UV inkjet printers in the European narrow web and packaging markets. The headquartering of Jason Oliver on the Continent reflects our intense commitment to meet the ink jet requirements of our expanding customer base in Europe." New MD Jason Oliver explained the latest initiatives in the region: "To better support our customers in Europe, we are rapidly signing up new distributors and hiring direct sales and service staff. As our customer base expands, we'll be ready with outstanding support and new products." The process of building Jetrion's sales and service capabilities and a network of distributors and partnerships throughout Europe is well under way. In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, TPF International recently signed on as Jetrion's distributor and will host the site of a new demonstration center in Prague for the Jetrion 3000 series ink jet printers. Oliver will announce other new European distributorships in the coming weeks. Jetrion also will be partnering with its sister company, XSYS Print Solutions, in the narrow web market, and with its parent, Flint Group, in the commercial printing/ mailing market.

More information: www.jetrion.com

[Top](#)

22) GretagMacbeth: Color seminar for SignMaker

The training experts at the GIA/GretagMacbeth Global Services have announced a summer seminar-tour newly designed to help sign makers and digital printers understand and improve their color. "Color Management for Digital Sign Makers" will be presented in 20 US and Canadian cities this July through October, with the support of HP, LG Chem., ONYX Graphics, and NBM. New solvent and mild-solvent print technologies, uncoated media and RIP software offer power, flexibility, and productivity, but also make it more important than ever to understand how to control your own color. This training seminar will teach the technical skills needed to get the best possible color from wide format printers and RIPs. During the full day of instruction, attendees will get the jump on their competition with the latest ICC profiling tools and color control techniques for professional display graphics. The presentation will also feature the first look at the new ONYX 7 software, which will be used to demonstrate RIP techniques and best practices in a way that will easily translate to other RIPs that attendees may be familiar with. For the complete agenda, venue details, prices and online registration visit <http://www.graphintel.com/dsm>

More information: www.graphintel.com and www.gretagmacbeth.com

[Top](#)

23) Xaar: 10-year anniversary of student program

Since its inception in 1996, Xaar's student program has made a valuable contribution to the practical education of over 80 engineering graduates. During six-month internships, students from some 15 European universities work within Xaar's Advanced Application Technology (AAT) Group to gain relevant experience for their diploma or PhD. The micro-systems, software and chemical engineering students mainly work on the development of new inkjet applications and related printhead projects. Three of the students now have permanent contracts at Xaar, while others have joined major corporations such as Bosch, Infineon and IBM. Most students have gone on to work for small to medium high-tech companies, or R&D institutions such as the Fraunhofer Institute, where they are using their inkjet know-how to make important contributions to development projects. Xaar's AAT Group has access to a dedicated lab equipped with various print rigs for application work, including XY-printers; drum printers and a rail printer for high-speed testing.

More information: www.xaar.co.uk

[Top](#)

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