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Advertising Manager - Martin Hinchliffeemail: martin@signupdate.co.uk	Tel: 01784 605 601
Editor - Kathryn Johnson email: editor@signupdate.co.uk	Tel: 01784 605 602
Features Editor - <b>Jemima Codrington</b> email: jemima@signupdate.co.uk	Tel: 07772 516 227
Graphic Design - Tony Hinchliffe email: tony@signupdate.co.uk	Tel: 01784 463 904
Accounts - Linda Hinchliffe email: linda@signupdate.co.uk	Tel: 01784 463 904
Publisher - Roger Hinchliffeemail: roger@signupdate.co.uk	Tel: 01784 463 904

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## WELCOME Page

### Welcome

What's really clear in this issue, is how much innovation and creativity there is in sign making today. New types of printers, routers, films, software and display systems are being used to make signage products with serious impact, and in a way that is more efficient, quick and reliable. We cover all sorts of these new products in this issue, as well as hear from sign companies having great success with equipment they have invested in to grow their businesses. More and more sign companies are looking beyond the traditional sign making, and using their equipment to make other products — even decorating a washing machine!

One of our features take an in depth look at built up letterings and we talk to those who have overcome significant challenges to meet demanding briefs. Such as Harrison Signs working with Applelec to design letters that looks like they are floating over a wall made from plants! Advancements in hardware, materials and illumination techniques mean businesses are designing vibrant, interesting and original looking signs.

Another area of huge growth is in vehicle livery, the subject of our other feature. Again there seems to be no end to the new colours and materials used to wrap vehicles (amongst other things) and companies are increasingly adding this service to their repertoire. Products and services from Dorotape, 3M, Roland DG and Vivid-Online are helping to make wrapping exciting and the application and finish almost perfect.

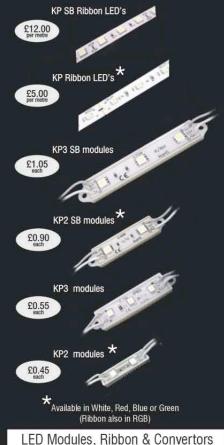
Of course these companies and many more will be exhibiting at Sign and Digital UK in 2014, which we will cover in detail early next year. If you are on Twitter make sure you follow @signanddigitaluk for an idea of what's to come.

If you have something to say about an issue in the signage sector or there is an aspect you know a lot about, we'd love to hear from you. We'll even pay for your contributions so get in touch to talk about any ideas you have. Till the next time...

Kathryn Johnson



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### New self adhesive fabric

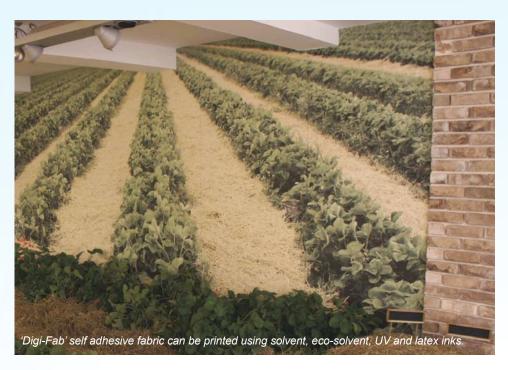
Doro Tape UK Ltd recently added a new self adhesive fabric called 'Digi-Fab' to its range of soft signage.

Digi-Fab is a 210gsm polyester fabric with an adhesive that can be respositioned, and will stick to any interior with a smooth, non porous surface. Even the worst crinkles can be smoothed out during application, which makes this material ideal for retail, exhibitions and displays.

Its removable adhesive makes it easy to replace without destroying walls, paint, glass or whatever you stick it to! According to the company this makes it perfect for when you require regular changing and updating.

Printable fabrics are considered to create a softer, more elegant appearance. James Carpenter at Doro Tape said: "Soft signage is increasingly popular in the sign industry as it offers high quality, photorealistic images that are both tactile and stylish."

www.dorotape.co.uk





## PVC free paint stencil films

Doro Tape UK Ltd, who supply a popular range of PVC paint stencil films to signmakers, paint shops and shop fitters, have introduced three paper alternatives that are PVC free.

The new paper stencil films, manufactured by the German company Regulus, come in three different types; Standard paper with a medium tack adhesive; Special paper - similar to the standard paper with a higher tack adhesive; and a Premium paper, medium tack adhesive that is resistant against solvent paints. All the films are easy to weed and have excellent lay flat properties, which means no edge curl even after a long drying time. This results in perfectly crisp edges with residue free removal. It also allows you to apply several layers at one time, which is not possible with PVC films.

Paper stencil films are ideal for small letters and fine shapes, excellent for creating very sharp edges, and can be recycled.

www.dorotape.co.uk



Film with an unparalleled metallic effect belonging to the CHROME APA WrapFilm line.

Provided with the "Air Free System" technology, the channeled adhesive that simplifies the application, guaranteeing a perfect result and providing aesthetically a stardust effect.

Furthermore, the film is easily printable with Solvent, Eco-solvent and UV inks.

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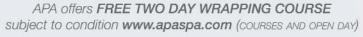


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### New sign and banner product range from Fairfield Displays

Fairfield Displays have launched a comprehensive range of sign, banner and graphic holders for paper, fabric and rigid materials called 'Signware Solutions'. The products provide a huge range of options to ceiling suspend, wall fix or to create POP units from poster material and display boards.

The products are high quality, yet create an economical solution for any display in shops, large supermarkets, restaurants and museums.

Geoffrey Fairfield said: "We have identified that there are many opportunities for this product in the UK and overseas. The system will integrate perfectly with our existing product. The Signware Solutions range has been used extensively in the US and other parts of Europe and their no reason why it can't be a great success in the UK. "

Sign companies and flatbed printers will find that this range will help them to create bespoke signs and point of sale displays. A range of aluminium profiles are available. which will hold material from thick poster paper up to 5mm thick. With this system you can create custom frames and banner presentations quickly and easily.

The Ano frames can be mounted flat to the wall or project forward up to 300mm to create box designs. Multi-frames can be joined together and can be used for directory systems, menu systems, signs and decorative collages. The frames can have mitred corners or push in square corners. Frames can be made to exact sizes; or lengths of 3 metres can be bought with accessories so that custom made frames can be made quickly by the sign maker.

AnoSky Boxes is a style of three dimensional frames which can be suspended from the ceiling or wall mounted. The profile has been designed to take a range of clips, which will support cables that can easily be fixed to the ceiling. The AnoSky Boxes are ideal for buildings with high ceilings. Clients often want to create an eye catching sign above information points or need to use signage to identify a product location in a shop. The attractive profile holds the signs firmly in position while it looks smart and professional.

www.annequin.co.uk



### Two new reflective graphics from ORAFOL



ORAFOL has introduced two new ECE 104 approved reflective graphics films for trucks and trailers. The new ORALITE® 5650 RA is available in two grades of reflectivity - one film certified to class D (ORALITE® 5650D RA Fleet Engineer Grade) and one film certified to class E (ORALITE® 5650E RA Fleet Marking Grade).

The new ORALITE® films have excellent printing properties for a range of different printing processes. These flexible films are constructed with the unique RapidAir® technology, which makes it easy to apply and nearly free from the risk of trapped air bubbles during the application process. The materials come with a permanent adhesive which boosts excellent repositioning properties during

ORALITE® 5650 RA is supplied in 100% splice free rolls, and in 15 vivid colours. The material is intended for to be put onto rigid surfaces only.

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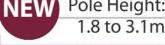
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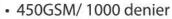
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### Save on short term signage

William Smith have added Arlon DPF 500 Calendered Promotional Film to the range of materials that are available ex-stock, which offers a cost-effective option for short term signage. It is suitable to use both inside and outside on flat surfaces.

DPF 500 provides excellent printability on solvent, eco-solvent and UV print systems. It features pressure-sensitive

adhesive and comes in white or clear vinyl with a gloss finish. Adhesive Options are clear permanent adhesive or grey-tinted permanent adhesive (available on the white film only).

Full and part rolls are available and same day despatch is offered on orders received up to 6.00pm.

www.williamsmith.co.uk



## Roland expand its versatile desktop flatbed UV printer range

The new VersaUV LEF-20 is the company's biggest, fastest and strongest desktop UV machine to date.

Roland DG has launched the VersaUV LEF-20, the latest addition to its popular line of desktop flatbed UV printers. The VersaUV LEF-20 offers greater productivity and outstanding print quality to providers of custom promotional products, signage, awards and consumer items, as well as industrial parts and packaging prototypes.

The innovative UV-LED lamp cures ink instantly and allows users to print directly onto a wide variety of substrates, including PET, ABS, leather and fabric materials. As well as 3D, industrial and consumer objects, ranging from golf balls, key chains and pens to metal tablet covers, smart phone cases and awards.



The VersaUV prints on a range of substrates.

"Two years' ago we launched the revolutionary LEF series, opening up an extraordinary new range of creative possibilities enabling businesses to print onto a wide variety of materials and products," says Jerry Davies, Managing Director, Roland DG UK.

"With the VersaUV LEF-20, we have now taken this technology to new levels of productivity and versatility, with a larger 20" print area enabling both larger items and speedier printing of multiple smaller items."

The new VersaUV LEF-20 prints directly onto items measuring up to 508mm in width, 330mm length and 100mm deep. This equates to 20 iphone covers, or larger items such as laptop covers, signs or even a guitar body.

The LEF-20 features Roland ECO-UV ink in CMYK, white and clear formulations for bright, high-opacity images and text. For jobs involving transparent or dark coloured materials, the LEF-20 features advanced ECO-UV high-density white ink. Clear ECO-UV ink can also be layered into interesting patterns and textures in both gloss and matte finishes.

The new machine includes Roland VersaWorks® RIP print management software, which features variable data printing, making it easy to personalise printed objects.

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### Wrap it with Doro Tape!

Whether promoting a business or upgrading a car, image is everything and the first impression really counts.

With this in mind Doro Tape UK Ltd stock a variety of innovative and attractive wrap films to help vehicle's stand out from the crowd. The Ri-Wrap range by Ritrama comprises of different textured films like carbon fibre, matt, ultra gloss, brushed effect and even snake skin!

The range features exceptional films like the Kandy wrap; a premium quality cast vinyl that boasts vibrant colours with a stunning metallic finish and a high gloss surface. Available in four eye-catching colours; Kandy Apple Red, Hot Wheels Blue, Bronze

and Silver. Cyberkrome is a high quality cast wrap film with a remarkable chrome finish and available at 1520mm wide. It used to only be available in silver, but Ritrama have introduced four new colours; red, yellow, blue and green.

In addition to the speciality textured films, the range includes Ri-Jet 50 airfree printable cast white vinyl, which is perfect for designing unique wraps. Used with Ri-Jet 30, the ultra-thin vehicle wrapping laminate, it is the best way to produce a high class graphic.







Thanks to the repositionable airflow adhesive which allows air to be easily squeezed out during application, these films allow a speedy and trouble free application.

Many of these distinctive films can also be used in retail, display and even home interior design work.

www.dorotape.co.uk

### A new dimension to safety signage

Spectrum Industrial has launched a new concept in health and safety signage in the form of barrier banner signs. Specifically designed to be fitted within a door frame at entrances and exits of work areas, these signs combine a physical barrier for a potentially dangerous area with clear advisory messages, such as 'hazardous area' or 'danger, men at work'.

The signs are manufactured from flexible banner PVC and fitted with integral expanding poles that allow a fast, temporary fitting. Shaped to a large yet manageable size, the signs allow the freedom to work without interruption. A range of standard messages is complemented by the option to customise and create bespoke barriers, capable of displaying any required message or company logo.

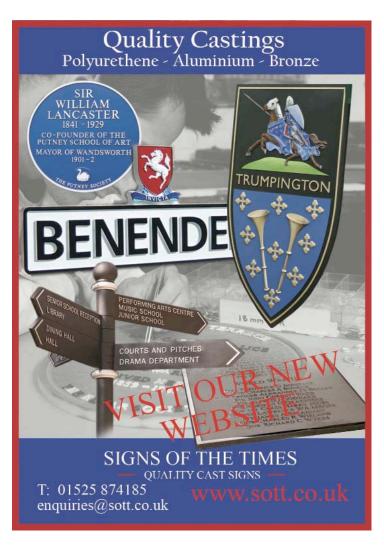
Designed to be re-used time after time, the Spectrum barrier banner can be removed and rolled up for transportation and storage. This makes it a practical, low-cost and space-saving investment for both sole workers and companies with larger workforces.

The barrier banner sign is ideal for builders, developers, plumbers, electricians and decorators who may have to contend with large volumes of site traffic. By displaying a highly visible advisory warning, anything from trip hazards to wet paint can be communicated effectively, safely and economically.

Spectrum Industrial safety products are available in all good safety distributors throughout the UK.







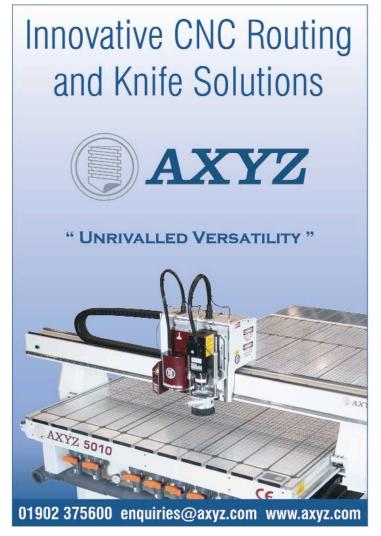


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## Drytac Europe announces new 'Dynamic' range of laminating films

Drytac Europe, who make products for graphics finishing and display, has launched a new high quality, cost-effective range of laminating films under the 'Dynamic' brand.

Developed for cost-conscious print service providers, the Dynamic range is suitable for numerous applications including point of sale, sign and display, exhibition and photographic purposes. It includes gloss, matte and sandgrain options, is 100 microns thick and is available in multiple widths from 880mm to 1520mm.

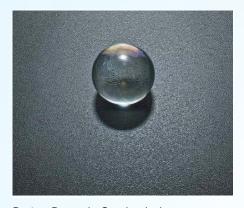
Steve Broad, Drytac Sales Director Europe, said, "The Dynamic laminating films were introduced to offer quality films at a keen price

point. The laminates are an ideal 'everyday' range of pressure-sensitive films and are perfect for enhancing and protecting indoor prints and exhibition graphics. Dynamic laminates have a solvent-based adhesive and can also be used for short-term outdoor graphics applications."

All three films offer excellent performance with outdoor exposure for up to one year if applied to water-based print, and two years if applied to a solvent-based print.

Mick Crook, Product Manager at Antalis - Drytac's exclusive distributor for the UK and Ireland, adds, "We will be introducing some promotional launch offers on the new films in the near future. Print service providers should call us to benchmark their current purchases and see how we can help save them money without compromising quality."

www.antalis.co.uk www.drytac.co.uk



Drytac Dynamic Sandgrain is a pressuresensitive, non-glare PVC over-laminating film with a crystal finish. It is hard-wearing and ideal for applications where extensive handling is required.



Drytac Dynamic Matte laminating film has a true matte finish and is non-glare. The water-resistant PVC laminate will eliminate reflection while maintaining colour contrast and details



Drytac Dynamic Gloss laminating film has a high gloss reflective finish that is waterresistant and provides UV protection. The gloss finish enhances colour vibrancy and is very durable.

### **Allen Signs in fashion**

LG, which is the Official Garment Care Supplier to London Fashion Week Spring/Summer 2014, has joined forces with British fashion designer Holly Fulton and Lincolnshire-based vinyl wrapping specialist Allen Signs to launch a limited edition washing machine.

The bespoke F1495KD6HF Holly Fulton for LG 6 Motion washing machine features a striking monochrome Holly Fulton fashion print which the consumer can then customise themselves, choosing from 16 different colour combinations to suit their own interior style.

The colour choices have been selected by Holly herself, including warm summery shades complemented by a choice of four cooler pantones.

Dawn Stockell, LG Marketing Communications Manager, said: "Customisation is something which we have recognised to be a popular trend with our target market. In light of this we wanted to be able to offer a product

which involved them at the design stage with the end result being a home appliance to seamlessly suit their personal style at home.

"The first few finished products we have seen wrapped by Allen Signs so far have been met with a fantastic reception, the colours within the designs really stand out well and the quality of the finish maintains a very high standard in all corners and curves of the product."

Glen Merryweather from Allen Signs added: "We're very happy to be working with LG again on this project.

"We're used to wrapping all sorts of objects but mostly vehicles from vans to road planers, so this is a more unusual job for us. We've already wrapped two machines for the launch of the project and look forward to providing customers with their bespoke colour combinations."

www.allen-signs.co.uk





## Caldera puts colour and error prevention at forefront of latest RIP release

Caldera has announced the commercial availability of version 9.20 of its popular RIP software, with updates including advanced preflighting, colour management enhancements, True Shape Nesting and a new Image Bar interface enabling quick access to documents. The latest version of Caldera's flagship RIP engine was first unveiled at FESPA 2013, where it was warmly received by visitors from all sectors of the industry.

The latest version of Caldera's flagship RIP engine was first unveiled at FESPA 2013, where it was warmly received by visitors from all sectors of the industry. Colour management is at the forefront of the new release, with v9.20 including EasyMedia as standard for the first time and giving users cloud access to the Caldera ICC profile library.

"When we talk to our customers about what is important in their businesses, colour management always comes up," explains Frederic Soulier, chief technical officer Caldera. "Anything that is such an integral part of a wide-format operation should be supported by their software, and that's why we decided to make EasyMedia a standard part of the RIP solution in v9.20 – if it's not an option for our customers. it's not for Caldera."

The new Preflight tools will help to ensure users produce perfect prints the first time, incorporating the renowned Callas technology also used in Adobe Acrobat. The Preflight option checks for compatibility against a number of standards and rules, including PDF/X, PDF/A, PDF/VT, image resolution, fonts and ICC profiles, and returns a simple red or green light report. The preflight process can be initiated either manually, and applied to one file, or automatically to all files in a specified Hotfolder.

For VisualRIP+ and GrandRIP+ users, the Preflight tool will produce a web report for the operator, as well as an enriched PDF file highlighting any issues. Preflight also integrates with Flow+, sending reports to the MIS manager, and with Caldera WebShop to show a simple file status to the end user. "The Preflight tools will take the guesswork out of printing by making sure a file conforms to our users' standards before it gets as far as being printed," said Joseph Mergui, chief executive officer, Caldera.

"By taking advantage of this new option, Caldera users will not only save themselves time with the automation it offers, but also money and resources through not needing to re-print."

In v9.20, Caldera is also revolutionising the print-to-cut process with the new True Shape Nesting tool, which will help

print shop managers maximise their resources with more efficient placement of images on media. As requested by Caldera's users, True Shape Nesting uses the actual contours of an image, ignoring any blank space or bounding boxes, to nest images together in a way that minimises media waste when cut. In addition, the tool will help users save ink by eliminating any need to print beyond the cut contours.

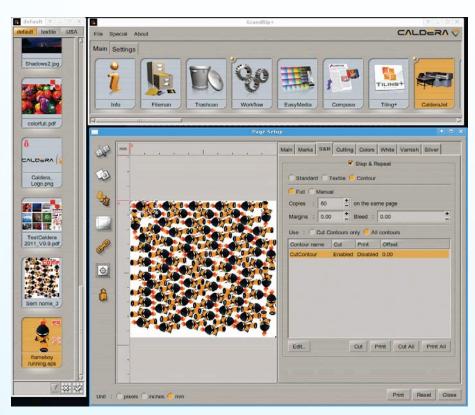
"By taking advantage of this new option, Caldera users will not only save themselves time with the automation it offers, but also money and resources through not needing to re-print."

Caldera has also updated its Process Standard Verifier to allow businesses to calibrate and verify their prints according to the G7 standard. Adding to the existing standards verification tools for Fogra Process Standard Digital, the latest enhancement to this tool will help Caldera users prepare for G7 certification.

In addition, a new Image Bar feature will act as a document tray, giving users easy access and instant visuals as well as keyword filtering, to save time when searching for specific files.

"These new upgrades to the Caldera RIP represent the real partnership we have with our users," says Sebastien Hanssens, vice-president marketing, Caldera. "Many are user-requested features, and others have evolved from less specific feedback. By listening to the people who use our products day in and day out, we have been able to focus our efforts on the things they really need to make their production run as efficiently as possible. It is this continuous userled development that is keeping Caldera at the forefront of wide-format software."

www.caldera.com



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Power your imagination with the next generation of the world's best-selling printer in the durable graphics market.

This new version is according to the company, an advanced yet affordable wide format print and cut machine equipped with Roland's new ECO-SOL MAX2 inks, and productivity and usability enhancements.

Roland DG, the leading worldwide provider of wide-format inkjet printers and printer/cutters for professional durable graphics, has introduced the new VersaCAMM VS-i wide format print & cut series.

"The VersaCAMM is recognised throughout the industry as the pioneer of print and cut technology and the new VS-i series continues to build the innovation that has made it the world's best-selling printer in the durable graphics market," said Rob Goleniowski, Business Manager – Sign and Graphics, Roland DG UK. "The new VS-i series combines the reliability and ease of use for which these machines are internationally renowned, with a host

of powerful new features and usability enhancements. There is no doubt the new VS-i is one of the most versatile and affordable solutions on the market today and will remain the industry's favourite printer/cutter for durable graphics."

The VS-i series incorporates Roland's new high definition ECO-SOL MAX2 ink, available in nine colours including CMYKLcLm, White, Metallic Silver and Light Black. The new light black delivers accurate reproduction of greys and skin tones for flawless photographic reproductions and seamless gradients. The latest generation white and metallic inks offer higher density than ever before, plus approximately 1.5 times faster production speed for white ink, and up to 2 times the speed for metallic ink compared to the previous model. All this enables the VS-i series to produce a versatile range of applications including;

- durable outdoor and indoor banners
- signs
- POP
- print and cut labels
- heat transfers for garment decoration
- transparent window graphics
- vehicle wraps
- high quality fine art prints.

The new VS-i series also has a range of additional enhancements such as front loading ink cartridges for easy user access, and the ability to adjust cut settings during operation to improve accuracy and flexibility on long or complex jobs. The integrated contour cutting on the VS-i series can produce graphics of any shape in one seamless workflow. This is backed by a comprehensive one-year RolandCare Silver warranty, a free Digital Print course at the Roland Academy and the inspirational samples in the Roland DG Creative Centre.

www.rolanddg.co.uk/VersaCAMMVSi

### At a glance: VersaCAMM VS-i Series features

- Nine colour eco-solvent wide format print and cut device available in three models:
- 64-inch (1625mm) VS-640i
- 54-inch (1371mm) VS-540i
- 30-inch (762mm) VS-300i
- The industry's most advanced latest generation print head technology for reliable and stable production, outstanding image quality and high productivity
- · Innovative print head design fires droplets of seven different sizes, with settings that can be adjusted for specific media and print resolutions
- Print speeds up to 26.9m2/hr for high production print modes
- · Roland Intelligent Pass Control® precisely controls dot placement between passes for high quality images that are virtually free of banding
- Roland automated ink circulation system to dramatically reduce maintenance costs of white and metallic silver inks and deliver consistent output quality

#### - New ECO-SOL MAX2 ink produces rich, vibrant colours

- · Highly Durable, scratch resistant and virtually odourless
- · Fast, consistent drying across prints for even colours and sharp images and text
- · Supports coated and uncoated media

#### - New ECO-SOL MAX2 light black (Lk) ink

- · Achieves accurate grey colour reproduction and seamless gradations
- · Enhances the quality of subtle colours and skin tones which contain neutral colours

#### - New white and metallic silver inks

- Higher-density White ECO-SOL MAX2 ink delivers approximately 1.5 times faster production speed while producing brighter, more opaque white text and graphics
- Metallic Silver ECO-SOL MAX2 delivers approximately 2 times faster production speed while the pigments are more reflective for maximum brightness

#### - Five different ink configurations of nine colours including:

- CMYK plus Light Cyan, Light Magenta, Light Black, White (CMYKLcLmLk+Wh)
- CMYK plus Light Cyan, Light Magenta, Light Black, Metallic Silver (CMYKLcLmLk+Mt)
- CMYK plus Light Cyan, Light Magenta, White, Metallic Silver (CMYKLcLm+Wh+Mt)
- CMYK plus Light Cyan, Light Magenta, Light Black (CMYKLcLmLk)
- Dual CMYK (CMYK+CMYK)

#### - Usability enhancements including:

- Front loading ink cartridges for easy access
- · Ability to adjust cut position while cutting

#### Roland Print & Cut technology for versatility

- Prints and automatically contour cuts graphics to any shape
- · Ideal for custom applications such as POP, floor signage, stickers, vehicle decals or apparel heat transfers

#### - Latest version of Roland VersaWorks®

- Features built-in PANTONE® spot colour libraries to streamline the conversion process from PANTONE® to CMYK colours
- · Includes a predictive ink calculator which estimates the amount of ink needed and printing time for each job
- Roland OnSupport enables unattended printing by sending text or email messages to a smart phone or remote computer when a print job is completed or ink is running low.



## 17 News

### New banner display system

Galebreaker Ad-Cassette is a new innovative system for displaying advertising banners at high level on both external and internal walls.

Banners are changed quickly and easily at ground level by one person in just a few minutes. Ad-Cassette does not require any lifting equipment, cherrypickers or ladders to change the banners. The changeover is such a simple process that no contractors are needed. The built in self-tensioning system ensures a professional flawless display.

Ad-Cassette offers dealers a great opportunity to take a new product to market according to the company. Made exclusively in the UK by a manufacturer of related products, the system is only sold through the Ad-Cassette dealer network. Each system is sold without banners thus allowing re-sellers total flexibility and the opportunity of further sales. It is anticipated that Ad-Cassette will generate regular income for dealers as end users take advantage of being able to easily and frequently change their advertising message. Dealers can expect gross margins of up to 53% on RRP and will receive ongoing comprehensive support from the manufacturer.

Ad-Cassette is available in standard billboard poster sizes from 16 sheet to 96 sheet or can be made-to-measure for bespoke installations. The system is supplied with a secure key operated 220 Vac electric drive. There is a 12-month guarantee.

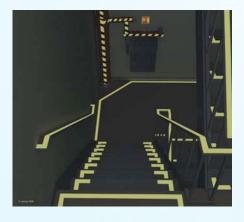
www.adcassette.com



### Faster, brighter, safer signage solution from INNOVA

INNOVA Solutions has introduced a new and improved safety way guidance system based on advanced photo-luminescence technology, in collaboration with American business partner Jessup Manufacturing.

Like Glo Brite 7535, the PSPA Class B product launched earlier in the year, Glo Brite 7555 is PSPA Class C rated and together they replace the existing 7520 and



7550 products. Glo Brite 7555 delivers a much higher level of photo-luminescent brightness. It uses the same technology that enables the storage of energy from ambient light sources and then re-emits this energy via signage that glows brightly in the dark. The film also requires no power source and therefore incurs no run-

ning costs. It is reliable and efficient in application and will provide essential directional signage even under conditions of total blackout or a smoke-filled environment.

Although these thin film constructions are 'greener' environmentally, they are much paler in colour and provide a better contrast to the print to improve legibility. They also provide greater flexibility in application; deliver sharper edge-definition and colour density; are compatible with virtually any printing process; and faster drying times improve production efficiency.

Both products are available in a satin/matt finish and in a choice of self-ad-

Like 7535, the new 7555 film incorporates the same cutting-edge development in HD surface technology, which use the latest and most innovative photo-luminescent pigments. These produce a brighter afterglow in blackout conditions as well as charge faster in ambient light.

> hesive rolls and sheets, rigid sheets and printed tapes. They conform to all relevant international quality and performance standards, such as product durability, flame, smoke and toxicity accreditations, which make them especially relevant to the transportation industry and marine and offshore environments.

> With all of the known benefits of Glo Brite photo-luminescent technology but now incorporating major new performance enhancements, the film is offered to existing customers at no additional cost option

www.innovasolutions.co.uk



### It's everything you love in a VersaCAMM and more

We've taken everything users love in their Roland VersaCAMM, then packed in more of what you wanted.

Faster-drying ECO-SOL MAX2 ink in CMYKLcLm, White, Metallic and new Light Black, the latest print head technology, PANTONE® colour matching, front loading cartridges, and so much more.

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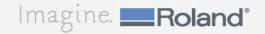
\*Source: InfoTrends wide format data 2009- 2013, Solvent ink and durable aqueous ink technology category

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#### Find out more at

www.rolanddg.co.uk/VSi call 0845 230 90 60



### **Brilliant effects with new film from 3M**

3M has launched its Dichroic Film range of colour shift products, which create dazzling special effects at a fraction of the cost of authentic dichroic glass or coloured acrylic panels. It was formally introduced at the recent 100% Design Exhibition in London.

The products follow the increasing use by designers and architects of dichroic glass due to its ability to shroud interior spaces with multi-coloured graphic manifestations. The main characteristic of the glass is its ability to provide both transmitted colour and a completely different reflective colour that shifts dependent on the angle from which it is viewed. Use of dichroic glass can add a significant cost to any project, but the same effects can be achieved easily and at a fraction of the cost using 3M's colour-shift films.

Dichroic Film is available in Chill and Blaze colours to apply to glass, plastic or acrylic surfaces as a visual opaque or decorative graphic. The Chill version shifts colours from the transmitted cool tones of blue, magenta and yellow to the reflective colours of gold and blue. While the Blaze version shifts colours from the warm tones of cyan, blue and magenta to red and gold. The colours seen by the viewer from either side of the glass surface are influenced by the environment, lighting, angle of viewing and mounting surface colour.

Depending on the required application, users of the film can opt for the DF-Chill and DF-Blaze film only version or the DF-A Chill and DF-A Blaze version that can also be printed in order to incorporate logos and special effects. These two products are recommended for use only on plastic or acrylic surfaces, but the third product in the range (DF-PA Chill and DF-PA Blaze) can be used on any smooth glass surface. This film is not

printable and incorporates a pressure-sensitive adhesive.

All of the products in the range are easy to apply and clean using a mild detergent solution. They provide a wrinkle and bubble free finish and can be purposely removed as required with no damage to the substrate.

www.3M.co.uk/innovativefinishes





Iron Design has launched a new range of slim line LED trough lights to accompany its existing range of projecting signs.

The new LED lighting units will replace the current T5 fluorescent lights, and give a bright uniform beam of light with lower energy consumption and a lifetime of 50,000 plus hours. This green/eco option will be supplied in 600mm lengths, to suit the standard 750mm sign brackets and Curvex sign, and in 850mm lengths to suit the large 1000mm sign brackets. The 600mm lighting units will produce 600 lumen and use only 6 watts per side, and the 850mm lengths will produce 900 lumen and use only 9 watts per side.

The new slim line profile of the lighting unit is far less obtrusive than other similar trough lights on the market, only having a profile width of 53mm x 25mm. This detracts far less from the visual impact of the actual sign. These lights will be available in pairs supplied with a transformer, cables and all the necessary fixings to mount to the projecting sign bracket.

www.ironsigns.com

## plot-IT adds to its product portfolio



plot-IT, the online sales business offering a range of wide format printers, media and inks in the UK and Europe, has announced that it has added HP's new Designjet Z5400 Postscript ePrinter to its product portfolio.

The new HP Designjet Z5400 multi-roll ePrinter has been designed to help print service providers increase their print offerings and address a wider range of requests without the need for a large capital investment.

The 44-inch ePrinter is ideal for printing wide format applications that require high image quality such as posters, canvases, backlit prints, indoor signs, point-of-sale posters and maps. The HP Designjet Z5400 enables companies to offer a fast turnaround of orders due to its multi-roll and smart media switching features,.

Stuart Bilsland from plot-IT, said: "The HP Designjet Z5400 ePrinter is an ideal entry level solution which offers dual roll functionality, postscript as standard and a free fine art and photo starter pack at a very cost-effective price. We are delighted to add it to our product line up and are sure it will be a big hit with both existing and potential customers."

HP Designjet Z5400 ePrinters purchased through plot-IT are covered by HP's warranty. plot-IT also offer direct warranty servicing as an official HP Designjet Warranty provider, including remote fault diagnostics and automated ink ordering if desired.

www.plot-it.co.uk

## New adhesive for any surface

Over the last eight years Indasol have established a wide range of products primarily designed for the sign maker or fabricator. They are now concentrating on increasing their range of products with the sign fitter in mind and have launched Indasol Sign-bonder.

Signbonder is a fast cure, instant 'grab', load bearing adhesive that can be used internally or externally and applied even in the rain.

It was designed as a "fix all" type of adhesive as many fitters have complained in the past that they often need to be able to bond to a variety of surfaces. And quite often do not know until they get to site what they are bonding to! Sign-bonder will bond to brick, concrete, wood, metals and composite panels and most surfaces with an instant (no slip) grab.

Indasol have always tried to offer true "problem solving solutions" for the sign companies and they believe Signbonder fits that description due to its versatility and ease of use.

www.indasol.co.uk



## Three-year warranty for selected Mimaki printers

Signmakers offered trade-in for unique three year warranty and ink package on selected Mimaki printers.

Sign and graphics companies that trade in an old solvent printer when they invest in a Mimaki CJV30 or JV33 this autumn and winter, will receive a unique three year fully comprehensive warranty and a total of £1,800 worth of Mimaki ink capable of producing over 700m2 of print.

With 1.3m and 1.6m models to choose from, the Mimaki JV33 offers "sector-defining print and build quality; a proven track record in graphics; production departments around the world; and a choice of eco-solvent or Mimaki's SS21 low solvent inks", according to Hybrid. The two largest

CJV30 Series models (the 1.3m CVJ30-130 and 1.6m CJV30-160) are also applicable to the offer and provide integrated print and cut functionality with the same print quality and inksets as the JV33.

Customers need to trade in an old solvent printer to benefit from a warranty that is three times the typical industry standard and a bumper pack of ink that is capable of generating significant revenue from the outset. John de la Roche, national sales manager for Mimaki's exclusive distributor, Hybrid Services Ltd said: "A three year warranty gives complete peace of mind for our customers and is significantly longer than any other offer in the wide format industry. To know that their investment is protected means a lot to our customers a new Mimaki with three years of fully comprehensive, gold warranty cover ensures premium support and response, should it ever be required."

Prospective customers seeking to take advantage of the offer have until the end of December to place their order with one of Hybrid's authorised resellers. Hybrid will recycle their traded-in solvent printer and ship the additional inks to the customer. "Including the 3.5 litres of ink that come as standard, customers will receive almost nine litres of ink in total," confirms de la Roche. "That's enough to produce well over 700m2 of print that could have a retail value in excess of the printer itself!"

www.hybridservices.co.uk



ASLAN presents new self-adhesive matt whiteboard films

The manufacturer of self-adhesive films for special applications expands its range of whiteboard films with two new matt versions. These can be applied fast and easily onto smooth surfaces to create high quality whiteboards. This makes them ideal for changing letterings in schools, seminar rooms, hospitals and in private homes.

The new matt films are available in white and transparent, ASLAN WB 975 and ASLAN CB 75, and have a special surface that avoids any reflections. Writings can be easily wiped off dry without leaving any ghosting. This makes them ideal for creating long lasting whiteboards, individually printed or designed whiteboard surfaces and for projecting videos or pictures onto the vinyl.



www.ASLAN-schwarz.com.



### PRODUCT Choice

### Glendining Signs buys its third HP printer

Glendining Signs Ltd, Reading, has installed its third HP Scitex FB500 Industrial Printer to meet customer demand and leverage the advantage of direct to substrate digital printing.

"We had several goals when we were looking for a new printer: print quality, production throughput and versatility"

The company, which began selling safety services and equipment in 1979, has evolved into a full-service digital sign company that offers flexible and rigid signs for a range of customers.

"We had several goals when we were looking for a new printer: print quality,

production throughput and versatility," said Chris Lake, operations director, Glendining Signs Ltd.

"A key factor in choosing the HP Scitex FB500 was the continuous substrate feed using a moving belt rather than a fixed bed. This production method fits in with our fast-paced requirements perfectly."

The HP Scitex FB500 Industrial Printer uses piezoelectric printheads to print up to six colours - one of which can be an optional white. The variable drop size gives excellent print quality sharp lines, text and smooth tones. The press has the ability to print at speeds up to 29.6m2/hr (398ft2/hr) for outdoor signage, and up to 16.4m2/hr (177ft2/hr) for indoor applications, to deliver high productivity and throughput.

"We purchased our first FB500 press from Paperlinx (then Robert Horne) for printing

health and safety signs," explained Lake.

"We were so pleased with the speed, quality and versatility of the machine that we went back to Paperlinx and bought a second HP Scitex FB500 Industrial Printer just three months later."

Being able to print direct to substrate meant that sticking vinyl onto rigid substrates was no longer necessary. This increased productivity while reducing production and factory space costs. About 80 per cent of the company's production is on rigid substrates, so the savings had a significant impact on the business.

The most common rigid substrates used by Glendining Signs include 4 and 10mm Correx, foam board and Di-bond. Common flexible substrates printed include various types of vinyl, PVC banner and mesh banner materials.

#### Opening new markets with digital production

To illustrate the benefits digital production, Lake explains how a customer request for acrylic door numbers opened a new market for digitally printed signs using the HP Scitex FB500 Industrial Printer.

"The sample provided was clear acrylic, backed with frosted vinyl and on the other side was a black cut-out vinyl letter," Lake said.

"For us to produce the sign in the same way as the sample would have been very time-consuming and costly due to the amount of labour involved. Using one of our HP Scitex FB500 printers we were able to simulate the frosted effect by printing a light grey translucent background and at the same time, print the door number direct to the acrylic."

The customer approved the sample and told Glendining Signs that it was better than the original. The company was able to fulfil the order at a competitive price and achieve a fast turnaround.

"Since then, we have had repeat business from this customer for more acrylic signs and we are now marketing these signs to others," said Lake.

The decision to add the third HP Scitex FB500 Industrial Printer required a major change to accommodate the new printer, having squeezed the second printer into existing space. At the beginning

of 2013, Glendining Signs decided to convert one of its warehouses into a new print room and move all three FB500 printers into it.

"With the third HP Scitex FB500 printer installed, we have increased our capacity again and are once more actively seeking new business," said Lake.

"Our future vision is to encourage the

growth of the company at a steady controlled rate while maintaining the levels of service our customers are used to. We believe that the HP Scitex FB500 Industrial Printers are allowing us to do just that!"

www.youtube.com/hpgraphicarts www.facebook.com/HPdesigners



The HP Scitex FB500 Industrial Printer – Glendining Sign's third FB500 printer.



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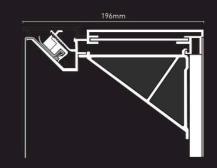
The Econoflex system is now easily recognised for utilising the now industry familiar 'black clip' tensioning system. Its design enables ease of both manufacture and maintenance with no pocketing, springs or eyeleting, and available in a depth of 196mm, it is ideally suited for both fluorescent and LED lighting solutions.

Econoflex is a light weight system that has the versatility of being able to create most shapes and has no size restrictions. Also available is a double sided option at a depth of just 220mm.

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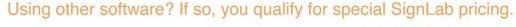


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### PRODUCT Choice

### **CMYUK Digital to resell Mimaki**

Mimaki's exclusive UK and Irish distributor, Hybrid Services Ltd, is pleased to announce the appointment of CMYUK Digital Limited to its reseller network. The longstanding Berkshire based equipment supplier is to offer Mimaki's complete line-up of printers from its industrial products range.

Mimaki's industrial machines include the UJF-3042 A3 and UJF-6042 A2 flatbed LED UV-curable printers – for applications as broad as the printing of promotional products and small format signage, as well as being integrated within manufacturing environments. At the top of the range sits the JFX500-2131 dedicated flatbed machine – a printer ideally suited to the production of high end rigid graphics.

Welcoming CMYUK Digital into its authorised reseller network, Hybrid's national sales manager John de la Roche said: "CMYUK Digital presents us with a team of extremely experienced print professionals to supply and support Mimaki's versatile industrial printers."

He continues: "As specialists in the digital inkjet printing sector, new customers can be assured of receiving expert knowledge and support from this appointment."

CMYUK Digital's team includes colour-management and technical support specialists. Its customer base includes litho



printers and screen process businesses as well as start-up and established sign-makers and digital display producers.

www.hybridservices.co.uk. www.cmyukdigital.com



The Mimaki UJF 6042, one of their A2 flatbed LED UV-curable printers.





### PRODUCT Choice

### Increased productivity with Mimaki upgrade

Caravelle Creative has reported a huge increase in output since they installed a new Mimaki JV33-160 inkjet printer.

The new 1.6m wide-format engine replaced a five-year-old Mimaki JV3-160 to increase productivity, improve quality and meet the demands of their customers. According to lan Daniels, Managing Director of Caravelle Creative, the JV33-160 has achieved this three-fold:

"Since we installed the machine our output has gone up by about 300 per cent," he says. "I've been asking myself, 'How did we ever survive with the old machine?' – and it's no exaggeration to say that."

Caravelle Creative offers a full design package, such as website creation, branding, SEO management and small-format printing work such as brochures. The installation of the printer has expanded this portfolio even further, to provide a greater large-format offering.

"We didn't take on a lot of wide-format work before but now with the new JV33-160

we have the confidence to take on new clients," Daniels says.

The Mimaki JV33-160 and its smaller sibling, the JV33-130, is also ideal for the production of outdoor durable work like sports field hoardings – one of the many areas Caravelle Creative has worked in since installing the new machine.

"We've also produced a lot of exhibition graphics, especially for events at Olympia and Earls Court," says Daniels. "For those jobs, people often ask for them to be done by the next day, and we can do that now. Before we had the new printer we were looking at two days; now we can offer a much quicker turnaround."

The JV33 runs Mimaki SS21 solvent ink, a friendlier alternative to the Mimaki SS2 ink used in Caravelle Creative's former JV3. Available in white, clear and metallic options, SS21 is also eligible for the 'Let's Do More'

rebate-linked cartridge recycling scheme through Hybrid Services.

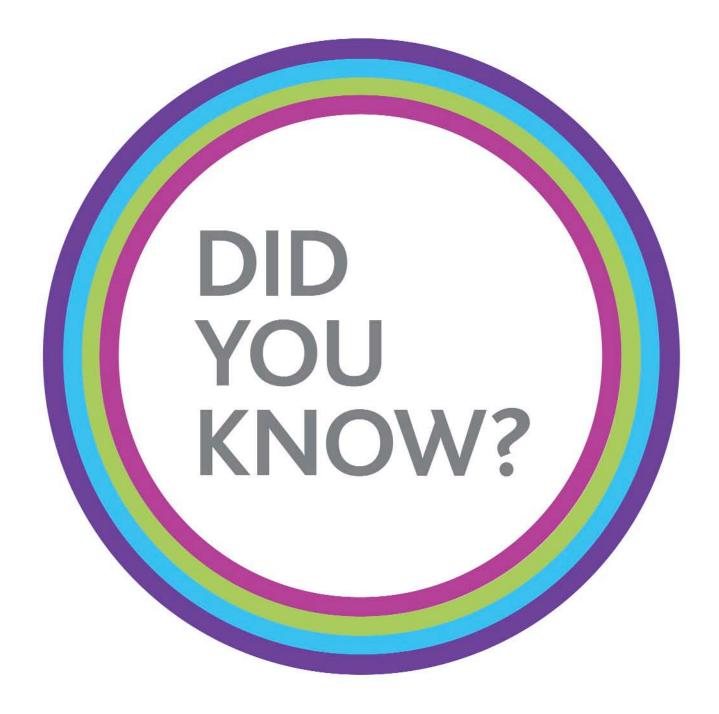
The new Mimaki JV33-160 was recently installed by Kettering-based wide-format distributor i-Sub Digital. Andy Spreag, Director of i-Sub Digital, said: "It's a testament to the build quality of Mimaki machines that the original Mimaki JV3 was still running after five years of producing work daily. The new Mimaki JV33 that replaced it has allowed Caravelle to produce brilliant quality work in a fraction of the time and in turn allowed them to transform their business.

"This is a great example of how investing in new, faster, better quality and environmentally friendlier technology can take a business forward and bring new work into a business that wasn't possible with the old machine."

www.i-subdigital.com



The Mimaki JV33-160 has brought significant new business to Caravelle Creative.



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## PRODUCT Choice

## Signcraft keeps pace with new Seiko II ColorPainter

Signcraft have met the challenges of recession-hit property market by investing in a new Seiko II ColorPainter W-64s, which has enabled them to increase the range of their services and applications.

For 40 years Signcraft have provided marketing boards to clients in the property sector. Now they can also deliver architectural signage, fascias and displays by adding this new printer to their existing UV flatbed printer.

Bob Colwell, managing director, said: "This recession has hit the industry hard and we have had to adapt to meet the challenge. We have developed a fast and responsive service based on quality and accuracy to ensure we deliver a great value and essential service."

"If you ask anybody what they want from a printer, they will tell you they need it to print right and work all the time."

Delivering this level of quality and service has required Signcraft to be at the cutting edge of new technology. This explains why they were one of the first companies in the





Bob Colwell, managing director of Signcraft with his Seiko II ColorPainter W-64s.

property industry to bring full colour digital inkjet graphics when they bought the original Seiko ColorPainter 64S in 2004.

Their new Seiko large format mild solvent inkjet printer from Colourgen is a 64" wide printer that uses high viscosity inks and features a new piezo printhead. This was developed by Seiko to deliver "outstanding image quality without any loss of colour density. The improved dot pattern gives sharp, crisp images in all print modes and offers high quality production speeds up to 18sqmph."

Bob said: "If you ask anybody what they want from a printer, they will tell you they need it to print right and work all the time. That's what we have always had from the Seikos.

"Our business has had to move forward to remain successful. We still deliver the standard property boards just as our clients want them, but the ColorPainters have allowed us to grow and develop our business in line with the needs of our customers."

www.signcraft.co.uk

### The Canvas Print Studio installs new Epson

The Canvas Print Studio creates stretched and rolled canvases, poster prints, giclee prints and Epson Digigraphie prints; all from the original pictures and artwork supplied by its range of customers including professional photographers, the general public and trade customers – primarily via the company's website.

The company maintains that quality and efficiency is at the core of everything they do. In order to maintain the highest quality, longest-lasting output, they use branded canvas media, original inks and premium European pine stretcher bars with wooden wedges. The company also has an impressive, intuitive, online ordering system which enables customers to see exactly how their photos will be cropped and what size will work best.

When the company first started out with its Epson aqueous large format printers, the production process meant that each canvas had to be printed, dried and then varnished to achieve long-lasting quality. However, with the introduction of the new eco-solvent technology, Rafal Sokol, who founded Canvas Print Studio, realised he could speed up the production process whilst maintaining the very highest quality output.

He said: "We started looking at the new ranges of eco-solvent printers on the market which would remove the need for time-consuming varnishing without compromising quality and thereby speed up the delivery time to customers. I contacted Steve Guest

at Stanford Marsh Group Graphics (SMGG) and met up with him at Sign & Digital UK 2013 to discuss the various options available in the marketplace."

SMGG is a reseller of a wide range of printing hardware and the associated peripherals and was able to offer independent advice as to the best-fit solution for The Canvas Print Studio's needs. After reviewing the various options available, Rafal decided upon the Epson SureColor SC70600.

Rafal continues: "It was a bonus that the printer could be delivered in one piece as it meant we were very quickly able to get the printer up and running. We were printing test prints within an hour or so and the machine was fully operational within four hours."

The Epson SureColor has enabled The Canvas Print Studio to expand its product line and speed up delivery to its customers, since being installed. Rafal said: "The printer enables us to offer new, highly creative end-products to our customers and the end result is truly unique

output. Our customers are always coming up with new ideas and our ability to offer white and metallic inks opens up a raft of creative opportunities for all sorts of applications."

He says, "The eco-solvent inks from Epson are almost half the price of the aqueous inks we used in our old printer. Not only are they very cost-effective, they offer greater benefits due to the applications they open up and ultimately lead to greater profitability for our business. The output created by the inks is also much more stable."

"As eco-solvent technology was a whole new printing technique for us, we needed someone who we could rely on to be able to recommend and install the right product to meet our needs. We were reassured by SMGG that the Epson printer would do exactly what we needed it to do - and that has proven to be the case."

www.thecanvasprintstudio.co.uk www.smgg.co.uk

The Epson SureColor SC70600 roll-to-roll printer can produce everything from exhibition displays, posters, banners, textiles, backlit panels and POS materials to vehicle wraps, wallpaper and labels. It is Epson's first 64-inch (162.6cm) printer to support white and metallic ink simultaneously, enabling creative print makers, specialist sign makers and professional display printers to expand their service portfolios. The advanced ink formula means prints are lightfast for up to three years outdoors without lamination.



### PRODUCT Choice

### When speed matters

Signpost Signs enjoy high print quality at speed and faster turnaround with a Roland DG's SOLJET PRO4 XR-640 printer/cutter.

Signpost Signs has been producing signage, from large format banners and photoboards to vehicle livery and exterior and interior signage, for over 15 years.

Company owner, Steve Hems, and his team of seven produce its wide range of applications for a variety of customers such as local government, schools and colleges, and designers.

Signpost Signs bought the XR-640 printer/cutter through printMAX in December 2012. The new machine has already had a major impact on the company. It has enabled the team to be more efficient and produce large format prints quicker than ever before. According to the company they can confidently look to a future where they can offer their customers an even wider range of services.

"Now we have the PRO 4 XR-640 we are able to target more markets and offer our customers more services."

Signpost Signs has been a loyal Roland user and printMAX customer for over five years. It purchased its first wide format machine, a Roland XJ-640 printer, when the company moved to its current base in Sidcup, Kent. They bought the XJ-640 as it could be used without having to install an ex-

traction unit, and the machine has been producing all its large format work ever since. But when the SOLJET PRO4 XR-640 was launched late last year, Steve decided it was time to upgrade his kit.

Steve said: "Over the five years we used the XJ-640 we never had any major issues and we have always been happy with the print quality and user experience. However, to stay ahead in a very competitive digital print market I believe it is important to invest in the newest technology to ensure you are able to continually perform at the optimum level. It was a no-brainer for us to stick with Roland products because we've had such a good experience and when we heard about the launch of the SOLJET

PRO4 XR-640, our minds were made up immediately because it is everything we wanted in a machine."

Particularly appealing to Steve was Roland's print and cut technology, which streamlines production by automatically printing and kiss/die contour cutting printed graphics. Steve continued: "The integrated print and cut facility on the PRO4 XR-640 has really simplified our work and significantly reduced our production times. Within two weeks of having the machine, we took on our largest print and cut job to date - rebranding a fleet of 21 coaches for one of the largest

coach companies in the South East. It's a job we definitely would not have been able to fulfil if we didn't have the new Roland."

Steve also praised the new colours available with Roland's new ECO-SOL MAX2 inks and the ability to print at full speed without sacrificing the print quality. He said: "Another brilliant feature of this printer is the fact there is no compromise to the quality of output when printing at full speed. We still get a top notch finish, just quicker, so we can turn jobs around faster than we could before. I've also noticed the improvement the light black ink has to the final finish of prints. The gradients are smoother, as are the flood coatings. These improvements are really ap-



One of the 21 coaches Signpost Signs worked on – their largest job since buying the new printer

preciated by our customers. Our old Roland did a brilliant job but there are visible benefits to switching to the PRO4."

The SOLJET PRO4 XR-640 is Roland's flagship model. The versatile, high-performance unit is Roland's widest, fastest and most powerful printer/cutter to date that features a revolutionary print head design. The inline formation of the print heads and unique design, produces ink droplets of seven different sizes that results in a high density finish and flawless photographic reproduction. It is compatible with Roland's innovative ECO-SOL MAX2 ink which is available in a configuration of up to eight colours including CMYK, light magenta, light

cyan, white, metallic silver and light black. These durable inks are suitable for outdoor and indoor use and have fast drying times and a wide colour gamut to suit any creative project.

Steve concluded: "Now we have the PRO 4 XR-640 we are able to target more markets and offer our customers more services. We will be printing and installing larger contour cut wraps for vehicles on a regular basis, and we are also looking to produce bespoke digital print wallpapers for the commercial and domestic market. Our new Roland has really boosted our future prospects."

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## PRODUCT Choice

# Signtec save money by switching to Nazdar UV inks

Signtec have 'saved a fortune' by using alternative inks in their Agfa Anapurna machine.

Since converting their printer to Navdar inks in 2012, they have found it significantly less expensive than the original equipment manufacturers' ink, while providing the same colour and print performance. Based in Chelmsford they supply signage and graphics across East Anglia.

Peter French, Project Manager at Signtec, said; "When we first bought the machine, we'd not even heard of alternative inks. We gladly sent off our ink order and wrote a large cheque at the end of each month."

# "Thanks to Nazdar, we've saved buckets of cash!"

When alternative inks became more widely used Signtec decided to trial them. Quality Print Services (QPS), the main UK distributor for specialist ink manufacturer Nazdar, came to the company's premises to make the switch.

Chris Bailey, Managing Director at QPS, said; "We sent in one of our fully-trained engineers who cleaned out the OEM ink, flushed the printer through with Nazdar conversion fluid, refilled the machine with the Nazdar inks and re-profiled the RIP."

Peter adds, "It was as simple as that, the Agfa machine was up and running on Nazdar inks with no delay or interruption to our printed output."



All Nazdar products are tested internally and via beta sites, prior to release. These products have the best warranty in the business that covers the entire ink train should the inks be proven to have damaged an approved/compatible printer.

Peter does advise some caution when switching over to alternative inks and to use a trusted supplier.

Peter said; "I have been - and continue to be - grateful to Nazdar for its great ink, its superb engineering skills and its customer service. And to Agfa for building such a reliable and robust machine. Thanks to Nazdar, we've saved buckets of cash!"

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#### BUILT UP LETTERS

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# PRODUCT Choice

### Nothing but the best for Wrap Kings

3M vehicle wrap films are the materials of choice for Wrap Kings, the West Midlands based vehicle wrapping specialists.

Director Will Hamblin said: "We aim to use the best materials available. So we use 3M for the quality and reputation of the materials, which provides a guarantee for ourselves as we know they are reliable and unlikely to fail. We have had issues in the past with other materials, but we're happy to recommend 3M products to our customers and many of them also ask for it."

3M 1080 Series is used for full colour change wraps, roofs and detailing, while IJ380 is used extensively by Wrap Kings for promotional printing and wraps on a wide range of commercial vehicles.

Will continues: "We especially like the satin finish and choice of colours in the 1080 Series. And the print quality on IJ380 is the best by far as it takes the ink, holds its colours, and we get a perfect job every time. The Controltac adhesive on both materials allows easy bubble-free positioning, which has enabled us to speed up our install time as we can lay the film down much faster."

Wrap Kings also used 3M 1080 Series when they entered the FESPA 2013 Wrapmaster tournament. Will Hamblin achieved world ranking seventh and a UK ranking of second in the singles category. And together with brother Ben, achieved

fourth world ranking position and UK number one in the doubles category.

Wrap Kings buys 3M IJ380 and 1080 Series, along with other materials, from William Smith.

"We have a fantastic working relationship with William Smith," explains Will.

"Our rep is always readily available at the end of the phone, will talk through the options available, and has great knowledge of materials and what is right for a specific job. In addition, orders are always delivered quickly."

www.vehiclewrapfilms.co.uk www.williamsmith.co.uk

3M™ IJ380, specifically designed for applications such as vehicle graphics, with deep recessed and corrugated surfaces. IJ380 has been developed for perfect 3D conformity, and stays in position even in the most difficult application areas with no need for cutting to relieve stress. This not only saves time, but also eliminates many of the risks involved in full vehicle wraps. Controltac Adhesive also makes IJ380 easy to reposition, enabling faster and easier application for large format graphics, with improved finish. This results in time savings, faster turnaround and reduced wastage.

3M 1080 Series is a long term, removable dual cast solid colour film that has been designed with sufficient rigidity, to allow easy handling without the need for application tape. Featuring 3M's Controltac Comply pressure-activated adhesive, 1080 Series is easy to reposition and ready to use. With up to six years durability, these films offer excellent opacity and are highly weather resistant. 1080 Series is suitable for flat surfaces and simple curves.



### ScreenTec grows thanks to new Canon

ScreenTec, Wales-based print service provider, has invested in an Océ Arizona 480 GT from Canon to increase productivity and expand the services they offer.

ScreenTec has bought a 480 GT to boost output capacity and pave the way for potential new revenue streams, which was inspired by the success they achieved with their existing Océ Arizona 350 GT.

The company is looking to further strengthen its position in both the point-of-sale and industrial print markets, and w沙椒 attracted by the Arizona 480 GT's capability to produce multi-layer specialist applications including window graphics.

Harry Palmer, ScreenTec's Sales Director, said: "Digital wide format printing has galvanised our business, increasing the speed and range of applications we can offer to our customers. Further investment in UV wide format technology was the next natural step for our business. Scouring the market for what technology was out there, we just couldn't look past Canon and its Océ Arizona solutions – which have served us well. Picking another machine from the Océ Arizona stable was an easy decision for us to make." Two main reasons for their new investment was the reliability of the technology and Canon's back-up service.

Palmer explains: "I have learnt from experience that it is absolutely vital to have a

machine that is dependable and that will provide you with minimal downtime. That may sound obvious, but the complete package is not always there. Machines do need servicing now and again, but it's critical that the supplier provides efficient support and service to ensure any problems are with effectively to minimise downtime. The Arizona 350 GT's reliability - coupled with the and service support provided by Canon - has been the cornerstone of our recent business growth, as it

means we never have to say 'no' to a customer or let them down."

It features speeds of up to 32.8m2/hr with eight independent ink channels capable of varnish for decorative gloss effects, double opacity white option and two additional channels for cyan and magenta (CM2) for smooth production printing.

Duncan Smith, Wide Format Printing



Canon's Océ Arizona 480 GT.

Group Director, Canon UK, says: "We're delighted that ScreenTec has decided to continue its journey with us. It is an example of a company that recognises both the vast potential of the wide format market and how digital printing technology can drive success."

www.canon.co.uk

# J H Signage set to elevate their business with a new Tekcel router

J H Signage, one of the UK's newest signage companies, has installed the latest Tekcel VSR 1540mm x 2540mm routing system, supplied by Complete CNC Solutions. This complements their recent investment in a 'state of the art' Mimaki inkjet printer.



Based in London, the new company offer a huge range of commercial sign and display products. With experience of design, manufacture and installations in the elevator and escalator sector for over 20 years, the company will utilise the skills and experience already in place. This is so they can offer

their customers a "Turn Key" solution for premium products and services at competitive prices.

Jason Harvey, owner of JH Elevators Ltd & partner in J H Signage, said: "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 VSR router and the inkjet printer enables us to do just that."

With former CNC router operators already on board, J H Signage knew what to look for in a new machine. They thoroughly researched the market and looked at all router suppliers, before choosing the Tekcel. Knowing how important the drive technology of a router is to the overall accuracy and performance of the system, they were impressed to learn that all Tekcel routers feature ballscrew digital servo drive systems on every axis, which give 'unrivalled accuracy and repeatability every time'.

The VSR also features a neatly placed multi tool change system that combines a choice of up to six tools with a powerful 8Kw spindle motor. Combined with the high quality solid carbide router tooling, also supplied by Complete CNC Solutions, J H Signage are producing fast, efficient and superior edge finished routed products, straight from the machine, without the need for any additional edge cleaning processes.

www.jhsignage.co.uk www.completecnc.co.uk

# BUILT UP LETTERS Feature

### **Built up lettering brightens** businesses in the UK

When it comes to signage, end users are now demanding a cleaner, more impactful finish than ever before. This is largely thanks to advancements in hardware, materials and illumination techniques that allow businesses to create vibrant, eye-catching signs beyond traditional 2D designs. Built up lettering is becoming increasingly popular, and Jemima Codrington spoke with some of the leading names in the business to find out how this method of signage is helping businesses stand out from the crowd.

Applelec worked with Harrison Signs to create a "living wall" of plants, complete with floating signage, for Nestle. The project was part of a £150 million investment in the Nestle Tutbury factory, and is a prime example of the diversity this signage style can afford those willing to get creative with it.

"We have a long-standing relationship with Harrisons Signs, who created this sign for Nestle, and they approached us with a requirement for project support," reveals Andy Armitage, Applelec Business Development Manager. "As a component supplier, we do regularly advise customers on sign construction, installation and other matters; particularly for highly complex projects like this

The brief was tricky, calling for built up letters to seemingly "float" on the wall without any visible fixings, and these fixings would have to be strong enough to handle the weight of the large stainless steel letters. The sign design also included the iconic Nestle bird's nest logo, which too had to be discreetly supported. Attaching these large metal components to a wall made from plants would prove to be a challenge, especially given the status of the project's planning permission. "Following meetings at





Nestle, it became clear that the wall and planting systems were already in place and that the system to fix the letters into position would have to be constructed around what had already been planned," explains Andy. The system in question was an H-section frame system, devised by Andy and Richard Hunter at Harrison Signs. The frame was positioned behind the wall, and would be strong enough to hold the letters through the plants. The frame consisted of 32 letter-fixing arms, which were positioned to provide enough room for plant maintenance, and then screwed into the H-section framework with a threaded rod attached to one end. The other end connected to the sign component with a fixing flange that attached to the back tray of the letter, holding it in place. "Although the final system was a bespoke creation to meet the challenges of this highly unique project, in similar situations, this system could certainly be used again," says Andy.

#### Location, location, location

Aesthetics, price, longevity and ease of installation may all be factors to consider when selecting built up lettering, but Andy points out that there's more to think about when selecting materials. "Getting the best finish for built-up lettering is very much dependent on the implications, restrictions and even opportunities presented by the sign's intended location," he explains. "For example, we tend to use lightweight metals such as aluminium for built-up letters due to be positioned at height, but for eye-level signage this wouldn't necessarily be suitable. In a reception area, built-up letters from our Premium range would be more appropriate as the finish on these letters is exceptional. Ultimately this all depends on the impression our customer's client is trying to achieve with their signage or what the signage is being used to communicate."

Sign makers can make their money go further by being realistic about the project, and selecting materials that make the most sense for the specific task at hand, rather than materials that would appear to create a larger impact or stand out more. For example, stainless steel letters with a horizontal grain may appear detailed and intriguing, but if they're placed at a height, this detail will be lost and won't have the desired impact. By discussing with experts the desired impact of your sign as well as the location, you can potentially save money on materials whilst still delivering an expressive finish. "We have several built-up letter ranges, which include standard metal and acrylic letters, premium metal letters and illuminated acrylic letters that have a luxury finish," says Andy. While illumination wasn't present on the Nestle project, he adds that most of the Applelec built-up letters are normally illuminated with SloanLED LEDs, offering a bright finish at a competitive price with the added benefit of a five-year warranty.

www.applelec.co.uk.



The lettering is held up by 32-letter fixing arms positioned in an H-section frame behind the living wall.



Ken Wildsmith, Director of Sign Here, also notes the changes that lighting and illumination have had on the built up lettering industry.

"The look of built up letters is forever changing," he says. "Five years ago it just seemed to be stainless steel with Halo illumination that was the "in look", but now with a wide range of specialist material and lighting techniques available, designers are becoming more adventurous and demanding for that impactful and original look."

Sign Here manufactures signs in acrylic, stainless steel and aluminum, and is currently making an abundance of lettering in a "fairground" style due to popular demand. "The finishes vary from the natural material to painted and powder-coated letters, with and without illumination" he adds. When it comes to illumination, the advent of LEDs has allowed the company to develop more complex signs with built up letters, using a wide variety of colours and changing colour combinations.

.....Continued on page 44



# BUILT UP LETTERS Feature

From simple built up acrylic letters to complex individual letters with different material incorporated into them, there are a number of styles that Sign Here are playing with in order to cater to increasing consumer demand. "The end user is becoming more aware of the impact that built up letters can make in display and corporate signage, and that it contributes to giving a greater visual presence in the market place, especially within the retail business," he explains. The combination of a large variety of materials, illumination, colours, environmental factors and cost concerns can sometimes make it tough to create signage that ticks all the boxes. Ken credits the substantial investment his company has made in Laser & CNC machinery as being the key to being able to control the production schedule, and always provide the end user with the desired results. "The machinery combined with our skilled experienced letter builders has allowed us to perfect the art of bespoke built up lettering with the quality and service expected from an established company."



The acrylic is bent to form the letters.

#### Get the best finish

According to Ken, getting the best finish from built up signage is a combination of the right planning beforehand, and the correct care afterwards.

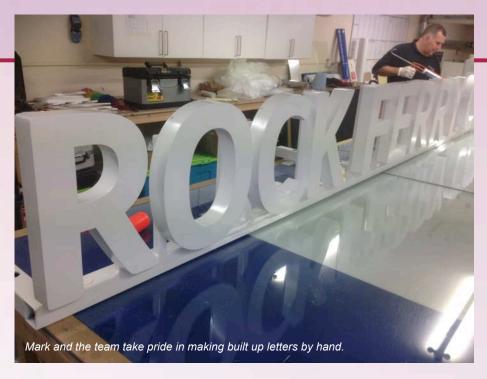
Whether the sign is installed indoors or out, choosing the right material is crucial to a strong finished product, as is the maintenance. "We do find that once the end user has fitted the sign, it almost becomes forgotten about! It should go without saying that a sign would benefit from a clean occasionally to maintain its best finish." When it comes to selecting materials, Ken prides himself on the offerings available at Sign Here, and says a stringent quality control process maintains the high level of excellence from the products. "Achieving the best possible finish is only possible if you're using quality materials made by skilled experienced letter builders," he says, "and every one of our letter builders is conscious of the quality demanded, and will never let the customer down."



Mark Ashcroft, Managing Director of TRADE-LETTERS.COM, notes that as the popularity of built up lettering has increased, the market has seen a number of new methods of lettering production.

One such method is the use of computerized bending machinery to make letters, as opposed to fabricating the letters by hand after they have been cut on a water jet machine. While there are some perks to this method, such as cost-efficiency, Mark notes that machines cannot always return the same quality results as handcrafted lettering. "We have made some lettering that a machine could never really handle," he says. "In fact, I believe machines would struggle with anything that is not square cornered, and would have a difficult time with anything that wasn't in a Sans Serif font."

For sign makers on a budget, machine manufactured letters may be a slightly cheaper option, but for Mark, the focus lies on a quality finished product. His team of quality time served craftsmen create built up lettering made from polished, brushed and descaled stainless steel, the latter of which is used so they can powder coat or wet spray the lettering to a client defined colour. "It is not that we are against progress, if we thought the bending machines were any good we would purchase one tomorrow, maybe even two with the volume of work we



have at present. But we have spent time reviewing them and we are happy with our current traditional methods of production, as from my point of view quality of the finished product is paramount."

Another major improvement Mark has noticed over the last five years from a cost efficiency angle has been the introduction of LED lighting modules. "I just think LED's have transformed illuminated built up letters, it has basically killed our neon department, but made the job so much easier and cost effective" he says. "There are new products all the time, the hot one at present looking at how some of our competitors seem to be

marketing appears to be the LED light sheet, although it is more frequently used for other signage applications and not as much in built up lettering.'

For Mark, the focus remains on the listening to customer, and feedback above all else. "As a company we do not try and lead the way in selling these new concepts, as we are client driven, and our clients haven't asked us for them. We tend to concentrate on our core principal of letter making as we have for the last 60 years."

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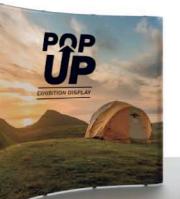


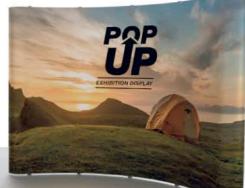
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# PROJECT News

### Lettering blooms on Nestle's living wall

Nestle has created a living wall that attractively screens the site with thousands of growing plants, as part of a £110 million investment at their Tutbury factory. Harrisons Signs constructed the floating feature signage, supported by Applelec.

Consisting of built-up letters and the company's bird's nest logo in mirror polished stainless steel, the lettering was the simplest element in the project's delivery.

Despite being just over 1.75M in height and with fully fabricated back-trays, the brief required lettering to float on the wall without visible fixings. The requirement provided the biggest challenge to this ambitious signage project - to secure heavy floating letters to a wall built with plants. With the wall structure

already in construction when planning for the signage began, the support system for the letters had to be designed around what was already in place.

Richard Hunter of Harrisons Signs explains: "At initial meetings we realised our structure would need to blend around what was already planned and still be strong enough to safely support the large letters."

The structure of the living wall had been planned like a giant Connect-Four grid to accommodate hundreds of 400mm

square foliate planters. The planters were devised to slot into the wall framework, building up in layers to the top of the wall, and featuring 16 holes in each planter for the foliage to grow through. Harrisons Signs planned an H-section frame system positioned directly behind the living wall to provide suitably solid support for the letters. 32 letter fixing arms were then planned which provide 100mm clearance from the living wall for plant maintenance. Each arm is screwed into the H-section framework with a threaded rod welded to one end. A fixing flange on the opposite end attaches to the letter back tray.

Andy Armitage, Applelec business development manager, said: 'We supported Harrisons Signs with components for the built-up letters and fixing arms in this project whilst advising on the installation system created for the letters.'

Harrisons Signs coordinated their installation mapping with the planting team to ensure each sign fixing arm could fit through one of the 16 holes in the planter boxes. The sign maker's graphics team mapped out the signage positioning and created a guide for the precise location of each fixing arm. Following the build of the living wall, the arms could be slotted through the planter boxes, screwed into position, and

finally letters were fixed into position.



www.applelec.co.uk

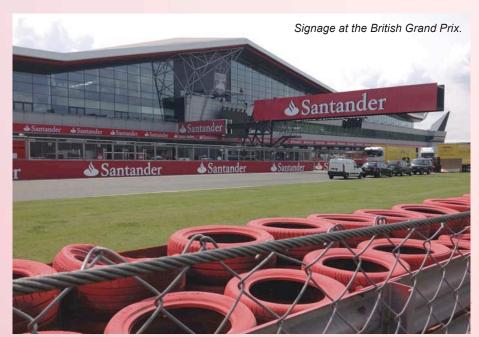
### Sports event signage success for Principle

Principle, a sports event branding company, has completed a series of high-profile projects during 2013, including the Formula 1 Santander British Grand Prix and the Hertz Motorcycle British Grand Prix (MotoGP).

They provide a wide range of on-site branding services and helps to transform the appearance of sports venues to showcase the sponsors' logos, both to spectators and television audiences around the world.

They design, manufacture and install high-quality events signage and graphics, ranging from trackside advertising boards and grandstand fascias, to press conference backdrops and hospitality suite branding.

Principle's team also supply directional, information and safety signage to help improve the visitor experience at events, as well as handling small branding details such as graphics featuring sponsors' logos for presentation podiums, touch-line flags, long jump take-off boards and hurdles.



www.principleuk.com

### **Illuminating!**

Having worked with The Luminar Group for several years, NSI has recently completed the latest project – the rebrand of Oceana in Bristol to new concept Pryzm.

The Pryzm name reflects the different characteristics contained within the three club arenas under one roof. The new modern, stylish and exclusive nightclub required signage to match, and NSI provided elegant, high quality signage and graphics to complete the look.

Signage included external fascias and projection signs, window graphics, internal signage and wall graphics/wallpaper and lightboxes.

Nick Kehoe, NSI's Managing Director said: "We enjoyed working with Luminar on the new concept for Pryzm and the variety of styles and signage work really well for the brand. We wish them success with the new Pryzm venture and look forward to working on future sites."

Ken Getgood, Pryzm Bristol's General Manager said: "I just wanted to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you from myself and all the managers here for the building and completion of Pryzm. It was a pleasure working with you all and the end result is a fantastic one."

www.nsi-limited.co.uk



### **Sweet signage**

RK Sweets is very popular for its delicious Indian savoury and sweet snacks. The owners wanted to ensure they remained a household name to the majority of local people, whilst extending their catchment area and customer base.

The front of the new premises is 18m long and in the heart of the Plungington Road nightlife. It was originally three separate shops that have now been knocked into one huge area, after nearly 12 months of renovations.

When Indian food brand RK Sweets moved into new premises on a main thoroughfare in Preston, it needed stylish and modern signage to attract people passing by. Paul Turner Displays was commissioned to create the signage. Here he explains the project.

I came up with recommendations that took into account the location, the lighting, passing trade and the desire to reach new customers whilst retaining the brand image with established customers.

The nature of the business means that customers visit RK Sweets during the day and well into the evening. As it is situated on

a busy road, simple but clear signage was required so that passing motorists could quickly identify the new premises.

A 16 metre tray sign in seven sections was constructed with LED push through backlit letters (50,000 hours lifetime) as well as stand off stainless steel letters that were carefully removed from the old premises, cleaned and re-sited. The backlit letters were produced in such a way that they are clearly visible during the day and at night they 'glow' making them instantly eye catching. The colour of the tray sign is an exact match to the door and window frames which had already been installed, ensuring the signage blends well into the 'feel' of the building.

Everything went to plan and the premises were open for business on time with the new signage received very favourably by the management. As an added bonus some passing businessmen liked the signage so much they have asked for similar signs for their 19 dental practices! We couldn't have asked for more.



www.whinmarith.co.uk

# PROJECT News

### Straight to the point in Barnsley

A major signage improvement scheme saw William Smith supply 29 Stylos fingerpost signs for the town centre, and 51 traffic route signs for the primary routes into Barnsley.

It was designed to enable pedestrians and motorists to find their way in and around Barnsley town centre with greater ease. The project was part funded by the European Regional Development Fund as part of the Barnsley Cultural Infrastructure Programme.

"We had used William Smith in the past and like the Stylos product. It was, therefore, submitted to the Public Spaces Strategy Steering Group (made up from representatives from stakeholders, community groups and local residents) who selected it from a range of products because it fits into both historic and contemporary backgrounds and environments. In addition, Stylos is a proven product and easy to change when required," said Barnsley Council's Group Leader - Traffic, Gary McNaught.

Designed to point in up to eight different directions, Stylos fingerposts from William Smith can be supplied as complete units or in component form. A choice of styles and colourways makes sure that the fingerposts blend sympathetically with both urban and rural environments. A concealed internal fixing system, comprising an inner post into which the pre-drilled aluminium arms are slotted and secured into position. This means that the fingers, which can be set either at one height or at different levels, cannot be twisted around once in situ. The arms are robust and inaccessible to tampering, which reduces the incidence of vandalism.

The Stylos units supplied by William Smith were silver (to a specific RAL specification) with black text. "The new signage in and around Barnsley town centre is a small but very effective way of making the town centre experience even more of a popular leisure activity," said Dominic Beck, External Affairs Executive, Barnsley & Rotherham chamber of Commerce.

"This investment will underpin everything that the town centre team and support groups across the Barnsley partnership have been promoting, that of a diverse, niche and independent town centre offer for everyone."

Cllr. Roy Miller, Cabinet spokesperson, Development, Environment and Culture (Operations) says: "These new signs are a very welcome addition to the town centre. We've also taken this opportunity to de-clutter the town centre and get rid of some of the old unnecessary signs. These high quality new signs are a lot more sympathetic to the

environment, making the town centre a welcoming place to any visitor."

The 51 traffic route signs were produced by William Smith using 3M Diamond Grade™ DG³ prismatic reflective material.

William Smith works to enable customers to meet deadlines, manage volume projects or meet specialist signage requirements. "Our major strength is the facility and expertise to manage projects of all sizes from simple one-off signs to large signing programmes requiring multiple signs in a variety of sizes, and bespoke signage packages from design through to build," said William Smith's Marketing Manager, Chris Bradley. "Our highly skilled and flexible workforce means that finished sign products can be supplied with some of the shortest lead times in the industry, with no compromise on quality."

www.williamsmith.co.uk

**3M Diamond Grade™ DG³** Reflective Sheeting achieves the highest performance of all prismatic products under the British Standard for Microprismatic Sheeting BS 8404:2005. Guaranteed to maintain a high level of luminance for 12 years, DG³ not only offers excellent performance, but also provides a reliable, long-term safety investment as increased visibility of traffic signs from all viewing distances can contribute to reduction in speed and accidents.





### Messagemaker Displays light the way with LED

Messagemaker Displays have installed a new floating halo display that use state of the art LED display technology in Barclays Bank.

Messagemaker were commissioned to install Single Line LED tickers to overhead halo displays in selected Barclays retail banking outlets, after a competitive tender process. The company has installed six displays so far, with more systems scheduled to be installed. The futuristic overhead display shows a greeting message that can be personalised to the local branch.

LED tickers give a sense of movement to retail environments by providing information through a visually attractive medium. The latest LED technology allows designers more freedom to incorporate unusual shapes, such as curves or angles, while lightweight materials enable displays to be suspended for greater effect and all-round visibility.

The new ticker displays incorporate a 10 millimetre pixel pitch blue LED moving message, mounted on special flexible printed circuit boards and chassis. The new system allows messages to be updated locally as required at no extra cost and is easy to programme.





Above: The floating display inside a branch of Barclays bank.

Messagemaker has also installed LED displays in three Gala Bingo venues to add visual impact to their signage and provide information. 5 to 10 metres in length, the single line white displays (two of them curved) are built into the front entrance facades. The LED displays are based on Messagemaker's Imposa Plus system, which offers a lightweight, compact outdoor display solution designed for longevity and all-weather performance and reliability.

www.messagemaker.co.uk

Left: The LED display on the front entrance of Gala Bingo.

# PROJECT News

### 3M's IJ380 takes the bends and stands the pace

Richard Keasey, managing director of Staffordshire Signs and Graphics, who has been off-road racing for many years, chose 3M's IJ380 graphic film to wrap his Warrior Indy SSG race car for its entry into this year's British Cross Country Championship.

"Although we have been using IJ380 for a long while, and even though we have produced some stunning graphics for our customers, we had always said we would not completely wrap an off-road race car due to the complexity of the vehicle and the extreme battering these cars have to endure over rough terrain," says Mr. Keasey.

That was until a conversation with 3M led to an opportunity to work in partnership with them to promote their www.wrapyourcurves.co.uk campaign on a national basis. The British Cross Country Championship would see the car entering events throughout the UK, with the best cars and drivers in the country.

Richard explains: "This is like rallying but with the terrain being far more challenging and extreme. Courses can be anything up to 10 mile laps through forests and quarries. You must complete up to 10 laps per day over a two day period to even be classed as a finisher."

The team at Staffordshire Signs & Graphics opted for a combination of full colour digital print material – 3M IJ380, complete with clear laminate, and Anthracite carbon fibre grey, all supplied by William Smith. Even the alloy wheels were wrapped to give maximum effect. The full colour artwork was purchased and downloaded from American specialist website www.auroragraphics.net, and the design was matched to suite the car's original colour of Candy Pearl Green.

"The staff have done an outstanding job in manufacturing and application of the graphics to the vehicle, as this car has very challenging curves and a distinctive shape," continues Richard Keasey. "We are more

than happy with how this has turned out and I have to say the material is holding up extremely well considering what it's put through."

"The Warrior Indy is a full space framed roll caged car with aluminium and fibreglass panels, not like any regular car that would be wrapped in these materials. 3M's IJ380 and the fully conformable materials supplied by William Smith are more than suitable for fitting and application to all these very complex shapes," he adds.

www.vehiclewrapfilms.co.uk

3M™ IJ380 is specifically designed for applications such as vehicle graphics, with deep recessed and corrugated surfaces. IJ380 has been developed for perfect 3D conformity, and stays in position even in the most difficult application areas with no need for cutting to relieve stress





Sign 2000, who make corporate ID and retail signage, has completed the exterior signage for the M&S anchor store at the newly redesigned Whiteley Village Shopping Centre in Hampshire. The centre will be the largest UK retail development to achieve the BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) rating for excellence.

The exterior signage has six sets of high-level LED-illuminated brand mark letters fitted to various glass, architectural timber and brickwork facades on the site. The signage complemented the overall design and layout of the shopping centre, which features double height retail units with oak panelling to correspond with the design of the site. This makes use of natural materials and incorporates extensive energy efficient and sustainable features.

Sign 2000 contributes to all aspects of the branding process, from initial concept (including material and construction technique recommendations) through to manufacture, installation and post project client service and support. The company is a key member of The Sign Alliance, a group of complementary and strategically located European sign manufacturers. They work as information sharing co-operatives through which projects are centrally managed but locally implemented.

www.sign2000.co.uk

# Sign 2000 completes exterior signage for M&S





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# VEHICLE LIVERY Feature

# Vehicle wrapping reaches new heights in 2013

Vehicle livery has become one of the most popular emerging trends over the past 5-10 years. Indeed, if the booths demonstrating vehicle wrapping at FESPA were anything to go by, this intricate skill is coveting more and more attention, and an increasing number of sign makers are keen to add this service to their repertoire. Jemima Codrington caught up with some leading industry names to see how sign makers and end users are unleashing their creativity through vehicle livery.

Hazel Adkins, Sales and Marketing Executive with Dorotape, has noticed the increased interest in vehicle wrapping over the past decade as the number of products and materials available have increased - and improved.

"The fact that films that can be heated and stretched over tight curves are now available, not to mention they're printed and laminated to last years rather than months, has been the catalyst in the growth of vehicle wraps," explains Hazel. The tools for application have also improved, with Dorotape now offering the WrapCut vehicle wrap trimming tape for knifeless cutting. The tape is made up of a narrow adhesive material with an exceptionally strong fine filament attached to the adhesive side, in close proximity to the tape edge. This filament acts as a cutting tool when pulled outward through the film of material that's being applied. "Not only will it produce sharp straight lines, it can also be used to cut curved shapes i.e. around door handles, locks and recessed panels," says Hazel. As there's no knife required, there's no damage to the vehicle, and users can enjoy fast, easy application on a wide variety of vehicles.

When it comes to films, one of the most popular Dorotape wraps is the printable Ri-Jet 50. The airflow adhesive system allows for easy application, even on the tightest of curves. "This 10-year cast vinyl used in conjunction with its associated laminating film Ri-Jet 30, is one of the best printable wrap films on the market," affirms Hazel, who adds that films that provide special finished effects such as carbon fibre and chrome are among the most popular out of their selection.

### Selecting the "right tools for the job"

According to Hazel, the film selection is a crucial step when planning a wrap. Sign

makers should ensure they have selected the correct film for the job at hand, and that the vinyl and laminating film are compatible. Many companies will offer a warrantee on their products when used



The Dorotape Ri-Wrap range is popular for wraps on vehicles of all sizes.

in conjunction with each other; for example, Ritrama offers a warrantee when using the Ri-Jet 30 laminate alongside the Ri-Jet 50 printable wrap film. "A workman should always use the right tools for the job," says Hazel. "We supply a wide variety of tools specifically designed to make the wrap fitters job faster and easier."

When it comes to the actual application, there are certain steps signmakers can take to ensure a flawless finished product – such as taking care of their work environment and the vehicle.

"A clean surface is a must!" says Hazel, adding that using a wrap with a built-in airflow adhesive can eliminate bubbles and other imperfections. Using a surface cleaner over the entire area before wrapping will reduce the chances of dirt being visibly trapped under the film. and will improve the adhesiveness as well. If in doubt, Hazel recommends discussing your wrapping needs with your supplier, as "they are in the best position to help you make the right choice of materials and tools."



Effects like this, achieved with Dorotape Cyberkrome2, are proving popular with commercial and personal wraps.

www.dorotape.co.uk.

3M provides a number of products to the vehicle wrapping industry, the newest of which is a film called Envision 480, a film that doesn't contain PVC, yet performs like a film that does.

"Non-PVC films have existed for a long time, but they've never had the performance of a PVC film until now," says Richard Davies, Trade Marketing Manager of Commercial Graphics at 3M. "This is a completely different method of manufacture, and you're getting something that fits well, prints well, can be removed easily but doesn't use any PVC, all at a competitive price."

The film was developed to satiate the consumer demand for more socially and environmentally responsible products, and has proved to be a popular choice already. This film, along with others in the 3M Controltac Graphic Film IJ180Cv3 range, features the unique Controltac adhesive that allows for easy repositioning and ultimately faster application. "Controltac adhesive contains lots of small glass beads, allowing the wrapper to roll it along the vehicle without it sticking," explains Richard. "Once you're happy with the positioning, you can push down and the glass beads will release all of the adhesive, and you can apply the film permanently." This technology makes it easier and faster to wrap vehicles, and also enables just one person to do the job without the need of other people assisting. In addition to the 3M Controltac products, the complete 3M Car Wrap Film Series 1080 is designed for full colour change wraps, and the series is constantly expanding due to high consumer demand.



Onlookers admire a vehicle wrapped in 3M 1080 Matte Royal Purple vinyl.

Paul Kitchen, Marketing Executive with 3M, specialises in the vehicle wrap range, and has seen first-hand the rise in demand for affordable vehicle wrapping for use on both commercial and personal vehicles in recent years. "The introduction of colour change vehicle wraps films has meant more and more consumers are turning to vehicle wraps to change the appearance of their car for a fraction of the cost of a re-spray. A vehicle wrap is removable as well, so changing the colour of your car has never been so easy," he explains. While consumers are focusing on the personalisation and aesthetics aspect, sign makers are noticing the market demand, and are keen to explore the additional revenue streams it presents. "Vehicle wrapping is one of the streams people are looking towards," says Richard. "Media is easier to use and printers are commonplace,

so the barriers to entry are lower now when it comes to this particular sector." While vehicle livery may have once been reserved for larger fleets with extensive budgets, today small to medium enterprises with two or three vans are seizing the opportunity to wrap their vehicles. "They're realising what a powerful marketing tool it is. It's always 'on', and it covers a lot of mileage – literally," says Richard.

### How sign makers can maximise success

The right materials are essential, as is the right post-application treatment of the film to ensure durability and a flawless finish on your vehicle.

"We have a vinyl for each job - there's no one magic film that does everything," says Richard. "We always recommend taking an honest look at what you're wrapping, fit in the right conditions and look at each job in it's own right."

Paul concurs that not all films are right for the same jobs, and that choosing highquality products over cheaper films will provide a better finish in the end. "The correct vinyl for wrapping is critical, as it must be a cast film to be able to cope with the challenging contours of a vehicle," he explains. Another crucial element of a successful wrap is post-heating, which is particularly important when applying film to complex areas like bumpers. According to Richard, regardless of your film of choice, post-heating has to be done each and every time for a proper finish. "A lot of people will stick the film into contoured areas and won't postheat, and eventually it will just pop right out of the recess," he says. "Post-heating is absolutely critical to getting the right finish from your vehicle livery.'



This car sports a 3M 1080 Matte Dark Grey Metallic wrap.

www.3M.com.

# VEHICLE LIVERY Feature

#### Vehicle wrapping reaches new heights in 2013

Rob Goleniowski, Business Manager of Sign and Graphics at Roland DG, has seen the interest in the Vehicle Wrapping course offered at the Roland DG Academy soar.

"It's always our most popular course, always the one booked up the furthest in advance," he says. "People are always looking to get into the market, or find and develop new skills, so we get a mixture of people that are new to vehicle wrapping and people that want to develop their existing skill set." The two-day course provides sign makers with lots of hands-on experience, and is competitively priced to allow people from all over the country to participate.



The Academy has offered the course in response to two-fold interest from both consumers and sign makers. "You've got the market wanting vehicles that stand out and be seen, and you've got suppliers wanting to



Sign makers can learn the newest techniques to achieve high quality wraps.

carve out a niche to deliver these services and create a more profitable business." he explains. In addition to the training, there are several products available from Roland DG that give sign makers the tools they need to be successful. After receiving a positive response from their 54" wide machines, Roland DG expanded to 64" machines a couple of years ago. The extra 10" allows users to do bigger panels in one go, and the latest version of the machine was launched recently. The new 64" Versacamm VS640i is a print and cut machine, allowing users to carry out full wraps as well as contour cut graphics. The eco-solvent machine works with all vinyl, and is the best suited to vehicle wrapping out of the three products available in the VSi range.

#### "Under-promise, over-deliver"

While there are many tips and tricks that can result in a smoother finish, according to Rob, the most important one is the simplest one.

"I always remind people to give themselves the time to do it properly," he says. "Under-promise and over-deliver. If you can do it in two days, tell the customer four, so when you do it in three you've blown them away, and you given yourself the time so you don't disappoint the customer." Products such as those available in the Versacamm range can help expedite the wrap process without compromising the results, giving sign makers more time to fit the graphics in a high-quality professional manner.

When it comes to selecting the tools and materials, performance should take precedence over price, especially when it comes to the printer. Here, sign makers should especially consider the quality of graphics and reliability of the machinery. "It's all very well investing in a machine, but if it's not working half the time, you'll have to outsource the work which will cost you more money and time, and affect customers," says Rob. Paying close attention to the vinyl is also important, as cheap canvas vinyl won't stand up to large jobs like full wraps with many recesses and curves to navigate. Cheaper vinyl often contains memory flex, which can be problematic when trying to fit into tight curves, as the vinyl is constantly trying to return to its normal state. Even weeks after completion, it can start to pop out of tight corners and the wrap can start to bubble and come undone. "I would advise anyone attempting a vehicle wrap to spend the money, get quality products and do the job right the first time," says Rob.



The vehicle wrapping courses at the Roland DG Academy are always the most popular.

www.rolanddg.co.uk.

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The award-winning Easymount Wide Format Laminators from Vivid-Online have helped hundreds of sign-making and vehicle graphic companies to create stunning liveries on bikes, buses, cars and even boats.

According to Bruce Cozens, Product Manager with Vivid-Online, the versatility of this product range has contributed to it's popularity, and gives sign makers the final say in controlling their workflow. "By using the Easymount, the customer keeps all of their work in-house, from print to laminated finish," says Bruce. "This makes turn-around times for their customer even quicker."

Available in cold, heat assisted top roll and double hot options, the Easymount laminators feature large diameter rollers for a smooth finish. They run up to 6 metres a minute, and benefit from a patented easy-touse control panel and lift wheel. In addition to this, the The Easymount also features an optional take-up unit for reel-to-reel lamination. "This is perfect for long lengths of laminated vinyl, and allows you to store your protected print back onto a core, ready to be then wrapped on the vehicle," explains Bruce. "We also produce our Trimfast range of board cutters that can handle media up to 5 metres wide. These are ideal for cutting vinyl and graphics."

.....Continued on page 60



The patented control panel makes Easymount laminators exceptionally easy to use.

# VEHICLE LIVERY Feature

#### The rise of vehicle wrapping



The EM-1600, from the line of award-winning Easymount Wide Format Laminators from Vivid-Online.

The increase in popularity when it comes to vehicle wrapping is undeniable, and can be attributed, in part, to the fact that newer hardware and products have made the process easier than ever. In addition to the relative ease of the application process today, there are higher quality laminates that have arrived to the market in the past five years, as well as systems that allow sign makers to create and laminate the vinyl in a cost-effective and time-efficient manner.

"Businesses like to be given every opportunity they can to promote and advertise their products and services, and vehicle wraps are a great way to achieve this," says Bruce, noting that sign making businesses are taking advantage of training courses to educate their teams in order to meet this market demand. When it comes to getting the best possible finish from a wrap, Bruce points to feedback from the many sign makers they have assisted over the years. "One of the best tips we get from them is to ensure that the vehicle is spotlessly clean before attempting the wrap," he says. "Another really good point is that they ensure both the vinyl and the laminate are matched, so that any shrinkage or expansion of the materials is the same."

www.vivid-online.com.



Having a clean surface is imperative for a successful wrap.



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# SIGN News

# Nazdar rolls out free ink cartridge campaign across the UK

Specialist ink manufacturer Nazdar is rolling out its free ink cartridge campaign across the UK, following the huge success of the programme in the United States.

The offer applies to OEM customers that are currently using Roland and Mimaki wide format printer cartridge inks.

Digital Market Segment Manager at Nazdar, Martin Burns, said: "As a manufacturer of quality, premium ink jet inks, it's not often we offer them for free! However, we recognise that the switch from OEM to alternative inks can be daunting for some and we wanted to encourage those potential users to take the first step. Simply put, we want to offer current OEM ink users the chance to trial our inks and substantiate our claims without incurring any cost whatsoever."

Nazdar has full confidence in its ink solutions and fully backs it assertions regarding the performance of the inks. With many happy customers worldwide, the company has repeatedly demonstrated how its inks can benefit print houses and increase their profits without compromising quality of output.

Nazdar inks are also manufactured in the UK as well as the United States, so logistically the programme can be rolled out efficiently. Martin adds: "We are confident that Nazdar inks will exceed user expectations. Being an established manufacturer of inks for both end users and printer manufacturers, we are able to offer proven ink solutions, backed up by professional service and support delivered via our comprehensive dealer network."

To claim a free cartridge of Nazdar wide format printer ink, simply enter your details at http://www.nazdar.com/freecartridge.asp

www.nazdar.com



### QPS prepares for free Nazdar ink roll-out



Current OEM users are invited to try out Nazdar inkjet inks free of charge.

Quality Print Services (QPS) says it is looking forward to being involved in Nazdar's campaign, to offer free ink cartridges to wide-format print businesses.

Wide-format 'one-stop' shop QPS, based in Burscough, Lancashire, will handle enquiries from customers who will receive premium-quality Nazdar inkjet inks free of charge.

"Nazdar inks are developed specifically for use with the most popular wide-format inkjet printer units, without losing any degree of performance or quality," comments Chris Bailey, Director, QPS.

"We're confident that once OEM users have tried Nazdar inks for free they'll see that switching to them have no downsides in the printroom. When they see our prices they'll also see there are major advantages when it comes to finances too."

Print businesses that make a permanent swap to Nazdar alternative inks from QPS will also benefit from; their complimentary cartridge recycling scheme for used Nazdar ink cartridges; its team of technical support engineers; and a wide media range such as the eco-friendly Ilford BioMedia and Phototex wallpaper.

QPS also supplies refurbished and new wide-format printers from brands such as Roland, Mutoh, Epson and Seiko; finishing equipment; and UV printers from Neolt and RIP software.

www.qualityprintservices.com



Iron Design is the UK's leading supplier of quality hanging brackets and projecting signs, supplying the trade with the largest 'off the shelf' range of products, including the bracket, panel and lighting.

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# SIGN News

### printMAX announce premier events

To celebrate the recent release of two new Roland printers, the VersaUV LEF-20 and Versacamm VS-i series, printMAX are running a series of open days across the country.

Over six dates, at three venues, this will be the first opportunity for a hands on demonstration of the brand new LEF-20 along with the VS-640i. Other technology from Roland will also be available such as the XR-640 and LEJ-640, along with a variety of Roland print/cut solutions. PrintMAX Sales Manager, Chris Martin, said:

"This is a great chance for us to show off the latest releases from Roland. The LEF-20 and VSi series are fantastic additions to the existing, high quality of print technology offered by the manufacturer. Both printers will offer businesses a unique printing opportunity and we're really looking forward to introducing them to our guests and customers."

printMAX are welcoming visitors to join them in Clevedon, Aldershot and Walsall at the Roland centres. Supporting Roland's number one dealer, guests can also receive expert knowledge and advice from media specialists Metamark along with Roland representatives.

MD Michael Bolton, "Whenever we invite visitors to see the Roland range we always ensure that we can reach as many people as possible. Travelling to three separate locations and doubling up the sessions should enable those, who are simply too busy to take the time out, to visit us. To make this even easier we also have late sessions available at each location."

Whilst this will be the first opportunity to see the printers in action, it's also a great chance to get a grip of the full business potential and print capability across the Roland printer range in order to see which solution is the best fit for businesses.

Along with special offers on Roland printers, guests will also receive a free, comprehensive Metamark media pack, including banner, vinyl, squeegees and much more! printMAX will also be offering discount codes to all attendees for future printMAX/Metamark purchases.

www.printmax.co.uk/news/printMAX\_november-open-days.php

Visit printMAX at their open days on the following dates, Clevedon (4 and 5 November), Aldershot (7 and 8 November) or Walsall (12 and 13 November) between 10am and 7pm. Refreshments are available and guests are encouraged to book directly with printMAX, 01420 511539

# Applelec welcomes new recruits to its rapidly expanding team

Applelec has recently strengthened its sales and transport departments, with three new members of staff joining the company in recent months.

Chris Foster, Debbie Duggan and Justyna Szabuniewicz have all joined Applelec following a sustained increase in demand for products created by the Bradford based sign, display and lighting manufacturer.

Applelec managing director, Ian Drinkwater, said: "Chris, Justyna and Debbie have had to hit the ground running and have been learning the ropes throughout the summer in preparation for our busiest sales period as we head into the autumn. I'm delighted to welcome another three new members of staff to the team who will ensure we continue to strengthen the service we offer our customers."

Applelec is celebrating fifteen successful years of trading in 2013. And according to the company has seen consistent growth across all product areas over recent years. Much effort has been devoted recently to the improvement of infrastructure, processes, staff knowledge and specialist machinery such as the new laser welder which is used for built up metal letters.



L-R: Chris Foster, Debbie Duggan, Justyna Szabuniewicz and Applelec's Managing Director, Ian Drinkwater.

www.applelec.co.uk

### Be a film star in Los Angeles!

3M Commercial Graphics is offering those that buy its signage and vehicle wrapping films the chance to win an all expenses paid trip to the 2014 NASCAR (National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing) motor sports event in Los Angeles. This will be a high-octane trip of a lifetime to the home of the stars, with the experience and thrill of seeing one of the world's most viewed sporting events in VIP style.

The main prize includes:

Return flights from London to Los Angeles (including travel insurance) Five nights accommodation at a four-star hotel in LA Courtesy car for the duration of the visit VIP tickets for the NASCAR event £250 spending money Other attractions provided by 3M will be a 55-minute helicopter flight over Hollywood and the chance to mingle trackside with the 3M-sponsored NASCAR racing team and other celebrities. Adding a final magical touch to the whole experience will be a state-of-the-art filming and editing kit provided by 3m to enable the winning company to promote its own stars and future business success.

The 3M/NASCAR competition is open to all purchasers of 3M qualifying products supplied in the UK from either of 3M's primary distributors William Smith or Spandex. Entries will be accepted and acknowledged up to 2 March 2014. To enter:

- 1) Buy any roll of a 3M qualifying product listed below
- 2) Visit the 3M facebook page at www.facebook.com/3MgraphicsUK
- Visit the 'Film Star' tab and enter a unique code as directed (note every code entered provides another chance to win the ultimate prize).

### Qualifying 3M vehicle wrapping products are:

3M Scotchcal Graphic Film IJ170Cv3 3M Controltac Graphic Film IJ180Cv3 3M Controltac Graphic Film IJ380 3M Envision Print Wrap Film 480Cv3 3M Wrap Film Series 1080 3M Scotchlite Flexible Reflective Graphic Film IJ680-10

### Qualifying 3M signage products are:

3M Scotchcal Opaque Graphic Film Series 80 3M Scotchcal Opaque Graphic Film Series 100 3M Scotchcal Clear View Graphic Film 8150 3M Scotchcal Graphic Film for Textured Surfaces IJ8624

3M Envision Translucent Film Series 3730, Translucent Films IJ3730-50, IJ3730-60 and Diffuser Films 3735-50/60

For full terms and conditions, go to www.facebook.com/3MgraphicsUK



# SIGN News

### Fines for owners and makers of sign

The British Sign and Graphics Association (BSGA) have issued a warning after a sign fell on the head of a pedestrian, which caused a serious brain injury.

A huge wooden sign positioned more than three metres above the pavement in Vauxhall, London was blown down by a strong gust of wind. It fell on the head of a teacher who was hospitalised for five weeks and is no longer able to work as she suffers permanent effects from her injury.

The Health and Safety Executive prosecuted both the owner of the sign, St George South London Ltd, an agent for the site owner St George Plc and the sign maker, A E Tyler Ltd (then trading as Allsigns).

St George South London Ltd was fined £300,000 with £222,692 costs and A E Tyler Ltd was fined £60,000 with £22,855 costs at the Old Bailey in September this year

The Old Bailey was told that parts of the timber sign, measuring approximately 12m x 3m, had decayed to the point where it could be blown down by a strong gust of wind. The HSE investigation revealed that the sign had a design life of two years but had been in position for over nine years and had never been checked for structural soundness.

Judge Rebecca Poulet QC said the sign was 'supremely hazardous' and more could have been done to ensure the system of maintenance, including structural checks, were in place. "St George South London allowed this sign to go under their otherwise vigilant radar."

A E Tyler admitted its guilt at the first opportunity in 2011 but denied having a lasting duty to maintain the sign over the years that it stood on the site.

But the judge ruled that A E Tyler was

guilty of not informing St George South London of the temporary nature of the sign and of not warning of the dangers during subsequent visits to the site.

Following the court case David Catanach, Director of the British Signs and Graphics Association (BSGA) said that the accident in Vauxhall highlighted how crucial the correct maintenance of signs is, and how devastating the consequences can be when things go wrong.

"It provides a salutary lesson for everyone involved in either making or buying signs," he said. "It is a lesson learned by A E Tyler."

He said that the BSGA's Technical Committee, with help from staff at A E Tyler, was working on the draft of an additional clause covering sign maintenance for BS 559, the British Standard that governs sign making and installation. The new clause has been accepted in principle by the BSI.

Mike Freely, Managing Director at A E Tyler, said: "In the five years since this incident, our entire health, safety, quality and training procedures have been carefully reviewed and we have taken significant steps to ensure that a similar situation does not arise in the future.

"The current management team is determined to do everything possible to ensure that such an incident never happens again as a result of the company's work.

"We also look forward to contributing further to the BSGA's on-going consideration of BS 559 and assisting its members in understanding the consequences of not taking action."



The Royal Courts of Justice in London where the case was heard.

David Catanach added that as a result of this terrible accident, St George PLC had also taken action by becoming a member of the BSGA and insisting that all its sign contractors are also members and adhere to the association's Code of Practice.

"Businesses that fail to meet the requirements can be, and are, brought to book under Health and Safety, Planning and/or Building Regulations legislation. And, as the recent case illustrates, both the owners and manufacturers can be held responsible and have a legal obligation to ensure the proper installation, inspection and continued maintenance of the sign.

"It is to be hoped that every sign business adheres to the correct procedures to make sure that we avoid a repeat of the dreadful incident at Vauxhall," he said.

# First bulk ink solution for Epson SureColor S-series printers

Bordeaux Digital Printink, an inkjet ink solutions manufacturer with proven inhouse research and development, recently released an innovative Smart bulk ink delivery solution for Epson Sure-Color® S-series printers.

The solution uses Bordeaux Mix & Match™ FUZE ECO SC solvent ink and includes a fully automated chip emulator system that can replace original Epson chips. The product is manufactured by InkonDemand.com and sold via Bordeaux's distribution channels globally.

Bordeaux's FUZE ECO SC operates exclusively in Epson SureColor S-series printers and is Mix & Match with original Epson ink without the need for ICC color profiling. It enjoys an extensive selection of media compatibility and excellent color accuracy. Offering comprehensive solutions, the new eco friendlier ink FUZE ECO SC joins Bordeaux's portfolio as the odorless and nickel free ink for all indoor and outdoor environments.

The first complete solution for Epson SureColor S-series printers include the

Smart bulk system, developed in partnership with InkonDemand.com. It enables users to replace the OEM chips, monitor ink level with practically 100 per cent accuracy and receive alerts when to replace the ink bag, to maximize print productivity and reduce ink waste. With the help of this system, printers will be able to significantly cut down expenses on printing and print in high volumes without the risk of running out of ink in the middle of a job.

www.c-m-y-k.com

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# SIGN News

# Hybrid announce strategic alliance with digital transfer specialists, Xpres

Textile transfer and sublimation specialists Xpres have unveiled plans to extend their product offer with the addition of hardware and supplies specifically for the sign industry.

The company has made significant changes to its existing product ranges over

the last 18 months but is not stopping there. Xpres executive director, Luke Clayton, explains: "Whilst our core market has been in digital textile transfers and sublimation gifts, our aim is to become a one-stop supplier serving the whole of the visual communications market. The sign industry is therefore a

natural progression for Xpres and we are currently building a comprehensive range of hardware and supplies that will allow us to make our expansion plans a reality."

The first phase of that expansion is already complete with the announcement of a strategic alliance with exclusive Mimaki distributors for the UK, Hybrid Services Ltd, which will see Xpres selling a comprehensive range of Mimaki printers and cutters.

John de la Roche, National Sales Manager for Hybrid, said: "Xpres provides us with a highly professional partner and we're very pleased to be part of the company's growth into new markets."

Clayton adds "We're incredibly excited about this new partnership with Hybrid. Mimaki has an outstanding reputation for quality and innovation that we have always admired and we're delighted to have introduced their machines to complement our existing range of technologies".

Visitors to Xpres can now experience all of these Mimaki machines in the company's new demonstration facility called the 'Inspiration Suite'. The company also expects to reveal further details about its new range of products for the sign market over the coming weeks.

weeks.

www.hybridservices.co.uk
www.xpres.co.uk.



Hybrid's John de la Roche (left) and Luke Clayton of Xpres.

#### Perfect colour every time

Colour Dynamics, a Kettering based high performance and industrial coatings supplier, have a new strategy to provide any colour you could imagine. Colour Dynamics aim to make sure their customers find the 'Perfect Colour Every Time', which coincides with a brand new website and social media launch.

With its innovative approach, this new initiative will further enhance customer support for both existing and potential new customers. Colour Dynamics has a new website feature called the 'Collection of Colour', which is a database with a vast number of digital colour guides. Colour charts that can be accessed include British Standard. Pantone and RAL colours.

Managing Director Harry Adams said: "Our website needs to be user friendly, and also a useful tool that will assist our customers in their place of work. Very few people have access to the vast range of colours that we can provide; our collection of colour intends to put an end to that lack of choice. In order to support this staggering colour offer we also have a colour matching service to make sure we can provide any colour you require. Our vision is that anyone and everyone with access to the internet can find themselves the perfect colour every time."



The Colour Dynamics team (L to R) Luke Smith, Leo Adams, Harry Adams – Managing Director, Trina Anderson, Ilza Waters.

www.colourdynamics.co.uk



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# MidKent College To commemorate the occasion of the Topping Out Ceremony performed by Paul Clark MP and Sir David Melville CBE at the MidKent College Medway Campus 10th November 2008 The Medway Campus has been built with the help and support of the Learning and Skills Council Contractors: Kler Build Architects: Nightingale Associates

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# SIGN News

#### Colourgen announces positive year end results

Colourgen has announced a 12.5% increase in sales revenues for its financial year ending June 2013, thanks largely to the rising popularity of the Mutoh ValueJet range of printers.

Sales of other products, including Seiko I Infotech ColorPainters, Caldera RIPs and Kala laminators have also increased, with prospects for further growth looking very positive according to the company.

Colourgen distributes large format digital colour printing solutions, consumables, bespoke software, engineering and support services.



Jeff Biggs, Colourgen's Managing Director, said: "There are plenty of reasons to be positive about the coming year. Both the Mutoh and Seiko II printers have shown very solid growth and there are some promising prospects for Seiko II around the new ColorPainter M-64S series, which was launched at Fespa. These increased printer sales have also boosted associated products, such as Caldera RIPs and Kala laminators. Caldera RIP sales have also increased because we have been able to demonstrate the benefits of the performance

of the RIP to end users who are looking to streamline workflows, improve productivity and save costs by reducing waste."

A highlight of their last financial year was the Mutoh ValueJet range. The products are proving to be extremely stable and reliable and are available at a very competitive price. Running costs of the Mutoh ValueJets can also be low thanks to the recent introduction of Mutoh's Universal Mild Solvent inks.

"Many machines are sold with high capacity cartridges or bulk ink systems that ensure minimal cost per print, particularly when compared with inks from other printer manufacturers. We expect solid growth for the Mutoh ValueJet range over the coming year – not only for traditional display graphics printing but also for eco-solvent and dye sublimation applications in the soft signage and textile markets," said Jeff.

Another major positive for Colourgen last year was re-establishing Seiko I Infotech and the ColorPainter brand in the market place. Printer sales more than doubled over the previous year and they hope to continue this growth in the coming year.

Jeff said: "Seiko II has number of users that are very loyal to the brand. They have been using ColorPainters since the first 64S nearly 10 years ago and they have only had good experiences. We expect this to continue, and we are also looking to drive new end users to put ColorPainters on the shopping list of printers to consider. Particularly if they have a need for good production level performance and quality at a competitive price."

October should see the availability of the new Seiko II ColorPainter M Series. This technically advanced printer offers many improvements in terms of hardware, software and firmware. It will provide unrivalled quality at 32sqmph, with odourless eco solvent inks and a minimum three-year durability. The printer is unique in achieving very high quality at just 360x360 dpi.

"Overall we are very happy with our performance in what was another difficult year for the industry."

Jeff explains: "The M-Series delivers better quality output at 360dpi than other printers at 720 or even 900dpi. This is achieved due to the unique and precise construction of the machine and advanced firmware that Seiko II has introduced."

He said: "Overall we are very happy with our performance in what was another difficult year for the industry. We have a settled stable of excellent products that offer great quality, reliability and value and this is being translated into solid sales. We continue to focus on the high levels of service and support that Colourgen has built its reputation on. That has proven to be the bedrock of our business for more than 25 years."

www.colourgen.com

#### Further expansion at AXYZ CNCRoutershop division

AXYZ International has made further additions to the company's CNC Routershop division, a supplier of routing, cutting and engraving solutions.

These include a range of high-quality and well-maintained used machines that are, according to them, available at attractive prices to appeal to companies unable to commit to buy new machinery. The division also supply a comprehensive range of spare parts for all AXYZ and Pacer routers.

The stock of CNC routing, cutting and engraving tools held by the division and available on next day delivery, is one of the largest and most competitively priced available. It's based on wider sourcing of quality branded products from leading UK and European suppliers. It is possible to meet the requirements of other machines, regardless of make or source of supply. The range of tools and accessories includes routing cutters, special purpose and engraving tools, collets and cones, knives and service parts.

Supporting the expanded division are other facilities such as: breakdown cover; product training; and online technical information downloads. The AXYZ International team of specialist engineers lends further support by providing tailored solutions to keep machines running continuously and efficiently in order to avoid costly and potentially damaging breakdowns. Standard or bespoke training courses that are conducted either at a customer's own facility or the AXYZ International Training Centre are also available.

www.cncroutershop.com

#### Roland DG launch new course

Roland DG has announced a new course, 'Introduction to Digital Print', which is the latest addition to its academy.

The new one day course, which officially starts in October, will be run at the Roland Academy at Walsall College and in Roland's Creative Centre at its Clevedon HQ.

Joe Wigzell, Academy and Creative Centre Manager, Roland DG said: "The wide format market is changing rapidly as more and more companies and entrepreneurs see the value in investing in wide format and the flexibility and diversity it gives to their product portfolio. Our new Introduction to Digital Print course is a great complement to our existing range of courses. This is an entry level course, which aims to provide newcomers to wide format digital print and Roland's

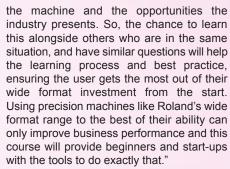
technology with a comprehensive overview of the market they are entering. As well as technical assistance and tuition on Roland's equipment and software, so they can quickly maximise opportunities, profitability and the return on their investment."

Attendees will also have the chance to have some practical 'hands-on' time with Roland's machines through the course of the day. They will create, produce and finish three different products/outputs, be able to ask questions and gain valuable tips from Roland's experienced tutors.

Mr Wigzel saidl: "It can be a daunting task learning how to use new hardware and software when you are unfamiliar with both



Joe Wigzell, Academy and Creative Centre Manager.



The 'Introduction to Digital Print' course is provided free as part of the introductory training package for those who purchase a VersaCAMM, VersaART or SOLJET wide format machine, and at a discounted price for VersaSTUDIO BN-20 users.

www.rolanddg.co.uk/introduction



### **CE** marked road signs

Spectrum Industrial, the health and safety signage division of Centurion Europe is now able to offer CE marked permanent road signs. It is unlawful to place a permanent road sign on the market without appropriate CE marking.

This is a real breakthrough for site operatives, managers and specifiers looking for high quality, legally compliant signage and other safety critical equipment at a viable price. It is equally good news for distributors seeking to supply this market with fully compliant product that guarantees full traceability.

CE marking is a key indicator of compliance with EU legislation. By putting the CE marking on a product, a manufacturer is declaring, on its sole responsibility, conformity with all of the legal requirements to achieve CE marking. With penalties non-compliance ranging mandatory product withdrawal through to fines and ultimately imprisonment, it is vital that distributors check supplier compliance.

The new CE legislation, which came into effect on 1 July 2013 affects key safety critical products including permanent traffic signage, helmets, gloves and other protective clothing. All retailers and distributors

in this market must verify the presence

CE

of both the CE marking and the necessary supporting documentation. The Spectrum range comes with that assurance of compliance.

Spectrum Industrial safety products are available in all good safety distributors throughout the UK.

www.spectrum-industrial.co.uk.

Height

Colours\*

152mm

203mm

6.98

254mm

10.92

305mm

12.40

380mm

16.40

457mm

20.80



# trade cut-outs & moulded lettering

#### **Trade Prices 2013**

<b>ACRYL</b>	.IC	(persp	ex - inc	luding	gold	& silve	r) (10n	nm: wl	nite blo	ack & c	lear)		n	o mini	imum	order
Height	100mm	150mm	200mm	250mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	750mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
3mm	0.70	1.10	2.03	2.74	4.00	5.50	6.31	7.25	8.02	9.19	10.66	14.76	21.63	30.34	38.32	42.28
5mm	1.19	1.80	3.00	4.77	6.79	7.88	9.13	11.02	12.40	13.65	15.03	20.95	25.24	33.32	45.85	58.43
10mm	2.34	2.92	5.84	9.30	11.69	14.95	17,55	20.87	23.45	25.73	29.28	40.50	49.44	54.56	84.98	107.82
FOAM PVC (all available colours - 10mm & 19mm available in white only) no minimum order																
Height	100mm	150mm	200mm	250mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	750mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
3mm	0.72	1.00	1.39	2.13	2.70	3.48	3.83	4.81	5.09	6.14	7.06	9.02	12.88	15.45	17.51	19.00
5mm	1.06	1.74	2.34	3.14	4.52	5.12	5.75	6.53	7.10	8.62	9.38	12.68	17.00	21.12	25.24	26.50
10mm	1.47	3.07	4.38	6.40	8.10	9.11	10.79	12.90	14.84	17.20	19.62	25.69	35.02	41.42	47.38	49.95
19mm	3.20	4.22	7.45	9.70	13.65	14.26	16.68	18.42	20.71	22.94	24.98	30.20	47.38	55.11	61.80	67.90
3mm/	ALU	MI	VIU	MC	OM	PO:	SITI	(Di	bond,	Alupai	nel)		n	o min	imum	order
Height	100mm	150mm	200mm	250mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	750mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
Colours	1.69	2.34	4.02	5.57	7.00	7.83	9.25	11.26	13.80	15,47	17.00	20.98	24.10	28.10	36.00	50.59
Mirror	2.38	4.86	6.79	9.32	13.77	14.83	17.31	19.70	23.13	25.00	28.12	34.94	36.10	41.50	51.00	82.21
Brushed	1.96	3.28	4.39	6.12	8.83	9.85	11.15	13.16	15.28	16.77	19.08	23.61	26.10	31.50	39.00	56.92
<b>MILL F</b>	INI	SH	ALU	MI	UIV	M	(Come	s in its	raw fo	orm red	ady foi	coatii	ng) n	o min	imum	order
Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	700mm
2mm	2.88	3.68	4.38	5.56	6.18	6.95	7.73	9.01	10.04	11.07	12.10	15.19	18.28	23.43	30.64	41.97
3mm	2.85	3.56	4.40	5.46	6.07	6.96	7.86	9.10	10.27	11.72	13.26	17.34	20.77	26.40	35.06	56.65
5mm	3.36	4.20	5.20	6.44	7.17	8.22	9.26	10.74	12.40	14.25	16.00	21.00	24.64	31.23	41.36	63.86
<b>EXTER</b>	IOF	MI	DF													
Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
5mm	0.36	0.82	1.18	1.60	2.40	2.55	2.95	3.70	4.27	5.09	6.60	9.30	10.70	12.10	14.20	43.16
12mm	0.88	1.52	1.88	2.76	3.85	4.52	5.30	6.12	7.29	9.12	10.00	11.60	13.70	16.80	18.82	57.23
18mm	1.55	2.40	2.91	4.00	4.95	6.05	7.50	8.40	10.60	12.10	14.50	16.60	20.21	21.80	28.50	85.36
Options	Add	10%	for lo	cators	and l	ayout	Add	d 25%	for C	ladde	d faci	a drav	wing			
MOIII				116									,			

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# SIGN News

# Sign & Digital UK 2014

Sign & Digital UK (29 April - 1 May 2014, NEC, Birmingham) has seen a surge in stand bookings in recent weeks, further proof that many exhibitors had a strong 2013 show and are confident about prospects for 2014.

Rudi Blackett, Sign & Digital UK Event Director commented: "I am delighted to report exceptionally strong demand for stands at Sign & Digital UK 2014, and I am now considering increasing the size of the show as a result. It is fantastic to see so many of the leading companies already booked and planning for the event, which is still seven months away."

Companies already signed up for the 2014 show include: Roland DG, Epson, Grafityp, Graphtec, Printmax, AG/Cad, i-sub, Resolute DTG, Clarity Software, DPI/Digital Print Innovations, Oshino LED Lighting, OneDigital, Signmaster Systems, Doro Tape, SloanLED, Applelec, AXYZ, Atech, QPS, Signwaves, Stanford Marsh Group (SMGG), and many more.

Blackett continued: "Companies considering exhibiting should get in touch as soon as possible. With this level of stand booking momentum – and the opportunity of new hall space opening up – it's vital to secure a prime spot now."

### 29 APRIL - 1 MAY 2014, HALL 2, NEC, BIRMINGHAM



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### About Sign & Digital UK

For more than 25 years, Sign & Digital UK is the only place in the UK where you will see a broad range of sign making and digital printing applications and solutions. As well as being the UK showcase for latest technologies and many new product launches, the show offers numerous demonstrations and opportunities for advice and networking. To keep up with the latest show news, follow Sign & Digital UK on Twitter @signanddigital. For more information, visit www.signanddigitaluk.com or phone +44 (0)1342 332000.

# Faversham House Ltd, organisers of the Sign & Digital UK announced on 11 October that the show website is now live



The new website, www.signanddigitaluk.com has direct links through to the latest show news and features, and includes a list of more than 70 companies who have already booked to exhibit.

'Quick link' buttons on the home page allow users to navigate the site easily to find relevant information, such as a press and PR section and a live Twitter feed. There are also advertising opportunities that offer exhibitors the chance to increase their profile and make the most of their presence at the show in April. The website for the 2013 show attracted almost 44,000 unique visitors offering an unrivalled opportunity to promote products and services to a highly targeted and engaged audience.

Social media features prominently on the site, encouraging all sign makers and print service providers to follow the show on Twitter (@signanddigitaluk). Followers will be the first to hear what's happening at Sign & Digital UK 2014 and to get the latest updates - For Twitter just use #SDUK.



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# **Bring on the Games!**

Glasgow 2014 recently unveiled ICON as the official provider of Look, Wayfinding and Signage Services for next summer's Commonwealth Games.

ICON, who become a sponsor of the Games, will be responsible for dressing all Games venues, the host city and venues outside of Glasgow and beyond with a distinctive Glasgow 2014 design.

ICON has previously provided branding, production and installation solutions to some of the world's highest profile sporting events including the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games, UEFA Champions League, UEFA Euro 2012, ECB international and domestic cricket fixtures, Ryder Cup 2010, Wimbledon and the past two FIFA World Cups.

For Glasgow 2014, ICON will be embedded within the Organising Committee's Glasgow headquarters as part of the Look and Wayfinding team in order to scope, produce and install every single piece of look and wayfinding across venues.

**David Grevemberg, Glasgow 2014 Chief Executive, said:** "We are delighted with the appointment of ICON as our official provider of Look, Wayfinding and Signage Services as they bring extensive experience and knowledge of high profile sporting events of this scale.

"They understand the passion that the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games will ignite and I am sure that they will be a major contributor in creating the atmosphere that ensures the Games will be long remembered."



John Francis, CEO of ICON, said: "We are really excited about this opportunity. ICON has a long history of involvement in some of the biggest sporting events in the world though our traditional role is behind the scenes. While we deliver the branding that provides a backdrop to iconic sporting images, gives a sense of occasion and context to newspaper back pages, and fills the TV screens of viewers all over the world, this is the first time we are putting ourselves in the spotlight through the sponsorship of a major event.

"This is a large and complicated project, which is why we are providing an experienced team who have a proven track record of delivering this kind of complete service on major events, most recently for London 2012. We are confident of delivering a spectacular Look for the Glasgow 2014 venues, for Glasgow and for Scotland."

# APPOINTMENTS Update

# Shaun Thompson takes helm at GPT

Graphics Printing Technologies (GPT) has announced that Shaun Thompson has been appointed General Manager. Shaun was one of the founders of GPT and has been the company's Sales Director since its acquisition by Amari Plastics plc in 2010.

Shaun has more than 15 years experience in the wide format industry at GPT, AIT, Andersons and Colourgen. He was the co-founder of GPT in 2008 and has been instrumental in its rapid growth to become one of the UK's premier resellers of solutions from leading manufacturers, such as Mimaki, Agfa, Canon and Epson. The company said: "GPT has significant potential for further growth and is focusing on developing existing and building new relationships with suppliers and customers. The company provides a safe pair of hands for manufacturers looking to increase market share through a highly professional sales and service operation."



Shaun Thompson.



# All Print Supplies appoints manager

All Print Supplies, suppliers of sign vinyl and materials to the sign, exhibition and display markets has appointed Nathan Burnett to National Ink Sales Manager. Nathan, who assumed the newly-created role in September, will be responsible for managing APS's new specialist inks division, as well as nationwide sales of Nazdar's compatible inks.

Nathan said: "I have a number of years' experience in the compatible inks market and will use this to help reassure customers that the transition between OEM and compatible inks is not as daunting as it appears. APS runs a very thorough in-house testing procedure on all supplied materials because they really understand just how important it is for all customers to have total confidence in the quality, reliability and durability of the inks. I believe we have a great range of top quality inks supported by a real commitment to customers and I'm excited about taking this out to the market."

# **New Business Development Manager for INNOVA Solutions**

INNOVA Solutions, specialist adhesive, tape and photo-luminescent supplier to the sign trade, has appointed Marc Kendall as Business Development Manager. As a result, Michael Thompson will become Customer and Technical Support Manager whilst retaining certain key customer accounts. He will provide technical support to Marc Kendall until he is fully conversant with the company's wide-ranging product portfolio.

Managing Director, Glenn Dunleavey commented: "Marc will be a welcome addition to the company's talent and skill base and brings a wealth of experience gained in a variety of industrial markets. He will become the main contact for all tapes and adhesives requirements".



# Colourgen make three sales appointments





Lucy Ibbott.



Justin Steers.

Colourgen has made three key appointments in its hardware and consumables sales divisions. Justin Steers has been appointed Internal Sales Manager overseeing the Internal Sales Team; Tom Owers has been promoted to the newly created position of Internal Business Development Manager; and Lucy Ibbott has joined in the role of Internal Sales and Support Executive.

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To apply for this role, please send a CV and covering letter to: Enquiry@a1designs.co.uk

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2 positions

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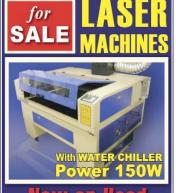
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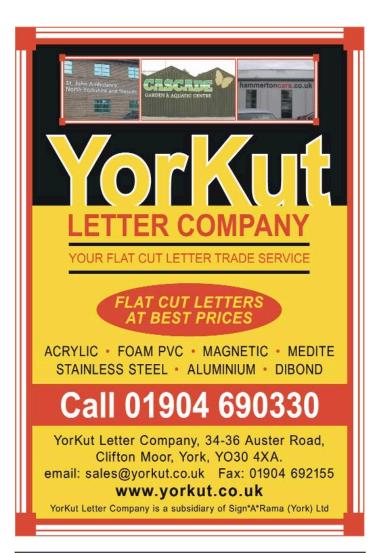


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Satin Chrome	WF1220SCP	WF1525SCP	WF2025SCP	WF2525SCP	WF2550SCP
Satin Aluminium	WF1220SAL	WF1525SAL	WF2025SAL	WF2525SAL	WF2550SAL

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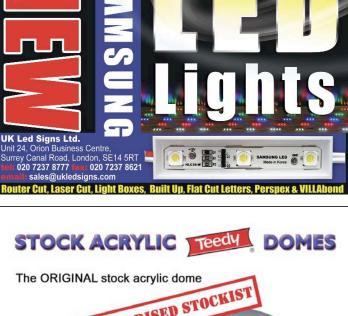
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Tel: 01525 874 185 Fax: 01525 875 746

enquiries@sott.co.uk

www.sott.co.uk

Cast in polyurethane with detail in relief and hand painted full colours. May be cast on their own or as part of an entrance sign, blue plaque or street sign etc. We also cast coats of arms in aluminium, grp or bronze. Please send details for a quotation.

### SIGNS OF THE TIMES LTD

Wingfield Road Tebworth, Beds, LU7 9QG

Tel: 01525 874 185 Fax: 01525 875746

enquiries@sott.co.uk www.sott.co.uk

Cast blue plaques with detail in relief.
Usually cast in solid rigid polyurethane and
painted blue background with white, silver
or gold letters. Send us artwork or copy of
the text for a auote.

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Tel: 0113 224 2124 Fax: 0113 224 2110

sales@icesigns.co.uk

www.icesigns.co.uk

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