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FLAT CUT ACRYLIC

ACRYLIC	Perspex,	Madrepe	rla, Plexig	las - Gold	, silver an	d colours	are all EX	TERIOR	grade acry	dics ONL'	Y										
HEIGHT	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	400mm	425mm	450mm	500mm	535mm	600mm	762mm	838mm	914mm	1200mm
3mm	£0.85	£1.01	£1.22	£1.45	£1.80	£2.20	£2.80	£3.10	£3.50	£4.20	£6.20	£7.40	£7.70	£8.20	£9.50	£10.00	£11.60	£18.00	£27.00	£35.50	£45.50
5mm	£1.03	£1.46	£1.82	£2.29	£2.60	£3.40	£4.30	£5.20	£6.00	£7.30	£8.20	£9.00	£9.40	£10.60	£13.20	£14.50	£15.50	£25.50	£32.50	£42.75	£63.00
10mm	£2.10	£2.90	£3.65	£4.60	£5.50	£7.00	£8.50	£11.00	£12.00	£15.00	£18.00	£19.50	£20.50	£24.50	£26.00	£29.00	£35.00	£50.00	£66.00	£88.00	£125.00

FLAT CUT

FOAM PVC	Class 1 f	ire retarda	nt materia	l suitable	for exhibi	tions															
Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	400mm	425mm	450mm	500mm	535mm	600mm	762mm	838mm	914mm	1200mm
3mm	£0.50	£0.95	£1.00	£1.05	£1.25	£1.50	£1.90	£2.20	£2.45	£2.75	£3.60	£4.00	£4.50	£4.75	£5.25	£5.75	£7.25	£11.75	£16.50	£18.00	£22.00
5mm	£0.73	£1.10	£1.55	£1.80	£2.00	£2.50	£3.00	£3.30	£4.00	£4.50	£5.50	£6.00	£6.50	£7.25	£7.50	£9.00	£10.00	£16.00	£22.00	£24.00	£28.50
10mm	£1.30	£1.70	£2.00	£3.00	£3.90	£4.50	£5.50	£6.50	£7.50	£8.25	£10.50	£11.50	£12.50	£13.50	£16.00	£16.50	£19.50	£27.00	£32.00	£36.00	£53.00
19mm	£1.81	£3.25	£3.75	£4.50	26.00	£8.00	£8.75	£10.00	£11.50	£14.00	£16.00	£17.50	£19.00	£20.50	£21.50	£22.00	£25.00	£32.00	£36.00	£43.50	£73.00

KEANOROND I D	BOND A	LUMINIU	M COMP	OSITE SE	IEET	Metal fac	ed sheet i	n a variety	of colour	s and finis	ihes - Ask	us about t	he NEW t	inishes av	ailable						
Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	400mm	425mm	450mm	500mm	535mm	600mm	762mm	838mm	914mm	1200mm
Coloured 3mm	£1.50	£1.99	£2.40	£3.00	£3.25	£4.50	£5.50	£6.30	£7.00	£8.00	£9.50	£10.50	£11.00	£13.00	£15.00	£15.50	£18.00	£23.00	£31.00	£39.00	£55.00
Mirror 4mm	£1.75	£2.75	£4.00	£5.50	£6.50	£7.50	£9.00	£10.50	£13.00	£14.50	£16.50	£18.00	£19.50	£22.50	£24.00	£24.50	£27.00	£32.75	£39.00	£43.50	£90.00
Brushed 3mm	£1.50	£2.00	£2.50	£3.50	£4.25	£5.00	£6.00	£7.00	£8.50	£9.50	£11.00	£12.00	£13.00	£14.50	£16.00	£18.00	£20.00	£27.50	£35.50	£44.00	£62.00

10.000			222	4-1-1		112										-	-				
ACRYLIC MOULE	ED LET	TERS -E	xterior gra	de Gold,	Silver and	coloured	acrylic.	See our w	ebsite for	available	fonts	NEW	REDI	JCED	PRIC	E					
MOULDED A	CRYL	ıc																			
Brushed 3mm	£1.50	£2.00	£2.50	£3.50	£4.25	£5.00	£6,00	£7.00	£8.50	£9.50	£11.00	£12.00	£13.00	£14.50	£16.00	£18.00	£20.00	£27.50	£35.50	£44.00	£62.00
MILLOL WILLIAM								****	747474	37.7.7.1											

EDUCED PRICE

Height	100mm	153mm	229mm	254mm	305mm	381mm	457mm	533mm
Acrylic	£5.00	£6.00	£9.00	£10.00	£12.00	£15.00	£18.00	£21.00
Foam PVC	£4.50	£5.50	£8.50	£9.00	£11.00	£14.00	£17.00	£20.00

MOULDED CHROMASIGN

ChomaSign® M	Aoulded	Letters	Outdoo	or grade	chrome	letters	NEW	R
Height	100mm	153mm	203mm	229mm	254mm	305mm	381mm	
Bright Chrome	£11.00	£12.00	£16.00	£18.00	£20.00	£24.00	£30.00	



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The 2009 show, which saw over 180 exhibitors and more than 6000 quality visitors willing to do business, was a great success. Here are some of the highlights from the exhibitors and visitors:

Exhibitor Testimonials

"We took orders from the very first day and I think within a couple of hours of the show opening, which is great! That's obviously what we are here to do because of the class of people coming through the door, purposefully coming to make a purchasing decision here at the show."

Head of Product Development, Roland DG (UK)



"We were delighted when our first client walked on the stand and signed the order form for two products straight away."

Allan Ashman Managing Director, Atech

Visitor Testimonials

"I came here with very specific requirements. I needed specialized products which can be difficult to find, however I have only been here half a day and I have already found exactly what I wanted and got the right deal too. I will definitely be returning next year."

Struan Bickerton Managing Director, Sign Select



The show today has been very good. The people that you meet are all willing to do a deal, and if you talk to them and do your homework first, you can come here and get a good deal."

Roger Masheder Chairman/Manager, Alpha Engraving

With 6 months to go and exhibitors keen to build on the success of the '09 show, stand space is going fast...so book your stand now for the UK's premier sign making and digital printing event!



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WFICOMF Page

Welcome to the next Hinchliffe generation

In this issue of Sign Update we have a loose insert with news of how to win a free laminator for your sign business. To enter the draw, go to www.sign-update-magazine.co.uk/atech and leave your details - that's all there is to it. The draw takes place on 30th November, so you've got time to read the magazine first, but don't forget to enter!

If you're not a frequent visitor to the website, take a look, you might be pleasantly surprised. It's been revamped and now contains lots more useful information, articles and sign news.

On pages 69 to 79 this issue we focus on sign makers and suppliers in Scotland. Like with our Northamptonshire feature in last issue, the Scottish sign makers haven't let us down and there are a lot of good contributions.

Our next issue, out in January 2010, will be a chance for sign makers and suppliers in Wales to show what they can do. Just give me a call or an email and you could be in our January issue. Following on from that, we will be visiting Norfolk; so anyone from Norfolk can get ahead by contacting me soon. We'd especially like

to hear what's special about the sign making trade in your area and any projects you've completed that have a strong regional flavour.

If you're considering investing in a new router or engraver, take a look at pages 36-41 which feature some of the leading manufacturers in this field.

Sorry to cut short my Welcome Page but I've just heard the fantastic news that Linda and I have become grandparents for the first time. We're off soon to meet our new granddaughter and give Martin and his wife Lizanne our support and practical help.

Rogerffmichlife

P.S. Congratulations to Martin and Lizanne on the birth of their baby girl from the rest of the Sign Update Team - Tony, Heather, Janet and Tracey. Well done to Lizanne for timing it so perfectly; with this issue almost off to press, Martin is able to drag himself away from the computer and start getting into the 'dad' routine immediately.



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Art Systems shows off the new HP Designjet L25500

The HP reseller channel is gearing up to promote the new HP Designjet L25500 following their first sight of the new printer at Art Systems recently. Demand for demonstrations is already running high with all the Latex partners promoting the new printer to their customers.

The new HP Designjet L25500 brings the award winning HP Latex Ink technology to the entry level sign and graphics user with 42inch and 60inch versions, aimed at small and medium digital print and sign shops, as well as copy shops and photo labs who want to offer a greater range of applications to boost their portfolio.

The combination of environmental benefits with increased productivity is seen as making the HP Designjet L25500 a market leader in coming months. In comparison to conventional solvent printers, HP Latex Inks significantly reduces the time from print to use. This means that operators are not waiting for inks to cure or complete out gassing before they can use the print. The wider environmentally benefits include, water-based HP Latex Inks - no hazard warning labels, no HAPs, no special ventilation required, prints odourless signs and growing range of recyclable HP media available, with HP take-back program. With anticipated UK RRPs of £16,741 for the 42inch and £21,892 for the 60inch the HP Designjet L25500 is well positioned to make a big impact.

HP is also maintaining its promotion at the high end of its Sign & Display range with a series of Open Days in HP Barcelona to see the full portfolio of UV printers with the HP Scitex FB950 as the flagship product. The HP Scitex FB950 is capable of printing flatbed, sheet fed and roll fed at up to 80 m2/hr in fast mode the 2.5m UV printer will also print double-sided and edge-to-edge, utilising 6 colour UV-curable inks. Consistent print results are achieved thanks to 12 print heads with variable sized drops printing up to 1200 x 600 optimised dpi continually monitored by an



It can print directly on to a wide variety of rigid media that include corrugated or compressed carton; foam board; plastics; or speciality material like glass, wood and aluminium as well as more traditional signage and graphic applications. The Open Days will be run in November, December and January and can be arranged with HP resellers participating in the programme.

For further information contact Art Systems on Tel: 0115 9380 333 or visit www.artsystems.co.uk



More Brightness Less LEDs

New Tetra® miniMAX is up to **three** times brighter and uses less LEDs per sign*

Thanks to new OptiLens", a patent-pending optical breakthrough, channel letters as shallow as 38 mm radiate brilliant, more uniform light spread across the entire sign face. It's the technical breakthrough that proves even in tight economic times we help you do more with less. For more information contact:

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News

Dull finish - bright future

One of the latest products from KPMF is part of their very successful VWS range. The new Matt Black film, K75322, generates a sophisticated, customised appearance and a consistent surface that completely transforms a vehicle's image. This premium cast vinyl achieves exceptional performance and, at just 80 micron thickness, provides superb conformability into recesses.

In addition to creating a whole new 'look', Matt Black puts an end to 'wax and polish'. The change from factory finish to an even, all-over matt wrap is cost-effective because it eliminates the lengthy preparation otherwise associated with spraying and, in the hands of experts, is relatively quick to apply. The film is very durable and resistant to motor fuels, oils, antifreeze, detergent solution and battery acid.

Usually, VWS III is only available as a colour matching service but the new Matt Black, is being offered by KPMF as a stock product. Interest is global as a result of a sample mailshot that was sent to the Company's distributors throughout the world.

For further information visit the website www.kpmfdirect.co.uk



The new matt black film from KPMF can completely transform a vehicle's image.

Roland launch VersaUV LED UV Inkjet Printer/Cutter

Roland DG Corporation has recently introduced the LEC-330, the company's newest VersaUV LEC UV ink curable 30" wide inkjet printer/cutter. Based on award-winning VersaUV technology, the LEC-330 prints CMYK+White+Gloss all in one device for luxurious, customized graphics with special effects and finishes. The LEC-330 delivers greater overall performance and versatility than the LEC-300, with higher image quality, up to twice the productivity in standard print mode, and support for an even wider range of materials including rigid substrates. The LEC-330 is ideal for applications ranging from high-end package prototyping to control panel production and small lot production of labels and decals.

> "The new LEC-330 offers greater media compatibility, production-level print speeds and three unique ink combinations," said Mat Drake Print Product Manager, Roland DG (UK). "Designed for a host of short-run production, packaging prototyping and labelling applications, the LEC-330 is an exceptional tool that can save time, lower pre-press costs and generate new revenues for commercial printers."

The new LEC-330 includes a high-quality artistic print mode (1440 x 1440 dpi) for sharp, detailed graphics and text. Additional print heads and innovative

Roland Intelligent Pass Control® technology further enhance image quality. Production level print speeds enable professionals to manage urgent requests for quick delivery of prototypes, labels and products. To meet their individual business requirements, users can also choose from three ink combinations: the standard ink configuration supporting the widest variety of applications (CMYK+White+Gloss), a high-opacity white ink configuration (CMYK+White+White) and a thick gloss-ink-effect configuration (CMYK+Gloss+Gloss).

The first opportunity to see the new machine in action was at Sign and Digital Ireland, which took place in September.

For further information and full list of features visit the website www.rolanddg.com



Roland's LEC-330 VersaUV LED UV inkjet printer/cutter.









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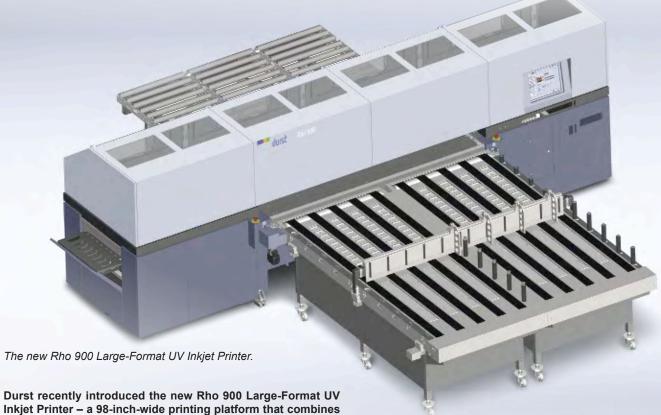
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Durst introduce latest UV Inkjet Printer



Durst recently introduced the new Rho 900 Large-Format UV Inkjet Printer – a 98-inch-wide printing platform that combines more efficient automated media handling and "process colour additions" with high-speed printing capabilities to deliver far greater productivity and a wider colour gamut.

The unveiling took place at the SGIA Expo in New Orleans, U.S. Attendees were introduced to a high-quality printing platform that simplifies media handling with its automated feeder system, and makes reproduction of even difficult corporate colours possible by printing orange and green or orange and violet process colours with no special file preparation required.

The new Rho 900 is equipped with Durst's Quadro® 30D Array print head technology to deliver high speed, improved efficiency and exceptional image quality. Its media handling incorporates an auto-feed table with belts, sheet feed gate with guides for parallel board printing, and automatic two-point pin registration system to ensure accurate front-to-back registration.

The Rho 900's process colour additions are printed in the same mode as its CMYK process colours. No special file preparation is necessary. These additional colours can be printed, even with white ink or light colors, with no loss in output speed. This enables much smoother colour gradients and more even solids at production-level output speeds.

Top speed of the 6-colour Rho 900 is up to 216 boards (125x80cm) per hour. The user can incorporate the process colour additions with no loss of print speed.

"The Rho 900 also can print white, varnish or light colours along with the new additional process colours to expand the possibilities of print jobs and applications", Michael Lackner, Marketing Manager of Durst said.

For further information visit www.durst-online.com

Snapfix just got smaller

Global letter fixings supplier Snapfix has launched a small locator after many requests from clients who needed to fit locators to flat cut letters with a leg width less than 12mm.

This innovative product uses their current patented design but has been reduced in size by almost 30% in relation to the medium locator they currently market. The locator has a base of just 8mm so will fit on most if not all small flat cut letters and is thought to be the smallest locator on the market.

Snapfix is UV stable, frost resistant and able to withstand global temperature variations and comes with a lifetime guarantee and is distributed either direct from Snapfix or through most plastic distributors.

For further information call Snapfix on 0844 800 7866.



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Metamark reformulate MD3 mid term self adhesive digital media

Metamark has reformulated its MD3 mid term digital vinyl's face film to enhance its appeal to anyone seeking an economically priced self adhesive film capable of delivering attention grabbing, advertisers' printed colours and razor sharp resolution. Free sample rolls are available.

The reformulated MD3 is noticeably whiter and is able to consistently reproduce deeply saturated colour and sparkling, contrasting highlights for vivid images and crisply rendered text. The product is easy to apply, cleanly removable and is supplied on a stable, PE liner in 760, 1370, 1520 and 1600mm widths.

Mid term, digitally printed promotional campaigns and exhibition graphics are usually printed on self adhesive materials formulated to suit the temporary nature of the end result. However, campaigns are very often focussed on promoting quality

conscious brands and high value products so defining a need for an applied material, which satisfies a lower cost and higher quality equation that MD3 fills.

Metamark, is well known for the MD class digital media it manufactures and supplies direct in the UK. The materials are products of Metamark's By Design manufacturing process which produces reference quality digital media suitable for use with the broadest spectrum of modern UV and solvent inkjet inks.

Metamark MD3 is available at prices normally associated with cut price products that sacrifice quality too. MD3 makes no such concession or compromises and the proof is in the printing says The Materials Company.

Sample rolls of Metamark MD3 are available by contacting sales@metamark.co.uk

UK POS supports Independents with 'one

UK Point Of Sale Limited has launched an Independent Point-of-Sale starter kit, which offers smaller Independents a 'one size

fits all', cost effective starter pack. The specially collated kit has been designed as part of the manufacturers' 20 year celebrations and as a result, will be available with a special introductory discount until the end of the year.

Sales and Marketing Director of UK POS, Debra Jamieson said: "UK POS was set up with Independent retailers and wholesalers in mind and the intent to offer quality point-of-sale products with an experienced understanding of their needs. This formula proved to be vital to the success and growth of our business over these 20 years and as a thank you, we have launched the Point-Of-Sale Starter Kit. Offered at a discounted price, we hope it validates our continued support and look forward to another 20 years working together."

The pack includes: one A1 Pavement Sign to help get those customers through the door; 10 A4 and two A1 Snap Frames to promote special offers and deals using interchangeable posters; 100 Shelf Talkers and 100 Wobbler Arms to improve pricing displays; 100 Suspended Ceiling Hangers and 100 Extending Wire for ceiling posters to guide customers through the store.

Usually priced at £250 excluding VAT, UK POS will provide a special introductory discount of £25 up until 31st December 2009. With UK POS' next day delivery service, the Independent Point-Of-Sale Starter Kit can also be delivered in time for the Christmas rush.

Debra Jamieson concluded: "Its purpose is to help improve Independents' in-store promotion and subsequently boost sales without these retailers being overwhelmed by such vast product ranges. As in-store promotion should be just as important to them as it is to multi-nationals, the kit will provide everything any smaller retailer needs to start or refresh in-store promotion without having to worry about what they need, the quantity they need or what to do with it."

For further information visit www.ukpos.com



UK Point Of Sale launch Independent Point-Of-Sale Starter Pack to celebrate 20 years in the industry.

22 AT SNAP FRAMES



> foam pvc 10mm available in black & white only 19mm available in white only

height	3mm	5mm	10mm	19mm
50mm	£0.39	£0.45	£0.79	£1.70
75mm	£0.50	£0.68	£1.24	£2.38
100mm	£0.77	£1,02	£1,59	£3,40
125mm	£0.96	£1.36	£2.38	£3.96
150mm	£1.07	£1.87	£3.28	£4.53
175mm	£1.29	£2,15	£4,08	£6,22
200mm	£1.47	£2.49	£4.64	£7.93
225mm	£1.98	62.94	£5.66	£8.78
250mm	£2,26	£3,40	£6.79	£10,19
275mm	£2.54	£4.08	£7.76	£11.59
300mm	£2.83	€4.81	€8.72	£13.87
375mm	£3,73	£5,66	£10.75	£15,85
425mm	£4.53	£6.41	£12.46	£18.68
500mm	€5.38	£7.47	£15.85	£21.51
600mm	£7,36	£10,30	£20.15	£26.04
1200mm	£16.98	£28.09	£53.15	£72.12



Including gold and sliver 10mm available in black, white and clear only 3mm 5mm 10mm

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£1.08

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£1.70

£2,15

£2.61

£3.29

£4.18

£5.38

£5.89

£7,36

£1.71

£2.17

£2.71

£3.40

£4.30

£5.20

£6.79

€8.38

£10.76

£11,77

£14,72

E9.06 E18.11 £7.81 £10.19 £20.37 £9.62 £13.01 £26.04 £11.66 £15.85 £31.69 m £45.28 £62.26 £124.51 no minimum order

£0.56

£0.74

£0.90

£1.13

£1.36

£1.70

£2.26

£2.83

£3.06

£3.51

£4,30

£6.40

acrylic







3mm Aluminium Composite about, reynot

height	colours	brushed	mirror
50mm	£1.02	£1.24	£1.87
75mm	£1.42	£1.59	£2.38
100mm	£1.86	£2,16	£2,71
125mm	£2.38	£2.67	£4.00
150mm	£2.71	£3.63	£5,43
175mm	£3,17	£4.36	£6,55
200mm	£4.53	£5.10	£7.64
225mm	£5.32	€5.89	£8.83
250mm	£6,22	£7.02	£10.53
275mm	£6.79	£8.60	£12.87
300mm	£7.69	£9.62	£14.48
375mm	£9.06	£10.92	£16.39
425mm	£10.53	£13.01	£19.53
500mm	£14.72	£16.02	£24,04
600mm	£18.11	£20.37	£30.51
1200mm	€54.33	£61.12	£91.70



height	6mm	12mm	18mm
50mm	£0.34	£0.85	£1.47
75mm	£0.79	£1.47	£2.26
100mm	£1,14	£1,81	£2,76
125mm	£1.52	£2.66	£3.79
150mm	£2.26	£3.63	£4.69
175mm	£2.43	£4.35	£5.77
200mm	EZ.83	£5.10	£7.13
225mm	£3,56	£5.89	£8,04
250mm	£4.08	£7.02	£10.19
275mm	£4.87	£8.60	£11.59
300mm	£6.22	£9.62	£13.93
375mm	£8.82	€10,92	£15.96
425mm	£10.19	£13.01	£18,68
500mm	£11.54	£16.01	£21.51
600mm	£13.58	£18,11	£26.04
1200mm	£40.75	€54.33	£73.58
33	no mi	nimum	order



height	1.2mm unin brushed	1.2mm polithed	2mm such bracked	2mm polithed
50mm	£3,21	£3,45	£4.28	£4,60
75mm	£3.46	£3,71	£4.61	£4.94
100mm	£4.20	£5.06	£5.60	€6.75
125mm	£4.82	£5.43	£6,42	£7,24
150mm	£5.19	£6.05	£6.92	£8.06
175mm	£7.29	£8.27	£9.72	£11.03
200mm	£9.23	£10.62	£12,31	£14.16
225mm	£10.86	£11.61	£14.48	£15.48
250mm	£11.67	£12.47	£15.56	£16.63
275mm	£12.90	£14.81	£17.20	£19.75
300mm	£14.81	£16.24	£19.75	£21.65
375mm	£21.11	£22.78	£28,15	£30,37
425mm	£23.61	£27.29	£31,48	£36.38
500mm	£29.63	£32.22	£39.50	£42.96
600mm	£35.80	£40.73	£47.73	€54.31





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add 20% - cladding template (cladding details will be required)
add 20% - for standard extended typefaces
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Screen launches Truepress Jet1600UV-F

Screen's Truepress family of sophisticated digital printing systems continues to add new members with innovative capabilities to address different opportunities for printers in a changing market-place having recently launched the Truepress Jet1600UV-F, a high-quality inkjet printing system developed for the sign and display business.

"The Truepress Jet1600UV-F delivers high precision and high flexibility," said Rob Hageman, European Product Manager, Screen Europe. "This easy-to-use flatbed device is built around the latest technology for inkjet printing and UV-LED curing."

The Truepress Jet1600UV-F is a welcome addition to the printing landscape not only because it enables vivid, full-colour printing of signs and displays but its advanced functionalities also provide printers with significant advantages in the production of backlit graphics, wide-format posters, point-of-purchase displays, commercial furniture and construction signage.

The Truepress Jet1600UV-F prints images up to 1,602mm (63in) wide and up to 3,100mm (122in) long. It is capable of printing 13 sqm (140 sqft) per hour on a diverse array of substrates up to 50mm (1.96in) thick.

Several features make the Truepress

Jet1600UV-F ideal for printing operations that require high
performance. The inks are hard-dried using ultraviolet rays produced by dedicated light emitting diodes (LEDs). The UV-LED light
source used by the Truepress Jet1600UV-F generates very low
heat during imaging, increasing the range of media that it can handle

efficiently.

As a result, the Truepress Jet1600UV-F accommodates such heat-sensitive materials as foam and channel boards, PVC, acrylic and styrene panels without warping or distortion. The UV-LED light source also lasts longer and draws less electricity than conventional UV lamps so its impact on the environment is minimised.

"The UV-LED technology helps achieve low energy consumption and a work environment mostly free of volatile organic compounds," Hageman pointed out.

A newly created imaging system features eight individual printing heads that support rapid printing. The enhanced productivity allows the Truepress Jet1600UV-F to take on fast-turnaround jobs in quick succession.

The new head positioning system incorporates a high-



olution linear scale. The extremely precise dot placement translates into legible type on large-size prints, even when outputting sizes down to 3-point text. The reproduction is exceptionally sharp and the tints and gradations exceedingly smooth thanks to the maximum resolution of 1,200 dpi x 1,200 dpi, coupled with the piezo variable-drop printhead that emits up to seven dot sizes.

res-

Two types of UV ink, one for flexible media and the other for rigid media, give operators a great deal of choice in printing applications. Available in four process colours, the flexible UV ink can be stretched by up to 200 percent, as well as cast or bent. It exhibits excellent performance on white media, including substrates employed for packaging, POP displays and life-size panels.

The rigid ink resists friction and exposure to damaging chemicals. This ink series is particularly well suited to printing on aluminum composite panels and decorative illuminated film. It is offered with cyan, magenta, yellow, black and white inks.





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Mimaki offer attractively priced LED UV

print and cut packages

Mimaki's commitment to developing further new UV printers has been much in evidence with the introduction last year of the award winning UJV-160 and this machine is now available as part of a number of attractively priced print and cut packages. Mimaki manufacture a range of flatbed and pinch roll, wide format cutters, and the purchase of one of these in conjunction with the printer can save the buyer as much as almost £6,000.

The Mimaki UJV-160 is a 1.6m wide LED UV curing inkjet printer, capable of printing roll-to-roll or (using the supplied media tables) onto rigid board weighing up to 12kg and up to 10mm thick. The pioneering cold cure LED inks will stretch by up to 200%, as well as being capable of being cut through, creased and folded – making it a perfect solution for producing point of sale, packaging and wide format shaped graphics. Whilst the flexibility of the inks is ideally suited to printing banners and formable vinyl, adding an additional cutting table means the ease with which POS work can be output in-house is a very convincing proposition.

Rather than printing to roll fed material and then mounting it to a board before cutting it to shape; direct printing using the Mimaki UJV-160 removes this labour intensive process, and reduces the cost of the materials required too. Taking the printed board straight off the printer (without needing to leave time for curing or drying, as can be required on other machines) and cutting it in-house eliminates the potential for damage caused in transit, as well as making the whole process more cost effective and timely.

The Mimaki software suite, supplied as part of the package, helps tie this whole process together with a series of integrated and easy to use tools. Plugging in to CorelDRAW and Adobe Illustrator, Mimaki's FineCut program amalgamates the whole print and cut routine, ensuring flawless consistency of result;



whatever the application. Various configurations of cutting plotter are on offer; from the Mimaki CG-160FX pinch roll cutter, suited to producing stickers and decals from printed vinyl, right up to the Mimaki CF2 range of flatbed machines that sport tangential and / or reciprocating heads for cutting through thick display substrates, corrugated materials and foam centred boards.

The Mimaki CF2-1218 has a 1.2m x 1.8m vacuum bed, and a variety of head configurations depending upon the customer's requirements. With its optical eye, it can detect registration marks and produce complex cuts around and through the print using a combination of cutting, creasing and scoring tools. A maximum downward pressure of 5kg from the tangential head allows a significant range of media to be cut, making it a very flexible instrument for the display graphics professional. The use of the

optical eye also enables boards larger than the bed to be cut in segments; whilst still retaining its accuracy.

When purchased with the top of the range Mimaki CF2-1218TD, the bundle with the Mimaki UJV-160 saves almost £6,000 on the combined list price of the two separate models.

John de la Roche, National Sales Manager for Mimaki's UK & Ireland distributor, Hybrid Services Ltd, told us; "The breadth of Mimaki's product range makes it easy for us to combine and integrate workflows, and creating finished products on a combination of Mimaki equipment is made simpler with a workflow aided by the software that's included with the machines.

Investment in the UJV-160 alongside a CF2 could allow a graphics company to bring all elements of their production in-house, saving time, money and keeping control of the whole process."

In addition to these example packages, Mimaki also manufacturer a grand format flatbed LED UV machine, the new JFX-1631, which can be run with their matching sized flatbed cutter / router, to produce work onto acrylic as well as aluminium based substrates and other plastics on a grand scale. To see these or any of Mimaki's other products, visit the website www.hybridservices.co.uk or call 01270 501900.



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Multimedia graphic solutions take centre stage

Eurostand Display have opened a world of opportunity with its latest range of audio visual graphics systems.

The Essex-based trade-only supplier has just added an integral large screen option into its best-selling Centro modular display system range. Eurostand says the addition has generated a buzz of interest from customers keen to exploit the enormous opportunities that multimedia brings to a wide range of applications.

With its contemporary design and anodised aluminium construction, Eurostand says Centro was always designed to be elegant, durable and functional. 'The beauty of the system is that you only have to buy it once,' says the firm's National Account Manager Sam Mooney. Sam continues: 'It's scaleable and adaptable, with standardized fittings, so you can add to it at any time, or rearrange the elements to suit your need. And now, with the large screen display as an integral option, the system has evolved with dynamic content and sound to bring a brand new dimension to any display application.

'Whether you want a graceful showroom backdrop or a more refined presence at a trade show, Centro is one of the most professional solutions available and, even better, it now incorporates audio as well as visual capabilities.'

Gaining and holding people's attention has always been the challenge facing designers of display systems.

In terms of noticeability the Centro Theatre

system cleverly marries high resolution moving images, interactivity and sound with graphics that surround and reinforce the screen and audio content. 'The three media working in tandem are an extremely powerful combination in any situation,' says Mooney.

'At a time when every penny of marketing budgets is having to work harder, the Centro Theatre Systems add a persuasive dimension to static displays that can only enhance the noticeablity and effectiveness of our customers' campaigns' states Sam.

The combination is entirely customisable to suit users' individual requirements and budgets, says Eurostand. Applications that particularly benefit from this combination of static and dynamic media include trade shows, seminars, point-of-sale and showrooms.

The screen and graphic elements can be used as a stand-alone presentation, or be seamlessly integrated into a full-size Centro exhibition stand

and screen sizes between 23" and 42" can be incorporated into the system cleanly, simply and easily.

For further information visit the website www.eurostanddisplay.com





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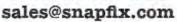
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Mutoh launch ValueJet 1628T 64" and ValueJet 2628T 100" Aqueous based soft signage printers

Mutoh America Inc. has launched the ValueJet 1628T 64" and ValueJet 2628T 100" Aqueous Printers, specifically designed for soft signage printing.

"ValueJet 1628T/2628T incorporates new and improved technology that offers numerous business opportunities for soft signage printing that will target the creative digital textile market," said Jeff Springan, Product Engineer for Mutoh America.

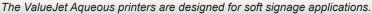
The ValueJet 1628T/2628T is designed for soft signage applications such as banners, flags, pennants, POP-displays and signage, posters, tradeshow graphics, museum fine art, wall murals, for both polyester fabrics and dye-sublimation paper.

Offering a maximum print width of 63.2"/103.2" and print resolutions of 360, 540 & 720dpi for different applications, the ValueJet 1628T/2628T has draft quality speeds up to 447sg/ft/hr, and print speeds up to 154sg/ft/hr in production mode. The ValueJet 1628T/2628T employs a new head, which is best suited for polyester fabrics using the On Demand Piezo Drive Method and encompasses Mutoh's patented Intelligent Interweaving (I2) "wave" Printing Technique that virtually eliminates banding.

The ValueJet 1628T/2628T delivers superior line sharpness and photo quality with continuous tones, smooth transitions and a wide colour gamut that can be utilized with a variety of lnk cartridges (CMYKLcLmOG), available in 4, 6 or 8 colours, available as 220ml cartridges or a bulk ink system. The ValueJet 1628T/2628T offers easy installation and user friendly operation.

The ValueJet 1628T/2628T is available for shipping beginning in April, 2010. Details are coming soon at www.mutoh.com







Harrison External Display Systems have launched a pioneering and Eco Friendly LED flagpole lighting system that is the first of

its kind in Europe.

The LED flagpole lighting boasts incredible visual impact, high-efficiency performance and long-lasting attributes; Harrison LED lights come with a robust life span of 17 years. Fully water, wind and weather proof and requiring no maintenance, the technology is the same used in Jacuzzis and swimming pools.

LED lighting continues to replace conventional lighting technology in several commercial arenas with significant savings in energy costs. The LED lights are integrated onto the top of flagpoles across the entire Harrison range and are available in a wide range of lighting colours to provide a truly bespoke effect to match any

corporate colouring.

Existing Harrison customers can upgrade their flagpoles at the Darlington manufacturing plant, the latest in LED lighting technology

can be fitted to transform old flagpoles to the best in class.

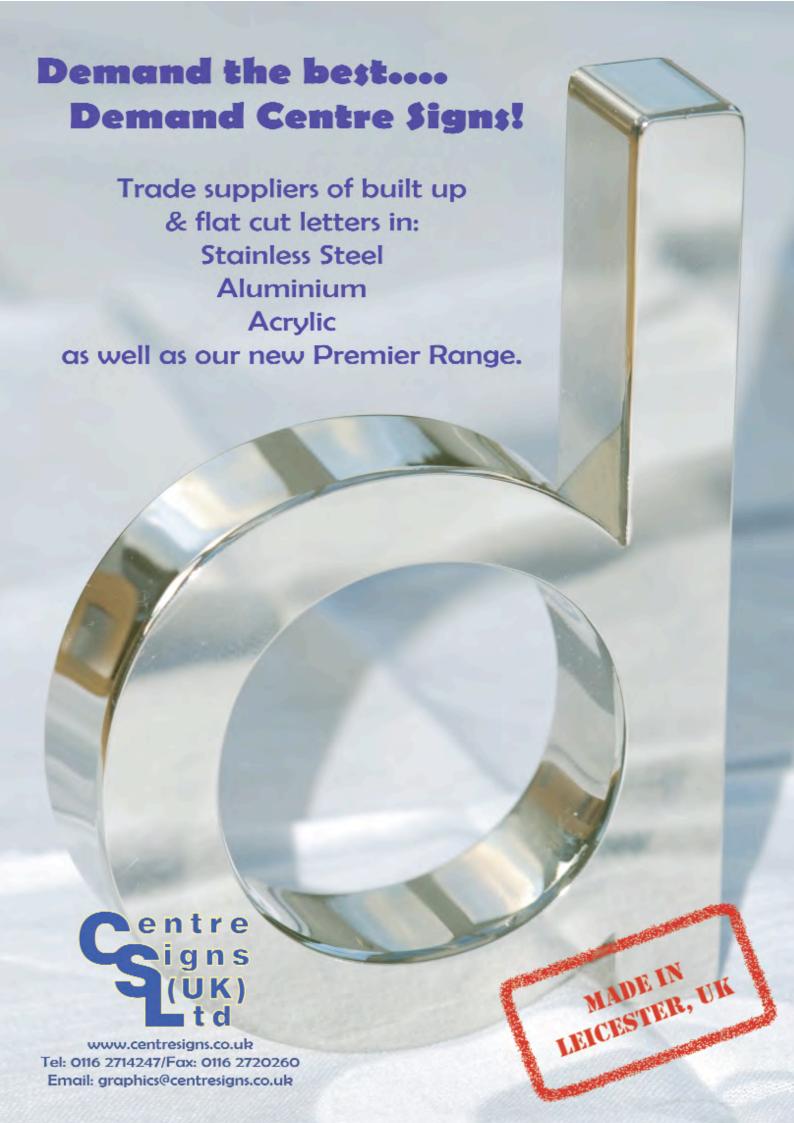
are excited about the new technology, for brands to display their logo 24 hours a day adds more impact and raises awareness to a potentially wider target audience. The LED technology developed by Harrison will add significant visual impact to the events and signage industry, making brands stand out and offering a competitive edge.

Hobson adds "Companies today are becoming increasingly more aware of their corporate social responsibility and this long term lighting solution ticks all the boxes as it is cost effective, environmentally friendly and energy efficient. LED is very much the future of commercial and event lighting."

Harrison's are taking orders now and have already received

several orders from throughout Europe.

For further information visit the websites www.flagpoles.co.uk
or www.eventproducts.co.uk



Hexis targets wall graphics market with

printable cast vinyl film

Self-adhesive vinyl manufacturer Hexis has developed a revolutionary printable cast vinyl film for wall graphics. The VCSR100WG1 is designed for direct application onto brick, concrete or plaster walls.

The film is made of a highly conformable 50µm cadmium-free cast vinyl and carries a high tack adhesive to ensure perfect adhesion on such irregular surfaces. The VCSR100WG1 can be stuck directly on brick walls, meaning virtually any indoor or outdoor wall can become an attractive advertising space and thus a cost-effective alternative to signs, banners, posters or framed prints.

This new film can be used without laminate, but in order to achieve longer durability Hexis recommends the lamination of the vinyl with one of its cast laminates PC30G2 (gloss finish) or PC30M2 (matt finish). Hexis also provides a set of dedicated brushes and tools for surface preparation and efficient application along with a full application guide.



The product comes in rolls 1370mm wide and 45m, 10m and 5m long and is suitable for solvent and eco-solvent inkjet printers. Hexis supplies specific ICC colour profiles for most printer and Rip software combinations to achieve best printing results.

Crystalblue for brighter whites and vivid colours

The launch of VCSR100WG1 is one of several new products from Hexis UK Ltd this year.

In summer the company launched a new generation in solvent acrylic adhesive technology. Called Crystalblue, it features a solvent

acrylic adhesive technology developed to help improve the images and graphics printed when using solvent, eco-solvent and UV Curable inkjet printers.

Digital vinyl that has grey or black adhesive can look dull in appearance and the printed result may not be as vibrant as expected. Also, vinyl products with clear adhesive allow the target substrate to "show through" the printed vinyl, reducing the clarity of the printed image itself.

In the case of all white colours, when blue pigment is added, the product becomes a brighter white. The Crystalblue adhesive technology has been specifi-

cally formulated to be the most effective shade of blue to support the opacity of the vinyl film when applying on to a dark substrate. As well as helping the white vinyl to look brighter, all prints that are printed onto a Crystalblue media also appear brighter and sharper.

The permanent Crystalblue solvent acrylic adhesive technology allows the product to stick to a wider variety of surfaces, such as painted walls, foam board, acrylic, steel, composite aluminium sheet,

vehicles and glass. All Crystalblue media has an ultra white high gloss finish with a fast drying formulation.

The Crystalblue adhesive technology is available on two products, both available at 1370mm x 50m. The first is HD3801 a 100µm monomeric calendered pvc vinyl with permanent Crystalblue solvent acrylic adhesive technology on a digital lay flat liner with up to four years outdoor durability. This product is suitable for all indoor and exhibition graphics, floor graphics and short term outdoor vehicle graphics and signage. The second product is HD5701 a 75µm polymeric calendered pvc vinyl with

permanent Crystalblue solvent acrylic adhesive technology on a PE coated Digital layflat liner with up to 7 years outdoor durability. This product is suitable for all outdoor vehicle graphics and signage.



Digital wallpaper lets creativity go wild



Over the summer Hexis also announced what it says is a new generation in digitally printable wall coverings. Poli-Wall is developed especially for printing on solvent, eco-solvent and UV Curable inkjet printers.

Hexis believes Poli-Wall is unique; it is manufactured to the highest industry standard using a special paper-fleece backing with an embossed PVC-topcoat that guarantees an excellent print quality and has a unique soft touch. The product range boasts 11 different patterns or finishes and is available in white or silver.

Not only can Poli-Wall be digitally printed, it is also a suitable substrate for acrylic or dispersion paints, making it the ideal product for custom mural painting and creativity in decorating offices, exhibition stands, hotel receptions, bars, shops, restaurants, doctors' surgeries, and lots more. Poli-WALL is manufactured at 1370mm wide to help quick application over large areas.

The new products featured here are available from stock for next working day delivery. Contact Hexis via hexis.co.uk or telephone 01543 411221 to find out more or to request samples and swatches.

CREATERIAL TECHNISTS

Why Choose Crystalblue?





You must be asking yourself what is Crystalblue?

Crystalblue is a series of materials with a blue solvent acrylic adhesive. Crystalblue stays bright even on the darkest substrates. With an excellent colour brilliance & more vibrant prints than conventional grey adhesive. These products have an ultra gloss surface with an extreme fast drying formulation. Crystalblue is designed to be highly resistant to solvent aggression during the printing process and will guarantee very good printing performance on any solvent or uv curable based inkjet printer.

Monomeric HD3801

Ultra white due to Crystalblue adhesive.

White stays bright, even on the darkest substrates.

Excellent colour brilliance & more vibrant prints.

Smooth ultra gloss surface.

100µm for extra stability.

Solvent acrylic adhesive.

Suitable for all solvent & UV Curable inks.

Suitable for short term vehicle graphics.

Very competitively priced.













Polymeric HD5701

Ultra white due to Crystalblue adhesive.

White stays bright, even on the darkest substrates.

Excellent colour brilliance & more vibrant prints.

Smooth ultra gloss surface.

75µm for curved surfaces.

Solvent acrylic adhesive.

Suitable for all solvent & UV Curable inks.

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Promotions

Win a set of Atech Handi manual laminating tools

Atech and SignUpdate Magazine have joined forces to offer you an exclusive reader offer



Now that's handi!!

Be in with a chance to win one of two full sets of Handi Laminator Tools we are giving away - worth £450 each - or one of eight runner up prizes of 32" Atech Handi Laminator tools worth £100 each.

Launched at Sign and Digital Ireland and sold out in two days, the Handi Laminator range is a great addition to any sign or print shop - even those with a powered laminator. They make it easier to laminate small graphics and can reduce waste by not having to change the roll on your powered laminator, just to do an odd job.

All of the tools will laminate and mount pressure sensitive vinyl. The different sizes and types of tools make it possible to choose the right tool for each job. Sign makers and print service providers will benefit by having a variety of tools to work with:

The Handi Rivet Tool

These tools are for use on small signs that don't require the graphic to be rolled up to make them easy to handle. The slim felt edge will easily apply application tape and vinyls.

The Handi Laminator Tool

This laminator tool has a roll holder for holding rolled up material stop make them easier to handle and is primarily used for working with printed vinyl.

The Handi Cradle Tool

The Cradle tool is lightweight and is pushed without the need to pick it up and its felt edge makes it work well with application tape as well.

The Handi Small Sign Tool

Similar to the Rivet Tool but also has a cotton covered edge for laminating. Lightweight and slim making them easy to use on site and with small signs.

The Handi Cut Vinyl Tool

The Cut Vinyl tool looks very much like the laminator tool with the addition of black felt covering on both edges, making it a very versatile tool able to apply transfer tape as well as working with cut vinyl.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...



1. Print your graphic and 2. Simply push the vinyl. prepare to mount using your Handi Laminator tool of choice





3. Your bubble-free graphic is complete.

What's in the offer?

One of two full sets of Handi Laminator Tools - worth £450 each - or one of eight runner up prizes of 32" Atech Handi Laminator tools worth £100 each.

A set is worth £450 plus VAT and comprises of:

- 1 x 32" Laminator tool
- 1 x 32" Cut Vinyl tool
- 1 x 18" Rivet tool
- 1 x 26" Small Sign tool
- 1 x 32" Cradle tool

and one of 8 x 32" Handi Laminator tools worth £100 each plus VAT.

Log on to www.sign-update-magazine.co.uk/atech to register for this exclusive reader offer. Terms and conditions apply. Closing date for entries is 30th November.

Atech produce and sell a whole range of printers and finishing products for signmakers, textile printers and print service providers, have over 30 years experience in the graphics and photographic print market and are top resellers, installers and service providers for a wide range of manufacturers including Roland, Matan, Grapo, Canon, Chromira, Unibind, Seal and Fletcher Terry amongst many others.

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"If it breaks - we'll fix it..." promises Tech8 printer warranty

That's the message behind Tech8's latest on-site warranty cover for users of all common wide-format printers.

Headed up by Technical Director Tom Plunkett, a support specialist with 23 years of print industry experience under his belt, Tech8 also claim further significant benefits over and above either OEM or alternative third-party warranty offerings.

Plunkett explains: "Not only will you enjoy peace of mind and a longer machine life when you extend your warranty with Tech8, what really sets Tech8 warranty apart from the alternatives is the all-inclusive nature of the cover.

"While other service contracts often include numerous disclaimers stipulating what items are and are not covered, Tech8 have a simple message: We cover it all. If it breaks we'll fix it, regardless of how it was broken.

"In short we offer fully comprehensive and rapid-response cover with no additional costs."



Full Accidental Damage Cover

And that fully comprehensive cover includes all manner of accidents too.

So if an incorrectly loaded roll of media leads to a head crash... or if someone spills coffee into the printer's internals ... or even if the machine itself gets crashed into or knocked over... you remain fully covered.

Rapid Response Breakdown Cover

In the event of an equipment failure, Tech8 share the same priorities as the customer: namely getting the equipment working as quickly as possible.

"What's vital for the customer, who has time-sensitive jobs constantly in production, is his machine back up and running with as little delay as possible." explains Plunkett. "In the event of an equipment failure, your priority is our priority and we'll make it as simple as possible for you to get on your feet and operable straightaway."

Automated Online Call-logging System

Plunkett continues: "You can call us by phone, email us or enter your support request onto our Online Call Logging System, where you can track the progress of your support request. We'll then arrange the earliest possible site visit."

Additional Benefits

Tech8 also promises:

- Comprehensive on-site cover through a fleet of highly trained specialist engineers.
- Repairs are not restricted to office hours and, subject to availability of an engineer in your area, printers can be repaired outside normal working hours without any additional surcharges.
- To facilitate rapid repair Tech8 stock a comprehensive spares inventory for all common wide-format printers.

Users of wide-format printers are invited to visit the Tech8 website at www.tech8.eu where they can generate instant warranty quotes without any need to register or log in.

The website also includes a comprehensive FAQ section, with advice, troubleshooting guides and product documentation all freely accessible online.





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Chemical Etching for the Sign Trade

New 3M non-PVC vinyl to reduce

environmental impact

A new non-PVC film from 3M, the diversified technology company, will offer a raft of benefits to sign and graphics producers who have a stated commitment to reducing the environmental impact of the materials and manufacturing processes they use. Controltac Non-PVC Graphic Film with Comply Adhesive 3545C from 3M is a further example of the company's ability to offer alternative solutions to traditional solvent-based materials with no compromise on quality and performance standards.

The 100-micron film is ideal for medium-term indoor and outdoor graphic applications, including fleet applications contingent upon the graphic protection employed. 3M 3545C Film is designed for piezo inkjet, screen and electrostatic printing processes. When these involve UV or the latest Latex inks as opposed to solvent-based ink formulations, VOC emissions are greatly reduced to result in a graphic construction that has far less impact on the environment. Significantly, this new film incorporates Comply Adhesive technology from 3M that greatly enhances the speed at which graphics can be applied and purposely removed without any residual adhesive to accommodate tactical marketing promotions. With Comply Adhesive, special channels in the pressure-activated adhesive allow trapped air to escape to ensure a smooth, bubble-free and firmly bonded face film.

When used in accordance with 3M's stated recommendations, 3M 3545C Film can also be covered by 3M's MCS (Matched Component System) Warranty and/or the 3M Performance Guarantee. These are considered to be the most powerful and comprehensive product performance warranties currently available. The performance of the 3M 3545C Film is further enhanced when it is applied in conjunction with the compatible 3M Scotchcal Luster Overlaminate 8908 Film over laminate film.

The white opaque polyolefin film incorporating a grey pressure-activated adhesive is particularly suited to applications involving flat or slightly curved surfaces. Typically, these would



3M 3545C in application.

include regular box-shaped or gently curved vehicle profiles, general indoor and outdoor signs and graphics and vending or dispensing machine and cooler graphics. Capable of fast and easy removal by the application of heat, the film will resist the effects of mild alkalis and acids, salt and the ingress of water. Contingent upon the application, 3M 3545C Film has a durability of up to five years.

3M 3545C Film is available from primary distributors William Smith and Spandex.

3M, Controltac, Comply, MCS and Scotchcal are registered trademarks of 3M Company.

For further information, visit www.3M.co./uk./graphicsolutions or telephone Marcus Bennett on 01344 858 704.



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New high-performance digital printing materials from ADS

A division of Amari Plastics, Amari Digital Supplies (ADS) supplies a wide range of high-performance digital media from leading brands such as MACtac, Soyang, Sihl, Kernow, Ritrama and Arlon, in addition to its own-brand ADS media. The company also works in partnership with Graphic Printing Technologies (GPT) to provide integrated hardware and media solutions for its expanding customer base.

Materials are supplied, either on same-day delivery or next-day delivery from the network of 14 branches. They are available in widths of between 760 to 2,600mm and are compatible with all of the leading solvent, eco-solvent, UVC and aqueous-based printers and cover self-adhesive vinyl, papers, PVC banner-grade media, graphic films, over laminates and mounting films. All of the products are supported by a dedicated team of experienced specialists to assist in the correct specification.

ADS is a primary stockist of and distributor for the entire range of sign and graphics and digital printing materials from MACtac. These include the Imagin JT5000 and JT1000 series of self-adhesive vinyl materials that are available for aqueous-based digital printers, together with laminates and mounting films from the Imagin and Permacolor ranges. New products from MACtac that are now a key component of the Eco-Pure range (the ADS Green Products range) include the JT1428SP non-PVC matte white film for aqueous-based printers, the JT5429 non-PVC white gloss film for solvent-based printers and three PG7400 non-PVC over laminates that are available in a choice of matt, gloss and satin finishes. MACtac has also introduced a range of wall graphics materials (the WW100 for external use and the WW200 for internal use). Also new from MACtac are the two-part external floor graphics solutions StreetRap and StreetRap Protect.

Under its own brand, ADS has also introduced a range of wallpapers. This offers a choice of four variants that are textile-backed and five variants that are paper-backed as a more economical alternative. All of these products have a B1 fire rating and will be recommended by Roland for use on its printers.

Supporting these new innovations are the RiJet 100 and RiJet 75 vinyl materials (including PVC laminates with and without UV screen protection) from Ritrama. There is also a range of papers from Sihl, including TriSolv for solvent-based and UV printing and Supersorb, Maranello and Imola for acqueous-based printing. Other new additions include SoFlat (a banner-grade PVC vinyl with a grey reverse and special layflat properties) from Soyang and HydroPrint (a range of polyester films for use with UVC printers) from Kernow Coatings. Completing the range of new products is Asphalt Art (a long-life external floor graphics solution).

Further information is available at www.amaridigitalsupplies.com



Caldera launches SnapRIP+

Caldera, the award winning French software editor specialising in large format printing solutions, will be launching its new product SnapRIP+, a complete printing solution for digital imaging professionals.

SnapRIP+ is Caldera's printing software for photo professionals looking for a productive raster printing solution for their Epson, Canon and HP printers. It packs the same power and features as Caldera's RIP solutions for printing wide format jobs with eye catching colours and contrast.

It includes Layout with Compose; a feature which lets you layout multiple file elements to create a single project page or job merge, nest, rotate and combine different file formats, with manual or numeric positioning. It also includes Step & Repeat and Nest-o-Matik features for optimisng media usage.

SnapRIP+ is upgradable to our productive printing solution VisualRIP+, with a Postscript/PDF engine for producing posters, kakemonos, advertisements, POS and more. VisualRip+ is Caldera's software solution for professional large format Print and Print-to-Cut workflow and includes Tiling+, a feature enabling users to split up prints into various panels (with bleed, trim marks and grommet placement) for bigger format jobs.

Snap Riperation visit www.caldera.eu

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No sign project should now ever be too big for any size of sign company. With access to PROFILE SIGNS UK's design team a wealth of knowledge and experience can be used to help convert those enquiries into sales.

PROFILE SIGNS UK have a range of signage products which have solutions to most signage requirements. A feature of the flat dovetailed interchangeable system and the manufacturing process used is the ability to incorporate a variety of materials, which allow different graphic effects to be achieved. Likewise many varying styles can be achieved when the different components within the system are interfaced with each other.

The modular system, probably the most favoured system used by architects today, can communicate messages and room functions as well as a directory as large as you need it -there are no size restrictions. The only restriction is your imagination.

Also available is the curved system, which is equally versatile having no size restrictions, finished in a wide rage of colours supplied ready for your own graphics or screen printed.

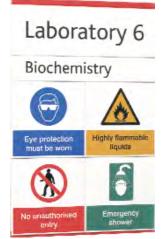
Both are available in PROFILE SIGNS widely specified BRAILLE AND TACTILE system, which fully conforms to the requirements and standards of the Disability Discrimination Act.

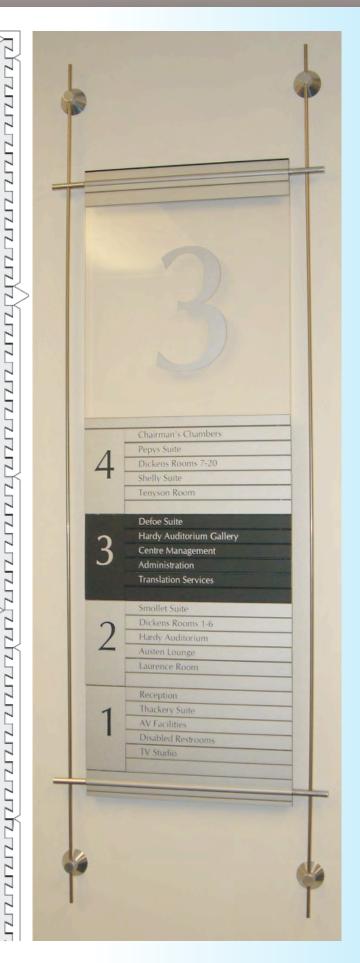
For further information: see advert on pages 18 and 19 visit web: www.profilesigns.co.uk email: profilesigns@btconnect.com

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GPT announces availability of Adobe Plug-in for Shiraz RIP

Graphic Printing Technologies Limited (GPT) has announced the immediate availability of a Shiraz Adobe Plug-In. This plug-in embeds complete handling of Adobe PDF functionality within Shiraz software products, providing consistent reliable, accurate and supported implementation of the latest Adobe specifications.

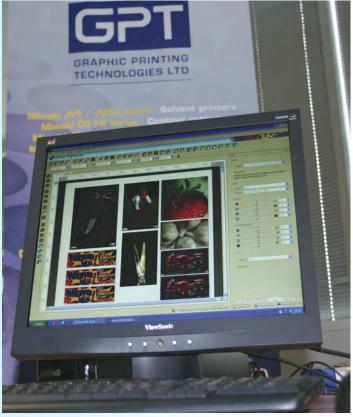
Stuart Cole, Managing Director of GPT comments, "This is a great new addition to the product, that really adds to the comprehensive functionality of what is already a market-leading RIP. Our Shiraz CoverPlus customers are already benefiting from a higher level of support and we are delighted to be able to offer them further benefit, and a significant discount on the Adobe Plug-In."

The Shiraz RIP now benefits from the same core technology that Adobe uses to build Acrobat to enable high performance Adobe processing. The plug-in extends the functionality of the RIP to full Acrobat 9 (PDF 1.7 +Ext) certification. This negates the potential requirement to flatten, manipulate or reformat the very latest PDF Adobe generated files.

The plug-in allows Shiraz users to handle PDF files of virtually any size or version and is compliant with the latest Adobe PDF specifications. It is interoperable with Adobe products and offers consistent support on all platforms.

The Shiraz Adobe PDF Plug-In is available immediately from GPT. RRP starts at just £95 up to £450 dependant on Shiraz version. GPT Shiraz CoverPlus customers enjoy a 50% discount.

For further information tel: 01753 727128 or visit www.g-p-t.co.uk



The Shiraz Adobe Plug-In allows Shiraz users to handle PDF files of virtually any size or version.



ROUTING & ENGRAVING Feature

Make the most of new technology with

the latest equipment

Investing in additional equipment such as routers and engravers in house gives a business the opportunity to develop new markets and generate additional income.

The balance of whether the possible additional income is worth the financial investment and associated risk is different for every business; but critical to any venture's success is choosing the right equipment from the start.

The latest machinery is more technically advanced than ever. Versatility of new machines is increasing, the choice of materials is growing all the time, and the possible markets for what is produced can seem endless. But it's not all roses, depending on what you buy, serious investment can be required, although leasing can help, and the competition is fierce. Manufacturers are busy researching and developing ways to get the most out of technology and have a range of tempting equipment, take a look.

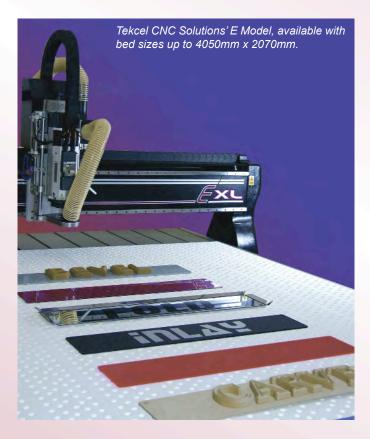
Tekcel routers are available in single tool or multi tool change configurations, have class leading ballscrew drives on every axis and now include Tekcel's own print to cut solution, developed in conjunction with CADlink. AXYZ's Intelligent Cutting System (ICS) has a high-resolution camera imaging system that captures print registration marks as well as industry-leading I-cut control software to resolve problems associated with linear and non-linear material distortions. The robustness of the Pacer HDS, closed-loop servo drives and ball screw combination, contributes to its smooth operation and fine-tolerance cutting capabilities that provide high quality edge finishes, meaning less post-routing finishing. Identify Engraving Systems has boosted its existing range by now offering Roland engraving machines.



But it's not just the router or engraver that makes the difference between success and failure; software and accessories are also crucial.

CADlink's new EngraveLab V8 program includes advances in both rotary and laser engraving workflows, additional features such as new fill routines to reduce "tool time" and is twice as fast as the previous version. ITC Tooling is about to launch a new ClearCut range, developed to give outstanding surface finishes on acrylic materials and eliminate the necessity of secondary operations and finish polishing.

New Tekcel routers stand out from the crowd



Tekcel CNC Solutions has recently launched an impressive new range of CNC routers that are designed, from the very first glance, to stand out from the crowd and look to offer sign companies something very special indeed.

For the past decade, Tekcel routers have been widely regarded as the machines that deliver the highest levels of precision, productivity and reliability to the sign and display industry in the UK and Ireland, says Tekcel. The new models build on this well earned reputation and push their exceptional performance benchmark even higher.

The new Tekcel routers are available in single tool or multi tool change configurations, capable of dealing with the huge variety of material types, including plastics, metals, ACMs and woods commonly used throughout the industry. In keeping with Tekcel's manufacturing ethos of 'only the best will do', the new Tekcel routers feature class leading ballscrew drives on every axis, complete with powerful servo motors and digital encoders that deliver 'closed loop' motion control with pinpoint accuracy. All Tekcel routers are fitted with micro switch pads to accurately sense tool lengths for precise cutting depths, essential for inlay work and folding ACM trays.

Developed in conjunction with CADlink, world leaders in software development for the sign and digital print industry, Tekcel now offers its own cut to print solution, which makes a Tekcel router an ideal cutting partner for the increasing number of flat bed digital printers used in the sign and display industry.

Other new developments include system automation to control features like the vacuum hold down bed. The unique 'hole and pocket' vacuum bed system on a Tekcel router is self skimming to provide an absolutely level surface for precise cutting. A new aluminium slat profile and manifold system delivers truly exceptional hold down suction across all areas of the bed.



The V Series from Tekcel CNC Solutions, aiming for perfect precision.

In addition to these innovations, Tekcel's popular interface with its user friendly joystick control has is now podium mounted as standard.

The new Tekcel router range also offers a range of popular bed sizes all the way up to 4m x 2m as standard. Tekcel CNC Solutions is also capable of delivering custom solutions for companies with specific requirements that fall outside its standard model range.



Tekcel's new control post now has a user friendly joystick control podium mounted as standard.

For more information, contact Tekcel CNC Solutions on 01275 342668 or go to www.tekcelcnc.com



Tekcel routers are ideal cutting partners for flat bed digital printing.



ROUTING & ENGRAVING Feature

AXYZ routers go for pole position in

cut-to-print technology

Owners of AXYZ CNC routers from AXYZ International can now maximise the potential of cut-to-print technology without the need to invest in dedicated cutting machinery. The AXYZ Intelligent Cutting System (ICS), when attached to a standard AXYZ router, will enable users to process a wide range of both digital media and thicker sign making substrates like aluminium, aluminium composite material (ACM), PVC, acrylic, plywood and medium-density fibreboard (MDF). The system's capabilities on digital media have now been radically enhanced by the addition of a new oscillating tangential knife that will allow the efficient cutting for both flexible and semi-rigid media such as vinyl, foamed sheet, corrugated plastic cardboard, rubber and leather.



The AXYZ Intelligent Cutting System enables a wide range of digital media and substrates to be processed.



AXYZ routing systems with ICS are developed to supply new areas of business.



The new AXYZ oscillating knife, designed to precisely cut a wide range of digitally printable media.

Compatible with all AXYZ CNC routers and available as an upgrade to existing machine installations, the ICS incorporates both a high-resolution camera imaging system that captures print registration marks and industry-leading I-cut control software. The automatic shape adjustment and Adobe Illustrator Plug-in registration mark capabilities inherent in the system will now comprehensively resolve problems associated with linear and non-linear material distortions where hitherto the use of standard software and print registration procedures had resulted in digitally printed signs and graphics being scrapped, with a consequent erosion of profits for the sign and graphics producer and inconvenience to their valued customers.

The ICS solution also features I-Script workflow communication

to allow connectivity with all of the most popular RIPS and printers. Significantly, the system will now enable owners of AXYZ routing systems to develop new areas of business that previously would not have been possible and without additional expenditure on new cutting machinery. An ICS demonstration video can be accessed at www.digital-cutting.com or by contacting a member of the technical team on 01902 375 600.

The ICS facility has now been further enhanced with the new AXYZ oscillating knife that has been designed to precisely cut a wide range of digitally printable media up to a thickness of 40mm. In conjunction with the ICS system, the new oscillating knife will allow all types of material used in sign making and digital printing to be effectively handled at a greatly reduced cost. Furthermore, fine control of blade oscillation and tangential motion combine to deliver precise cutting and clean cut edges, even on thicker materials, without excessive over cut or fraying.

The knife accessory can be fitted with a wide choice of blade in various lengths and attack angles. It can also be used with a creasing wheel for sample making and associated creasing and perforating applications.

For further information, visit www.axyz.co.uk or telephone 01902 375600.



Pacer HDS2 router cuts it fine on Perspex

Since its launch, the Pacer HDS2 heavy-duty router from AXYZ International has proved a brilliant addition to the production facilities at many of the UK's leading sign manufacturers. It has demonstrated a particular propensity for the fine cutting and routing of Perspex, arguably the most widely specified material used in the sign making and related industries.

Responsible for technical machine sales at AXYZ International, Liam Hodson commented: "Due to the robustness of the HDS2 and to the machine's closed-loop servo drives and ball screw combination, the router is far less prone to machine vibration and 'chatter'. The consequent smooth operation and fine-tolerance cutting capabilities therefore greatly reduce the need for any post-routing finishing requirement. The quality of the edge finish, significantly on Perspex acrylic sheet, is of an unprecedented high quality."

Because of its exceptionally robust construction, the HDS2 will also handle more efficiently materials like aluminium and aluminium composite material (ACM), brass and steel, in addition to plastic and its derivatives, wood and wood composites like MDF and laminates. The weight of the router is over double that of the previous machine in the HD series and this has resulted in a more rigid construction and a consequent superior cutting and routing capability. There is a choice of processing area (from 2,500 x 1,250 to 3,050 x 2,050mm) and a range of spindle options.

The frame of the machine is a single-piece welded steel construction that is stress-relieved and milled flat to a very fine tolerance. The steel gantry is mounted on linear bearings running on steel rails and is driven on each side by an AC servomotor and a precision ball screw for backlash-free motion. The controller has an automatic self-squaring facility that ensures the gantry is always accurately aligned to eliminate the possibility of twisting or 'crabbing'.

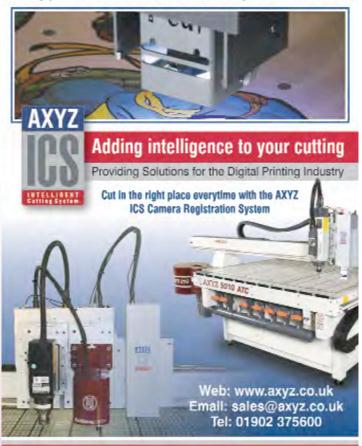
The zoned vacuum bed incorporates a high-flow brush-less exhauster that is capable of continuous operation, while independent switching and redirection provides a versatile and high-powered hold-down function. The integral cyclonic extraction system also ensures clean operation in all situations. Included in the range of optional features are a spray mister coolant system for cutting metals and alloys and a fully automatic tool change system that includes high-power and high-speed (up to 40,000rpm) spindles.

The Pacer HDS2 uses the latest XMC-E version 3 software. Full technical support for the router is provided by AXYZ International on a daily basis as part of the total package.

For further information, visit www.axyz.co.uk or Tel: 01902 375 600.



The AXYZ CNC Router with ICS is the perfect solution for cutting printed materials such as MDF, acrylic, aluminium, etc.



Albrighton Business Park, Newport Road, Albrighton, Wolverhampton. WV7 3ET

ROUTING & ENGRAVING Feature

Identify adds Roland engraving

systems to its portfolio

Identify Engraving Systems has taken on the entire range of engraving systems from Roland.

With an excellent reputation for manufacturing high quality signage equipment, Roland engraving machines are no exception, being well thought out and economically priced. Adding the Roland range to the already well established Vision range of machines means that Identify can now provide an engraving machine for every conceivable application.

In the Vision range, there are four standard engravers, 305mm x 406mm, 406mm x 609mm, 609mm x 609mm and 609mm x 1219mm. The two larger are available in router



The Roland EGX360, ideal engraver for the award and incentive industry.



Roland's EGX 600, available from Identify Engraving Systems.

format to provide ultimate flexibility by giving the option of using a standard engraving head or simply fitting a router head of choice for heavier duty work.

Roland's EGX20 and 30A are genuine desktop engravers and designed for simple tasks such as labels, tags and badges; easy to operate, they come complete with simple to use software.

"A real workhorse system" is how Identify describes Roland's EGX 350, which is being supplied with the full Vcarve Pro software, fully featured with all the functions that a professional engraver would expect, and more. Vcarve Pro as the name would suggest has the ability to take a standard engraving cutter and create some brilliantly simple V effects "with little or no pain".

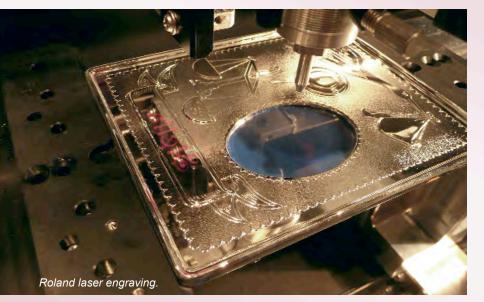
For trophy making there can be no better system than the EGX 360, says Identify. The EGX was designed from the ground up to mark or engrave virtually any conceivable item involved in the award and incentive industry. Round items up to 180mm guickly converting to a flat engraving table 305mm x 230mm means that even tricky jobs can be turned round in time to satisfy even the most demanding customer.

For a bit of extra size and power and the capacity to get jobs done fast, Identify recommends the EGX 400 and 600.

> Identify is now able to provide customers with the very best in software utilising Vision Lite and Vision Pro both of which are Engravelab based. Vectric software has also been introduced with some versions being included in the Roland systems. Using Vectric V-Carve software not only provides fully featured engraving software but it also makes functions like V-carving simple, literally adding a new dimension to the products that signmakers can offer their customers.

> In addition, Identify offers a comprehensive range of engraving materials. Identify believes it has always been and continues to be, the leading innovator in this area. New products such as Metalgraph, which simulate the real look and feel of metal, and SafeTMark, is a fire resistant laminate, means that Identify customers continually benefit from the company's ongoing research and development.

Samples, swatches and literature are readily available via www.identify.co.uk or telephone 0117 953 0800.



CADlink announces release of EngraveLab V8 for rotary and laser, at twice the speed

CADlink Technology Corporation has announced the latest release of its engraving software product line, EngraveLab Version 8. The new release includes enhancements for both rotary as well as laser engraving workflows.

Aside from a host of new features that streamline the design to output workflow, the single biggest enhancement to EngraveLab V8 is its output speed. Now twice as fast as the already efficient previous version, EngraveLab includes new fill routines that significantly decrease the amount of "tool time" it takes to produce jobs.

"We are extremely excited about the release of EngraveLab V8," says Tim Benner, EngraveLab Product Manager. "We feel that the new product will further increase our lead as the most widely used engraving software for both rotary and laser engravers worldwide."



The full list of EngraveLab V8's key features, which can be found at www.cadlink.com, includes search and replace, extended character picker, autocad SHX font support, fit to circle / square / ellipse, vectorisation wizard and 3D viewer.



ITC set to launch new ClearCut range of tooling

Following extensive research and development into new cutting tools, leading manufacturer of cutting tool solutions for the sign and aerospace industry, ITC Tooling is set to announce the launch of its new improved ClearCut range of tooling.



The ITC range of ClearCut tooling has established its position in the marketplace and has been well received at both the Sign & Digital UK Exhibition and the Print Ireland show since its launch in 2008. The new ClearCut Solid carbide two flute, square end, straight shank cutter is a centre cutting tool manufactured from micro grain carbide to extremely tight tolerances with a polished flute geometry.

Despite the huge demand the ClearCut range has noted since its launch in 2008, ITC is not a company that rests on its laurels. With this in mind, ITC has worked tirelessly to improve the Clearcut range and the result is a new ClearCut Series due for launch this autumn. Behind the scenes ITC has experimented with various flute dimensions and tool geometries at its Tamworth facility with extensive tests conducted on the company's 5-axis Matsuura machining centre.

Trials with a number of prestigious sign manufacturers have proven extremely positive with results delivering exceptional surface finishes in acrylic materials, removing the need for secondary operations and finish polishing. With such benefits there is little doubt that the new ClearCut range will emulate the success of its predecessor.

For customers interested in the current ClearCut range, the series has a polished geometry that gives an exceptional finish on Perspex and acrylic materials and in most cases eliminates the need for flame polishing components after cutting. To obtain the best results from the ClearCut series, ITC advises customers to use the range on a high powered and well maintained machine that can cut anti-clockwise. As well as remarkable results on acrylic, the range offers exceptional surface finish on Foamex and similar materials.

For further information telephone 01827 304500 or visit the website www.itc-ltd.co.uk



There's a Mimaki













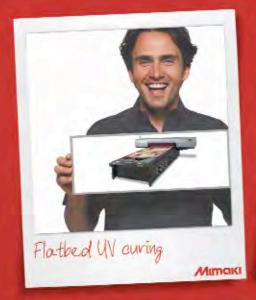
Whatever you want from wide format graphics equipment, //шпакт has something for you.

We're proud to say that our Mimaki customers are happy customers.

That's because there's something for everyone in the product range; whatever their needs, whatever their budget, and the same could apply to you...

With the broadest range of ink and printhead technologies (UV, solvent, eco solvent, aqueous and textile for starters), an unrivalled array of machine sizes, innovative cutting systems and powerful, integrated software solutions, a member of the **Mimaki** family will be able to meet your graphics production needs - whatever your budget.

made for you...













If that wasn't enough, all our **Mimakis** come with a fully inclusive warranty, backed by Hybrid's commitment to total support; from pre-purchase to after-sales backup.

Call us on 01270 501900 or simply visit us at www.YouGetMore.co.uk to find your Mimaki today.



PRODUCT Choice

Fast Signs enjoy costs savings with Triangle inks

Fast Signs in Peterborough teamed up with Josero in July this year to use Triangle™ inks and have been saving money ever since. They have converted their Mimaki JV3 from the OEM ink to the world renowned Triangle ink.

Fast Signs focus on providing top quality and excellent service on digital printing, whether it's banners, building signs, vehicle graphics, or signs for windows, walls, doors or floors.

Richard Towers, Production Manager and co-owner of Fast Signs in Peterborough said "We initially changed to Triangle inks because of the cost savings we would make, however, the print quality is fantastic. We even get slightly better colours than the OEM inks. Our customers, who include Peterborough United Football Club, Burley House, Peterborough Hospital, and various Colleges and Universities in the area, expect high quality and consistency from us, and that is exactly what they are getting."

Richard continued "The conversion to Triangle inks couldn't have been easier. We could have done it ourselves, however, Josero made a point of sending their qualified engineer to carry out the conversion. It only took one hour and we were printing again. We were really impressed. Our machine has always been reliable and is running perfectly with Triangle inks. We are now saving nearly 25% compared to the OEM ink and still have superb print quality."

Richard believes Triangle inks have given Fast Signs a competitive edge by providing them with a solution that saves them



Richard Towers, Production Manager and co-owner of Fast Signs in Peterborough and Loic Delor, Managing Director of Josero.

money without losing anything on quality and reliability.

Loic Delor, Managing Director of Josero said, "Our partnership with Fast Signs is excellent. We want to provide customers with a high quality alternative to OEM inks, which saves them money and offers them the reassurance and reliability they need. We believe Triangle inks achieve this. Josero are continuing to make huge inroads into the UK digital ink market with new customers coming on board every day."

Triangle inks continue to lead the way with new, advanced inks

to match virtually every OEM printer and print head type; available in bulk or cartridges. With an unsurpassed Global Dealer Network offering full technical training and local technical support to all customers, Triangle redefines "value added." The combination of experience and complete solutions with Triangle provide excellent opportunities for those printing companies looking to reduce production costs as well as improve their overall print quality.

Josero was formed in 2005 and is the sole distributor of Triangle inks in the UK and Ireland. It comprises of a team of highly skilled inkjet specialists who have many years of experience and knowledge of the digital ink market. Josero also supply a range of spare parts, print heads and machines via their dealer network. Technical support and stock are managed from Josero's Head Office in Cambridge.

For further information visit the Triangle website at www.triangleinx.co.uk or telephone +44 (0) 1223 870 260.



Fast Signs premises in Peterborough.



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PRODUCT Choice

Signmaker praises Sagetech's Koolkut

panel saw

Established over 20 years ago, Hampshire-based company Letters and Logos provides signage for a wide range of customers across the UK, from large public sector bodies such as NHS trusts, to small, independent local businesses. Growth in the company's customer base, driven by owners and directors Peter and Romy Halliwell, brought the challenges of cutting sheet materials to a sharp focus a couple of years ago - challenges that were solved by a Koolkut KK116 from Sagetech Industries.

In the late eighties and early nineties, the majority of the company's work was on Foamex with cut vinyl, and later using printed graphics. The Foamex was cut by hand, with a knife. Finding the combination of printed graphics and Foamex not ideal, Letters and Logos increasingly moved to aluminium composite materials such as Dibond, cutting these with a foam board cutter. However, cutting accuracy proved to be a problem with this approach.

"More recently we tried using a table saw and a hand-held circular saw," Peter observed. "Neither was ideal, the table saw

requiring a very large amount of operating space, and the hand held saw being unwieldy and inaccurate. We realised the time had come to look at vertical panel saws."

It was at this point that he came across an advertisement, in the sign press, from Hampshire-based Sagetech Industries. The advertisement was promoting the company's Koolkut range of space saving, economically-priced vertical panel saws.

"The ad caught my eye, as the saws appeared to be robust, but priced at a level that made sense for us," Peter said. "We researched the machines more thoroughly on the Sagetech website (www.sagetech.co.uk) and arranged to see one in action. We were impressed." Letters and Logos ordered a Koolkut KK116 - the unit's 3100mm x 1600mm sheet capacity makes it ideal for the 10' x 5' sheets common in sign making.

The KK116 is one of the Series '1' Koolkuts, intended for light to medium industrial use. They use a standard 13 amp mains supply, and can cut simple and compound angles, as well as bevels, to the full width and length of the sheet. Series '2' Koolkuts - tough, 'no frills' workhorses, feature powerful three phase, 5.5hp sawheads, and are ideal for medium to heavy use. The Series '3' units are heavy duty saws with transport rollers for ease of sheet handling, plunge capability and contra-rotating scoring blades for ultra-clean cutting of melamine and other faced materials.

Along with the Zapkut ZK8 portable panel saw system from Zapkut Limited, Sagetech's sister company, this represents one of



Peter Halliwell, Director of Letters and Logos and Scott Goulding.

the most comprehensive ranges of panel saws available on the world market today.

Installed in January 2008, Letters and Logos' KK116 immediately became a key component in the business. Cutting Dibond, Foamex, plywood and acrylics, the saw has made a significant difference for the company. "Because we no longer need to buy in sheet materials cut to size, we can now achieve shorter lead times on customer orders, and we've also significantly cut our costs," Peter explained. "It's also excellent with large sheets in a relatively small workshop - this was a serious problem with both the table saw and the hand-held."

The cutting process itself is much improved, too, as Peter noted: "With a hand held saw, you have to move sheets around during the cut, as well as marking up at least two points on the sheet for each cut. With a table saw, you need two or three people to feed a large sheet through. The Koolkut is a revelation - set the dimensions, load the sheet onto the saw and cut. It's quick, accurate and a genuine one man job."

Summing up, Peter commented, "The Koolkut is an extremely solid piece of equipment, but it's compact enough to fit in a small workshop. The price represents excellent value for money, and I'd certainly be happy to recommend it to other signmakers."

For more information on Sagetech's Koolkut range of vertical panel saws, please visit the company's website, www.sagetech.co.uk or call 0118 970 1950.







Choice

Midlands design and print company put new HP Scitex FB950 through its paces

It's not very often that a wide format, flatbed printer can boast that its first job was for a Peep-show now is it? Although this is exactly the claim to fame by the newly installed HP Scitex FB950 for design and marketing agency R J Design Associates (RJDA) when they used it to print the latest promotional window graphic for footwear giants Schuh.

Purchased from large format specialist reseller City & West End Solutions, installation went ahead in July and it has not been out of production since. The recent acquisition proves to strengthen RJDA's position as a leading provider of large format print solutions in the East Midlands and also offers the ability to lower the

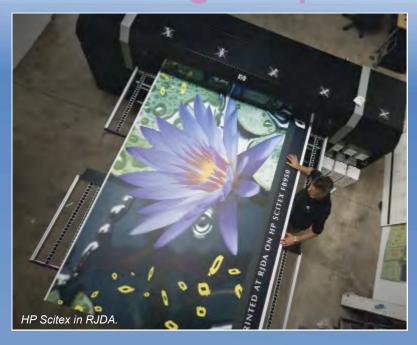
environmental impact of their own in-house printing.

The window graphic for the shoe retail giant Schuh was the first to be printed. The 'Peep-Schuh' refit was for the flagship Liverpool store and RJ Design were able to print and apply die-cut self-cling window vinyls in just two days, complete with Amsterdam style peep-holes. The new graphics succeeded the 15x2.5m board style hoardings that were printed directly onto substrate, also on the HP Scitex.

Since then similar innovative POS campaigns for the Livingston based footwear retailer have seen the production of a die cut, freestanding
Adam-Ant and 1m square Post-It notes for the Dublin store.

The HP Scitex FB950 is capable of printing flatbed, sheetfed

and rollfed at up to 80 m2/hr in fast mode. It utilises six colour



UV-curable inks (C, M, Y, K, Lc, Lm) and consistent print results are achieved with 12 printheads with variable sized drops printing up to 1200 x 600 optimised dpi that are continually

> spectrophotometer. It can print directly on to a wide variety of rigid media as well as more traditional signage and graphic applications.

> Walker explains, "The HP Scitex has not only given us the opportunity to up sell to our existing clients, but to diversify our services into new markets."

> RJDA Production Manager, Julian Oldham-Kitchener says, "We have found that the Scitex actually does about three times the amount of work of other printers, which need a fair amount of maintenance to keep running consistently. The HP Scitex however, prints a 50m roll at 20m² per hour – no stopping - brilliant.

> Like many new installations and first runs RJDA were not without teething problems but are delighted by the response of their supplier City & West End Solutions and

> distributor ArtSystems.
>
> Walker concludes, "Our investment in the HP Scitex FB950 has meant we can significantly reduce the fulfilment time on jobs and drive down the cost of wide format signage and display graphics."

For further information contact RJ Design Associates on 0115 944 5428 or visit www.rj-da.co.uk





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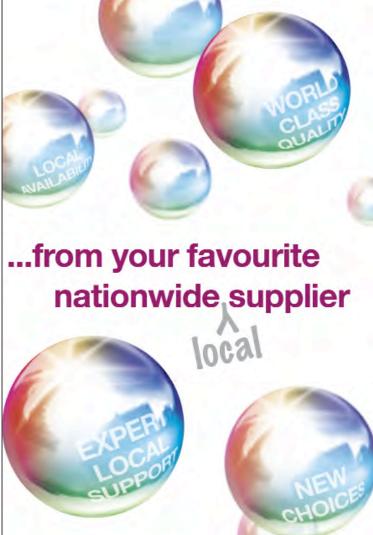
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PRODUCT Choice

Prismex panels from William Smith create

decorative lighting feature

Prismex panels supplied by William Smith regularly feature in installations created by The Light Lab, specialists in decorative architectural lighting features for a range of industries worldwide.



White glass illuminated wall - lift interior.



White illuminated floor.

"Prismex meets our needs because it is a low-weight versatile product for creating slim lighting features, and has properties such as being able to be curved which are useful to us," explains Design Director, Marcus Cave. "It is also especially good for colour rendition when using red or white LEDs as opposed to glass, which even if low-iron, has a tint of green. The light transmittance is very good as the light travels further and is brighter than if using a glass product. Often we incorporate it into designs that have a glass front, which the Prismex back-lights."

The type of projects for which The Light Lab uses Prismex vary from retail and leisure to commercial or residential. Prismex has been used in applications such as lit wall features, lifts, reception desks, and floor tiles.



Colour changing wall panels.

Marcus continues, "We order Prismex on a regular basis in varying measurements to use within our own bespoke lighting designs. We do not use the full light box service that William Smith offers because we are lighting designers ourselves. Therefore, we just need the raw product."

Prismex acrylic panels feature a patented dot matrix pattern on the surface of the material and a controlled angle of reflection. Maximum light span is 1500mm and the maximum size that can be printed is 3m x 1500mm with double light source along the longer edges. Prismex is available in a range of thicknesses from 5mm up to 20mm. William Smith's experienced staff will assist in selecting the appropriate material and pattern to suit your requirements.

Panels can be produced to any required size, with an average turnaround of five working days. William Smith also has a limited facility to cut to shape (contact William Smith to request more information on this service).

Luminedge edge-lit signs use Prismex and aperture tubes, which William Smith claims makes them significantly brighter than other comparable systems and ensure even light distribution across the whole surface of the sign. Units are available from William Smith in six designs including poster boxes and frame signs with hinged and lockable doors.

For further information visit the website www.williamsmith.co.uk



Andesign ups its speed and quality with **EFI Vutek GS3200 investment**

One of the first EFI VUTEk GS3200 wide-format UV-curable ink-jet printers has now been installed in the UK with Sutton Coldfield based Andesign opting to purchase this versatile flat-bed and roll-fed machine. After making its debut at Fespa Digital in Amsterdam earlier this year, the GS product line enhances the speed and quality already developed in the enormously successful QS series and brings faster, high standards of output to the market.

The choice of manufacturer was never in question, states Andesign's Managing Director, Andy Williams. His company previously invested in a six-colour EFI Vutek PressVu 200-600 in 2004 and never had cause to question its quality or reliability. However, the demand for higher speeds at finer resolutions led him to upgrade his printer to a newer model and the eight-colour plus white GS3200 suits his purposes perfectly. Supplied and installed by specialist distributor, CMYUK Digital, the installation took place in mid-October and was up and running immediately.

This investment is playing a key role in the expansion plans for Andesign, and Andy comments: "We've worked with Robin East of CMYUK Digital before and, because we have a strong relationship with the company, I was happy to buy the EFI Vutek GS3200 on the strength of the quality of the samples I was shown. We didn't even view the machine before coming to a decision and nor did we feel the need to look at competitive alternatives."

Situated in the heart of the Midlands, Andesign designs and produces a wide range of displays ranging from retail and point-of-sale, portable solutions and exhibition graphics, interior and exterior applications including multi-sheet posters, floor graphics and banners, plus vehicle liveries and wraps. Such has been the success of the business that the need for a faster and more versatile wide-format printer became an essential addition to the company's armoury of equipment.

In addition to working with standard sign-making display materials, both in sheet form and off the roll, Andesign has also experimented with more unusual substrates to determine their suitability for digital printing and currently incorporates products such as leatherette into specialist applications. This type of media is proving to be ideal for printing using UV-curable ink and is well matched to the versatility of the EFI Vutek GS3200.





Because of the company's skills with cardboard engineering, intricate and complex point-of-sale and display products have become one of Andesign's specialities. The company works with prototypes of original concepts and designs which are then die-cut and produced in longer run lengths using offset-litho. However, the speed and quality of the new ink-jet printer means that, for

some shorter runs, clients are opting to have the entire job output digitally; this is particularly beneficial when variations in graphics and text are required between print batches.

The eight-colour EFI Vutek GS3200 has a maximum print width of 3.2 m on both flat sheets and rolls, with fast and easy change-over from one type of material to the other. Andesign opted for the additional white because of the extra versatility it provides, and Andy is particularly impressed with the machine's ability to print two boards or rolls side-by-side in the same job.

Andy concludes: "We're confident that this investment will pave the way to winning further lucrative national and local contracts and draw attention to us. We really do offer a difference and the EFI Vutek GS3200 will allow us to focus on the requirements of large print projects as well as responding to the needs of clients with extreme deadlines without any negative impact on quality."

For further information contact Andesign UK Ltd, telephone 0121 354 2272, e-mail andy@andesignuk.co.uk or CMYUK Digital, e-mail robin.east@cmyuk.net or telephone 0118 989 2829.

PRODUCT Choice

Next Generation Signs installs 'next generation' Tekcel router



One of the country's leading sign companies, Next Generation Signs, has installed the very latest in CNC routing technology from Tekcel CNC Solutions to complement its recent investment in a state of the art flatbed UV inkjet printer from Vutek.

Based in Liverpool and operating from 10,000 sq. ft. of purpose built, fully equipped premises, Next Generation Signs supply businesses, both trade and commercial, across the entire UK, with a huge range of high quality sign and display products. With experience of designing, manufacturing and installing signs and displays over the past 20 years to call upon, the company prides itself on offering its customers the widest choice of premium products and services at extremely competitive prices. According to Next Generation Signs' owners, Glen Titherington and Karl Martindale, to achieve the very high standards they set for their company requires a willingness to invest wisely in the right staff and the latest sign manufacturing technology.

Karl Martindale, Next Generation Signs comments: "Our customers are constantly looking for bigger, better or more affordable ways of getting their message across. We see it as our job to provide innovative solutions to these problems. Employing advanced production technology like the Tekcel CNC router and the Vutek UV inkjet printer enables us to do just that."

No strangers to the world of CNC routers, having had one in the business for the past two decades, Glen and Karl knew what to look for in a new machine and found it in the recently launched EXR model from Tekcel CNC Solutions. Knowing how important the drive technology of a router is to the overall accuracy of the system, particularly in a large format bed size exceeding 3m x 2m, they were impressed to learn that all Tekcel routers feature class leading, ballscrew servo drive systems on every axis - similar to the drive technology used to machine parts for aircraft where pinpoint accuracy and repeatability is critical. The EXR also features a unique, fully automated, multi tool change system that combines a choice of up to 17 tools with a powerful 7.5Kw spindle motor. Equally impressive is the incredible hold down force delivered by the Tekcel vacuum bed - another essential component for fast and efficient routing.

Julian Sage, Tekcel CNC Solutions states: "The attributes that so impressed Next Generation Signs, along with additional options and features that include integrated system automation tool and print registration systems, make the Tekcel EXR model the most productive CNC router in the sign industry today."

With such a potent mix of production technology and experience to offer, the services of Next Generation Signs are in high demand, however, the company will warmly welcome any new enquires and is happy to offer free advice on the latest sign formats and materials currently available.

For further information on Next Generation Signs Tel: 05600 757458 or for further product information from Tekcel CNC Solutions Tel: 0844 800 5045.





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PRODUCT Choice

VgL orders Inca onset S20 flatbed digital printer

Reading-based digital printer VgL has ordered an Inca Onset S20 flatbed digital printer from Fujifilm Sericol making this the latest purchase in the company's continuous cycle of investment.

"The Inca Onset S20 will change the landscape of what we do," says VgL managing director Michael Ayerst. "It will add considerable capacity and allow us not only to grow our small and medium run volume display business, but also expand into and offer a competitive service on longer runs."

VgL already has an extensive plant list that includes the UK's first Inca Eagle in its two Reading factories, one of which houses digital printing and the other screen printing employing 75 staff between them. The company produces a diverse range of work from labels to building wraps, wide format photographic output and high quality textile and wallpaper printing.

The VgL Inca Onset S20 uses Fujifilm Sericol's 6-colour Ultratone Uvijet inks with orange and violet to produce a wide colour gamut. "Adding Ultratone is really important to us," says Ayerst. "We work a lot with fashion retailers and a close colour match is critical as the point of sale must match the garment. With Ultratone it is easy to get a much closer match than before." Another feature that is expected to prove popular with customers is the Inca Onset S20's ability to produce a variety of gloss finishes, from satin through to high gloss. This is achieved by the curing process rather than the addition of a separate varnish.

The Inca Onset S20 features printheads

on a full print width colour bar producing high-quality resolution of 600-1,000 dpi. It can handle substrates up to 50mm thick with a maximum image area of 3.14m x 1.6m, at speeds up to 250sqm/hr, or 50 full bed sheets per hour. The combination of Inca Digital's engineering expertise plus innovative ink formulation means that the Inca Onset S20 is an excellent fit for companies operating 24/7.

VgL's recent investment in a Kongsberg digital cutting table puts support in place to handle the increase in output. "Our customers know that they can throw us almost any task and it is no problem," says Ayerst. "Whether it is wrapping a building, wrapping a van or a big retail point of sale, we have an awful lot of flexibility and technical expertise and equipment to cope with it."

The company has invested heavily in keeping its kit up to date and believes its customers keep coming back because they are confident of the quality, speed and reliable service they will receive.

"We are probably better at making sure that we have the right equipment base than we are at marketing ourselves," says Ayerst. "Our customers already know that we can fulfil their requirements to the standard that they want and the Inca Onset S20 will give them even more confidence, with its increased output and quality."

For further information visit www.incadigital.com



Vista System's illuminated curved menu system is an eye catching display

Vista System International recently supplied a flexible illuminated curved menu system to Big Advert Signs for installation at Anima - a pizza & pasta take away restaurant located in Edinburgh, Scotland.

This project demonstrates the flexibility and elegance of Modular Curved Frame Technology (MCFT). The client required a sign solution including custom size, shape and the flexibility to easily update. Utilising MCFT, the sign professionals at Vista were able to provide an elegant solution swiftly.

MCFT is a new concept for the sign industry that was developed by sign professionals with the goal of filling the gap between fabricated sign and modular sign systems. MCFT provides the best of both worlds by offering the advantages of a modern modular system with the ability to provide a highly customisable solution that meets the requirements of each signage project. MCFT allows the sign professional to participate in the design and development of new ideas and products.

For further information visit www.vistasystem.co.uk



The use of Vista's flexible illuminated curved menu system creates a bright and enticing display of food options.





PRODUCT Choice

Xanita sustainable boards chosen for New York perfume exhibit



Xanita's X-Board was used to produce a striking display at the launch of Mandy Aftel's Lumiere perfume.

As the trend towards more sustainable living continues, even companies in the cosmetic industry seem to be developing a greener viewpoint on being beautiful. Living Perfume, The Natural Alchemy of Mandy Aftel, is a perfumery dedicated to the sense of smell, aromatics and

the art of natural perfume. When the time came to introduce her latest perfume, Lumière, Mandy opted for an exhibition that would reflect her ideology and uphold her reputation as a sustainable perfumer.

Xanita's X-Board was selected to create an arresting visual fest for the launch that was held at the historical Henri Bendel on 5th Avenue, in New York. The concept of the campaign incorporated a uniquely designed exhibit with, most importantly, a green footprint.

Sculptural forms made from silhouetted layers of X-Board created elements of nature-trees, stone formations and a forest path were all part of the fantasy forest. Xanita's focus is on producing recyclable and repulpable boards, which are made primarily from post-consumer paper waste and sugar cane bagasse. X-Board contains no formaldehyde, toxins or wax. After the event, most of the fixtures remained in their current space, converting into Bendel bookstore fixtures, or were repulped, thereby following the cradle-to-cradle sustainability principle.

This approach to design, including the use VOC-free boards, has caught the eye of sustainability-focussed designers, specifiers and architects commissioned with "greening up" their clients' retail and building environments.

For more information, visit www.xanita.com



COMPANY News

Multitechnic invest for efficiency

Chemical etching specialists Multitechnic Ltd have taken delivery of two custom built etching machines to further improve their efficiency. The installation has also involved a complete refit with the etching area stripped right back to bare walls and even a new concrete floor with improved drainage systems.

Multitechnic will now have five machines operating, all dedicated to optimise the requirements for different materials and methods of etching so that a wide mix of jobs can be processed at all times. This will improve turnaround times even further as there will always be a machine ready for any job that is required.

Managing Director, Colin Edge says, efficiency is key to improved performance. "Customers will no longer tolerate delivery times measured in weeks, quick response is everything. A simple job of just a few signs should be in and out in a couple of days, our customers have better things to do than chase suppliers for deliveries."

The machines have been built by Northampton based Cirgraphics following the successful long term testing of a prototype. Cirgraphics have previously supplied equipment to Multitechnic and were chosen for their high quality and no nonsense approach to equipment design and manufacture. They are based upon one of the oldest types of etching machine, but also one of the best for very fine detail.



"People are more aware of quality of graphics these days, and if you present them with a sign where their logo is just a blurred splodge they will not be very impressed."



As Colin explains, fine detail is everything in the world of chemical etching. "Basic signs can be churned out on crude machines, but add a small and complex logo or a photograph to the design and you need the right processes to get the right result. When showing examples of our work to new customers we get the same comments every time, they are amazed at the clarity of detail. People are more aware of quality of graphics these days, and if you present them with a sign where their logo is just a blurred splodge they will not be very impressed."

The choice of such simple machines was based on years of experience encompassing every type of etching machine. "The technology to create the image on the metal is the clever part, for the actual etching you just need to get the sign in and out of the machine as quickly and cleanly as possible, something you simply cannot do on most etching machines as they have been designed to suit making printed circuit boards, not signs," says Colin.

The refit of the etching area was carefully timed to minimise disruption and to coincide with a traditionally quiet time of the year at the beginning of the school summer holidays. The sign industry however, has a sense of humour and on the very day that the builders moved in, a customer landed a whole hotel's worth of signs in the inbox. Despite being reduced to one etching machine in a storage shed, the job was completed ahead of schedule, and not a single job was delayed.

For further information contact Multitechnic on tel: 01670 512090 or visit the website www.multitechnic.co.uk





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PROJECT News

Putting the shine on new fitness gym

This striking new signage features on the new Winners 2000 gym that opened on Newton Abbot Racecourse in Devon during October.

Jason Edwards of 5StarSigns created the letters at his workshop in Torquay for a regular trade customer. With more than 20 years experience making signs and working for some of the leading European sign manufacturers, Jason set up on his own a couple of years ago. He's now built up a nice little business, using his expert skills to specialise in hand built letters and logos in a range of materials, along with what he describes as "tricky jobs".

"When I got the brief I knew it would be bit of challenge because of the length of time since I'd done this exact work, last time was EuroDisney some 20 years ago; but I also knew I could do a very good job and was looking forward to it," says Jason.



The new Signage, overlooking Newton Abbot Racecourse.

"These letters are special because they were created by hand, using a bandsaw. I made a template for each letter, calculated the centre which would be the letter's apex; then I formed and shaped each letter and returns by hand."

The front facing bevels and side returns were then mirror polished. The finished letters are 750mm high and 80mm deep (120mm including apex). They are located close to the building's roof and face the M5 motorway, up-lighting enhancing the chiselled bevels at night.

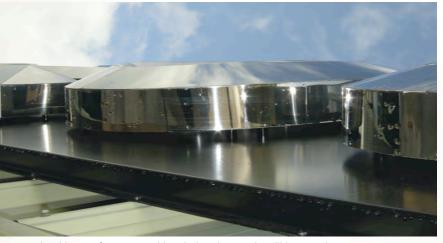
In addition to hand built letters, logos and other bespoke projects, Jason supplies general signs and offers an in-house design service. Despite the tough economic times, work continues to flow steadily.

"I've just finished 130 letters for Spa and a mix of general sign work and one off projects are coming in on a regular basis, so I'm kept busy and haven't suffered from the recession yet," says Jason.

Examples of Jason's work can be seen by going to YouTube at www.youtube.com and entering 5StarSigns in the search bar; Jason can be contacted via www.5starsigns.co.uk or telephone 01803 296836.



The new Winners 2000 gym opened in October.



Looking up from ground level, the signage is still impressive.



METAMARK The Materials Company



METAMARK



The Materials Manufacturer

Metamark manufactures materials. Materials for signing, Materials for digital printing, Materials for speciality applications and more. Metamark makes it and nobody makes it better.

METAMARK



The Materials Supplier

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METAMARK



The Materials Company

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News

Icon appointed official signage partner for Leaders in Football international conference

Icon has been appointed the Official Signage Partner for the forthcoming international business event, Leaders in Football. The event, which brings together the most influential organisations and individuals from world football, provides a forum for them to discuss the future direction of the game both on and off the pitch.

With Icon having delivered the signage and branding programme for the FIFA Confederations Cup South Africa in June, this is the perfect opportunity for the internationally renowned company to showcase some of its recent work. This has included a three year contract with UEFA to deliver the event and sponsor branding rights for the UEFA Under 21 Championships 2007 and 2009, Euro 2008, and the Women's Euro 2009. Looking forward, Icon Middle East will also be designing and installing branding, wayfinding and signage solutions for the forthcoming FIFA Club World Cub in Abu Dhabi in December as well as the Qatar Stars League, starting in September. Icon will also be very active in South Africa around next year's World Cup matches.

Andrew Hodson, sales marketing director for Icon, explained more about the company's work. "Icon is delighted to be a part of Leaders in Football, which presents us with the ideal platform to promote our market-leading global capabilities in major event and venue signage and branding, as well as our latest venture into international

event production."



business event. Leaders in Football.

Leaders in Football is being hosted by Chelsea FC and delegates to the event will have the opportunity to see examples of Icon's wayfinding and branding work all around them at the stadium. Similarly innovative signage solutions have also been installed at Lords, The Oval and Edgbaston as cricket starts to realise the true commercial value of its game, and Icon's expertise is now in demand as far afield as the Ukraine, where Icon Germany has provided consultancy to FC Shakhtar Donetsk's new Donbass Arena.

Organisations wanting to know more about Icon's signage solutions along with its capabilities in media launches, pr events, roadshows and special projects should visit the company on Stand No 8 at Leaders in Football.

More information about Icon and its range of products and services can be obtained by visiting the website, www.icondisplay.co.uk or tel: +44 20 8302 4921.



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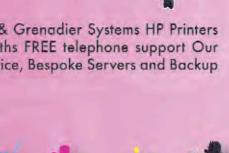
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PROJECT News

Lotto's bubbles burst onto the street

Signwaves have announced the rollout of brand new pavement signs and a new wall sign for The National Lottery, as part of operator Camelot's £16.5 million investment programme to refresh its permanent point-of-sale.

A total of 6,000 Bubble pavement signs, 5,500 Ecoflex pavement signs and 15,000 wall signs are being distributed to National Lottery retailers throughout the UK.

Signwaves, a supplier of signage to Camelot since 1996, was successful in being chosen to design and manage production of the signs earlier in 2009.

Signwaves' ideas appealed to Camelot on a number of levels: common components between both signs (saving on tooling costs), extending the branded globe and eye-catching colours of the recently introduced Playstations onto the high street, and the high degree of aesthetic and pedestrian-friendly detailing.

The Bubble pavement sign, which replaces the awardwinning Bobby pavement sign, also designed by Signwaves, is





unusual in its ability to attract attention and create interest through shape, movement and colour. Its non-symmetrical shape and design, a derivative from thought bubbles, mirrors the design of the recently introduced, bubble-shaped Playstations, also being rolled out to National Lottery retailers.

Rotating on a single central axis and using wind energy to create movement, the Bubble moves around in the wind but always returns to its original position. Its soft circular styling and smooth, round edges combined with a sturdy weighted base ensure high pedestrian safety and remarkable stability in bad weather, having been tested in strong winds.

As well as being eye-catching and functional, the signs are also very environmentally friendly. Eco-design principles look at the full product life cycle and ensure that all materials used are fully recyclable and are easy to separate for end of life recycling, in this case through the use of nut-and-bolt and clip-together assemblies.

The Bubble pavement sign base separates into two halves to enable compact packaging and is made with 100% recycled PVC. This project alone has diverted 45 tonnes of PVC from landfill, and the bases remain fully recyclable at end of life. The Ecoflex pavement sign consists simply of a fully recyclable aluminium panel and 100% recycled PVC base with a single nylon fixing. The wall sign is also packed to optimise shipping, storage and onward distribution costs.

All three signs have been designed for greatest possible ease and speed of installation, the Bubble and Ecoflex pavement signs having a quick and easy no tools assembly method, while the wall sign has been made to simply slot-fit onto its robust steel mounting arm.

Duncan Malyon, Sales Director at Camelot, commented: "Our new external signs are an integral part of a significant investment to provide an even better service to players and retailers and to deliver the next stage of National Lottery sales growth and so increase returns to the Good Causes. Our thanks go to the Signwaves team, who have developed exceptional signage solutions to meet our exacting brand and operational needs, delivered on time and to budget."

David John, Creative Director of Signwaves, commented: "We are delighted to be working with Camelot again to deliver such an important part of their point-of-sale refreshment programme. Building on the success of the Bobby pavement sign, our aim has been to create products which not only look great but offer real benefit to The National Lottery brand, the retailer and the environment."

David continues: "The extensive research, development and testing process we have undertaken, as with all our products, ensures that these signs will work well now and long into the future – the high quality of materials, components and assembly providing a long and maintenance free life."

For further information visit www.signwavesgroup.com

SCOTLAND Signmakers

Insight Sign Services – trade only supplier and bespoke specialist

Insight Sign Services is a trade only supplier, providing a range of trough lighting, back-lit signs, stainless steel letters, LEDs, poster cases, wayfinding, and post and panel signage, primarily to sign makers and electrical companies.

Research and development, along with investment in new plant and machinery, has enabled Insight to be successful both in introducing brand new products and developing existing lines.

Richard Rinn, who set up Insight more than 20 years ago, says: "We spend a lot research and development time to design products that actually perform as they should. We also looked hard at how designers for large blue-chip retailers have reverted to bespoke signs rather than just using standard extrusions, materials and digital printing. Consequently, bespoke products is an area we specialise in, it's hard work but rewarding when we see what we achieve."

Research and development at Insight has resulted in some of its most popular ranges, such as Highlight (trough lighting) Speedflex (signcase system), Lumirescent (LED lighting) and Wayfinder (post and panel signs).



Bespoke routing by Insight Sign Services.





Stainless steel built-up letters are increasingly popular with Insight customers.



Recent investment at the company's Glasgow site includes a turbo bend and CNC folding system that doesn't just bend aluminium but can shape and fold sheets up to three metres long. The increased number of profile shapes that can now be created which could previously only be extruded means customers avoid tooling charges and benefit from reduced turnaround times.

As well as being used in the production of the company's standard signage, the new equipment is used extensively in the manufacture of bespoke signage, an area where demand has doubled over the last two years.

Richard says: "We're finding that no matter how many new and innovative extrusions we offer, designers working for the major retailers increasingly look for a non-standard product. We fulfil their expectations by utilising our standard extrusion range along with our excellent in-house manufacturing skills and equipment."

A relatively new line that is also proving popular with customers is Insight's fabricated stainless steel letters. The company manufactures high quality built-up stainless steel letters to any style, illuminated or non-illuminated, and in various colours and grains. Only premium grade stainless is used and faces are cut by water jet, meaning edges are left polished to match the face of the material.

Despite the current recession Richard is optimistic about the future.

"Top quality, availability, competitive prices, and most of all customer service, are our strong points. By keeping small, looking after existing clients, and continuing to bring out new and improved products, we will ride out the current economic climate," he says.

"Many sign companies leave ordering to the last minute, quite often because they're understaffed, and we do our utmost to help. I like the attitude of sign makers, hard working, and not frightened to go for it; frequently under financed, and perhaps not treated well by many large retail companies, but as a whole I think they're very innovative and certainly not in it for the money."

SCOTLAND Signmakers

Merson Signs is flying high

Merson Signs has been involved in the design, manufacture and installation of signage since 1938 and is different to any other sign manufacturer in Scotland.

Not only is Merson Signs the largest signage contractor north of the border by a considerable margin, it is a truly national business, operating from sites just outside London and Glasgow and having an installation base in the Midlands. The company is a full service sign contractor; core areas of operation including concept design, wayfinding consultancy, project management, manufacturing, installation and dedicated ongoing support for alterations and additions.

The key account list includes BAA, Tesco, TK Maxx, M&S, Lloyds Banking Group, Santander, Volvo, RBS, Arnold Clark, Southeastern Rail and Bovis Lend Lease. Most have been with the company for a many years and, in each case, Merson succeeds in growing the scope and volume of works. There are ambitious growth plans for the future that can only be achieved through unrivalled service and project delivery to all clients, strengths that have led to Merson's success to date.

Much of Merson Signs' consistent growth in recent years is due to the performance of its recently created new business divisions; Merson i-level retail, Merson Sign Management and Merson Sign Design.

Merson i-level retail is a recently acquired business specialising in the installation of point of sale display equipment managed using state of the art software systems. Its key client roster includes Sky, Nissan, Sainsbury's, Gap and Levi Strauss.

Merson Sign Management provides a full facilities management service for signs, specialising in the fast, cost-effective turn-round of sign alterations, repairs and additions. Many of Merson Signs' core clients utilise the services of Merson Sign Management to keep their signage assets in tip-top condition.

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Merson Sign Design specialises in developing other peoples' signage concepts into production-ready proposals, developing signage proposals from scratch and providing award-winning wayfinding consultancy.

The division has worked on a number of high profile projects including most recently Abu Dhabi Midfield Terminal Complex, which was won in a tender against stiff global competition.



McGregor's Signs – a Ross McAuld family business



McGregor's Signs manufactures and fits a full complement of services, including shop fascias.



Vehicle livery by McGregor's Signs.

McGregor's Signs Limited was established by Robert McGregor in 1978 and incorporated in June 1983.

In May 1984 Robert Ross and Maureen Auld purchased the business, and jointly operated it very successfully for more than 22 years as Managing Director and Director/Company Secretary respectively.

In June 2006 the present owner Fraser Ross Auld purchased the business from his parents, Maureen Auld continuing to act as Company Secretary.

The company, now in its thirty-first year of business, is located close to the Edinburgh City Bypass within a small industrial estate on the Edinburgh Road on the outskirts of Dalkeith. The business is operated from a substantial three storey industrial unit, with offices/showroom, workshops, storage facilities together with parking facilities.

McGregor's Signs currently has a workforce of six. The team uses some of the most progressive technology around to manufacture, supply and fit a full range of services including shop fascia signage, post and panel signage, standard safety signs, vehicle design and lettering, window graphics, built up/flat cut letters, led illumination, silk screen printing, full digital printing, banners, and illuminated signage, to blue chip companies.

In essence, McGregor's services encompasses the total process from choosing what is best for its customers through materials, design, manufacturing and installation.

The company is continually sourcing new materials and technology, coupled with considering innovative ideas in an effort to benefit and take the business forward.

SCOTLAND Signmakers

From farming in rural Scotland to specialist etching

Gordon and Marjory Norrie set Sign Industries in 1989 as a business called One Off, but its continued success is very far from a one off.

The company came about after the couple retired from farming, where Gordon had been a large and successful raspberry and vegetable grower.

"I expected Mrs Thatcher to attack and destroy farming as she had the ship building and mining industries so moved out of farming," explains Gordon.

The Norries bought what had been a small farm with run down buildings in a rural location near Forfar, north east of Dundee, and rebuilt the whole place into a house and extensive workshops. Initially, One Off made sublimation badges, printed sweatshirts and laid vinyl, designing on an early Mac computer and cutting on a Cam 1.

"The business was One Off until 1994 when we changed the name to Sign Industries and started learning how to etch brass, bronze and stainless steel," explains Gordon Norrie. "I was greatly helped by Brian Ireland of Modern Engraving, who together with Nick Thompson of Accent Signs and Roger Hinchliffe of Sign Update, were great mentors to me."

Despite being wrong about Mrs Thatcher breaking farming, changing industries proved a good move for Gordon and today Sign Industries supplies engraved, lasered, and etched plaques, door entry plates, viewpoint signs, and interpretation panels. Specialising in etching and constructing very large signs and monoliths in stainless steel 316 and bronze; it supplies stainless steel sign panels up to of 1.5 metres x 3.5 metres.

"We are inclined to do work which others may find difficult or impossible because of its size or shape. Often we're working on free issue materials which are components of large clocks, sundials, floor interpretation panels, parkland artwork and street furniture," says Gordon.

"Recent innovations include research and development of new methods of etching and making things like casting moulds, together with putting together a system of artwork for making accurate viewpoint and interpretation panels in stainless steel and bronze."



Stainless steel monolith from Sign Industries.

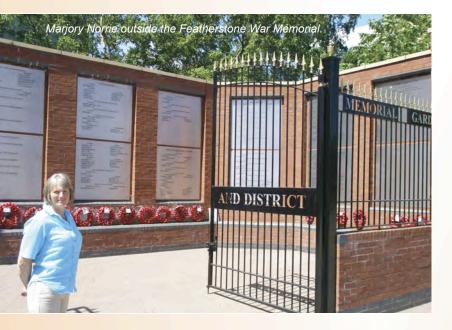
Customers include the architectural and general sign industry, oil, major international construction companies, landscape designers and hotel architects. Most are in this country but, mainly through national traders and corporate intermediaries, Sign Industries' work can be found as far away as Africa and Asia. In only the last few months the company has engraved and etched a 1.7 metre diameter multi ring bronze clock faces for China, and two1.5 metre diameter polished stainless steel Defence Agency signs for Nigeria, and numerous large bronze plaques for Bosnia.

In order to ensure continuity to the business over the coming years as and when the Norries become less involved, Paul Cargill, previously Manager, became stakeholder and Director in 2008

"The plan is for Paul to increasingly take more responsibility for the conduct and direction of the business. We see no need to try and grow into a massive business. Six to 10 employees works very well. Our quality is easily controlled by having skilled personnel, supporting each other and having a very strictly enforced returns/rejected related monthly bonus scheme," says Gordon.

The latest news from Sign Industries is that a specialist retail internet shop will soon be on-line, sitting alongside www.signindustries.com. The site will provide sundials, viewpoint signs, interpretation plaques and memorial panels for fixing to oak tables, benches, houses, or for use as garden ornaments.

"These articles will replace granite headstones and suchlike which used to be the province of the Memorial Trade," puts in Gordon. "I believe we can bring much of this business into the sign trade, and we will be giving our trade customers large discounts on the prices published in our retail internet shop."



Father and son team at Robertson Signs

Brian Robertson served his apprenticeship as a coachpainter and signwriter in the 60's and 70's with a haulage company in Dundee. After working mainly in the transport industry and a further 18 years employed with Dundee Corporation Transport, he decided to start his own business and concentrate full time, upon what he had always done alongside his employment with companies. That was in 1988.

Due to Brian's broad range of skills and continual enquiries from varied businesses in different sectors, signs and vehicle lettering made the majority of his work. This is still a large part of the business, but hardly any are hand-lettered nowadays.

In 1998, Brian's son Barry joined the business after leaving school and now runs the daily operations of a commercial sign shop. Barry had always been interested in the trade and regularly helped his dad at weekends and school holidays, enabling him to understand the basics and begin an early apprenticeship. Studying graphic design at college instilled an important virtue which contributes to the successful portfolio of projects, from boats to aeroplanes, pin-striping to digitally printed graphics.

Their premises for nearly 20 years are within an old farmstead on the outskirts of the city and ideal for the current size and production abilities of the business.

Logo design and corporate identity are also a sought after service provided by Robertson Signs and what they enjoy and are best at. Creating logos and full stationery designs, along with complete sign systems incorporating the graphics into shops and / or vehicles is a concurrent practise which provides fulfilment in their profession.

Being established for over 20 years and still working for some of their original customers has helped in keeping the business steady, even in the current economical situation. Diversification and a genuine interest and passion for the trade, is paramount in Robertson Signs' philosophy.

"We have advertised in various mediums over the years, but we believe that due to our work being visual communication, the best advert for this business is within the work we produce. It's this factor that encourages repeat custom and referrals, that no advertisement can compare," says Barry.

"We have the best of worlds, incorporating traditional skills into ever-increasingly, modern products and services. Our only regular hand-lettering jobs are for a boat building company in Arbroath, but we still use timber and paint for some bespoke projects and refurbishments. Although sometimes daunting,



there has to be progression and further education in any trade, to stay focused, to learn about new materials and meet new contractors and to ultimately enjoy the job".

Another part of the business, handled mainly by Brian, is the installation of all the bus posters on Stagecoach's fleet in the north of Scotland. Contracting work for approximately 15 years from large advertising agencies has always been a regular source of income and an area Brian is no stranger to.

"The application of mega-rears (full back ends of buses covered in digital graphics) takes us all over Scotland, from the Orkney Isles to Edinburgh and although working unsociable hours and the paperwork involved, it has been a very important part of succeeding in this profession. After years of painting text and illustrations on all-over buses (completely covering sides and rears of vehicles), mainly double deckers in Aberdeen, the advent of digital technology meant that we had to teach ourselves the correct application of these new methods," explains Brian.

Both Brian and Barry treat their careers as signwriters, more than just a job. It's a huge part of their lives and the future looks promising for the pair with confirmed contractual work and the re-launch of their website www.robertson-signs.co.uk last year.

They intend to continually add photos of projects and logo design examples, as well as building their case studies page, to explain a concise realisation of various projects that they have covered.

"We'll never be millionaires nor have any aspiration to become one, but to produce the best we can whilst enjoying meeting new people, building stronger relations with customers and being satisfied in our work overall," summarises Barry.



Robertson Signs completes a variety of vehicle liveries for different customers.

SCOTLAND Signmakers

Family run Lows is a top supplier of

From its origins back in 1986 Lows has grown to be possibly the largest supplier of industrial textiles in the UK. With a turnover in the region of £10 million per annum the company supplies markets as diverse as transport, marquee/ structure, inkjet/ screen printing, marine, sports/ leisure and horticultural. Many products are also produced to customers' own specification requirements.

One of Lows' biggest growing markets over the last 10 years has been its banner/ signage products for screen and inkjet printing and fabrics for the application of vinyl graphics. The company is possibly best known for its supply of sidecurtain fabrics for trucks. More than 60 colours are held as standard, along with its specially formulated side-curtain fabric for inkjet printing that has been taken up by many large chains to advertise with photographic quality on trailers.

DISCOVERY





world and constantly strive to supply customers with the latest technologies and products." He also puts down the company's success down to team effort

with the entire range.

by all personnel in supplying a professional service and it also helps dealing with many diverse markets where when one market is particularly quieter the others will hopefully compensate.

position as a market leader by holding more than £1 million worth of fabrics in its 32,000 sq ft warehouse facility located in Burnley, Lancashire. This enables the whole of the UK to be efficiently served

Scott Sutherland, General Sales Manager, states "We like to think of Lows of Dundee as the supermarket of the industrial textile

Banner products for screen and inkjet printing, from Lows.

EVM - a company for all reasons in

the Scottish market

EVM, short for Effective Visual Marketing, in Glasgow and Ayr in Scotland is a leading multi-disciplined sign and display company with more than 20 years experience in signage, interiors and display graphics.

Working with both private and public sector customers locally and internationally, EVM's services include project management, technical surveys, artwork, design advice, manufacture and installation. EVM's experience, track record and technical skills have built the company's reputation for being one of the country's top suppliers of visual marketing materials.

EVM has invested significantly and consistently in digital technologies providing in-house services encompassing large format digital colour printing, CNC routering, fabrication and a large joinery workshop that can cope with all manner of bespoke point of sale and retail furniture.

The company's services include interior and exterior signage, banners, window graphics, exhibition and display stands and graphics, custom built retail furniture and counters, vehicle liveries, labels and stickers, health andsafety signage and DDA compliant Braille and tactile signage.

EVM's fully trained and Health Safety certified installation teams have years of on-site experience to ensure that every project is installed with the minimum of disruption and to a top class standard of finish. Unlike some other companies, EVM says it "never, ever"

a top supplier of visual marketing materials.







or display project.

Ensuring that signs and displays continue look as good as the first day they were installed, is the job of the EVM maintenance teams. They make sure that, come what may, they look your best from dawn till dusk with programmed maintenance and a 24/7 emergency call out when nothing else will do.

Whilst the recession has impacted on sales volumes, EVM reports that business is beginning to find its feet again and the quantity and quality of the current order book is making the future look bright.

SCOTLAND Signmakers

Osprey Company specialises in woodworking

The Osprey Company was initially formed in the mid 1970s under the name of Screencraft (Scotland) to provide the first commercial screen printing service in the Scottish Borders. Besides producing the usual range of signs, decals, vehicle livery, banners and the like, the company also specialised in the screen printing of instrument panels for large electronic companies in the Central Belt of Scotland.

Right from the start, the business was also involved with the production of interpretive boards for heritage sites in the Borders, followed by Fife and other areas.

When the electronics work began to fall away in the late 1980s, signs and interpretation for heritage sites was identified as a field that perfectly suited the company's skills, involving as it does very high quality, low density work with a strong design element. Since then, Osprey has specialised in this area, offering a full design and manufacturing service, and has established itself as one of the foremost sign suppliers in the field.



Today, the company's clients are spread throughout the UK and beyond, including national and international conservation bodies, many local authorities, trusts, private estates and businesses involved in the fields of heritage and conservation.

The business has evolution over the years has been significant. It is no longer a screen printer - all printed graphics are now produced digitally. But the biggest change is that the majority of Osprey's workshops are now given over to woodworking, as many of the sign structures it produces are in timber. The company believes it has all the skills and equipment in house needed to enable the manufacture of signs in a wide range of styles to suit individual locations. This includes large format CNC routing machines that are used more and more each year.



Staying small and lean keeps
The Sign Factory busy



The Sign Factory's van promotes the company while serving customers.



The Sign Factory produced this bright and colourful shop signage.

Brothers Phil and Jim Boyd started The Sign Factory in 1986. Initially working from the back of Jim and his wife Anne's model shop in Greenock, they soon outgrew those premises and moved into their current factory unit a few miles away in Port Glasgow in 1989.

Today, The Sign Factory's main business comes from a mixture of van liveries and shop fascia signs, along with flat-cut letter jobs. The company supplies end users across most business sectors in addition to supplying the sign trade with flat-cut routed letters in various materials.

Phil and Jim invested in a new Sabre 508 CNC router just over two years ago. Capable of more accurate and faster cutting than their previous router, it has reduced turnaround times for trade and end user customers alike.

Phil says keeping the business lean and remaining very much "hands on" have been significant factors in its continuing success.

"We believe that the quality we offer is second to none in the area. With the current economic climate, our affordable prices and consistently meeting customer demanding deadlines, as well as our warm and friendly approach to our customers, makes us an even more attractive proposition," he says.

"Business this year has been erratic to say the least, but with increased activity through local marketing, more efficient in-house practices and keeping a close eye on expenditure we are staying ahead of the game."

Future plans include addition of alarge format printer to The Sign Factory's current in-house printing facilities, probably within the next year.



SCOTLAND Signmakers

Smart Graphics - more than just vehicle livery

Smart Graphics, with its head office in Clydebank, is a market leader in the vehicle graphics industry and is well respected by a loyal customer base for handling a wide range of graphics projects throughout the UK.

As a specialist vehicle graphics company Smart Graphics has been designing, printing and fitting graphics for a diverse range of customers for more than 20 years. Today the range of services includes design, large format digital print, vehicle wrapping, window and architectural graphics, along with dedicated project management support.

Paul Bellard, Operations Manager at Smart Graphics, says: "We have many corporate blue chip customers who rely on us because of our experience and proven ability to deliver the most challenging projects, often within very demanding timescales. Our refined project management processes and dedicated fitting staff ensure that our customers benefit and enjoy the efficient transformation of ideas onto vehicles."

The customer experience has always been the most critical factor to Smart Graphics and the company has, until now, focussed on a smaller number of select accounts. Bucking the current trend, investment in new equipment and additional staff has increased sales, revenue, capacity and the ability to continue to improve the service offering to a growing client base.

Keir Smart, Managing Director at Smart Graphics, adds "The graphics market in the UK is very competitive and we're constantly improving our position by taking the time to fully understand the issues our customers face and then continually innovating to exceed expectations. When you are involved with projects for tens or even



hundreds of vehicles, with a wide geographical spread, adaptability is crucial. Our customers see the benefits of working in partnership with Smart Graphics throughout the whole process which is why they come back again and again."

Having retained an excellent team of staff who are extremely knowledgeable Smart Graphics can service virtually any vehicle graphics requirement, whether it's for a fleet of five bikes or a hundred buses.

Signmaster - a company that relishes a challenge



Kelso in the Scottish Borders is home to the sign company that reckons it makes the best signs in Scotland, a company other sign companies can turn to when projects are just too technical and difficult to handle on their own. Signmaster ED has been fabricating and delivering signs all over the UK and Ireland to trade and end user customers from its location since 1988, thanks to a highly skilled fabrication and finishing workforce of 15 employees.

Signmaster today supplies sign companies, shop fitters and designers with a wide range of signage requirements generally manufactured in aluminium and often including lighting using LED systems. Large format built up letters, freestanding gantry, large monolith signs and bespoke metalwork are the areas Signmaster specialises in building, and recent projects have included two large building mounted monoliths at more than 10 metres tall. The company also supports sign companies on rolling re-brands by building fret cut and internally illuminated fascias, generally for corporate re-brands. A recent project involved 60 individual fascias manufactured and finished within a 12 working day period.

As a trade supplier, one of the most challenging situations the Signmaster team faces is being able to assist its clients to sell the concept to their prospective customers. The company has developed its staff'sskills at delivering both fantastic sales support drawings and assisting clients by telephone to understand and project the proposals fluently to the prospective customer and close the deal. This support makes the real difference if when working on something that is outside one's comfort zone, and this is what makes Signmaster different.

Skilled fabricators are one of the company's most valuable assets and to assist them to work more efficiently Signmaster recently invested in a range of semi-automated machines including a 125-ton press brake, shearing press, hydraulic rollers and a new 4 x 2 metre AXYZ flat bed router. This investment brought standard sheet production sizes up to 3000 x 1500 mm, enabling the supply of fascias to greater dimensions and with fewer joints on a shorter timescale.

This year, 2009, has developed into a very deep and hardhitting recession and that has actually helped Signmaster identify the ideal products and relationships its needs to develop, focussed attention and helped the company to maintain its working goals.

The future for Signmaster is certainly in the continued recruitment and management of clients who require the services of a sign fabricator capable of designing, manufacturing and assisting to install large projects throughout the UK and Ireland.



Contact details

Effective Visual Marketing (EVM) – www.evm.co.uk or tel. 0141 554 2000.

Insight Sign Systems – www.insightsignsystems.com or tel. 0141 774 5990.

Lows of Dundee – www.lowsofdundee.co.uk or tel. 01382 229251.

McGregor's Signs – www.mcgregorsigns.co.uk or tel. 0131 660 1000.

Merson Signs – www.merson-signs.com or tel. 01355 243 021.

Robertson Signs – www.robertson-signs.co.uk or tel. 01382 776837.

Sign Industries – www.signindustries.com or tel. 01241 828 694.

Signmaster – www.sign-master.co.uk or tel. 01573 223227.

Smart Graphics – www.smartgraphics.co.uk or tel. 0141 941 3393.

The Osprey Company – www.ospreyco.com or tel. 01890 883127.

The Sign Factory – email signfactory@btconnect.com or tel. 01475 743624.

Unfortunately, due to space limitations, we have been unable to include information about Apex Signs and Baillie Signs in this issue. These companies will feature in our January/February 2010 issue.



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Definitive environmental policy introduced by William Smith

By the very nature of the manufacturing processes employed, the sign making and screen and digital printing industries are not inherently eco-friendly. However, faced with diminishing natural resources, global debate and stricter legislation, companies operating within these and other related industries are becoming far more focussed on and committed to the adoption of materials and manufacturing processes that offer a reduced environmental impact.

One of the UK's leading providers of integrated sign and graphics and digital printing solutions, William Smith has introduced a definitive environmental policy that enables the company and its customers to greatly enhance the 'green' awareness policies endorsed by government and other legislative bodies. The environmental policy now in place at William Smith complies with the requirements of the Environment Agency Approved Guidelines and related organisations to which the company's managerial and supervisory staff have a clearly stated duty to implement and upgrade throughout its manufacturing and supply disciplines.

The company's clear objective is to minimise the impact on the environment by preventing pollution, reducing waste and, wherever possible, taking measures to protect

and preserve the environment. Part of these objectives covers appropriate consideration to the effects that the company's operations might have on the local community and this is a requirement that is often neglected or overlooked by less environmentally responsible companies.

At William Smith, all materials (predominantly paper, cardboard, aluminium and acrylic) are segmented and recycled. Manufacturers of vinyl materials (a core element of the company's product mix but at present difficult to recycle) are constantly striving to develop more environmentally friendly products and William Smith actively engages with any initiative aimed at achieving this objective. Developments within the range of hardware and materials solutions provided by the company reflect these initiatives. Most notable is in the supply of printers that use the latest Latex ink technology as an alternative to the more hazardous solvent-based systems. The Latex system has only a minimal VOC content and therefore no expensive fume extraction equipment is required. It is non-hazardous, odourless and instantly curable and will provide the same three - to five-year outdoor performance as full solvent inks without the attendant dangers to the environment whilst significantly increasing production speed and output.

Latest developments in materials supply that similarly protect and preserve the environment more effectively include two non-PVC vinyl products. The new 3M 3545C is a fine example of an alternative non-PVC solution to traditional solventbased materials. Due to its special construction, it is far more environmentally friendly but with no compromise on quality and performance standards. Similar benefits can be found in the alternative RI-JET eco-friendly digital film from RITRAMA that is EU Phthalates Directive 2005/84/EC compliant. It is another example of a material that offers a significantly reduced environmental impact but with no compromise on quality and durability.

Application using the new 3M 3545 non-PVC vinyl.

At another level of 'green' awareness, William Smith encourages the adoption of car-sharing initiatives by employees to help cut fuel emissions and to reduce the carbon footprint. The company also prefers to use, as appropriate, recycled and recyclable paper for all of its stationery requirements and recommends that customers make more use of electronic rather than hard copy versions of its product and technical literature.

For further information, visit the website www.williamsmith.co.uk

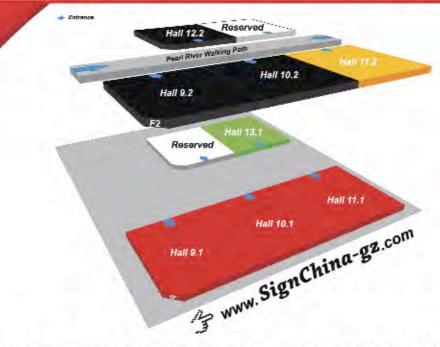




More than a regular sign expo

- Time : March 2 to 5, 2010
- Venue : China Import and Export Fair Pazhou Complex, Area B (Guangzhou)

With over 1,000 exhibitors taking near 90,000 square meters exhibition space, SIGN CHINA 2010 will be allocated into 5 Specialized Sections in 8 halls.



Hall 9.1 & 10.1 & 11.1: Large Format Printer, Printing Device, Consumables & Acrylic Sheets Section (350 exhibitors)

Hall 13.1: Engraver, Laser, Plastic Vacuum Forming Machine, Sign Equipment & Accessories Section (100 exhibitors)

Hall 9.2 & 10.2 & 12.2: LED Chip, LED Encapsulation, LED Lighting, LED Display, LED Equipment Section (450 exhibitors)

Hall 10.2: Neon Electronic Transformer, Tube Electrode, Electrical Source, Controller, Finished Products Section (60 exhibitors)

Hall 11.2: Display System, Lightbox, Signage, LCD, Prismatic Display & POP Product Section (140 exhibitors)

The above is predicted data.

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SIGN News

Wider European aspirations for Sign 2000

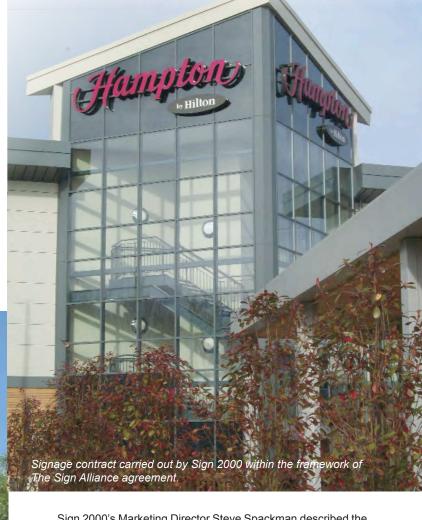
Already firmly established as one of the UK's foremost manufacturers of corporate signage, with a pre-eminence in the high street retail sector, Kent-based Sign 2000 is now setting its sights firmly on the wider Continental Europe marketplace. Pivotal to the success of these aspirations has been the company's participation, as one the founding member companies, in The Sign Alliance, an inspirational pan-European co-operative.

This dynamic new association of strategically positioned European sign manufacturers, with complementary and synergic interests, is the first initiative of its kind. It has been set up to provide a more commercially efficient and environmentally sound sign manufacturing, installation and after-sales care facility for a shared customer base throughout the entire European community. There are currently six companies signed up to the alliance, based in the UK, Germany, France, Italy, Finland and Romania.

The Sign Alliance operates on an information-sharing basis and is controlled by a central monitoring hub to ensure that brand consistency and quality levels are delivered comprehensively throughout all of the relevant countries via complementary project management skills.



The Sign 2000 totem sign installed at the entrance to the Kent facility.



Sign 2000's Marketing Director Steve Spackman described the benefits of the alliance as 'significant'. He added: 'They provide organisations, particularly those engaged in large roll-out programmes, with a centrally managed but locally implemented service to minimise logistical impact and to thus create an environmentally aware service that reduces carbon footprints.'

The group of companies operating through The Sign Alliance has a production staffing level of around 1,000, a collective turnover in excess of 100,000,000 Euros and a total production area of 100,000 square metres. The alliance also provides over 200 years of combined experience in the entire range of necessary sign manufacturing skills.

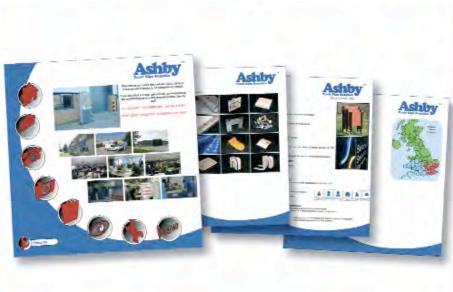
Steve Spackman concluded: 'The ethos of The Sign Alliance is driven by corporate and social responsibilities towards improving performance and protecting the environment. Not only is this new co-operative proving to be one for which people want to work and for others to engage with but also it is providing much needed local employment whilst building long-term customer relationships throughout Europe within framework agreements.'

Sign 2000 is planning to relocate to a new and larger facility on the same industrial site in Kent. The company will therefore retain fast and easy access to the nearby M20 motorway and to the Channel Tunnel, primarily to service its Continental Europe projects within The Sign Alliance and to maintain effective communication with its appointed sign installation partners overseas.

For further information, visit www.sign2000.co.uk







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SIGN News

Nottingham print giants join forces

Leading Nottingham exhibition and display companies, John E Wright and Viva Imaging, have announced the merger of their two companies, thereby creating one of the largest display graphics companys in the East Midlands.

Established in 1900, John E Wright's head office still retains the name Blue Print House, reflecting the early history of this successful family business. The company has two branches in both Nottingham and Leicester in addition to their other midlands branches in Oxford, Coventry, Hull and Derby.

The merger with Viva Graphics will see John E Wright's highly specialised Nottingham roll-to-roll UV printers to work alongside their existing two HP Scitex Flatbed printers, Zund cutter and router and fleet of HP Designjet Z6100's in addition to a whole host of finishing products.

In the same way that John E Wright grew out of a plan printing and graphics art background, Viva Imaging emerged into inkjet imaging from a photographic history. With the advent of digital cameras, their business changed considerably and under the experienced leadership of John Watson, they now offer

a complete digital print and finishing service to the professional photographer in addition to the large format exhibition display graphics service, which is project managed from inception right through to design and then build.

John E Wright & Co specialise in the production and finishing of large format exhibition and display graphics, and is a leading supplier of services and supplies to the CAD and graphic design communities throughout the Midlands. The company is now managed by the fourth generation of the family, Managing Director Tony Barnett.

"I am excited about this opportunity," Barnett says, "the combined strengths of Viva and John E Wright's staff, experience and expertise will make us the largest print company in the Midlands



Matthew Proudlove - Cooper Parry, John Watson - Viva Imaging, Robert Ridd - Berryman, Tony Barnett - John E Wright.

with the most varied selection of wide format printers in the area. We can now print on everything from wood, board, metal, fabric, film etc. You name it, we can print on it and all from our print factory in Linkmel Close, Nottingham. All our staff are friendly and passionate about producing quality work. We look forward to welcoming Viva staff to our base in Linkmel and together we can build a bright future for John E Wright."

The new business unit will come under the John E Wright umbrella of companies and Viva Imaging management will stay to help with the integration and push the business forward.

For more information on John E Wright, visit www.johnewright.com For more information on Viva Imaging, visit www.vivaimaging.co.uk

DCP on the move

It's not quite time yet for the next DCP Go Wide! Tour but wide format print specialist DCP Systems have announced their move to new premises at Sir Wilfrid Newton House, Chapeltown.

It's been just over a year since managing director, Darren Walker, successfully took over the reins at DCP Systems and what a year Despite the climate, DCP has managed to not only keep its head above water, but has positively driven the business forward and helped launch two new products from Epson and Mutoh and the brand new Seiko Colourpainter II.

Walker comments, "With a successful year one under our belt, DCP Systems is as strong as ever. When I took over as managing director, we inherited the building, which was to be honest, far too big for our needs. So in order to protect our strong position in the market, we are moving to premises that better suit our needs."

This includes a state of the art warehouse facility and a brand new Centre of Excellence to house the full range of Epson imaging products for professional photographers. In addition, DCP will have a purpose built demonstration room for digital textile printing with the Mutoh Extreme range and a host of finishing products from manu-

facturers such as GBC, Drytac, Fletcher Terry, Seal and the recently launched new range of laminators by Kala.

DCP will shortly be announcing the dates of this years' Go Wide! Tour, to be held in three venues across the country - England, Wales and Scotland. This follows the successful annual series of Go Wide! Tours where DCP Systems take their full range of wide format scanners, printers, RIPS, professional photographic and finishing equipment to a central venue so visitors can view the equipment in a relaxed environment without the hustle and bustle of visiting a national trade exhibition.

tional trade exhibition.

It is also a chance to meet representatives of some of the major equipment manufacturers and put your questions directly to them on subjects such as dye-sublimation printing, hot and cold laminating, cutting accessories, thermal transfer and much more. DCP will also have a professional photographer in residence who use these products in their own studio and will be demonstrating hands-on how to get the most from your equipment.

Visit www.dcp-systems.co.uk for more information on the venue dates. times and details.



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Shaped AS760 otograph courtesy of Signpost, Bath



Curved Face Tray, Special Paint Finish Photograph courtesy of Artall Signage, Staffordshire

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Shaped Plaza Photograph courtesy of Signpost, Bath

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V Mounted Shaped Plate & Post Photograph courtesy of Windsor Signs & Graphics, Essex



Photograph courtesy of Atech Graphics, Carmarthenshire

Range

Wide Range of Sign Systems, Made to Measure



Shaped Plaza graph courtesy of Signpost, Bath



Plaza with Cathedral Posts Photograph courtesy of Artall Signage, Staffordshire



AS760 with Finial Photograph courtesy of Rainbow Signs & Graphics, Cornwall



Plaza Monolith Multi Trays with Hidden Posts



Profile Cut Plate & Post



Photograph courtesy of Alan Drury Signs, Essex



Double Sided Plaza Photograph courtesy of Signs Express, Taunton



AS760 Finger Post with Gold Finials Photograph courtesy of Atech Graphics, Carmarthenshire

Durable

graph courtesy of Creative Sign & Design Ltd

Made from 3mm Solid Aluminium



Curved Faced Monolith Photograph courtesy of Signs Express, Exeter



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SIGN News

Open Days are a great success

Bristol-based sign supplier, Signscape, is revelling in the success of its recent open days. Over the two days, the sign experts impressed visitors with various dynamic displays and galleries of their high-quality signage.

Signscape is one of the market leaders in sign manufacturing, providing the industry with many innovative products. This year they

providing the industry with many innovative products. This year they



are particularly proud to introduce their revolutionary range of environmentally friendly signage options, manufactured to reduce the damage to the environment. These newly developed signs have the capacity to revolutionise the illuminated sign market and are set to make a great difference to businesses across the UK.

Interest in the company reached far and wide as visitors from all over the UK and Europe joined Signscape's staff for the two day event.

Hamish Paterson, MD of Signscape, welcomed guests from as far away as Sweden, Manchester and Bournemouth. Hamish commented; "There has been no better way to introduce the Eco-Vision range to our clients. This new product is very exciting for us, and we know that it will make a big difference to sign makers and customers alike."

He went on to add; "The turn out has been superb and I'd like to thank everyone for joining us at our premises."

Signscape are pleased to officially launch the EcoVision range. This range of illuminated signs they say, not only reduces emissions, making them the first 'eco-friendly' signage available, but also eliminates running costs. Of course, the main advantage is the massive cost and time saving benefits that EcoVision provides. Think about all of the things that are unnecessary; trenching, cables, and contactors. This adds up to a saving few can afford to ignore.

If you would like more information about EcoVision, or any of the other products Signscape has to offer, please visit www.signscape.co.uk

Spandex announces Open House

Spandex has announced that its next highly informative open house will take place in Bristol on November 26th and 27th 2009. The event will focus on helping existing and potential customers succeed in today's economy and will follow the company's successful theme of 'Learn, Discover and Benefit'.

The two-day open house will comprise key seminars, including, 'Succeeding in today's economy' by Vaughan Allcock, owner of Event Signs, a 25-year-old signmaking business. Author and marketing consultant, Jackie Jarvis, is also returning to the event to deliver her new presentation, 'How to sell the natural way to attract and keep more customers'.

"Our November Open House has been specifically designed to help customers improve sales and profitability, widen their service capability and obtain information about which equipment will provide the best return on investment", says Phil McMullin, Spandex's UK Country Manager. "Given the popularity of our previous open houses, we would strongly advise those interested to book early to secure a place at the event."

Another highlight of the event will see Spandex hold interactive workshops designed to assist customers with bringing expertise in-house, thereby reducing costs and widening their range of services. One such workshop will focus on textile marking and enable customers to try heat presses and Spandex's broad and exciting range of textile marking materials. Other workshops will cover vehicle wrapping; lamination techniques; fixings and fastenings; and new techniques in modular sign systems.

The open-house will also see Spandex demonstrate the revenue-enhancing capabilities and unique benefits of its major large format digital printing systems via live and invaluable product demonstrations. Among the latest machines on display will be the

new Epson Stylus Pro GS6000, a 64", high-speed, eight-colour inkjet printer; and the new Mutoh Kona, a cost effective and flexible plotter. The event will see Spandex demonstrate both systems for the first time. The Gerber Solara ion, a flatbed/roll-to-roll, wideformat, UV inkjet printer featuring advanced GerberCAT cationic inks and Cold Fire Cure technology will also be on display.

Also on show will be a wide selection of new products from media brands including Avery, 3M and Mactac, as well as the company's own ImagePerfect range. The event will allow visitors to access materials specialists who will be on-hand to provide information on new substrates, as well as offer useful printing tips and techniques for various large format printing applications.

A number of special promotions, exclusive to the Open House, will be running on the day. Visitors can pre-register for the event by following www.spandex.co.uk/openhouse.

Full details of Spandex's October Open House are:

Bristol

26 November 2009 - 10:00h to 20:30h

27 November 2009 - 10:00h to 15:00h

Address: Spandex UK, 1600 Park Avenue, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4UA

More information on the event is available by visiting: www.spandex.co.uk/openhouse





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SIGN News

New name, same expertise

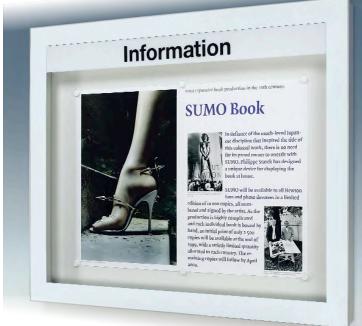
Although onthecase is a new company, it has more than 35 years' management experience in the sign industry. Proprietor Jamie Wood was formerly MD of Wood and Wood and for 12 years ran Sign Systems, now established as one of the UK's leading companies in the provision of modular sign systems. When Allsigns International took over Sign Systems earlier this year, Jamie retained one of the best selling products, Showcase WSM, and set up onthecase.

Onthecase is the partner of the German manufacturer and has a unique relationship. As sole distributor, onthecase markets an increasingly wide range to the sign trade, street furniture industry, and to specifiers; the German manufacturer packs and ships direct to onthecase customers.

"Reduced costs, direct shipment, and improved delivery times have enabled onthecase to make an immediate impact in the market," says Jamie. "The tried and tested approach of selling to architects, designers and trade only ensures products can be specified with the confidence that they are readily available to the trade when tendering."



Vitrium outdoor, back illuminated showcase using LED lighting.



Full glass fronted showcase with gas cylinders for easy opening with white printed ceramic borders.

Regular trade customers include Rivermeade, Wood and Wood, IS Group, Sign Systems Ltd, Greenbarnes, Westmoreland Signs, Evolve Group, Cobal Signs, Parc Signs, Green Bros, and Edmonds, to name but a few. Leading design and architectural companies such as BDP, Holmes Wood, FW Design, Amos and KSS have recently specified onthecase products.

The latest system to be introduced by onthecase is Vitrum, an outdoor, back illuminated showcase using LED lighting. Launched in response to market demand. Vitrum is a unique poster holder that allows the image to be fixed directly behind the full glass covers. Fixing options include wall and monolith. The overall effect is stylish and innovative, providing a contemporary look.

For brochure and price list visit the website www.onthecase.biz or telephone 01392 247577.







SGN News

Promota raise thousands for charity

Promota raised thousands of pounds for children's charity Sparks, when they held their annual fund raising golf day.



The association held the Promota Sparks Charity Golf Day at Camberley Heath Golf Club in Surrey, to raise much-needed funds for the charity.

The event was hosted by ex-champion jockey, John Francome, who was joined by a host of sporting and TV celebrities who joined the teams of Promota members for a day of golf.

It was John Thorp and his team mates from The Leather Business, along with ex-England wicket keeper Roger Tolchard, who scooped the Promota trophy at the end of the day.

Rod Duncan, chairman of Promota, said: "The charity golf day is always a highlight in the association's calendar. It is an ideal time to meet up with colleagues from across the industry, play a bit of golf and most importantly raise some money for such a deserving charity.

"Our members raised more than £10,000 for Sparks, which will go towards helping fund research into medical conditions affecting babies and children.

"I would like to say a big thank you to all of those members who took part in the day, donated prizes for the evening auction and those who have donated since the event."

For further information on Promota call 0845 371 43 35 or visit the website www.promota.co.uk

National Signs, Chesterfield, report successful year of trading

Chesterfield based retail and commercial signage company National Signs has achieved massive increases in its year on year sales and recently announced the acquisition of a further two companies in Commercial Festive displays contractor Eldon Displays and Cannock based signs company Malin Signs.

Group MD, Tony Lucas, said the large increase is mainly down to

the ability to offer clients the services they really need during the down

turn even if it maybe outside the stable of standard services.

"By doing this we have firstly, continued to grow, but also reinforced our relationship with our clients as they see us more as a full

service provider committed to helping them out, rather than just pushing for more sales," he says.

National is widely expected to post further gains in the Spring as it realises investments in new plant and also a new branch opening in Cannock in the West Midlands.

National Signs now operating from depots in Romford, Sheffield, Cannock and its new purpose built Head Office facility in Chesterfield, is set to open a number of new sites in the next five years, two of which will be company owned and a further 40 of its mobile sign unit franchises.

More details can be obtained via pressoffice@nationalsigns.co.uk

Perspex Distribution launches new website

Plastics distributor Perspex Distribution has launched a new website to provide its customers and specifiers with comprehensive information about the company and its products. Extensive use of photography displays the products in sample form and with application examples to illustrate the possibilities of each material.

Ease of navigation throughout the site enables users to view the different products and gain access to product features. availability and technical information.

Commenting on the new website, Beckie Norris, Marketing Manager at Perspex Distribution says that "following the launch of our product guide which offers a comprehensive overview of the company's products, the website was a natural progression to support our customers and further raise our profile within the markets in which we operate."

For further information visit www.perspex.co.uk

















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din	£42,00	f.84.00	£126.00	£168.00	£210.00
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EXHIBITION News

Print Ireland and Sign & Digital Ireland 2009

- a big success

The hall was bustling once again as Print Ireland and Sign & Digital Ireland returned to the RDS Dublin on the 23rd & 24th September 2009.

Some 1191 visitors came to this year's show, and the overall total attendance at the event was 1386, which includes press, speakers, students and exhibitors. Many of these visitors used the opportunity to make purchasing decisions and gather information to put their businesses ahead despite the difficult economic climate.

Late opening gave visitors the opportunity to visit after work and this clearly was a success as visitors stayed in the halls right up until the 8pm closing time.

The Adobe theatre again proved a big hit as it was busy throughout the show right





up until closing time on the last day. The Sign & Digital Ireland and Print Ireland seminar theatre made a steady debut at this years show with a consistent number of visitors throughout.

Rudi Blackett, event director comments: "We are delighted to report that the show has once again been a big success. Despite the difficult economic climate, exhibitors reported significantly better than expected levels of trading at the show. I would like to give a big thank you to all of our exhibitors and visitors alike, who contributed to the success of Print Ireland and Sign & Digital Ireland 2009."

Print Ireland / Sign & Digital Ireland will be held next on the 9th & 10th March 2011 at the RDS, Dublin. Exhibitors already booked include DBC Group, Applelec, AXYZ Automation, I-Spi Ireland, and Novachrome.

For further editorial information please contact: Alan Caddick, Marketing Manager, Tel: 0044 208 651 7100 Email: alan.caddick@fav-house.com

Please note: Sign & Digital UK 2010 will be held at the NEC, Birmingham on the 13th, 14th and 15th April 2010.

Diversify your business at Trophex 2010

Trophex has been running for a number of years now and is still the only UK show dedicated to the trophy, awards and personalisation industry.

Trophex 2010 will take place from 17th to 18th January 2010 at the NEC Pavilion in Birmingham, UK. The show is free to attend and there's free parking for everyone. You can even avoid the queues by pre-registering today on-line at: www.trophex.com

Visiting the show is a must if you work in the trophy, awards, engraving and personalisation industry. The industry is so vast and Trophex represents every aspect of it including trophies, engraving - machines and materials, glass and crystal, sublimation, photo imaging, badges, pins, giftware, signage, lasers, decals, embroidery, gifts, promotional merchandise and many more profit making lines. Where else can you find all of these products under one roof?

Visitors to the show can gain a valuable insight into exactly what is available on the market, allowing them to make a much

more informed decision about which companies and people they should deal with. Visitors can discuss queries face-to-face with suppliers allowing them to take home valuable information and use it in their business.

At Trophex 2010 visitors will be greeted by the sounds of engraving machines, digital printers and embroidery machines all whirring into action and making this two-day exhibition really come alive.

Why not think about exhibiting at the show? Trophex is attended by people from throughout the industry and is a great place for your company to launch new products, show new catalogues, meet with customers both old and new and give live demonstrations.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity - register and book your space today.

For more information and to pre-register visit the website at: www.trophex.com

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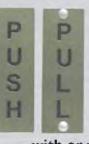






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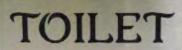


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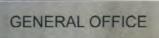
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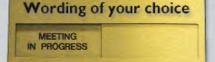


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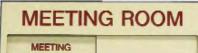


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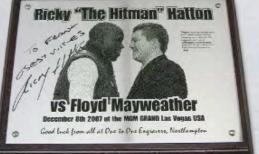




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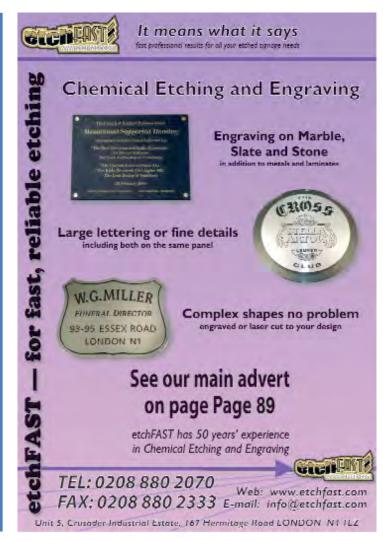






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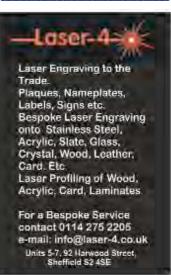




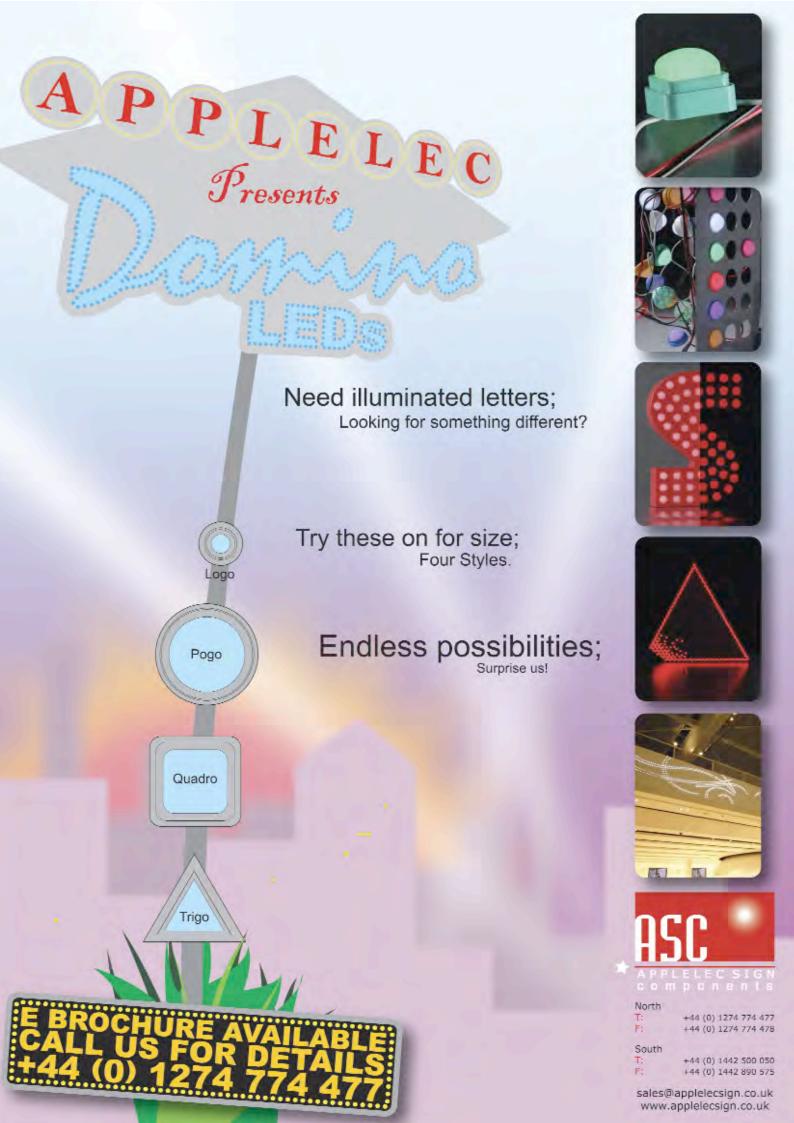
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www.signconex.co.uk Signconex are a UK manufacturer of Changeable Displays in 3 main product

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The X7 Geartray range was designed some years ago by Reddilight after identifying a need for a product that could withstand moisture without affecting performance and has since been tested and specified by many end users.

The X7 Geartrays operation of fluorescent lamps leads to an increase in luminous output of around 10%, or for the same luminous output around 10% less power consumed.

There are many additional benefits to using the **X7** Geartray including energy savings of up to 25%, compared to conventional control gear and because it contains a Tridonic ballast which is subject to the highest quality measures, the **X7** Geartray will achieve an average life of 50,000 hours.

There are three versions available direct from Reddilight or Amari plastics plc.

X7A - Fast Release Terminal Block

X7B - Fused Terminal Block

X7C - 2 Metre Mains

All are available in Single, Twin or Triple variations and Multiple Wattages.

The X7 has been tested and passed according to BS EN 60529: 1992 IPX7.



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ACR	YLIC (Perspex o	r Repsol -	including	gold and	silver) (10mm: w	hite black	and clea	r)			y , I	NO MIN	IMUM OF	RDER
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
3mm	£0.61	£0.80	£0.93	£1.22	£1.46	£1.82	£2.42	£3.03	£3.28	£3.76	£4.61	£6.86	£8.37	£10.31	£12.49	£48.51
5mm	£0.91	£1.15	£1.46	£1.82	£2.30	£2.79	£3.63	£4.48	£5.76	£6.31	£7.88	£9.70	£10.92	£13.94	£16.98	£66,71
10mm	11.83	12.32	12.91	£3.64	1.4.61	£5,57	17.28	18.98	111.53	£12,61	115.77	119.40	521.83	127.90	133,96	£133.40
FOAM PVC (all available colours - 10mm & 19mm available in white only) NO MINIMUM ORDE														RDER		
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
3mm	£0.42	£0.53	£0.85	£1.03	£1.14	£1.39	£1.57	£2.12	£2.42	£2.72	£3.03	£4.00	£4.85	£5.76	£7.88	£18.20
5mm	£0.48	10.72	£1.09	11.46	£2.00	12.30	12.6/	13.15	£3.64	14.37	15.15	16.07	16.87	18.00	£11.03	130.32
10mm	£0.85	£1,33	£1.70	£2.55	£3.52	£4.37	£4.98	£6.07	£7.28	£8.32	£9.34	£11.52	£13.34	£16.98	£21.59	£58,21
19mm	£1.82	£2.55	£3.64	£4.24	£4.85	£6.67	£8.49	£9.41	£10.92	£12.42	£14.86	£16.98	£20.01	£23.05	£27.90	£78.83
EXT	ERIOF	MD	F (MEDIT	E comes	in its raw	form for p	painting)							NO MIN	IMUM OF	RDER
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mn
6mm	£0.37	10.85	11.22	£1.63	12.42	12.60	13.03	13.81	14.37	15.22	16.67	19,46	110.92	112.37	114.55	143,66
12mm	£0.91	£1.57	£1.94	£2.84	£3.88	£4.66	£5.46	£6.31	£7.52	£9.22	£10.31	£11.70	£13.94	£17.16	£19.40	£58.21
18mm	£1.57	£2.42	£2.96	£4.06	£5.03	£6.18	£7.64	£8.61	£10.92	£12.42	£14.92	£17.10	£20.84	£21.83	£29.11	£87.32
3mm	ALU	MINI	UMC	OMP	OSIT	E (Dibo	nd, Alupa	nel)						NO MIN	IMUM OF	RDER
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm

3mm ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE (Dibond, Alupanel) NO MINIMUM ORDI															IDER	
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
standard colours	£1.09	11.52	11.99	£2.55	12.91	£3.39	14.85	15.70	16.67	17.28	E8.24	19.70	٤11.28	£15.77	£19.40	260,71
Chrome	£2.00	£2.55	£2.91	£4.28	£5.82	£7.01	£8.19	£9.46	£11.28	£13.79	£15,52	£17.56	£20,93	£25.76	£31.75	£98,25
Brushed finish	£1.33	£1.70	£2.31	£2.86	£3.88	£4.67	£5.46	£6.31	£7.52	£9.22	£10.31	£11.70	£13.94	£17.17	£21.83	£65.49

MIL	MILL FINISH ALUMINIUM (Comes in its raw form ready for coating) - Other thicknesses available on request MINIMUM ORDER 1.95														
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm
3mm	£2.94	£3.67	£4.54	£5.63	£6.26	£7.18	£8.10	£9.38	£10.59	£12.08	£13.67	£17.88	£21.41	£27.22	£36.14
5mm	13.46	14.33	15.36	16.64	17.39	18.47	19.55	111.07	112.49	114.25	116.13	121.10	175.76	132.12	142.64

2mr	2mm 316 MARINE GRADE STAINLESS STEEL - Other thicknesses available on request MINIMUM GROER EX														
height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm
Satin Brush	£4.72	£5.09	£6.18	£7,10	£7.64	£10.74	£13.61	£16.01	£17.20	£19.01	£21.83	£31.11	£34.80	£43.65	£52.75
Polished	£5.09	£5.49	£7.46	£8.00	£8.91	£12.19	£15.64	£17.10	£18.37	£21.83	£23.93	£33.59	£40.20	£47.48	£60.03

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

Add 10% to above prices if plastic locators and paper template are required

Add 10% for VHB tape to rear

Add 25% to price if soldered brass locators or M4 studs (30mm/50mm) and paper template are required. (Aluminium or Stainless steel only)

Add 20% to price list if the typeface is extended

Add 25% to price list if a template is required for cladding (cladding gaps will be required)

Add 25% to price list for Flame Polished Edges (clear acrylic unly)

Add 25% to price list for Gloss Finish Foam PVC

Add 25% to price list for a rounded or 45° edge to letter

Additional locators Bag of 250(M) 250(F) locators large: £34 small: £23

(100% uv stabilised)*

Additional Glue 500ml of Adhesive £23*

*no discount available

PLEASE NOTE: All the above prices are subject to VAT at the prevailing rate, Prices are based on the capital letter height, even on lower case orders. All work carries a 2 YEAR WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEE, All materials carry the manufacturers warranty. All our letters are manufactured from exterior quality materials.

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