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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016 ISSUE 161 £2.50

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Subscriptions - Annual subscriptions are £14.00 including postage and packing • Europe €28 • Rest of world £28

Send Cheques and postal orders made payable to Sign Update Ltd to:

Subscriptions Department, Sign Update Ltd., Allens Orchard, Chipping Warden, Banbury, Oxon OX17 1LX

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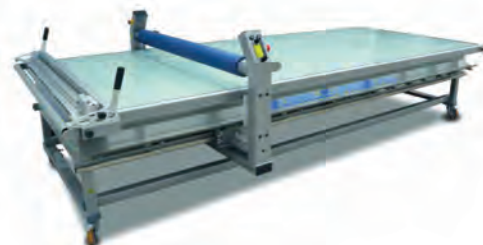
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WELCOME Page

Happy 2016!

It's tempting to come out with the old cliché about how fast time has gone, as I seem to remember writing a similar title, albeit with a different date, not so long ago. So I won't. Rather, when I look back over the past year, a more interesting observation is that sign makers and printers are creating a unique and stunning visual landscape. Using all the technology, innovative products and tried and tested traditional techniques that are available, we've seen a dizzying range of wonderful projects; from clever wayfinding to vehicle wrapping, via huge, awe inspiring signage such as what Trade Signs did at Salford Quays (read about it on page 62) But there are loads of projects and products that have come out this year that have caught our eye, and many have won awards. So congratulations to everyone in the industry, who is probably working ridiculous hours to produce some great work!

And speaking of awards, there is still time to enter FESPA's award programme, which consists of 15 categories. Read about it on page 74. We got a taste of what FESPA Digital 2016 (which also includes the European Sign Expo and FESPA textile), being held from 8 to 11 March in Amsterdam, can offer you. Judging by the size and scope of the show, it will be worth making the relatively quick journey to the Netherlands, if you are looking for your next investment, to expand or even diversify. We'll bring you more details about it in our next issue.

In this issue, read all about inks and software in our two features; learn a reliable way to retro fit LEDs (in our Master class series) and discover the latest trends and news in the sign industry in America. Bill Dundas, who worked for the International Sign Association for many years, begins the first of a series of columns with a detailed look at the 'Electric sign evolution'.

We wish you all a truly happy and successful year. Till the next time...

Kathryn



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3M extends colour options on range of car wrap films

3M has added eight new colours to the popular 3M Car Wrap Film Series 1080. This brings the total number of solid colours available to 81; and provides even more design options for long-term vehicle detailing, decoration and full vehicle wraps. The eight new colours include 'Smouldering Red' and 'Battleship Grey in Satin', 'Gloss Ember Black' and 'Matte Riviera Blue' in a choice of finishes that also includes metallic, carbon fibre and brushed metal-effect.

The removable and pressure-activated dual cast 3M Controltac Graphic Film with Comply Adhesive Technology incorporates microscopic glass beads that lie on the surface of the adhesive. This allows the film to be repositioned on the substrate until it looks 'perfect' and provides an instant bond. The technology also features non-visible air-release channels that make sure the application is smooth and bubble-free.

The 90-micron film provides opacity to hide high-contrast surfaces. It is supplied in 1.52 metre-wide rolls that will enable applicators to quickly cover an entire vehicle without joins or seams. The complete 3M Car Wrap Film Series 1080, including the latest distinctive colours, is available from 3M primary distributors, William Smith and Spandex.

www.3M.co.uk



One of the new colours in the 1080 range is Satin Dark Grey.

Roland DG SOLJET EJ-640 Inkjet Printer

Roland DG Corporation recently launched its premier high volume printer, the SOLJET EJ-640 wide-format inkjet printer.

It has dual staggered print heads; an integrated tri-heater system; strong industrial design and high-capacity 1-litre ink cartridges available in four or seven colour configurations. In a mirrored CMYK ink configuration, the EJ-640 can achieve speeds of up to 102m²/h. The EJ-640 utilises specifically designed EJ INK, developed alongside the machine to offer end users substantially lower operating costs for high-volume and long-run print jobs. The EJ-640 is accompanied by Roland VersaWorks Dual RIP software which offers customers the ability to process both PDF and PostScript files natively, including files with transparencies.

Yuko Maeda, Division President of Digital Printing Market Development for Roland DG said: "Today's sign market is typified by

intense competition due to the spread of wide-format inkjet printers and the increasing demand for quick delivery of high quantities with low operating costs. The new EJ-640 addresses these issues by delivering excellent productivity and quality with low ink costs."

With a particular focus on high-volume businesses, the specifically designed high strength media shaft holds heavy media rolls securely. And a newly developed Feed Adjuster ensures the smooth progression of media through the printer and onto the take-up system, says the company. In four-colour CMYK mode, up to two litres of ink can be loaded for each colour for optimum efficiency. In combination with the Roland Ink Switching System, continuous printing is possible without any worry of ink run-

ning out. Unattended operation is further facilitated by Roland OnSupport, which sends email to your smart phone, tablet or computer to notify the machine operator when a job is finished or ink is running low.

www.rolanddg.co.uk



The Roland DG SOLJET EJ-640 has been designed for high volume work.

Antalis launches digital wall coverings range

Antalis UK have launched an exclusive range of digital wall coverings made by Graham & Brown and the company's own range of Coala products.

Coala and Graham & Brown wall coverings are ideal for transforming any interior; from homes, offices, boardrooms and receptions, through to shop displays, hotels and restaurants, says the company. The products are available in a wide variety of creative embossings, finishes and application types.

Compatible with most digital inkjet printing technologies, the ranges are 'ideal' for achieving a high degree of authenticity in the reproduction of paintings, photographs, and graphics. According to them, they meet the highest requirements for fire resistance; light fastness; and washability. They are also available with an anti-bacterial coating for more sensitive environments such as hospitals.

Using cutting edge 'paste the wall' technology, Graham & Brown's FSC non-woven wall covering is 'both easy to apply and remove making it a seamless solution for large scale graphic wall installations'.

Mike Collins, Product Manager at Antalis said: "Trends in interior decoration are constantly changing with new materials and print technologies appearing on the market. Our range of products from both Coala and Graham & Brown will transform any space and offer a wide choice of solutions for different applications. We're excited about our partnership with Graham & Brown and offering the complete solution to our customers."

www.antalis.co.uk



Speed up your weeding!

Signgeer can't do anything about your garden but can greatly improve your vinyl weeding times for 2016, with the new VR15 vinyl weeder. The VR15 is a 'ground breaking' tool to speed up the process of vinyl weeding by giving you an 'extra pair of hands'. Anything

you normally weed by hand will be easier, quicker and more efficient with the VR15, says the company.

The VR15 Vinyl Remover works on all kinds of vinyl, including laminated prints and is even good on flexible foil like the PolyFlex

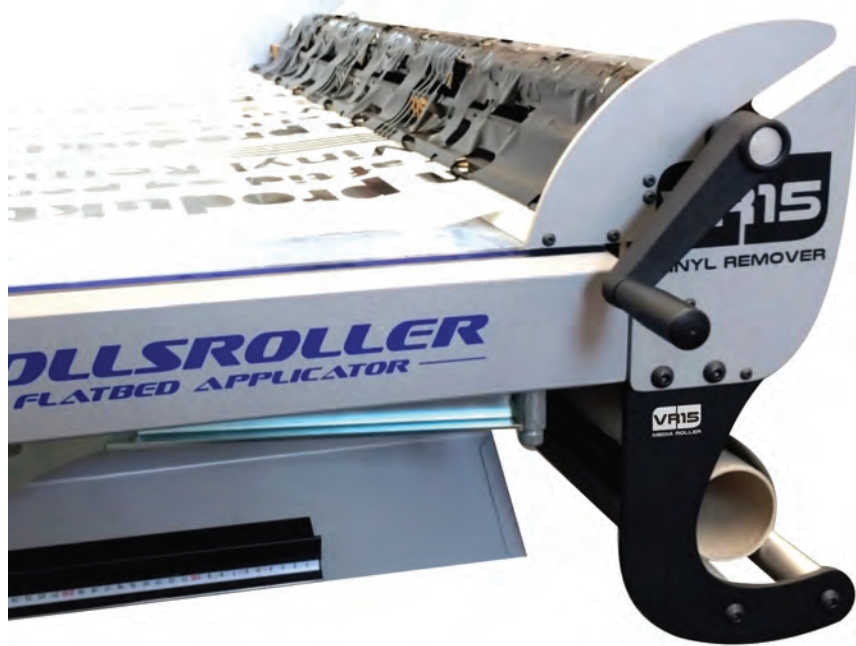
401. It's operated with a single hand driven crank and you can even pause in the middle of a job to attend other business and finish the job later.

The Vinyl Remover VR15 comes in three sizes, with a choice of working widths of up to 850mm, 1430mm and 1700mm. There is an optional Media Roller kit for easy mounting on the back of your Vinyl Remover, which is 'perfect' for holding larger rolls awaiting weeding.

The VR15 is capable of weeding away any excess film from your vinyl cut plotter or print and cut media. It is designed for easy mounting on your worktable with six screws. Alternatively if you have a flat bed laminator such as a Rolls Roller, a magnetic adaptor is available. This enables you to easily attach the VR15 using powerful neodymium magnets without the use of screws.

Louise from Signgeer says: "Over the past 28 years in the sign trade we have seen a few vinyl weeders come and go but nothing compares with the performance of the VR15. We are absolutely delighted to be appointed sole UK distributor of the VR15 and look forward to offering the benefits and savings this tool can offer to signmakers."

www.signgeer.com



Arlon debuts new range

Arlon recently debuted its Chrome and Chrome Effects to the Ultimate PremiumPlus™ color change line. Chrome and Chrome Effects are specialty automotive films designed to 'enhance the look of any vehicle'. With the world's easiest installation and new wider width rolls, these films are constructed to take on the toughest areas of vehicle wrap applications, says the company.

With a precise mirror-like finish, Arlon's Silver Chrome product will maintain both color and finish consistency on the vehicle during and after application. Arlon is the first manu-

facturer to offer the market a chrome wrap film intended and warranted for full vehicle wrap applications. Silver Chrome has been available worldwide from November this year.

The Chrome Effects line consists of various new finishes and colors that are original to the market, says Arlon. The global launch included six colors and they anticipate several other creative concepts launching throughout 2016. This new generation of chrome is 'noticeably more flexible and allows for enhanced repositionability during application, keeping the original color and

finish of the unique effects consistent'.

"Adding Chrome and Chrome Effects to the Ultimate PremiumPlus product line is an innovative breakthrough for the automotive aftermarket industry," says Chad Russell, Director of Sales, Arlon Graphics, LLC. "Offering the first Chrome film warranted for full vehicle wraps, along with the easiest application and leading performance pushes Ultimate PremiumPlus to be the revolutionary product in the color change market today."

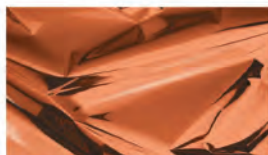
www.arlonaautomotive.com



704 - Gold Chrome



504 - Satin Gold Chrome



714 - Copper Chrome



514 - Satin Copper Chrome



707 - Silver Chrome



700 - Terminator Chrome



719 - Bloodbath Chrome

Some of Arlon's new Chrome and Chrome effects film in their Ultimate PremiumPlus line.

New laminates from ADS with UV resistance

Amari Digital Supplies (ADS) has added three new laminate films to the IMAGin range of products from MACtac. Called CastLAM Matt, CastLAM Gloss and ShieldLAM, they share design characteristics and application capabilities. Among the many benefits claimed for the films is the high level of protection (between 90 and 99 per cent) that they provide against the damaging effects of UV light.

CastLAM Matt is a 30-micron ultra-clear cast PVC film incorporating a permanent high-tack adhesive protected with an easy-to-remove liner. The film can be used for both internal and external applications. It has been designed specifically for the protection of large and medium-sized printed graphics based on super-soft flexible media, such as MACtac's JT 5529 P/PM/MBF and JT 5629 PM for application to flat, riveted or corrugated surfaces. The film also offers short-term resistance to the effects of chemicals and the ingress of water and has a durability of up to four years.

CastLAM Gloss is a 57-micron film with similar design characteristics and application

capabilities. It has been developed specifically for the protection of digital UV prints and is compatible also with other standard digital printing processes such as SB, eco-solvent and Latex. The film has a durability of up to four years and.

ShieldLAM is a 50-micron ultra-clear gloss PU film designed specifically for the outdoor protection of the MACtac Tuning Films range used in the decoration and personalisation of boats and commercial and private vehicles. The 'extremely durable' film provides an ultra-gloss finish to the tuning films whilst imparting a high level of protection against impact and abrasion when compared with standard PVC films. The film also conforms well to flat and slightly curved surfaces and, de-

pendent on the geographical zone, will offer a durability of between four to eight years.

All of the films can be rolled up for easy transportation.

www.amaridigitalsupplies.com



The new laminates from ADS provide a high level of protection against UV light.

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XYZ introduces new version of the PANELBuilder system

XYZ International has launched Version 16 of its 'innovative and widely specified' XYZ PANELBuilder panel processing system. Combining a specially configured CNC router and industry-specific software, it is said to demonstrate a shift in emphasis towards better integration with other production solutions and improved management information and reporting. The system is a preferred solution for the processing of large-format aluminium composite sheets (ACM) such as DIBOND, ALUBOND and REYNOBOND used extensively in the manufacture of fascia signage. As well as for building cladding to which signs are a common additional architectural feature.

Version 16 brings lots of new production tools that will further enhance the capabilities of PANELBuilder and make it much easier to use, says the company. Key im-

provements include an upgraded user interface and a new nesting algorithm that enables greater utilisation of the material being processed. These enhancements are supplemented with a new program simulation mode that allows detailed investigation of the cutting sequence. As well as a quick and fluent overview of how the sheet will be processed, together with a multi-panel DXF Import facility that enables more efficient data capture from other CAD systems. Version 16 is also fully compatible with the latest Windows 10 software.

These improved features 'complement and lend further support' to existing production tool enhancements. These include a triple Z tooling arrangement (complete with three five horsepower router spindles); an automatic tool mister/coolant device for machining aluminium plate; pop-up location

pins for optimum material alignment; and a powerful vacuum hold-down system to firmly secure material during the machining process. Waste generated is safely removed via a chip-extraction system complete with an automatic vacuum extraction manifold.

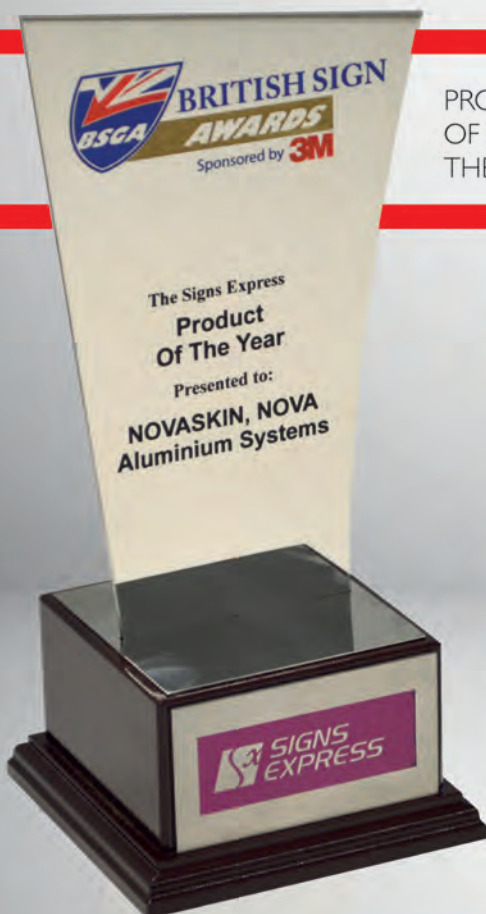
The XYZ PANELBuilder system is supported with an extensive range of specially designed cutting tools and accessories. These include tools to process materials in a thickness of between three and six millimetres and those that will provide the required fold angle and bend radius.

The system is backed with full on-site training and ongoing technical support from the XYZ International team of specialist engineers.

www.xyz.com



The new version of XYZ's PANELBuilder system.



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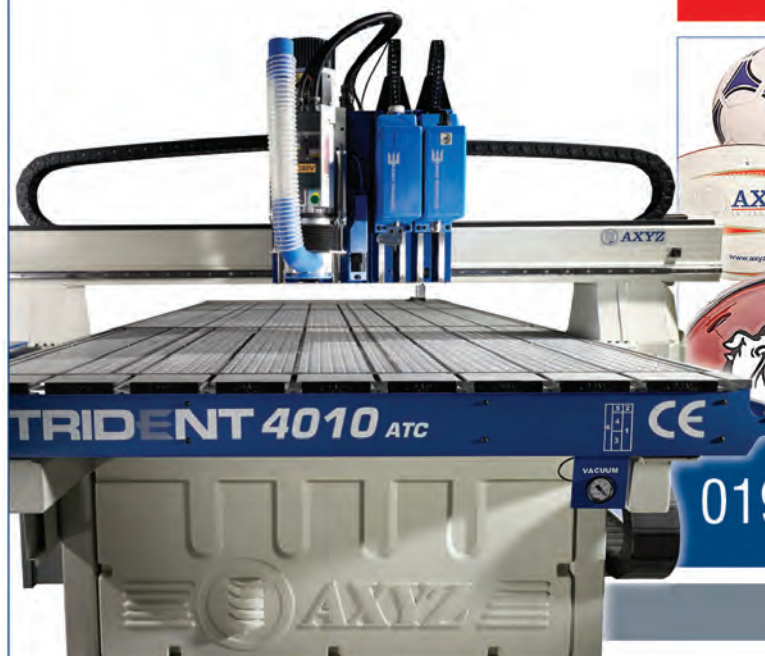
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Solutions for displaying fabric graphics

DPI UK Ltd offers a range of aluminium frames and lightboxes for specific use with tensioned fabric graphics. Made in Derbyshire, UK, the range spans from single sided, non-illuminated wall frames right up to double-sided, super-size lightboxes. All formats are made to order in flat pack format for easy transportation.

All DPI products are designed for the display of fabric produced with Dye Sublimation, Latex or UV devices. Frames and



DPI at Sign and Digital UK 2015.



lightboxes can be wall mounted, freestanding or suspended from the ceiling. A huge variety of profiles ensures the right profile is available depending on the displays usage, says the company.

"There are several advantages to the DPI system. All products can be flat packed, including lightboxes, which makes them not only practical and easy to ship, but can save costs.

"There's also the flexibility of swapping the fabric graphics when campaigns change without having to replace the unit and without the need for specialist tools or services. You simply pull out the old graphic and replace with the new", says Director, Paul Tomlinson.

All DPI products are made bespoke, tailor made for the project in hand. They can be curved for a more 3D effect, and powder coated to a customer's particular brand colour.

www.dpi-uk.com

ORAFOL introduces new translucent film



ORAFOL 'keeps leading the way' in new and innovative films for the traffic control market. Most recently the company introduced a prismatic reflective translucent film designed for manufacturing of internally illuminated signs and traffic bollards or airfield taxi-way signs. These provide a high level of diffuse light transmission from internal sources, and a powerful reflective backup in case of light system failure, according to the company.

The commercial name is ORALITE® 6910T Brilliant Grade Translucent, and it comes in a range of different colours including fluorescent ones. Due to its prismatic construction, this is one of the brightest products of its kind in the market.

The product can be both screen printed and UV digitally printed; and comes with a service life of no less than 12 years for standard colours and 10 years for fluorescent colours.



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Durst presents the new Alpha series

Durst, the industrial inkjet applications specialist, have launched their Alpha series, a 'new generation of super multi-pass inkjet printers' for the digital production of home textiles.

The Alpha series offers print widths of 190-330 cm and can be configured with up to eight colours. 64 Alpha-S print heads achieve a resolution of 600 dpi and a print speed of 460 lm/h. Durst is positioning the Alpha series in direct competition to traditional screen-printing – with all the benefits of digital printing. Compared with the single-pass trend, the Alpha series has the advantage of more economical, more efficient and more reliable printing technology, says the company.

The Durst Alpha series provides continuous ink circulation in all ink circuits to 'guarantee' constant ink quality and reliable stand-by availability. In the event of a print head failing, an automatic emergency mode will deactivate the affected print head row

and continue printing with the greatest possible number of print heads. When necessary, Alpha-S print heads can be replaced by the customer within a very short time. A new intelligent feed system has been developed for the Alpha series that adapts automatically to different textiles and roll diameters. An integrated spray system allows materials to be chemically pre-treated before printing.

Durst provides its own OEKO-TEX Standard 100 certifiable ink systems and a GOTS-certified reactive ink system. In order to give users greater flexibility and efficiency in production, Durst has also developed a new pigmented ink (Alpha Ink P) which can be used on a wide variety of textiles and which, after printing, offers an impressive feel. No pre- or post-treatment is required for standard materials such as cotton or polyester.

"The Alpha series makes digital textile production more economical and efficient," says Martin Winkler, Segment Manager Tex-

tile Printing, Durst Phototechnik AG. "Super multi-pass technology allows us to achieve similar production capacity as with screen printing and provide 24/7 reliability that is not possible with single-pass technology. It's not just about pure print speed but the simplification of printing processes so that the user can start production immediately. The Alpha series combines new process technologies to make the interaction between print head, ink system, material, type of fabric as well as pre- and post treatment manageable and reproducible at all times. The Alpha series print head technology also ensures high fail-safe performance and permanent availability. With the new pigmented ink, we are also offering users a universal solution for standard materials in order to increase flexibility and efficiency in production."

Durst Alpha Series Video Preview

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5FVWVY11BBk
www.durst-online.com



The Alpha series offers print widths of 190-330 cm.



The Alpha series can be configured with up to eight colours.

Onyx Graphics rolls out full support for HP PageWide XL printers

Onyx Graphics Inc. recently announced full support for the HP® PageWide XL printer series, through its proven wide-format print software. The HP PageWide XL family includes the HP PageWide XL 8000, HP PageWide XL 5000 and HP PageWide XL 4000/4500 printer series.

ONYX software offers unique capabilities that take full advantage of HP PageWide XL multiple-roll workflows, enabling multiple jobs to be automatically processed for any media

type loaded on a printer. Using automated media detection and profile selection, printer operators can process jobs faster and take full advantage of the incredible printing speeds of the HP PageWide XL technology, says the company. The ONYX solution also provides full support for all external features such as the stacker, collation and folder, for precise, reliable printing on each individual job.

Specifically developed to make wide-format printing faster, predictable and more

affordable, ONYX 12 software enables print operators to print jobs 'right the first time'.

This version includes a redesigned user interface for better navigation making it easy to find, view and edit jobs quickly, according to the company. With new finishing tools, such as bleed and mark placement, combined with full 64-bit processing, ONYX 12 software delivers the 'printing speed and finishing capabilities needed for an optimized HP PageWide XL printing environment'.



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New Mimaki TX300P-1800 direct-to-textile printer

Mimaki introduced their new direct-to-textile inkjet printer at ITMA 2015 in Italy in November. The Mimaki TX300P-1800, is an innovative 1.8m roll-to-roll direct-to-textile inkjet printer, which was shown for the first time at the show.

"The TX300P-1800 is designed to meet the market demand for smaller lot sizes, faster delivery times and the ability to quickly produce samples," says Mike Horsten, General Manager Marketing of Mimaki EMEA. "We are also mindful of the shift in textile production from both analogue to digital and from centralised to distributed production. We envision a day not too far in the future when consumers will be able to download or create their own patterns rather than being limited to commercially available designs. The TX300P-1800, which is available with a variety of ink types and produces very high quality, is ideal for this new distributed model of textile printing."

Designed specifically for direct-to-textile printing, the TX300P-1800 eight-colour inkjet printer features a new printhead that

ejects ink droplets at high speed to ensure accurate ink placement with a high head gap. This makes the printer ideal for printing high quality images on all types of fabrics, such as thicker and textured materials.

Other features of the TX300P-1800 include print resolution of up to 1,080dpi with drop sizes ranging from 6 to 24pl. Small droplets create beautiful high-resolution printing, and large droplets are useful for high-speed printing. Print speeds more than twice as fast as that of a conventional printer makes the TX300P capable of printing up to 68m²/hour. And based on Mimaki's unique and reliable techniques developed over years of textile inkjet printer research and development, the TX300P has stable textile transport that maintains optimum tension, says the company.

It's available in the UK and Ireland from December 2015 through exclusive Mimaki distributor, Hybrid Services Ltd. Hybrid's national sales manager, Textile and Apparel, Stephen Woodall said: "Mimaki's expertise in the digital textile market is undisputed and the release of the new model confirms its ongoing commitment to the sector. The TX300P-1800 is set to be an exciting addition to Mimaki's textile and apparel portfolio with such versatility of printing onto almost

any type of natural or man-made fabric."

The TX300P is compatible for use with sublimation dye, disperse dye, pigment, reactive dye, and acid dye inks to meet a wide

This makes the printer ideal for printing high quality images on all types of fabrics, such as thicker and textured materials.

range of application needs. Sublimation dye inks are available at commercial launch with other inks following soon. These 2L ink packs enable uninterrupted printing on longer runs, which are assisted by automatic detection and cleaning of clogged nozzles.

Mimaki offers the TX300P with a choice of digital front ends; Mimaki RasterLink 6 or TxLink3 Lite. The production of large, seamless patterns from a single image, including repeat and mirror patterns is possible, along with the simple creation of multi-colour ICC profiles using Mimaki's unique profile wizard.



Mimaki debuted its TX300P-1800 direct-to-textile printer in November 2015.

APA TWO-W

APA, the Italian company who produce adhesive films, has added the TWO-W version to its range, which is a 'cutting-edge' micro-perforated film that is visible on both sides. It is used to decorate glass surfaces.

TWO-W is ideally suited to the decoration of shop windows, thanks to its exclusive micro-perforation, says the company. This allows you to see through the film, and due to its translucence, 'guarantees' bright prints, visible on both sides even under artificial light.

The new film was conceived to simplify application, which, given the reverse printing, can be performed on the inner side of the glass, to avoid the risk of vandalism.

It is 'exceptionally easy to remove, even after a long time, and does not leave glue on the glass surface'.

AP/TWO-W is the evolution of



AP/ONE-W, the gloss micro-perforated self-adhesive film. Due to its micro-perforated surface, it makes sure there is good visibility from the inside of the vehicle. It is designed to be applied on the windows of cars, buses,

trams or business vehicles.

Both films are compatible with inkjet, solvent, eco-solvent, latex and UV printers.

www.apaspa.com

New window graphics films from CLEAR FOCUS Europe

CLEAR FOCUS Europe has launched two new products for the point-of-purchase and retail window signage markets.

24-Vue™ is a 140-micron translucent film providing two-way visibility on glass,

acrylic and other clear substrates. It features a 70/30 perforation pattern (30 per cent open); 1.5-mm holes; and a clear, removable pressure-sensitive adhesive for interior or exterior mounting.

The calendered vinyl film is supplied with DuoLiner®, the company's patented universal release liner, which is compatible with UV-cure, latex, solvent, eco-solvent, screen printing, and other print technologies.

Designed for short-term applications in which two way visual communication is desired under varying lighting conditions; 24-Vue is ideally suited for convenience stores and other retail outlets with long hours of operation.

The latest addition to their value-priced product line is BudgetVue™ 1520, which features 20 per cent open area; 1.5-mm holes; and a black removable pressure-sensitive adhesive. The 100-micron calendered vinyl film offers 80 per cent print surface for maximum visual impact while retaining the view from the inside. Developed for POP, retail, and display advertising applications requiring 'superior' image quality, the window film is offered with DuoLiner for optimum print compatibility. BudgetVue is made in Europe and is REACH compliant.

www.clearfocus-europe.com



CLEAR FOCUS Europe serves customers throughout the European Union from its headquarters in Paris and a branch office in Germany.

MTEX Solutions launch digital textile sample Mini-lab

MTEX Solutions launched a new mini-lab for sampling digitally printed textiles at ITMA 2015.

A world first, the new MTEX Mini-lab comprises coater, steamer, washer and dryer which, when coupled with a digital textile pigment, acid or reactive printer, will produce 1m square samples accurately in a controlled professional environment.

This is one of the most important launches into the industry this year.

The MTEX CW-100 coater/ washer coats standard fabrics such as cotton, linen and silk ready for digital textile printing. Once coated, the material is passed through two rollers to squeeze out excess liquid and gain the correct coating weight. The fabric is then

put through the MTEX D-100 dryer and dries ready to be printed.

Once the print sample is complete, the printed fabric is then mounted into the MTEX S-100 steamer and steamed for the required amount of time depending on the ink/dye type used. The MTEX S-100 features controlled humidity and an inbuilt steam generator so the unit is concise, compact, with a small footprint and only requires a standard cold water connection, says the company.

Once steamed, the fabric can then be washed in the CW-100 wash tank and again dried on the D-100 dryer to complete the process. The workflow will take between 20-30 minutes depending on the dye type and length of time in the steamer.

Eloi Ferreira, CEO of MTEX Solutions said: "This is one of the most important launches into the industry this year. It will offer textile printers an extremely easy and cost-effective way to produce samples on their own equipment to the highest professional standard, without having to compromise on any part of the textile printing workflow. We have invested months of re-



The MTEX CW-100 coater/ washer.

search and development into this solution, which proves our determination and commitment as a company to truly digitise the whole textile printing process; from sampling, through to coating, printing, steaming, washing and drying."



The MTEX Mini-Lab.



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PRODUCT News

APA's new Tail-Light film!

APA have created Tail-Light, a light grey Cast Extra Clear last generation series, for a car's rear tail lights.

"For those of you striving for the details to stand out with an exclusive and trendy look, Tail-Light will provide your car with that sporty touch, whilst at the same time retaining the

lamp's original visibility," says a spokesperson.

Thanks to its high degree of flexibility, it is easy to apply and position correctly.

www.apaspa.com



SAi updates mobile app for sign and wide-format businesses



The updated SAi Cloud app means users can access production information and future performance predictions when away from the office.

SA International (SAi), who provide software solutions for the professional sign making, wide-format digital printing and CAD/CAM for CNC machining industries, has updated its SAi Cloud mobile app. They say it offers sign and print business owners greater production overview and productivity management.

Working with SAi Flexi version 12, the SAi Cloud mobile app is designed to provide users with remote access to production information and job reports while away from the office. The update adds new features that include innovative smartwatch support and an informative production trends dashboard – a first of its kind for wide-format RIP software.

Smartwatch support for Apple and Android devices

Available now on the Apple Watch and Android Wear, the smartwatch support helps those using SAi Flexi to quickly view recently completed jobs, regardless of the owner's location. This reduces the need to be in the office or workshop and enables owners to instantly update customers during on-site visits.

New production trends dashboard

Exclusively available on the mobile app, the dashboard provides an evaluation of daily production rates, along with monthly and annual totals compared to previous months, quarters and years. As well as estimated predictions on the company's future performance.

"The nature of smart technology invariably means that, like all of us, business owners have become reliant upon it as a means of accessing information 24/7, wherever they may be," says Dean Derhak, Senior Product Director at SAi. "A number of sign shops today are probably unaware of how their true production output is trending month-to-month. The updates to our SAi Cloud mobile app allow our customers to draw direct comparisons either weekly, monthly or annually and spot areas that could help them improve throughput."

The free SAi Cloud app is available now in the Apple App Store and Android Google Play stores. The app works exclusively with Flexi version 12 software for wide-format print and cut production.

www.ThinkSAi.com

Solar so good!

Solar power is far from a new concept, and yet only more recently are we seeing it incorporated into a wider range of applications.

Notice board and sign system manufacturer, Signscape and Signconex Limited (SASL) have taken advantage of the developments in solar technology to launch their latest generation of Eco-Vision (see front cover); solar powered illuminated notice boards and monolith signage.

Eco-Vision is an eco-friendly, cost-effective solution that has been specifically designed to make information visible during dusk and at night, where routing mains power is undesirable, impractical or too expensive. The true value is most apparent in highly urban or remote locations, where the cost and upheaval associated with routing mains power (to free standing displays) is far greater. In highly urban locations it can be a costly and complicated process involving multiple agencies and contractors; not to mention health and safety procedures, road closures and traffic diversions.

In rural locations, the most common obstacle is the distance from existing mains power connections. For example, a golf club, hotel or public estate may benefit from having a solar display at the end of their driveway but be unwilling to dig up their land to route mains power. In remote locations such as rural cycle routes, laying power isn't even an option. Eco-Vision is as easy and inexpensive to install as any similar non-illuminated display, says the company. Which means not only a significant saving of time and money, but that displays with 24 hour visibility can be installed in almost any location.



All solar components are fully integrated into the framework.

Powered by standard daylight conditions, Eco-Vision stores energy during the day to provide power for illumination during dusk and at night. Eco-Vision uses an intelligent on demand lighting system that triggers when low levels of ambient light are combined with movement detection. This conserves power during the day to ensure there is always sufficient energy to illuminate when it's needed. In certain locations Eco-Vision can be set to operate with continual illumination during dusk and at night.

Available in wall mounted, post mounted and monolith format, it's virtually maintenance free and comes with a three-year guarantee as standard. But SASL say they are confident Eco-Vision products will last between five and 15 years. This latest generation is also the first notice board system to have all solar components fully integrated into the framework. The substantial and extremely reliable 'Gel-Matt' battery-controller unit has been specifically chosen for its ability to cope with the variables of current during different external conditions, without suffering from premature battery wear. In the five years SASL have been supplying Eco-Vision products they state they have never experienced a battery failure.

"Ideal in town centres, parks, private and public estates, cycle and coastal paths, golf courses, hotel driveways, remote car parks and station platforms, sites of historical importance and university campuses, we think Eco-Vision is an exciting new product for the sign and visual communication industry," says a spokesperson.

www.solarnoticeboards.co.uk



Eco-Vision stores energy during the day to provide power to illuminate signs at dusk and at night.

Mutoh's new 64" ValueJet1624 printers

Mutoh Belgium recently announced availability of a new 64" (165 cm) wide single head piezo drop on demand sign and display printer, called ValueJet 1624X. The new 1624X printer is the successor of Mutoh's best-selling ValueJet 1624 printer introduced in 2011.

Delivering production speeds at 720 x 720 dpi up to 20.5 m²/h, the VJ-1624X integrates Mutoh's industry-leading Intelligent Interweaving (i²) and new revolutionary DropMaster print automation technology. Other novelties are a newly designed motorised take-up system for rolls up to 30 kg and Eco Ultra litre ink bags.

The VJ-1624X printer can be configured with Mutoh Eco Ultra or Universal Mild Solvent (UMS) inks. It is targeted at long term outdoor and indoor sign and display applications such as posters, banners, backlit signage, wall coverings, point of sale displays, and vehicle graphics. For the UMS inks, Mutoh recently obtained a pan European Indoor Air Comfort Certificate, which makes the inks ideally suited for the production of indoor deco prints.

Key product features

Micro Piezo Print Head Technology

The VJ-1624X has one latest generation micro piezo head on board. The variable drop print head has eight channels with 180 nozzles per channel and can produce ink drops as small as 3.5 picolitres up to 35.2 picolitres. To accommodate a wide range of substrates, the head height can be set to low and high position.

New DropMaster Technology

Specifically developed for Mutoh's latest generation ValueJet printers and already available on the 1638X and 628 models, Mutoh also integrated its DropMaster technology into the VJ-1624X model.

DropMaster is a revolutionary print automation technique that eliminates the need for 'cumbersome and time consuming' media dependent printer adjustments. Knowing the media thickness and consequently the drop-throw distance between print head and media surface, DropMaster is capable of automatically recalculating and adjusting the uni/bi-directional fire timings. The technology does this regardless of resolution and print speed.

DropMaster leads to an overall 'spectacular increase' of image definition and smoothness and to significant time savings for the operator.

Inks for ValueJet 1624X

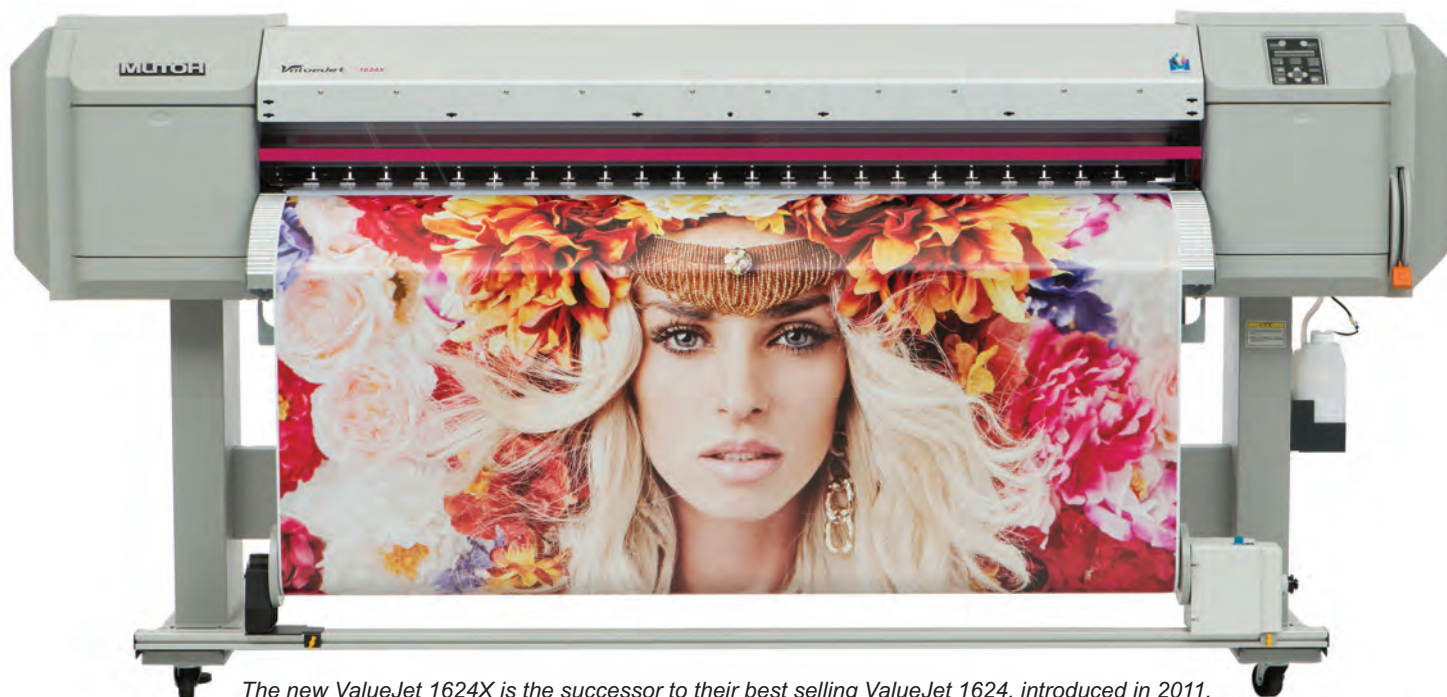
The ValueJet 1624X is fit for intermittent production as well as continuous production. In function of the target print volume, the new VJ-1624X can be configured with two different ink types. Switching from one ink type to another and vice versa is possible.

Mutoh Eco Ultra CMYK inks, available in 220 ml and 440 ml cassettes and now also in litre bags, are Mutoh's third generation eco inks featuring improved ink fixation, better drying and improved scratch resistance. The new litre bags are mounted in the printer by way of an adapter. Mutoh Universal Mild Solvent (UMS) inks are available in 440ml cassettes and litre bottles, for use with Mutoh's bulk ink system. Mutoh CMYK UMS inks combine the key benefits of 1 Litre Eco Ultra ink bags resin-based, eco solvent and mild solvent ink chemistries.

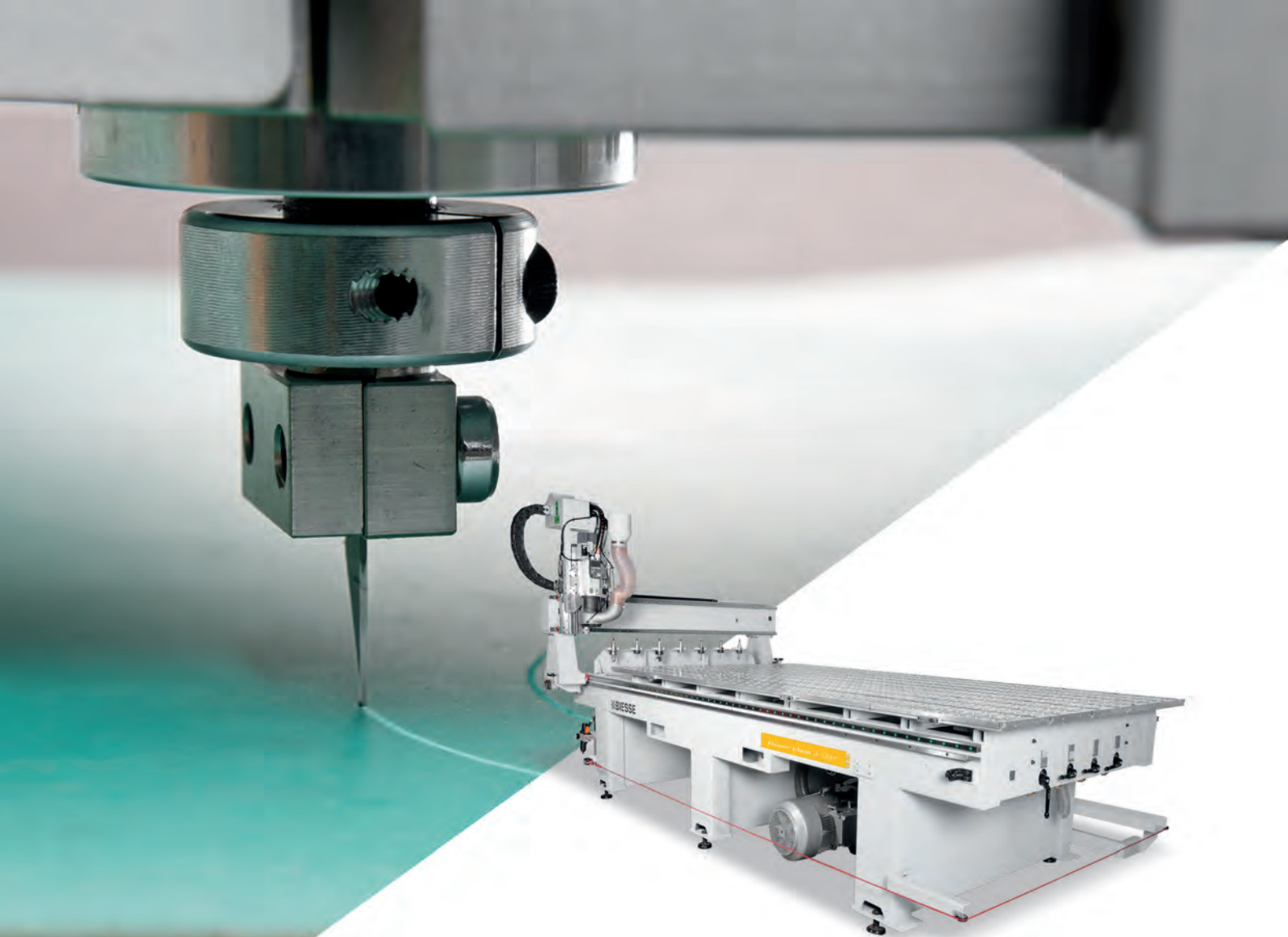
They offer an 'unrivalled' colour gamut, covering 83 per cent of the Pantone C® colour chart.

Wide Choice of Take-Up Systems

Different optional motorised take-up systems for roll weights up to 100 kg are available for the ValueJet 1624X. Next to a newly designed torque-controlled motorised 30 kg take up system, Mutoh also offers roll-off/take-up systems for rolls up to 80 kg and 100 kg.



The new ValueJet 1624X is the successor to their best selling ValueJet 1624, introduced in 2011.



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Stafix Ltd launch new product for UV-inkjet printing

The STAFIX®GRIP product group has been expanded, with UV-inkjet printable rolls added to the range. STAFIX®GRIP UV-Inkjet is available in the width of 1370mm and in lengths of 30m and 100m.



Stafix Ltd staff launching their new range of UV-inkjet printable rolls.

Last year Stafix introduced the STAFIX®GRIP Eco-Solvent product, specially designed for Eco-Solvent printing. Because of its success clients requested a similar product designed for UV-Inkjet printers. Based on this feedback, they decided to develop and launch the STAFIX®GRIP UV-Inkjet product. This new product is more competitive for larger volume campaigns as they often are printed with UV-inkjet. Also there is the option of having longer rolls in the length of 100m for longer print runs. The product is available in white and clear.

"The key benefit from this product is production and cost efficiency. To reduce the manufacturing costs we have slightly reduced the thickness of the film. The film does not have a thick coating, since UV-Inkjet presses do not need a heavy absorbent coating. We have also increased the thick-

ness of the release liner; this change makes the removal of the liner easier and also improves the post press functions like kiss-cutting and die-cutting considerably. The adhesion mechanism, based on our special silicone layer, is the same in both products", says José Ayala Managing Director of Stafix Ltd.

Stafix Ltd. offers rolls of 0.61 x 5m for test printing and you can also get blank A4 and printed samples of the new material.

www.stafix.eu

PPB Ltd launches a new range of Aluminium Composites

PPB Ltd has launched its first range of premium Aluminium Composite materials for the UK's digital printers, signmakers and fabricator. proBOND aluminium composite is a new addition to the PPB portfolio and has been specifically developed to offer customers a genuine high quality sheet; whether it's for short-term digital print projects, or high-end corporate ID signage.

proBOND Premium is suitable for all signage and fabrication applications. A premium grade 5005 alloy is used in manufacturing the full range of white, colours and metallics making the range a 'genuine option' for customers already using premium European manufactured products. With a two times durable Polyester paint on all colours, proBOND Premium comes with a 10 year warranty.

proBOND Digital White grade offers 'superior ink adhesion from a true optimised digital paint surface proven to give the very best results' for all UV Flatbed printing applications such as hoardings. It is made to ISO9001 standards, has a five-year warranty and delivers genuine quality at an economic price.

proBOND Lite has a 0.20mm aluminium skin making it ideal for use where a slightly higher thickness of alloy is preferred to the thinner hoarding grades; or for quality signage projects where 3D fabrication is not applicable. Lite also comes with the optimised Digital paint for UV Flatbed Printing.

PPB Ltd can deliver proBOND orders next-day from an extensive stock holding and has a full in-house conversion facility for orders requiring cutting. As an additional free of charge service, PPB will deliver sam-

ple chip requests directly to customers, or to their end clients.

To support this product addition, PPB has employed Paul Neale, (ex PaperlinX), as ACM Manager. Paul has a comprehensive knowledge and vast experience of aluminium composites and their applications having been a specialist in the UK for over 10 years, says the company. At PaperlinX, Paul managed large signage and POS customers calling upon his extensive background in production and quality management. His key relationships with aluminium composite suppliers, has been fun-

damental to ensure the right products have been brought into the proBOND portfolio.

Richard Proctor, Managing Director for PPB said: "Our new range of proBOND products carries numerous certifications to demonstrate compliance to all necessary standards, including RoHS and REACH. Our supply partner has been chosen on the basis of its exceptional quality standards. We are also able to jointly support customers on special projects such as colour matching, Traffic Grade ACM, construction grades, and a wide variety of additional special finishes to match any project requirements."



proBOND is PPB's first range of ACM for signmakers and fabricators.

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Think ink!

The argument about using third party/compatible inks or original equipment manufacturer (OEM) inks rages on; Kathryn Johnson talks to both sides to understand the issues and then ultimately leaves the choice to you!

AIT supplies the ColorSolve range of solvent inks for printers such as the Mimaki JV3, JV33, JV150 and JV300 as well as the corresponding CJV print and cut machines.

Managing Director, Roger Ward, says that third party solvent inks are now as good, if not better, than their OEM counterparts. "ColorSolve inks are manufactured in Europe to ISO 9001 standards and have been successfully used at over 250 sites in the UK. They are colour matched to the OEM inks and can be swapped as the originals expire. Our inks have appeared on client jobs across a range of applications including in-store and outdoor graphics."

Added value

Roger says that a key consideration for sign makers when choosing an ink is the value added by the supplier. **AIT** not only supplies a 'quality' product but also offers technical support by way of colour profiling; telephone; and on-site repairs in a comprehensive Jet-Care package. He said: "Whilst the key advantage over OEM ink is the reduced cost, we support our users with UK based engineers and there are cost savings in this area too, especially on spare parts."

When machines are out of warranty, Roger thinks that many sign makers make a financial mistake by remaining loyal to the printer manufacturer. He said this is a phenomenon less witnessed in countries such as America, where users are naturally more



AIT's ColorSolve inks are made in Europe to ISO 9001 standards.

cost-conscious and are used to fixing problems locally.

"Once a machine is out of warranty, the distributor's argument for sticking with OEM inks wears rather thin. By contrast we can reduce ink bills by up to 40 per cent, provide field service support if necessary and offer genuine replacement parts at the half the cost," says Roger.

Roger believes the market for solvent inks will remain strong for many years as retired machines exchange hands to new users who seek both minimal capital outlay and lower on-going overheads. "The printing community needs to reduce their costs to stay competitive and I believe we can help them with our range of products and services," he says.



The Colorset print studio in action with their new latex replacement inks.

Increased sales of compatible ink

His claims seem to be substantiated by **Atech**, who report a growth in compatible ink sales, which coincides with second generation HP Latex printers beginning to reach the end of the standard manufacturer warranty.

"The LX260s were launched in 2013, so we're now seeing more customers turning to our compatible inks as they're no longer obliged to buy official HP consumables as they are out of warranty anyway," says MD Allan Ashman.

"In a matter of weeks we've seen our sales simply rocket and we expect that to keep increasing. While these inks offer our customers cost savings and an improved bottom line, the important thing is that their clients can't see a difference in the final product; and the inks have just the same environmental benefits."

Tanya Pepper, Director at Nottingham based **Colorset Ltd** agrees; she said: "We have several HP Latex printers working round the clock so we consume a lot of ink. When our machines went out of warranty we decided to look for a third party ink and came across the Atech offering.

"We've been using this new ink for over four months now and we are very pleased with its performance. We are maintaining the high standards for our customers whilst making a great saving for the business."

Colorset purchased four HP LX260s at the end of October 2013, and they use them to produce a wide range of display materials across sectors including retail, property, sport, signage, interiors, exhibition and events.

Making the change to compatible inks may take a bit of a leap of faith, which is why the relationship with your new supplier is crucial, and that they are accountable.

Tanya said: "The service from Atech is great, and with the warranty they have on the ink lines and heads it wasn't a difficult decision to make. They have engineers on standby if needed – but we haven't had a single problem with the new inks."

Allan said: "Making the change is a simple process because the inks are a direct replacement for the original HP product. There's no need to flush the printer; just replace the exhausted HP cartridges with ours and you can carry on printing."



Roland DG's ECO-SOL Max2 OEM ink.

The inks are manufactured to the highest standards in Germany by UVM and are available in the UK exclusively through Atech. All cartridges are 775ml and the range covers both Generation 1 (HP25500) and Generation 2 (HP26500, HP28500, HPI260 & HPI280) Generation 3 will be available shortly.

Knowing who makes the inks and where they are made is also vital when looking at different options for ink supplies. Making a wrong or misinformed choice can cost businesses a huge amount of money.

A cautionary tale

Roland DG can confirm this does happen a lot and advises caution. The quality, colour and durability of a chosen ink is essential in producing high quality graphics and prints, which is why there is an unquestionable need for print professionals of all levels to be aware of the facts, says a Roland spokesperson.

The option of using third party inks can be an attractive one with customers promised savings of up to 30 per cent and alleged cheaper running costs. Despite the switch to third party inks initially seeming like a cost-effective move, often the savings do not add up. Businesses can be hit financially with unexpected machine faults and voided warranty due to the lower level of compatibility of some inks, with their machines.

Inks produced for universal uses rather than those developed individually by manufacturers generally do not present any compatibility issues immediately. But instead slowly depreciate the performance of the machine overtime, says the company. This can result in increased downtime for head cleaning and maintenance, and in some cases, has resulted in the need to replace these costly parts. All of which increase overhead costs and reduce profit margins for businesses.



Roland warns that using third party inks can cause damage to the machine in the long term.

Think ink!

Increased wear and tear to machines

"In the long term, third party inks are a major contributor to increased machine wear. The indefinite ingredients found within third party inks have also been proven to cause damage to eco-friendly and high-end substrates, eliminating any increased margin on print runs.

"Propriety inks produced by machine manufactures, however, are specially manufactured to complement print machinery, which ensure high quality outputs; optimum machine performance; and elongated machine lifetime. Roland DG's ECO-SOL MAX eco-solvent range of inks are designed to complement its machinery, to produce consistent high quality, optimum results with every print run," says the company.

Mark Elvidge, Print Product Manager, said: "Once customers have experienced third party inks and the subsequent poor quality results, damaging consequences on machinery and lack of support, the vast majority make the switch back to Roland DG inks."

As a manufacturer, Roland DG say they understand their machines and products like no one else. But customers using third party inks run the additional stresses of unnecessary costly part replacements that a RolandCare warranty will not cover. The RolandCare support packages are designed to work with Roland DG's machinery and inks to give customers the added security that third party inks do not provide. RolandCare offers end users a value-packed warranty, which only ever uses genuine Roland DG parts and a 98 per cent first-time fix rate.



Josero, who supply Triangle inks, says there are no difference in quality as the OEM inks are produced by the same factories that produce the third party ink. But he acknowledges that ink formulations are specific to each printer or printhead technology. The formulation is also specific to each ink manufacturer. Because of this not all inks will work in all printers, which is why understanding the product, where it's made and who is selling it, is all important.

If third party inks are made in the same way as OEM inks, why are they cheaper?

Loic Delor from Josero explains: "You cut out the printer manufacturer margin. It goes from the ink manufacturer to the dealer who sells to the end user. The OEM ink will be sold from the ink manufacturer to the printer manufacturer, then to the dealer, who sells to the end user."

He maintains it is easy for businesses to change the type of ink, providing the ink is suitable for the printer and it comes from a knowledgeable and capable supplier.

Not all third party inks are of the same high quality, and some are made abroad very cheaply. Loic advises: "You need to check what warranties are offered, who's manufacturing the inks and what local support you are getting. Then of course the price. But making a choice on price only could be an expensive mistake!"

About Triangle

Triangle is part of the SAKATA / INX group who's the world leader for inks. Triangle provides high quality inks with reliable technical support. One of Josero's best sellers is MSS, the Triangle plug and play solution for Mimaki printers.

Own brand inks

Signmaster Systems, who have been supplying equipment and consumables for 19 years, developed their own brand of ink after falling sales of OEMs. The key thing to know about them is that they are colour and chemically matched to the original inks, which eliminates the need for profiling in most cases. According to the company, they offer the same benefits of OEM inks such as good durability and resistance to fading; as well as high impact colours. Because the pigmentation is the same as original inks, there is minimal blocking.

These inks are plug and play so you can introduce them as soon as your remaining inks run out, which means no need for flushing. They've been researched, tested and proven, as used in their own machines. They say that the main advantage of using them besides the value for money, is that they offer unlimited after sales support. Something you would not get if buying cheaper inks from other countries.

Choices

For many, deciding on one or the other is a difficult choice to make; but there are options, technical advice and suppliers suited to all businesses. So do your research and make sure of what you are signing up to, then ready, steady print!



Signmaster Systems developed their own ink after falling sales of OEM inks.



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A brief history of ink

The use of ink colouration to communicate images and writing has a long history. From cave painters **35,000** years ago using plant sap and animal blood, to refining early carbon based inks, and to the rise of computers; we look at some milestones in the development of the ink we know today.

The oldest cave paintings known were created more than **40,000** years ago in El Castillo in northern Spain, and Sulawesi in Indonesia. This wasn't figurative imagery, but move forward between only **8,000** and 10,000 years for the first cave painting portraying the natural world, in the Chauvet Cave in France. In this era, the ink used was based on red, ochre and black manganese dyes, but also plant sap and animal blood.

Writing emerged in the Sumerian region of Mesopotamia around **3,200 BCE**, and it was produced either by creating impressions in clay or through carving into other surfaces. The development of writing with ink took place around **2,500 BCE**, at approximately the same time in both Egypt and China.

For their pigment, the inks used a type of carbon called lamp black, which is created by partially burning tar with a little vegetable oil.

Just before the **1st century BCE**, India ink had been developed from earlier inks. This was made up of carbon black, lamp black, and charred bones (called bone black), combined together with animal glue to create a block, which would then be re-liquefied by the addition of water. India ink was used in China from the **4th century BCE**, and was also the type of ink employed for writing the Dead Sea Scrolls, although the latter relied on red cinnabar (mercury ore) as its base rather than carbon.

Because India Ink could not be absorbed by some materials such as parchment (which meant it would flake), around the 8th century, inks using chemical precipitation were developed. With the first being iron gall ink based on tannic acid and iron salt bound by resin.

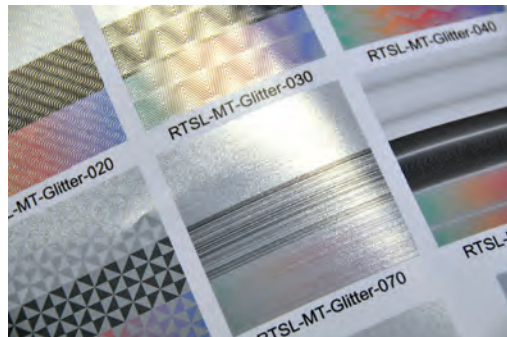
Printing with woodblocks, as opposed to hand writing, began to grow in importance from around the **2nd century AD** in China.

This was very labour intensive; but a potential solution arrived in the creation of movable-type printing by Bi Sheng in **1040 AD**, which used ceramic materials and also wood, although the latter was later abandoned. By the **12th century**, bronze movable type was being used in China, and this was soon emulated in Korea, with many printed books being produced.

Between **1436** and **1450**, Johannes Gutenberg, a goldsmith, developed techniques to cast letters using a hand mould. This made the mass production of letters cheap enough to be economically viable for a complete book. The printing press Gutenberg built in Mainz in **1457** was joined by the development of 110 more presses across Europe by **1480**.

He had to develop a new kind of oil-based ink that was more suitable for adhering to metal. This ink was carbon-based, but also contained copper, lead and titanium. It has been described as more similar to a varnish than ink.

It wasn't until the advent of the typewriter in the **1860s** that the ability to print became viable for business communication, and this required another development in ink. The Hansen Writing Ball typewriter was invented in **1865** and went into mass production in **1870**. In most cases, typewriters relied on an ink-soaked ribbon of cloth. The pigmented ink was designed to stay moist on the ribbon through the addition of castor oil, but it would dry once it contacted paper. Later designs, such as IBM's Selectric typewriter, used ribbons of pigment-coated polymer tape. In both cases, the impact of the type transfers the ink to the paper.

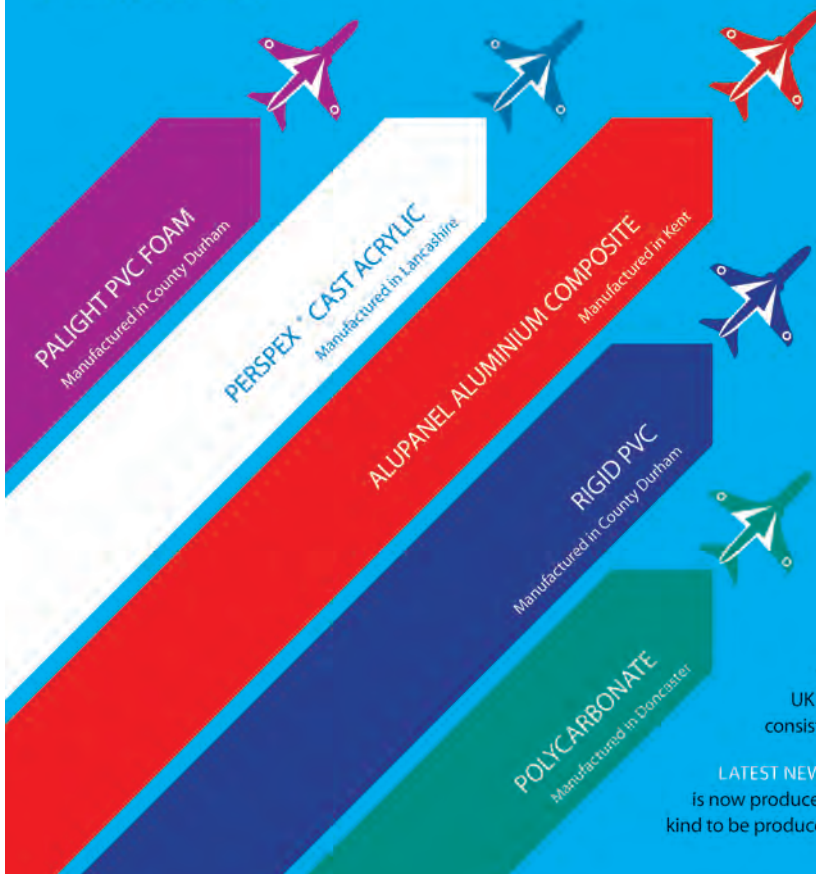


The daisywheel printers of the late **1960s** and **1970s** used a similar impact system to a typewriter, and the dot-matrix printer generalised this by providing an array of metal rods that recreated the shape of the letter. The laser printer uses an electrostatic system to transfer its ink. The toner used needs to be attracted to the charged areas of the imaging drum. Originally this was made from a combination of carbon powder mixed with iron oxide and sugar, but later a polymer mix was used instead. The fuser melts the toner particles so they bond with the paper.

Companies such as Hewlett-Packard, Epson and Canon first developed Inkjet printers in the **1970s**. Alongside solvent, aqueous, UV-curable and dye-sublimation inks were also produced. With an inkjet, minute particles of ink are sprayed onto the paper, directed by magnetised plates. The dots are smaller than the diameter of a human hair.

Modern inkjet ink needs to contain a detergent to prevent the nozzle of the printer from clogging, and also a dispersing agent so that the pigments don't cluster, and instead spread evenly. It also needs to dry quickly and resist fading.

Only time will tell (maybe another **40,000** years?) whether these modern ink print outs will last as long as those cave paintings!



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Brave new (ink) world!

We talk to Roland DG and Mimaki about new inks they have launched recently

Recently shown at ITMA in Milan, the latest ink from Mimaki sees the arrival of two new neon inks for its TS300P-1800 dye sublimation printer. The new SB410 fluorescent inks will be available in pink and yellow and promise to 'extend the potential of digital printing solutions'.

Using neon inks for dye sublimation printing onto polyester 'adds value and vibrancy to bespoke, quality products'. It also offers the additional safety feature of enhancing visibility to sports garments for running, cycling and other outdoor pursuits that, through the winter, are often carried out in dark and dull weather.

On trend

Stephen Woodall, National Sales Manager – Textile & Apparel for Mimaki's exclusive UK & Ireland distributor, Hybrid Services Ltd, explains the key markets to benefit from the luminous addition to Mimaki's dye sublimation ink line-up. He said: "Fluorescent colours are definitely 'on trend' in the sportswear market at the moment and the new yellow and pink neon inks from Mimaki are perfect for enhancing team uniforms for cycling, swimming and gymnastics competitions.

"The array of applications possible with the new neon inks opens up options for creating fashion trends; but also in retail with attention grabbing display graphics. Brand owners and sponsors can make a colourful impact to apparel and soft signage in a variety of industries and settings. It's all about creating the wow factor!"

Mimaki's neon inks are an addition to the SB410 dye-sublimation ink range, which provide a number of benefits, according to the company. Stephen said: "The SB410 inks are perfect for paper transfer. They're fast drying with excellent transfer rates and are available in two litre ink pouches making them both economical and suitable for long print runs."



ECO-SOL MAX3

Those working within the print industry will understand the importance of rich, vibrant colours that bring print products to life, says Roland DG. It's no secret that high quality products allow for increased profit margins. And so the perfect ink choice can provide print businesses with a profitable edge in a saturated market, says the company.

Roland DG say that eco-solvent inks have long held their place as the optimum choice for wide-format print businesses, created to produce 'stunning' colour results, and the Roland ECO-SOL MAX range prove why.

"The proprietary eco-solvent inks are designed for use both indoors and outdoors, and boast an incredibly fast drying time; a wide colour gamut; and resilient durability. The popular ink range is flawlessly equipped for long print runs resulting in efficient printing for highly productive businesses. The extremely wide colour gamut is complemented with additional white and metallic colours for businesses looking to add a creative burst and premium value to their product range," says a spokesperson.

Roland DG recently announced the latest edition to their eco-solvent ink range as the award winning ECO-SOL MAX 3. The enhanced ink 'robustly adheres to a broad range of coated and uncoated media, whilst offering a great improvement in visual performance'.

The EJ ink range complete the range of Roland DG inks designed to work alongside the world-renowned wide-format printers, exclusively created to be used in collaboration with the SOLJET EJ-640, Roland DG's latest wide-format printer, for high-volume printing.



Textile printing

For those in the textile market, the Roland DG Texart Sublimation series has been developed specifically to work perfectly with the Texart RT-640 and Texart XT-640 dye-sublimation transfer printers. Roland DG Texart Ink prints 'vivid colours at the highest of industry-expected quality' onto a wide variety of materials in the apparel, sign, interior décor and fashion market.

OEKO-TEX standard

The company's dye sublimation transfer technology has achieved certification of Standard 100, product class I. The certification has been given for inkjet printing on polyester fabric with their Texart RT-640.

OEKO-TEX® is an independent certification system for testing the safety of textile materials and chemicals at every stage of production from raw materials

to end products. OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 is divided into four classes based on human ecological requirements. Class I make sure that printed textile items are safe for babies and toddlers and is the most difficult to achieve. Growing awareness amongst customers has fostered the rise in popularity of the OEKO-TEX® label, says a spokesperson.

"We are very pleased that the Nissenken Quality Evaluation Center has awarded our dye sublimation printing technology the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100, product class I," says Yuko Maeda, division president of digital printing, market development for Roland DG.

He said: "One of the RT-640's major innovations is that it's available in both four (CMYK) and eight colour versions (CMYK plus Light Cyan, Light Magenta, Orange and Violet). Previously, colours printed on sublimated fabrics could look faded with dull blacks, missing grey and fuzzy details. The RT-640's variable droplet technology in combination with Texart ink displays bold, vibrant colours and rich velvety blacks; as well as subtle graduations and fine details."



Caption for bottom pic: Roland DG's award winning range of eco solvent ink.

INTERVIEW

Daw Visual Marketing Solutions explains why ISO 9001 matters

Daw Visual Marketing Solutions, now in their 25th year of trading have now got ISO9001 accreditation. Sign Update asks John Kerr, sales director, why it matters?

Why does ISO9001 matter?

It is an independent opinion of your company and how it operates. The ISO independent inspector that comes in, makes sure we do what we say we do. That process covers everything from an enquiry coming in; how we deal with that enquiry; how quickly we get back to the client; how we then process this in our graphic design department, how we manufacture the product; and the quality of the product that goes to the client. All these things are individually assessed.

I can't imagine the inspectors have a great deal of experience of the manufacturing process?

They do - the company we use is the British Assessment bureau. These people send out a particular inspector who is knowledgeable about signage and printing.

They make sure our machinery is all calibrated and annually checked.

Calibrated – do they have enough experience to check that?

They would look for evidence of calibration, records showing when calibration engineers visited and to what standard it was. They check other things too like evidence of PAT testing, everything to the kettles used in the kitchen.

How long does this whole process take?

Daw applied for ISO9001 about a year and a half ago. It has taken us that long to have all the visits from the inspector. They walk round and tell you all the things they want you to improve on and tell you the things your doing well. They then come back again to see if you've made the changes, if they are for the better, and if you're doing things consistently.

It's got to be expensive?

It is a substantial investment, financially and also of the many man hours of our staff and management; so not something you'd go into light heartedly. The reason for the expense



Shop Signage with large Illuminated built up letters.

is not only for the expertise of the inspectors that come out, but also eventually all the back up that the ISO9001 can give you. They come back annually to check that you are continuing to do what you said you were going to do, which is likely to incur more costs. It's like a thorough MOT that's not only about the factory; it also covers human resources, how do we treat our staff, what training is available for them etc.

What did you mean by all the backup that ISO9001 can give you?

They will keep you up to date with changes in the industry, laws, any technical changes, and changes in standards.

Why have you not done it until now?

This is our 25th year in business and we have grown, to about 23 employees. It was a good time because of our growth. I think the larger corporate industries looking for our kind of services would be more inclined to utilise our services, knowing that we have a good quality of process and product in place that has been independently verified.

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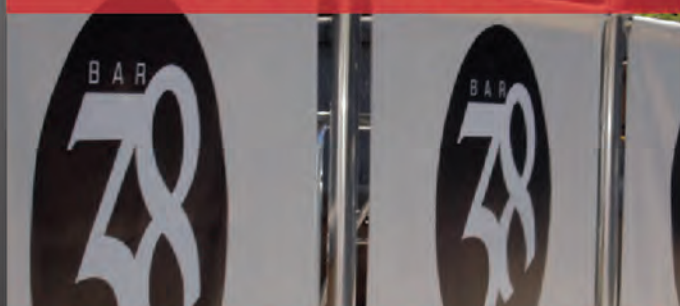
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PRODUCT Choice

Antalis helps Media Edge with Xerox Premium Nevertear

Media Edge is a thriving digital print management, professional art studio and web creation services business, which is run by Jim and Jayne Murray.

The company has continued to evolve thanks to the entrepreneurial vision of Jim, who together with the latest innovative substrates from Antalis, has been able to create new opportunities to drive the business forward.

"We noticed around four to five years ago that the print market was turning more and more towards digital work. But we didn't want to be a company that just churned out the same old type of work as everyone else.

We wanted to differentiate ourselves and tap into new areas, so we needed something with a 'wow' factor that would fit our size, and provide us with opportunities to gain ground in new market sectors, giving us a competitive edge," says Jim.



So Mark Evans, Key Account Manager for Document Supplies at Antalis introduced him to Xerox Premium Nevertear, a highly developed, durable and printable bright white polyester substrate with a smooth, matt surface. In addition to its water, grease and tear resistance, it also requires no lamination. Quick to see its potential in the travel industry, Jim and his team designed a series of prototype luggage labels that would offer the opportunity for personalisation and brand promotion, while being capable of withstanding the rough and tumble of a long haul trip.

"We pitched the luggage tags to a number of local travel agents, and it wasn't long before we began supplying some of the local businesses. We also started to design bespoke, personalised labels that were colour coded to match the type of holiday the customer had booked. Two years on, we're still supplying them and have just received our latest repeat order for a further 2,000 more luggage tags."

Following the success of the luggage tags for the travel sector, Jim started to explore other new avenues that would benefit from the durable and resistant nature of Nevertear. Being a keen golfer, Jim saw another opening for Nevertear, in the form of golf bag labels for 'guest golfers' playing a round of golf at other clubs.

Media Edge has also begun to use Nevertear in other applications where durability and resistance is of paramount importance such as pre-created pub and café menus, where we can produce shorter and more economical runs on our digital press.



Inevitably, there were a few initial teething problems with the feeding such a different substrate through Media Edge's original entry-level digital press. But Mark was soon on hand to offer some advice to address the problem. Since the early days, Jim has also invested in a larger Xerox C70 digital press that handles the substrate with ease and has enabled Jim to offer more creative print services.

"We started our business during the recession, which many thought was a huge mistake, but with some forward thinking and the support of Mark at Antalis, we have been able to carve out a unique selling point that has set us apart from competitors, and allowed us to move the business forward."

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PRODUCT Choice

Aztec invest in new VUTEk GS3250Pro from CMYUK

When large format sign and display specialists Aztec wanted to upgrade their print workhorse with CMYUK, the 'speed and quality' offered by the VUTEk GS3250Pro made it the obvious choice.

They had bought a VUTEk QS3220 around three and a half years ago and found that they needed to upgrade it to keep up with customer demand and the ever faster turnaround times expected.

Director Tom Wilton said: "We've got various printers including a HP Designjet and a new Latex 360; but the VUTEk was our main print engine.

"We knew it was time to upgrade it when we started struggling to turn around the volume of work we needed to in the timescales we were given. We spoke to the

team at CMYUK and they recommended the GS3250Pro with its top speed of 225sqmh coupled with dpi up to 1000.

"The top speed on the previous machine was 88sqmh, so we should see double the productivity out of it. Equally important to us though is the quality of the white ink printing and the high end finish that it offers."

Aztec's client base is split evenly between trade and end users, ranging from other signmakers, advertising and design agencies, to blue chip companies in the leisure, museum, retail and food industries.

"We produce a lot of high-margin, precision work like backlit acrylic displays for day and night. So the multi-layer printing that allows us to put down the reverse image, white ink then the mirror image in one sweep

is invaluable as far as both speed and accuracy are concerned," says Tom.

"The improved white ink also means we can now print onto materials like coloured acrylics easily by putting down the white layer first.

"We certainly have plenty of work to keep the new printer busy at all times, but the GS3250Pro has also given us more confidence to start challenging traditional screen printers for the higher volume jobs as well."

Just over a year ago Aztec purchased a new cutter and CNC machine which they can now also partner with the new printer to increase the amount of packaging, mock ups and POS work that they do.

Thanks to this investment in direct print and cutting, Aztec will now even be able to offer same day turnaround on bespoke, cut to shape vinyl, foamex, pvc and Dibond orders.

CMYUK Director Robin East said: "We recommended the 3.2m flatbed and roll-to-roll UV GS3250Pro to Aztec because it offers both the productivity and improved quality that the team were after. The eight-colour plus white and Fast-5 printing gives photorealistic quality at production speeds, and for top-end graphics there's the option of 1000 dpi.

"There's also the ability to print directly onto both rigid and flexible media, which will expand the number of applications the company can produce with great levels of profitability."

Tom said: "Customers are notoriously tight in their deadlines and the turnaround times are only getting more demanding. If you don't move forward you're moving backwards – and the GS3250Pro was a great step forward for us!"

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New Agfa Anapurna reduces production times 'by half, at least' for display printer

Mark Latchford Screen and Digital Print says they have reduced production times by at least 50 per cent, after installing a new Agfa Anapurna M2500i from i-Sub Digital.

After investing in a CNC router and finding an increase in output speed on the finishing side, the company decided it also needed to upgrade its print room to keep up.

"We needed, specifically, a digital printer with a large enough bed to accommodate 3m x 2.5m sheets of Foamex and Dibond material and 2.5m-wide rolls for banners and so on," says founder and director Mark Latchford. "We looked at similar machines on the market but they didn't compare for speed, quality or price."

The Agfa Anapurna M2500i is 2.5m-wide hybrid inkjet printer that can complete indoor or outdoor, colour or white prints on rigid or roll media at speeds of up to 115sqm/hr. This they say makes it ideal for a broad range of applications. It features a vacuum system and accurate dot positioning for sharp prints and runs fast-drying, versatile UV-curable inks.

Mark said: "Since the installation of the Agfa Anapurna M2500i we have cut production times in half, at least. In fact it seems like we're not as busy as we used to be, despite completing much more work."

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The Agfa Anapurna M2500i has dramatically reduced production times since its installation at Mark Latchford Screen and Digital Print.

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PRODUCT Choice

SixTeeSix expands t-shirt printing business with Epson printer

SixTeeSix has invested in an Epson SureColor SC-F2000 direct-to-garment printer to expand its service, to print t-shirts while-you-wait. This, they say, has led to a significant increase in production and profits.

This t-shirt printing company has been offering bespoke garment design and printing services since 1999. Owner Mark Rhone originally ran the online t-shirt printing business from home and opened the retail premises in January 2015.

The opening of the new shop was the perfect timing for Mark to put his plans to print direct-to-garment into action. Mark said:

"I had been looking at direct-to-garment printing for around three years and could see the benefits to my customers and my business. I evaluated several printers during that time and decided on the Epson SureColor SC-F2000 direct-to-garment printer, which is fairly new to the market. I've worked with Epson printers before and they have a great reputation for good quality and reliability. Plus I really like the fact that the whole system – from chassis to printhead to ink – is designed and built entirely by Epson." The SureColor SC-F2000 sits alongside a Schulze Pre-Treatment machine, Graphtec CE-6000-40 cutting plotter and two Stahls heat presses.

Epson reseller Adelco supplied and installed the SureColor SC-F2000 in March 2015. "Adelco are fantastic and have been really helpful before, during and after the sale and installation," says Mark. "The printer was very straightforward to install and set up and couldn't be easier to use."

Mark is delighted with his new Epson printer and has printed over 6,000 garments since installation. "I've had absolutely no problems with the SureColor printer and can happily print one-offs or multiple orders."

He also prints his own branded cotton tote bags on the SC-F2000, which he uses instead of carrier bags; re-useable and more eco-friendly than plastic bags with the added benefit of free advertising for his business.

Mark is keen to offer his customers a memorable retail experience and has plans to hold 'Print Parties' on the premises. This will be an opportunity for his customers to create and bring their own designs which they can have printed onto their own customised t-shirt. Mark says: "The SureColor SC-F2000 has enabled me to expand my business in a number of very creative ways. Without the Epson printer I wouldn't have the business I have today."

The complete design and textile printing package

The Epson SureColor SC-F2000 direct-to-garment printer offers 'high performance, low maintenance and running costs and enables

small-to-medium businesses like SixTeeSix to offer a high quality t-shirt design and print service that is fast and cost-effective'.

Garment Creator software by Epson comes as standard with the SureColor SC-F2000. Garment Creator also includes a cost calculation function, a useful tool which enables businesses to estimate the print cost by calculating the amount and cost of the ink used for each print job.

Featuring Epson's durable new TFP printhead the SureColor SC-F2000 offers a resolution of 1440 x 1440 dpi. The printer uses Epson's UltraChrome DG inks which are the 'perfect solution' for garment applications as they are hard wearing, crack resistant yet feel soft against the skin.

Production is quick without sacrificing print quality: the SureColor SC-F2000 is capable of printing a single white t-shirt in 27 seconds when using dual colour mode. And a dark coloured t-shirt in less than two minutes, using white ink as a base colour.



Side view of the Epson SureColor SC-F2000 direct-to-garment printer.

Envisage



The Mimaki JFX200-2513 flatbed printer.

Established in 1976, Envisage specialise in the design and build of bespoke exhibition stands and live marketing solutions. This year they have invested in a new graphics studio with the addition of new printing equipment.

This improvement of offerings to clients is crucial to the companies' plans for growth, says Creative Director Chris Cotterill: "The nature of exhibitions means that clients want something novel or unique to stand out from the crowd. With the new flatbed we can print to all kinds of materials – without being limited to what comes on a roll."

The introduction of a Mimaki JFX200-2513 has transformed tech-

niques within the studio. Working together with the in-house joinery workshop, the ability to print directly to CNC routed panels has helped them to optimise production and output.

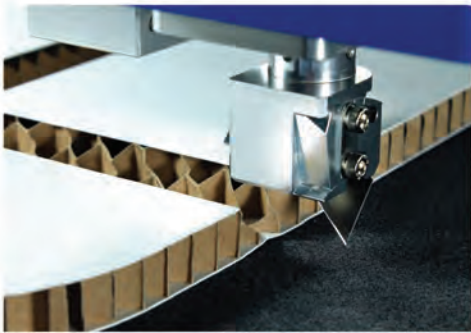
"Now we have invested in the new Mimaki JFX200-2513, the production time of graphic panels especially has almost halved," says Simon Lindop, Graphics Manager at Envisage.

"If the customer then wants us to use a more traditional method then we still have the option to produce graphics using either the HP Designjet Z6200; HP360 Latex Printer; Roland SolJet XJ-720; or the Graphtec vinyl cutter."

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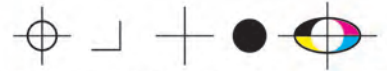


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PRODUCT Choice

Josero expands its horizons to the Canary Islands

Print solutions specialist, Josero, has just completed its first sale and installation on the island of Tenerife, having successfully traded throughout the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe for the past 12 years.

Working in partnership with Digilarger, a renowned Durst specialist based in France, Josero installed a refurbished Durst P10/200 at the premises of the offset printer, Graficas Sabater in the Canary Islands.

Based in 3,500 square metre facilities in Tenerife, Graficas Sabater has over 30 years of experience in the printing industry and a team of over 60 highly skilled staff. Delivering high quality printing services to advertising and promotional companies throughout the islands, the company is continually investing in high tech equipment. This allows them to improve printing processes, quality and timescales for delivery.

Loic Delor, Managing Director of Josero said: "Our growth in the industrial inkjet printing industry has demonstrated that success can be achieved through strategic partnerships and collaborations. Over the past few years we have developed strong relationships with key manufacturers and resellers to deliver turnkey solutions to customers requiring cost-effective equipment. We have worked closely with Digilarger on this occasion, and actually purchased the machine in Norway before delivering it to Graficas Sabater."

The Durst machine is running Triangle INX MGA inks and a Caldera Grand Rip+ offering the customer 'ultimate performance.' The Triangle MGA inks offer the colour

gamut and adhesion that are required for these fast digital presses.

Juan Sabater, founder of Graficas Sabater said: "We're absolutely delighted with our new investment. The whole purchasing and installation process was so slick and professional. Josero delivered the machine and their technical team carried out the installation so we were up and running without any disruption to our business. This robust and high speed machine is able to

produce excellent quality print, and it allows us to enter the large format market and broaden our product offering."

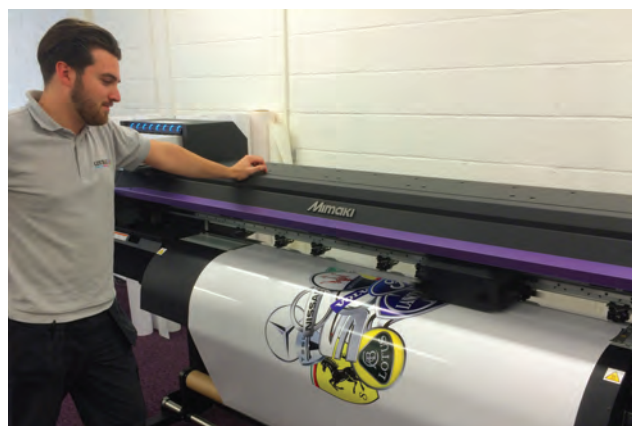
Loic said: "This is just another example of how customers can benefit from Josero's expertise. The combination of high quality inks and engineering has allowed Graficas Sabater to have a production solution at a fraction of the cost of purchasing new equipment."

www.josero.com



Loic Delor from Josero and Juan Sabater from Graficas Sabater.

Surge in demand leads to a new Mimaki



Lustalux's Sign & Graphics Assistant, Jonny Borg with the company's new Mimaki CJV300 printer/cutter.

Lustalux recently added a Mimaki CJV300-160 printer/cutter to its line-up, as part of its ongoing expansion plans, and in response to increased demand for wide format print.

"The business has gone from strength to strength throughout 2015," says Richard Lancaster, Director of Lustalux. "Due to an increase in client wins, we were struggling to keep up with the surge in demand for printed graphics, murals and wallpaper. By investing in the new Mimaki CJV300 wide format printer we've excelled our service offering."

Bought through Mimaki reseller Granthams, the CJV300 is capable of delivering high quality outdoor durable print at speeds of over 100sq metres per hour, onto vinyl, banner, canvas, paper and other substrates. With a print width of 1.6m and running Mimaki's SS21 low solvent inks, Lustalux is using the CJV300 to expand its portfolio. "The new Mimaki has replaced our previous eco-solvent printer/cutter and was chosen because it offered us a higher standard of quality and detail," says Richard.

www.lustalux.co.uk

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PRODUCT Choice

It takes two: Wrights Plastics adds second Zünd G3

One of the UK's leading plastic fabrication companies has spoken about the massive impact Zünd technology has had on its business, as it installs its second Zünd G3 digital cutter within nine months.

Wrights Plastics has seen 'significant' growth in the past three years, with record turnover and staffing levels. It has received two prestigious Manufacturer of the Year awards in regional business awards and employs around 100 people at its West Bromwich base.

The company purchased its first Zünd G3 in December 2014 from supplier Canon, after seeing it in action at another manufacturer's HQ. It soon became clear its existing cutting machinery was, in the words of its Commercial Director Andy Watkins, 'archaic'.

"The speed of the Zünd G3 was a revelation to us and has had a major impact on our business," he says. "As well as its impressive speeds, the finishing capability of the Zünd G3 XL-3200 means Wrights Plastics has changed the way it produces many

items. Items that were previously stamped out or knifed are now put on the G3 for routing or cutting, creating cleaner finishes and more efficient processes. Output has significantly improved and we are able to compete on price with competition around the world."

Andy said: "We realised that investment in the best available plant and machinery was the key to future growth. Our competitive advantage will come through the type of efficiencies that we can create using cutting-edge kit such as the Zünd. Our commitment is such that we have spent around €500,000 in an ongoing investment programme."

In October Wrights Plastics installed a second machine, also supplied by Canon, to manage the increasing work volume achieved through growth into new markets for companies such as Marks & Spencer, Coral, Tesco and Selfridges.

"The new Zünd is one of the first in the country with head-changing capabilities – again, purchased with the aim of increasing productivity and finished quality even further," says Peter Giddings, Sales Director, Zünd Plotting Systems (UK) Ltd. "Wrights Plastics has experienced first-hand the significant benefits of investing in the right machinery and we look forward to supporting the company as it grows further."

sales@zund.co.uk



Wrights Plastics received its second Zünd G3 cutting table this October.

Sagotech claim Alupanel A-Lite as the 'cleanest ACM cut ever'

Alupanel A-Lite Digital Aluminium Composite from Perspex Distribution has been endorsed for its cut finish from Sagotech, the UK's specialist manufacturer of vertical panel saws. After using the panels to demonstrate their latest Koolkut KF panel saw at the recent Viscom exhibition in Dusseldorf, they called the material the 'best they have ever seen'.

Known for its bright white surface ideal for digital printing and display, the material core is produced with smooth cutting at the forefront. Unlike many aluminium composite sheets, Alupanel A-Lite Digital is manufac-

tured with a superior A5005 alloy skin shown to deliver a burr free cut with a special polyethylene core for a smooth core finish.

The new Koolkut KF panel saw is an ideal solution for safely cutting a variety of materials from Perspex® acrylic to PVC Foam. On top of the ability to cut sheets in-house, investment in these machines also offer workshops the flexibility of trimming and utilising off-cuts for greater efficiency.

www.verticalpanelsaw.co.uk
www.perspex.co.uk



Rocket 'goes Pro' for digital textile with its new MTEX printer

Rocket, a large format digital production company that focus on events, exhibitions, retail, interiors and environments, has added a new direct-to-textile digital printer from MTEX to its growing stable of printers. They decided to 'go Pro' with the MTEX 5032Pro model.

Rocket specialises in large and grand format digital print onto a wide range of materials for both internal and external applications.

Commercial Director Antony Rider said: "We decided to purchase the 5032Pro as it meets our needs as far as speed and quality go, and it was the most up to date

model. It's also commercially viable as a part of our overall fleet and it came out at the right price."

The company, which currently has 42 staff, was founded in 1996 and has seen double digit growth over the last three years.

The experiential market is constantly looking for innovation, with a strong move at the moment towards textile, skins and stretchable print rather than hard board. The development in textile print technology driven by companies like MTEX, coupled with developments in proprietary frame systems, are driving this trend, says the company.

"There is a growth pattern – both for our company and in the digital textile industry in general – and this investment in the new MTEX will support that growth and keep us at the forefront of technology," says Antony.

Production Director Phil Eames said: "When the MTEX 5032Pro was installed in June, it replaced an older machine with a matching footprint – as there's no need for a separate calendar with the MTEX we didn't need to take up any valuable extra space.

"The installation itself, the training and support have all been professional, on time and ongoing – essential to us because as soon as the printer went in we were putting live work through it and we needed to be up to speed.

"The 5032Pro complements the work we were already producing, meaning we can expand our offering to our clients, and some jobs where we would previously have printed with UV as standard can now go on the 5032 for better quality and colour gamut."

MTEX Technologies Managing Director Stewart Bell said: "The 5032Pro is a great addition to the print fleet for a company like Rocket, which stands out from the crowd by remaining at the leading edge of wide format digital print technology.

"The Pro model of our market-leading MTEX 5032 3.2m wide textile printer has a new integrated platform as well as a new feeding and take up system which supports bigger and heavier rolls for greater productivity and unattended printing. There is also a new continuous ink feeding system and integrated infrared fixation.

"With a print speed of up to 58sqm/h and resolution up to 1440dpi, what you have is a high quality, production standard dye sub printer."



Rocket Print Manager Kevin Fiskien with the MTEX 5032Pro.

www.mtex.eu

www.rocketgraphicsltd.co.uk

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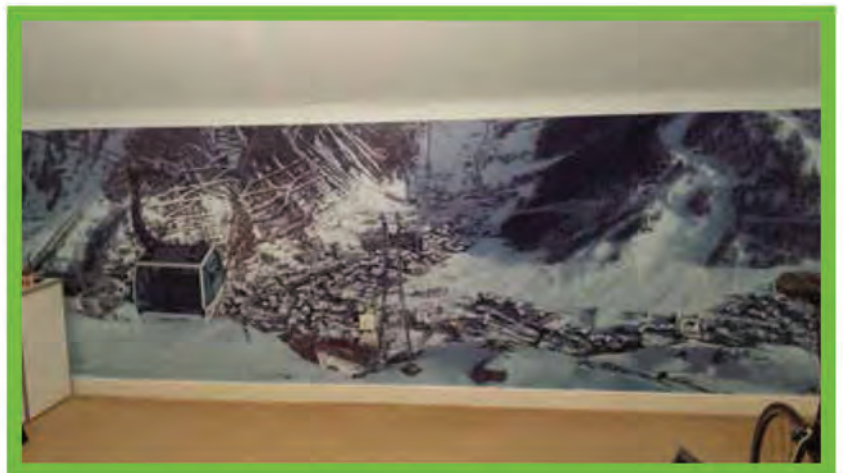
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SOFTWARE Feature

Signage Software

When looking at the software available to sign makers, integration and mobility stand out as key developments over the past 12 months. Jemima Codrington spoke to experts to find out more about what's driving signage software development, and what users can expect from product releases in 2016.

When it comes to signage software, like so much else today, going mobile is the way forward. From anything to order estimates to proof approvals and confirmation of delivery, sign makers can do virtually anything on the go.

"You don't have to be in the office anymore to provide an estimate for a job, you can do it from your iPad while you're out on site quite easily," says Emerson Welch, Marketing Manager, Clarity Software. "One thing we're finding when speaking to sign makers is that they want to be able to estimate more accurately, and to make sure they're protecting their margins when they're quoting for jobs."

In order to help sign companies achieve this, Clarity has created quoting software that enables them to create accurate estimates on the go.

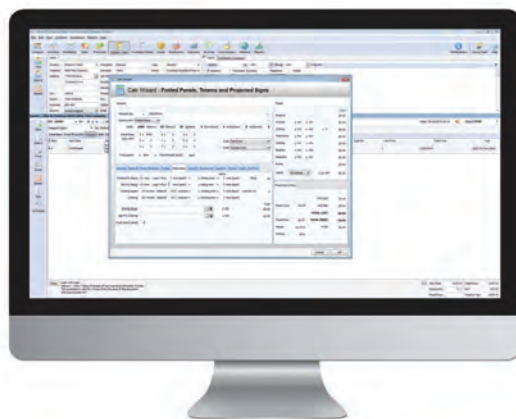
Businesses have to input a minimum margin setting through the software to ensure undercutting isn't possible, and so with this benchmark in place, anyone from a sales representative through to the MD can quote for a job responsibly - something Emerson notes is a real concern for growing businesses. "Being able to get a quote out faster, presented professionally with branding and the right terms and conditions, is incredibly important".

According to Emerson, the Clarity Go iOS app is incredibly popular, as the demand grows for people to be able to work on the

move. "Gone are the days where you can go to the office, log on and do the work from there - you need to be out and you need to be mobile. We have customers who are using things like our Proof of Delivery (POD) app, which is a mobile app that allows them to take pictures of signage and track their installations on the road, and sign off on completed deliveries quicker."

A number of winners at the BSGA Awards use Clarity software, including Signs Express, Signbox, Cambridge Sign Company, Trade Signs UK, John Anthony Signs, Nova Aluminium and Channel Islands-based Signtech. According to Signtech, Clarity software has played a huge role in helping the company develop. "We could start to grow the business, train others and develop further to a point now where Signtech has even won awards in our local market for best medium business. Over the years Signtech has evolved and Clarity have been there with us."

In addition to helping sign makers quote more efficiently, Clarity are always looking for ways to help them consolidate invoices and assist with accounting. As such, they have recently added integration with the accounts system Xero, to add to their integration with Sage and QuickBooks accounting systems. This enables sign makers to streamline their workflow when it comes to order processing, as they can post invoices and share nominal code information through the software. "We now have a "Tasks" functionality within our Activities module," adds Emerson. "This enables teams to work together and collaborate on sign projects much better, by allowing them to share comments in a single thread and allocating work from one employee to another."



Creating folded panels with Clarity Go software.

Calculating the cost

With sign makers moving into more diverse and often more competitive markets, there is more emphasis than ever on optimizing work flow.

After having invested in expensive machinery, sign companies are loath to let it sit idle, and so managing orders quickly to ensure the printers are working at full capacity to provide the highest possible return on investment is crucial. In order to assist with this, Clarity software expedites the quoting process with so-called Cost Calculators. This software enables sign makers to nest the job, so if they've got two or three jobs going through the same printer, they can arrange it so that they use less material and therefore process the jobs in a cost-effective manner. Clarity has coded all the different machines into the software, so all users have to do is select which machine and model they are using, and the calculator will show how much material and ink will be used in order to help them decide which method will be most cost-efficient.

The Cost Calculators, much like the rest of the products in the Clarity Software range, are designed based on specific feedback from customers. "One of the things we pride ourselves on is understanding what our customer's issues are on a day-to-day basis," says Emerson. To obtain this feedback, Clarity holds annual user-group meetings in which users can share feedback and ask for features that could better their ability to create the designs and products for which there is demand. "Those kinds of conversations with our customers are gold dust to us. It helps us to understand the latest developments in the sign market and see where we can optimise our products to meet them."

www.clarity-software.com



The Clarity Go iOS app is popular with sign makers.

ArtCAM provides an array of software solutions for manufacturers to create various signage systems such as 2D, modular, and back-lit through to complex 3D structures.

"ArtCAM software does not limit you to a particular material or manufacturing process," says Penny J. Parkes, ArtCAM Product Marketing Manager. "If a sign-maker wants to laser, CNC machine or 3D print plastic it is all possible. If you use traditional methods, these can easily be used alongside modern techniques in the software by using various forms of scanners."

The ArtCAM range of CAD/CAM software consists of three levels, Express, Insignia and Pro. ArtCAM Express is a sign making software that offers essential drawing tools for 2D and 3D machining. Unlike with other CAD/CAM packages, sign makers can tailor their software by purchasing 14 additional modules to suit specific design and manufacturing requirements. The 2015 R2 version of ArtCAM Insignia CAD/CAM software for the sign making and engraving industries includes new and improved options for both design and manufacture, which allows users to deliver complex projects more easily and efficiently. As this range of software is aimed at craftsmen rather than engineers, the programs are designed to require little knowledge of engineering or computing.



Sign makers can achieve traditional and modern signage with ArtCAM software.

"ArtCAM has been particularly successful in the volume production of artistic items in 2D or 3D by sign makers, woodworkers and engravers, amongst others," adds Penny. Two options have been added in the 2015 R2 release of ArtCAM Insignia to help users to design with vectors. Firstly, snap hints now appear to help in spotting hard-to-find snap points within vectors when creating designs. Secondly, the thickness of vectors can be changed, in either the 2D or 3D view, making it easier to visualise the design. Accuracy will also be helped by the addition of rulers in the 3D view to make it easier to create precise artwork and to position elements of the piece.

Designed with distortion in mind

According to Penny, using ArtCAM Pro CAD/CAM software for artistic applications in sign making now makes creating complex designs much easier, with a new approach called interactive distortion modelling.

"This allows users to distort either vectors or reliefs within ArtCAM models by

bending or stretching the design," she explains. "The addition of interactive distortion modelling in ArtCAM Pro makes free-relief modelling even more powerful. It is now possible to create the most complex shapes quickly and easily, with the ability to see the effects of any changes as they are being made. Once the design of the particular element has been finalised it can be moved, rotated, rescaled and copied, either individually or as part of a group."

ArtCAM Pro is also great for vector creation and editing. New snapping options make vector creation much quicker. They include the ability to snap to anything in the design, including any point on a vector, intersections between vectors, guidelines and key points within a model, such as the origin, centre and corners.

The Vector Doctor means vectors can be cleaned up more quickly. Duplicate vectors and vectors that are longer, shorter, larger or smaller than specified sizes can be identified immediately. In addition, "quick-select" functions help to spot unobvious open vectors that could cause machining issues. Vectors can now be joined when they are mirrored using any of the many mirroring options in ArtCAM Pro. This allows faster creation of vertical and horizontal vector patterns. In addition, vectors can now be offset interactively by dragging the offset to the required position as well as by a specified amount.

On the machining side, a new strategy gives the ability to add linear or curved fluting to designs. The fluted-weave machining option also allows fluting toolpaths, including Celtic weaves, to be created from vectors.

As well as the usual forms of signage, the use of CAD/CAM software along with CNC cutting machines means sign makers can look to diversify and even personalise their product range, all of which fits well in the giftware market. "Nowadays, more and more people are looking for something different that will reflect the personality or have a meaning for the person they are buying the gift for," explains Penny. "A sign or memento with an element of customisation offers a new avenue with excellent margins and can all be achieved using ArtCAM CAD/CAM software."



A sign created with ArtCAM software.

www.artcam.com

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no minimum order

Height	100mm	150mm	200mm	250mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	750mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
3mm	1.00	1.25	2.13	2.80	4.00	5.75	6.50	7.50	8.50	10.50	13.50	16.00	18.50	28.00	35.00	39.50
5mm	1.65	2.10	3.20	4.80	6.80	8.00	10.50	11.50	13.50	15.50	17.50	21.50	24.50	33.00	42.00	58.00
10mm	2.80	4.20	6.80	11.20	14.50	16.00	19.50	22.00	27.00	32.00	34.00	45.50	54.00	68.00	86.00	115.00

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	0.98	1.15	1.39	2.13	2.60	3.45	4.40	4.81	5.80	6.20	7.06	9.80	11.50	15.45	18.80	19.80
5mm	1.20	1.75	2.25	3.14	4.10	5.20	6.40	6.53	7.10	8.60	9.80	15.20	16.00	21.12	25.25	26.50
10mm	1.80	3.35	4.38	6.40	8.10	9.80	10.80	13.90	14.80	17.20	18.90	25.69	26.50	30.80	45.50	47.50
19mm	3.70	4.22	7.45	9.70	13.40	14.50	17.80	19.10	22.00	22.94	27.00	34.20	37.50	42.10	53.40	78.50

3mm ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE (Dibond, Alupanel)

no minimum order

Height	100mm	150mm	200mm	250mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	750mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
Colours	1.70	2.70	3.60	6.10	7.80	9.50	11.00	12.00	14.50	17.00	19.50	22.00	25.00	34.50	44.00	59.50
Mirror	2.60	4.60	7.50	10.00	14.50	17.00	19.50	22.00	25.00	27.50	30.00	36.00	42.50	45.00	49.00	91.00
Brushed	2.05	3.10	4.50	6.50	8.90	9.60	10.50	14.50	16.20	17.90	18.50	25.50	27.00	35.50	45.00	62.50

MILL FINISH ALUMINIUM (Comes in its raw form ready for coating) no minimum order

Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	700mm
2mm	2.88	3.80	4.30	5.75	6.50	7.25	8.20	9.45	10.50	11.55	12.75	15.85	18.80	26.90	36.00	49.50
3mm	3.20	4.20	4.80	5.90	6.80	7.60	8.50	9.70	10.85	12.50	13.95	17.90	21.40	29.90	42.00	66.00
5mm	3.50	4.60	5.50	6.60	7.40	8.50	9.60	11.20	12.90	14.85	16.75	21.65	25.00	34.75	49.00	71.60

EXTERIOR MDF

Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	1200mm
6mm	0.58	1.10	1.64	1.83	2.70	2.85	3.30	3.95	4.55	5.40	6.90	9.75	11.25	12.75	14.95	45.50
12mm		1.90	2.12	2.96	4.25	4.90	5.70	6.42	7.65	9.60	10.50	12.20	14.50	17.60	19.75	59.95
18mm		2.70	3.25	4.25	5.30	6.45	7.95	8.90	11.05	12.75	15.20	17.40	21.25	22.90	29.95	89.63

Add 20% for locators and layout Add 30% for 3mm letters Add 30% for Cladded facia drawing

MOULDED ACRYLIC LETTERING (Including locators and paper template) * ADD 10% FOR SILVER & GOLD

Height	152mm	203mm	254mm	305mm	380mm	457mm	610mm
Colours*	5.20	8.70	10.92	12.40	16.40	19.50	34.90

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SOFTWARE Feature

Signage Software

Corel has long been a global leader when it comes to graphic design software for the signage industry. According to Gérard Métrailler, Vice President Products, Graphics & Productivity, Corel Corporation, the goal for developing this software is always to help users be either more creative or more productive.

"We know at sign shops, they are not charging based on hours spent working on the graphics, but they charge by the job," he says. "If we can enable them to get their job done faster by preparing the graphics quicker and then going to print faster, they can get more customers through their shop, and ultimately make more money."

According to Gérard, some of the latest improvements to the CorelDRAW family of products have greatly enhanced how users can work with text and font. They have also introduced a new knife tool that can assist sign makers with jobs such as vehicle liveries. "When you create a car wrap, you want



CorelDRAW software can assist sign makers with vehicle livery.

to create the graphic but then also cut the vinyl correctly with overlap. You can do that very quickly with additions like this that help the user increase productivity."

For Corel, keeping in touch with their client base helps them to discern what issues need to be addressed, and how. "For us, we don't look at adding a feature, we look at solving a problem," he says. "I'm reminded of that quote - 'I don't want to use a word processor, I want to write a letter' - and that's very much the approach we take."

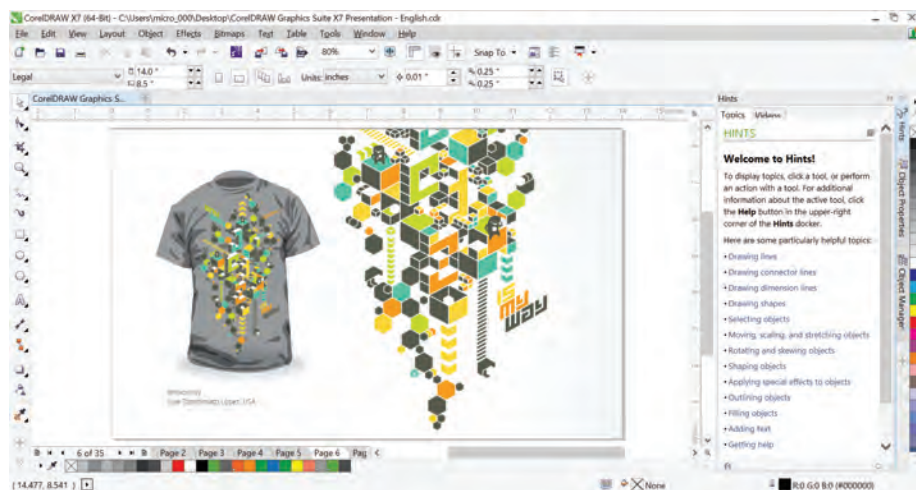
Bringing signage into the new era

When asked about the advances and diversification that have occurred in the signage industry, Gérard reveals that software has played a large part in both of these developments.

"I think for a really strong artist who has always been very good at design, software has enabled them to design a lot faster while achieving the same level of quality that they would have in the past," he says. "There's also all those who didn't necessarily go to an art school, but they learn graphics on the job. They learn as they go about things like choosing the right colour harmonies, and the software enables them to get much better results. The theory behind colours is built into the software, and so when they pick a colour, it will automatically present them with complementary colours."

The software therefore not only enables the professionally-trained artists to create better graphics and design, but it also helps those who have had no formal training to develop really impactful signs.

www.coreldraw.com



(Above and below) Graphics designed with CorelDRAW Graphics Suite X7.



This summer saw SAI launch the new Flexi 12 RIP software, which included features such as true shape nesting with counter-cut images. This is in preparation for a major new software release, which should take place at FESPA 2016.

"We are planning to have our own packaging and POP display solution to add into Flexi," Jurgen Verhulst, SAI Marketing Manager reveals exclusively. The as-yet untitled product is ready and in the very final stages of release development, and it will allow sign makers and machine manufacturers to get more out of their SAI signage software solution. "We have nearly everything – we can do full design, we can do cutting and editing, support for print and colour management and profiling, print and cut, you name it. I think the only thing we were missing was to breach the market of exhibition graphics, printed furniture and wall graphics, shop displays, POP displays, and that's what this software will allow sign makers to design."

Over the past few years, SAI have seen a marked interest from sign makers in this type of software, and the more discussions that were had with flatbed machine manufacturers, the more they were asked when such a product would be available. "This is going to be an easy-to-use solution, with a library of pre-made display templates in there, so sign makers can pick what they need, adjust it accordingly, see a 3D visualisation and then go to production."



Another example of a dimensional sign created with SAI EnRoute software.



Flexi 12 is the most versatile version to date of SAI's flagship software packages for sign-makers and wide-format print businesses.

According to Jurgen, this is the direction in which the signage market will be moving, as there is more and more demand for display graphics and smaller batches of customised packaging. As such, there was a gap in the market for affordable, user-intuitive software to help sign makers create this type of product. "If you look at the software that's currently available, it's all high-end packaging solutions," he says. "They are very expensive, you need an engineering degree to be able to work with them, and in the end it is used to create tens of thousands of boxes. But sign makers are revealing to us that's not what they want, so we came up with a solution across an existing platform that they are already used to working with, and will enable them to make small batches of product without spending an arm and a leg."

The complete signage software solution

SAI already has individual products that can assist with anything from RIP management to colour profiling, and with Flexi, sign makers have full access to the element of design.

Files can be created from scratch, or imported and modified, and this can be a photograph, a bitmap file, a vector or even an image download. "You have almost a combination of Photoshop and Illustrator with Flexi, so you can easily add the print and cut lines and fold lines, and it's all in one software package," says Jurgen. There are also finishing tools, released as optional updates with version 11, that are now available as standard with the newly-released version 12. With the software, sign makers can drive three printers, manage colour profiling, design, and drive any model from more than 1,200 cutters that are registered to work with the software.



Dimensional signs - achievable with SAI EnRoute software.

It is this same cutting technology that EFI have recently announced they will embed in their own workflow solution. To be called "SAI Cut Server Option," this technology will be now be available in the EFI Fiery XF to power over 1,300 cutting devices or routing tables from over 80 manufacturers. According to Jurgen, integrated solutions like these are the future of the signage industry. "Sign makers aren't just cutting vinyl anymore; they have so many different applications and markets to enter," he says. "It's up to us to stay ahead of the game and give them reasons to keep working with our software. Signage is a market that's always evolving...and that's nice."

www.thinksai.com

2MZ create Alupanel pavilion at London Design Festival

Design studio 2MZ have collaborated with Black Cultural Archives to transform the heritage centre's courtyard for the London Design Festival. 2MZ used Alupanel Aluminium Composite, more familiar for use as a digital print substrate and supplied by Perspex Distribution, to design a 'modern twist' on a Georgian pavilion.

2MZ have taken elements of these traditional structures, such as colonnades and arches, and used contemporary materials and colours. These include Alupanel mirror and anthracite grey, to create a space that will immerse visitors in 'reflection, pattern and illusion'.

Pleasure Garden is inspired by the forthcoming BCA exhibition, The Black Georgians, which will retell the narrative of black people in Georgian Britain. It will challenge preconceptions of black presence in Britain at that time; as though people's daily lives were fraught with oppression and restriction, there was also a degree of social mobility and integration.

During the period Londoners from all backgrounds mingled in the city's pleasure gardens, which were one of the few public spaces where a more liberal atmosphere reigned. Often the focal points of these gardens were the classical pavilions.



The Georgian pavilion 'with a twist', designed for the London Design Festival.



Colour inspiration for the pavilion came from the cultural influences of Brixton.

2MZ founder Lloyd Touwen said: "Brixton is a vibrant place, so it made sense to look around us for colour inspiration – Ghanaian kente cloth was the starting point for the combinations we have used. The patterns include elements of BCA's distinctive logo and others are patterns that we have been developing over the years. The multiple reflections from the mirrored aluminium composite surfaces play on The Black Georgians exhibition encouraging visitors to question whether things are always as they seem."

2MZ is a specialist design and fabrication company founded in Brixton over 10 years ago.

www.2mz.co.uk

ORAJET® Aircraft Film lands on Antarctica

When the first ever commercial Boeing 757 passenger airliner recently landed on a blue-ice runway in Antarctica, it was decorated with graphics applications made in ORAJET® 3967AC Aircraft Graphic Film, with the over laminating film ORAGUARD® 293AC.

Evelyn Zocher, Sales and Marketing Director for ORAFOL's Graphic Products Division said: "Landing the first ever commercial aircraft in Antarctica is such a milestone, and ORAFOL is extremely proud to have taken a small part in this major achievement. We introduced the ORAJET® 3967AC Aircraft Graphic Film and ORAGUARD® 293AC just two years ago. Already it has become a very well established product in the ever increasing market for high quality aircraft deco films.

"The technical requirements for durability in extreme conditions are very high for graphic aircraft films. Withstanding polar conditions such as these in Antarctica is a good example of this. I am pleased to say that the ORAFOL materials are up for any such challenges."

The Antarctica landing was a joint partnership between Antarctic Logistics & Expeditions (ALE), Loftleidir Icelandic, and NAS Corporation Limited (NAS), with the aim to research the potential for utilising conventional passenger airliners for the

blue-ice landings, instead of only passenger/cargo aircrafts which have been used in the past.



Photo: Courtesy of Tim Hewette/ALE.

CMYUK's UTACK material creates the 'wow factor' for Morris & Company's property launch

CMYUK and client, Hollywood Monster, recently teamed up to create a 'massive' promotional graphic to help national commercial property developer Morris & Company launch the latest phase of its Vanguard trade park site in Shrewsbury.

Robin East, CMYUK Director said: "Morris & Company approached us to ask the best way of creating a stunning temporary graphic to cover the outside of their new units.

"The solution advised by CMYUK to work with Hollywood Monster was certainly the right option for us. The boards offer complete visual impact and the quality of the print gives clarity and vibrancy to the designs."

"We introduced them to our customer Hollywood Monster, as we knew they had the skills and the kit to deliver a display that reflected the high end specification of the commercial units on offer."

Hollywood Monster printed the 5m x 17m graphic with their VUTEk GS3250 printer using CMYUK's UTACK Multi-surface repositionable and removable textile material, on 25m x 1220mm wide strips that were then mounted directly onto the building's cladding.



Supermodel-turned-businesswoman Caprice at the Morris & Company launch, with graphics from Hollywood Monster, produced using CMYUK's UTACK Multisurface wallpaper.

Simon McKenzie of Hollywood Monster said: "We knew that as a temporary graphic the installation needed to be removable without causing any damage, which made the UTACK media the perfect answer. The adhesive is strong enough for even an outside installation like this one, but when removed it leaves the surface intact with no residue."

Kate Watkins from Morris & Company said: "Vanguard trade park in Shrewsbury is one of our most successful developments in the Midlands, attracting respected national brands

and business start-ups. Our campaign had to support this established brand profile as well as promote the commercial messages of the new phase of trade counter units.

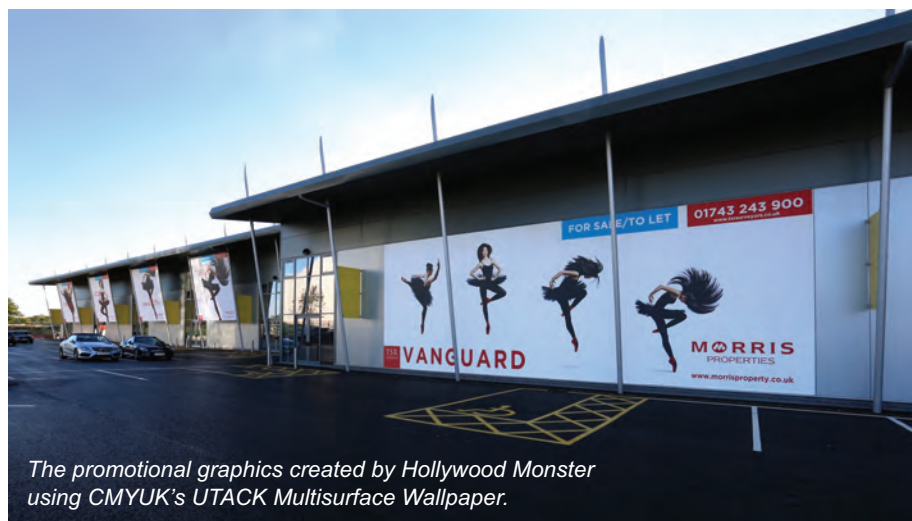
"We wanted to step change the traditional For Sale property boards and bring high impact visuals with edgy design to the development. The hoardings had to communicate the core values and USPs, as well as be visible from the main thoroughfare. This campaign needed the wow factor!"

"The solution advised by CMYUK to work with Hollywood Monster was certainly the right option for us. The boards offer complete visual impact and the quality of the print gives clarity and vibrancy to the designs."

Robin added: "It's our aim at CMYUK to look for complete solutions for our customers, and the graphics produced by Hollywood Monster really were the business – not just raising awareness of the units' availability but showing how easy it is to make stunning temporary graphics that have a real impact."

Robin East spoke to potential buyers about local opportunities at the launch event, which also featured Caprice Bourret, talking about her move from supermodel to business leader.

www.cmyuk.com.
www.hollywoodmonster.co.uk



The promotional graphics created by Hollywood Monster using CMYUK's UTACK Multisurface Wallpaper.

Smooth Transit

New digital LED screens from Message-maker are helping to direct freight transport throughput in the Port of Felixstowe, as part of a new traffic management signage system.

Four new 3.5 metre high visibility signs have been installed, which display the current queueing status and indicate when drivers are cleared to proceed.

Felixstowe is Britain's biggest and busiest container port, handling more than 3.7million TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) each year. With direct rail and road links connecting the port to distribution hubs in the Midlands and elsewhere in the UK, Felixstowe plays a pivotal role in keeping the UK's trade moving.

The Port Authorities took the decision to upgrade to the new digital LED screens when the various traffic management signs already in place started to become unreliable. With a need to create a big visual impact at a low cost, Message-maker not only won the contract and delivered on the brief, but also installed the project on time and to budget.

Installed in the trailer holding area, the bright and highly visible signs display the vehicle registrations of vehicles in the queue, accompanied by a green tick or a red cross. This is so that each driver

can see clearly when it is safe to proceed to their loading or unloading destination. Special attention to protection was paid when designing the signs, which operate within a harsh marine environment.

To make the signs as effective as possible, custom software was also developed by Message-maker to integrate with the port's booking system. The software updates the display in real-time, based on the lorries registered and on-site at any one time.

Automating the process in this way also offers improved on-site safety. The new sign minimises the need for port staff to

walk across the busy holding area, thereby reducing the risk of accidents.

Following the success of the new signs, The Port of Felixstowe has signed a support contract for the new signs along with existing signs installed on site.

Offering a more 'dynamic medium' than conventional signs, moving digital LED displays have a high visual impact. Message-maker LED screens are also ideal for visitor information and safety announcements in all kinds of transport and industrial applications.

Message-maker also provide a wide range of digital LED signage solutions for transport to help manage traffic speed and flow on private sites or public roads.

www.messagemaker.co.uk



An improved, and safer, traffic management signage system at The Port of Felixstowe.



The new LED signs are designed for the harsh marine environment of the port.

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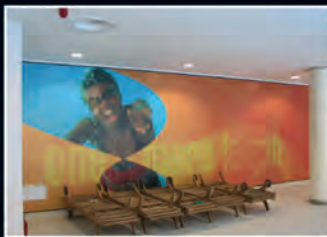
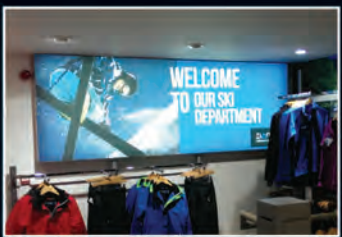


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PROJECT News

Taking wayfinding way further!

Links Signs and Graphics looks beyond directory sign systems and finds its way to something bigger and brighter...they explain.

"Almost every multi-storey building has one or more. And dependent upon whether it's an architectural feature, or a forgotten non-public area, a stairwell can be a mixed experience for the foot-traffic that has to use it.

Pedestrian traffic moving through stairwells needs to know on what floor it finds itself and, possibly, what else it'll find at that level. If this information is absent, time is wasted and safety may also be compromised.

For as long as the problem has existed, the solution has been the systemised directory sign. These signs identify the floor num-

ber and the rooms available at a given level. They don't contribute much to improving the ambience in what might be an overlooked part of an otherwise attractive building.

A recent installation for Liberty Living by Links Signs and Graphics on behalf of a Blackpool based construction company, proves it doesn't have to be that way.

Arrive at a given floor and there's no doubt where you are. The floor number dominates the landing area with a colourful rendering covering the entire wall ahead of the ascending staircase. Picked out within the floor-to-ceil-



Effective and attractive; it's clear at whatever floor you arrive at, where you are and what's on that floor.



Brightly coloured wayfinding graphics enhance a potentially dull area.

ing graphic is information detailing room numbers. As a wayfinding aid, this installation is functional and effective. As a means of enhancing what might otherwise be a really dull area, it succeeds brilliantly too.

Producing and installing the scheme was an involved process. The team produced graphics for about fifty six floors in total across a number of sites. Each involved a precision survey and reference to a supplied design. Wall preparation was needed ahead of installation.

The graphics are colourful and durable. We used our Mimaki printer and a trusted pairing of Metamark MD5 and its matched matt-finished laminate to produce the job. Installation was performed according to a project schedule.

Is it decor? Is it signing? The answer is an emphatic yes to both questions. It's arguably a little more than both though. Our work takes the company to a market where it's satisfying the need for what might be called functional decor. It's new and it's both bright and effective. Links Signs and Graphics is sure to find a ready audience for more."

For a good cause

To support the troops on Remembrance Day, printers Kazo who also do vehicle wraps, wrapped one of their vehicles to help raise awareness and money for this cause.

A spokesperson said: "We do have past and present members of our team who were, and still are members of the army cadets. To show our support, we donated our vehicle for use by our local cadets. They took the vehicle on site when selling poppies at one of our local supermarkets to draw in the crowd."





Global appeal

Lemon Signs were approached by Midland Conference Services to produce some 'eye catching and tangible' props for an event. They needed to portray the company values that encapsulated their 'customer worlds'. After a meeting it was agreed that Lemon Signs would create a series of 3D globes to represent those values

They wanted the 3D globes to 'strike a cord and be memorable to all stakeholders'. The main body of the globes were 1.2m in diameter; with various elements projecting a further half a metre depending on the final elements added to each globe. Each globe is double sided, portraying the real world.

To aid the visual impact they mounted them on a thin post with a heavy base to counter balance the globes and make sure they were stable. As a final touch, they made the globes to rotate.

As part of the brief the 3D globes were needed to be an integral part of this event, and future events at head office. So while they would be designed and built to move around, they would require a permanent home after a few uses. "To ensure they stay

in fantastic condition throughout their use, we finished them in a cleanable surface," said a Lemon Signs spokesperson.

Each element of the initial design was redrawn as a vector graphic to allow their machines to produce the globes, and to increase scale if required at a later date. They use their own in house machines to carefully cut out the various elements. Each 3D globe is made up of various layers of extruded foam. Each element was covered in hard wearing lacquer before colour application to increase the durability. Each of the elements were painted using custom mixed paints to match the exact requirements of Wilkos, with several of the elements hand painted by their in house artist.

Once all had been painted and the printed artwork added, they were sprayed with matt finish lacquer for additional durability. They identified which elements needed to be removed for transportation and applied Velcro tape to allow for reassembly.

Wilkos have already made the most of the globes, being present at several conferences since their creation.



London Luton Airport appoints CCD to design new wayfinding scheme

London Luton Airport (LLA) has appointed CCD Design and Ergonomics to develop and implement a new wayfinding strategy, as part of its £100m redevelopment and investment programme. LLA is the UK's fifth largest airport and aims to increase capacity from 12 million to 18 million passengers a year by 2026.

CCD has been appointed following a competitive pitch and will create a new wayfinding strategy and design solution throughout the airport terminal, car parks and access roads.

Oliver Jaycock, Head of Marketing & Strategic Affairs at LLA said: "Wayfinding has a vital role in turning our plans into reality, ensuring that everyone can find their way into, through and out of the airport in a relaxed and efficient manner."

CCD's in-house behavioural experts will undertake initial research to develop a better understanding of how people

interact with the environment. From that the consultancy will develop the strategy, design guidelines, message schedules and location plans.

Chris Girling, CCD's Head of Wayfinding said: "LLA has ambitious plans and we are delighted to be part of that. Our objective is to help craft the perfect passenger experience through a wayfinding strategy and design solution across the airport estate. The key is to understand how people feel and act when they arrive and to develop a solution that makes visiting the airport stress-free and enjoyable. The airport has recently done a re-branding exercise through ICO Design Partners; we will be working with the playful, colourful designs to create wayfinding that is intuitive and informative whilst remaining true to the new brand."



A walkway at Luton Airport.

The project builds on CCD's previous UK airport work at Gatwick and Stansted, and comes at a time of significant growth in air passenger numbers.

Purplebone signage

W&Co was contacted by Purplebone as they were looking for new signage to update and enhance their brand image of their prestigious Chelsea store. The client's brief was to have two illuminated signs that utilised their brand colours and was impactful on the high street.

Purplebone is one of the newest chic beauty parlours for dogs, and is based in Notting Hill, Westfield and Chelsea. The shops provide dog owners a unique opportunity to buy quirky and practical gifts and gadgets to help pamper and look after their pet.

W&Co proposed a halo illuminated internal sign that was built up and mounted to the back wall of the shop. The fascia sign of the shop is in a prominent position and



needed to be bold, and bright whilst in keeping with the other shop fronts in an affluent area of London. The fascia signage was face illuminated with built up 'rim and return' letters spelling 'Purplebone'.

The bold purple colour was carefully matched to their existing corporate branding colours from sample store fixtures supplied

by the customer. All of the signage was fitted with high bright and eco-friendly LEDs for a crisp and even illumination that will last for years.

The signage was very well received by the client who said: "The signage is perfect! We couldn't be happier. It looks great at night!"





Printeriors 2016 presents 'The Print Hotel'

The Printeriors 2016 event in March in Amsterdam, will offer visitors a 'visual and interactive' experience. Presented in the form of a hotel, it will demonstrate the possibilities for print showcased in 16 room sets from lounges, bathrooms and bedrooms through to cafes and shops. This application-focused showcase will 'illustrate the expanding diversification opportunities available for wide format printers; and aims to inform and inspire both the print and design communities to stimulate awareness in this area'.

The showcase will be supported by a one-day conference on Thursday 10 March, dedicated to printed interior design. During the conference, visitors will be able to hear from industry experts such as interior magazine editors, branding suppliers, large format kitchen design specialists and ceramic printing experts. The sessions will focus on a range of topics including design for the workplace; vinyl applications for interiors; printed furniture; and how to bring images to life with large format printing.

Roz McGuinness, Divisional Director, FESPA, said: "Printed interior decoration is a strong diversification area for wide format digital printers and is making waves in the interior design and architectural industries. Textile for decorative applications was also one of the main growth areas highlighted in the FESPA Print Census. We know that an increasing number of our core FESPA Digital community already offer solutions in this field. Therefore we want to make sure that we are highlighting the opportunities to those who may still be considering the value to them."



There will be a one day conference dedicated to printed interior design, on 10 March.

"There are numerous possibilities for printers in this sector including walls, floor coverings, textiles, furniture and accessories. For 2016 we have chosen a hotel theme so that we can highlight the different techniques and applications that can be created, using print across a number of interior environments. It will cover the complete gamut from ceramic tiles in bathrooms to printed cushions and curtains in the lounge or bedroom."

The Printeriors showcase and conference will once again provide both printers and designers a place to visualise how print can transform ordinary interiors into the extraordinary.



Printeriors 2016 will take place from 8-11 March, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, alongside FESPA Digital 2016, demonstrating how print can be used to create statement interiors.

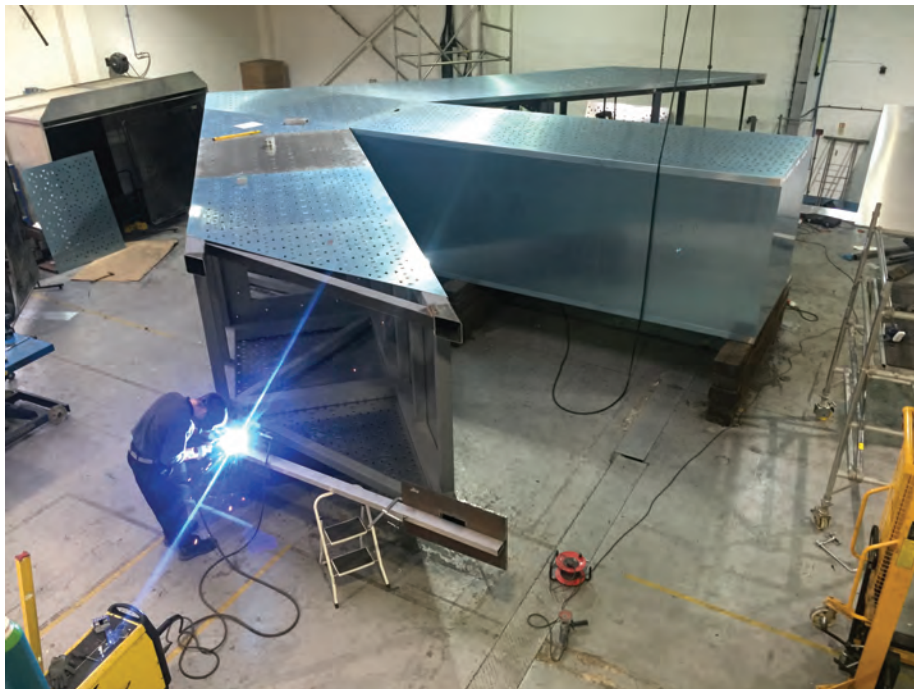
For more information and to gain free entry to Printeriors you can register at www.printeriors.net and use promotional code APOZ0701.

Large scale project at Exchange Quay

Trade Signs managed this large scale project from the beginning, and took the lead in not only the design of the overall structures and foundations, but also the perforations and bespoke illuminated solutions.

Briefed with a basic concept of manufacturing, they created a huge range of large bespoke structures that included entrance way porticos; monoliths; a 12m high clock tower; and a large directional arrow (9m x 9m x 2m deep). The arrow was to be the centre piece of the large scale development and refurbishment of the high profile office scheme in the growing Salford Quays district (Media City). The arrow was internally illuminated with a perforated design and has an industrial feel.

Beginning with the framework, their initial design was based around using 150mm x 150mm x 10mm mild steel to construct the sign in seven sections with a zinc rich powder coating to aid in the protection and longevity of the structure itself. Each section was joining using 20mm mild steel flat plates and location pins.



Making the arrow using mild steel.

"I think it is very clear that the overall sign came together to create a visually stunning construction that we are all very proud of,"

Following the framework came the complicated cladding and perforations; and because of so many angles and joins, the job required precision engineering. 3mm powder coated aluminium sheets in 48 sections, and over 60 joins, were used to fully clad the arrow construction.

Next, they needed to overcome the non-standard lighting effect required to create the 'stunning visualisation'. After hours of research and development, they settled on 1.5m amber wall washers, strategically mounted at set angles internally. The built up rim and return letters with face illuminated opal acrylic completed the sign and 'produced the desired effect our client was looking to achieve' said Trade Signs.

One of the most challenging elements, based on the size and weight of the structure, was the foundation detail. They worked alongside their structural engineer to construct a pad foundation system at 6m x 5m



The illuminated sign in Salford Quays.

x 1.5m deep with 20mm rebar steel cast in concrete. With M20 steel studding and 15mm mild steel holding washers.

"I think it is very clear that the overall sign came together to create a visually stunning construction that we are all very proud of," said a spokesperson.



The 12m high clocktower.

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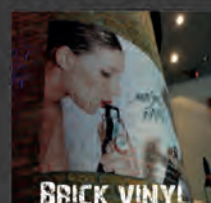
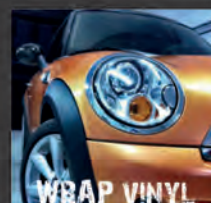
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Retro fit LEDs

David Richardson, Managing Director of HaloLEDs, talks to us about the best methods to retro fit LED panels to sign boxes that have old fluorescent tubes:

"A large part of a sign makers requirements today is to replace the old type of lighting from sign boxes and trays, and replace with LED. This is a simple task and by doing this very job many times, we think this is a good way to go about it.

To start off with complete all of the work in house; the less to do on site is always going to help with the longevity of the LEDs and power supplies. We mount the whole job onto cheap ACM in our unit; place the LEDs to the board; wire all of the LEDs to the power supplies; tidy all the cables and test rigorously. So all you have to do on site, is connect the 240v feed.

A bit more detail

For any signage that has only the lettering illuminated (and maybe a logo) we route this design to the ACM (applying vinyl works just as well). This way we know where to position each LED to use the minimum amount, which reduces the cost of LEDs used and also the overall wattage. Thus using a smaller power supply (again cheaper) and giving the customer a low power consuming sign. If you were retro fitting someone else's sign you may have to re-create the signs artwork to use for the ACM panels. We take a little time trying to route the LEDs in one continuous line where possible, which keeps connections down and generally makes life easier.

The perfect LED for this is our EcoMidi - at only .33watt per module this particular 4.5mtr x 0.8mtr sign consumes only 36watts.

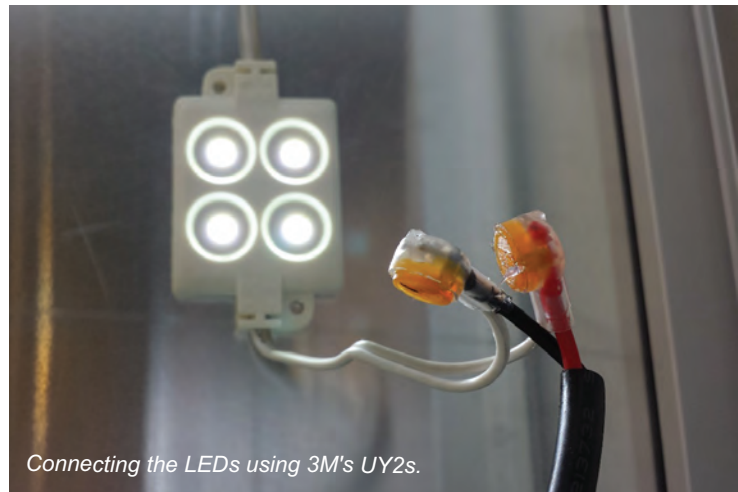
To connect the string of LEDs together you can use 3M 'UY2s' - these have a gel

inside the connection, into which you just insert two uncut wires, press hard with pliers and it butt splices the two together. These are great and very quick, but unless particular attention is paid to how well they are pushed in, they can fail.

When completing your circuit, we find that powering from two points (both ends) or even from three or four points, is a good and safe practice. This way if one connection does fail, the sign will still illuminate. Top tip! When you need to take another wire from a join there are UR2 connectors, these take three wires.

A soldering iron is cheap and picking up the skill is relatively easy.

Once all LEDs have been wired up and connected to your chosen power supply we like to tidy the board. So simple stick on cable tie base mounts and mini cable ties will suffice. Write down the wattage on the board for reference. We also produce a label so the LED board manufacturer can sign off; and a supervisor/manager can also check and sign off. No one wants to go back to a sign for a dodgy connection!



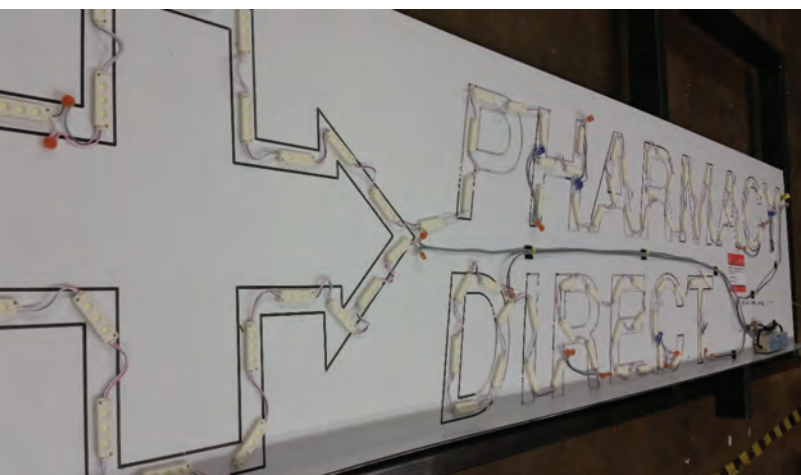
Connecting the LEDs using 3M's UY2s.

For extra peace of mind, if your sign is 10mtrs up and you do not want to go back for any reason, solder your joins and heat shrink. This will take a considerable amount of time, maybe a couple of hours but you cannot beat a properly soldered connection. A soldering iron is cheap and picking up the skill is relatively easy. The heat shrink once heated naturally shrinks and covers the soldered join very neatly and securely.

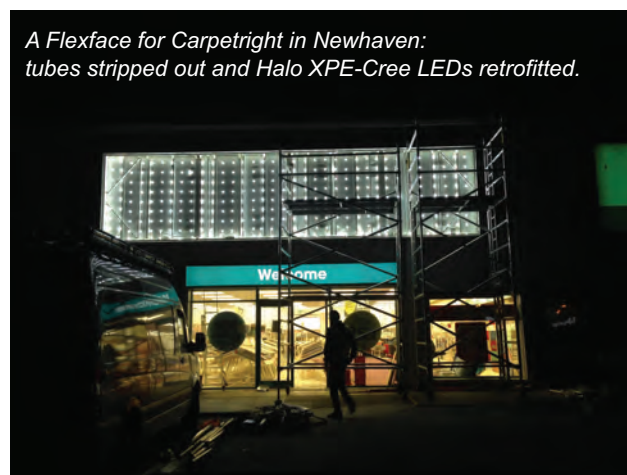
For fully illuminated boxes the same principles apply, yet you will space your LEDs in lines at a predetermined distance apart. We use the 24v Halo XPE-Cree LEDs, which are very bright at 180 lumens per module. They are available in string lengths of 4.8mtrs so you can fill large boxes quite easily.

All products mentioned are on the HaloLEDs website, and you can also phone us for any advice or help."

www.haloleds.co.uk



The LEDs are placed in a continuous line using their EcoMidi product.



A Flexface for Carpetright in Newhaven: tubes stripped out and Halo XPE-Cree LEDs retrofitted.

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FROM ACROSS THE POND

Electric sign solution yields unparalleled efficiency

During the past 10 years, significant changes in lighting components and systems for internally illuminated signs have produced dramatic gains in energy efficiency. Today, these improvements contribute to signage the energy efficiency of the transition, the North American sign industry has successfully addressed the related challenge of ensuring that electric signs' crucial performance properties are preserved.

Historical background

In 2005, U.S. manufacturers of electric signs had only begun to experiment with Solid-state lighting (SSL) systems for LED illumination of plastic-faced signs. Prior to that time, limitations in colouration and brightness of LEDs greatly restricted their signage applications. In particular, non-availability of white-coloured LEDs limited these early applications principally to replacement of red neon for backlighting of channel letters (Figure 1). For several decades before this time, signs produced for the American market largely had been illuminated by High Output (800mA) fluorescent lamps or neon tubing (30mA). These fluorescent light sources typically were operated by magnetic-type ballasts or neon transformers.

During the early 2000s, two important developments occurred which boosted development of high-efficiency lighting. Firstly, in connection with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) committed substantial resources supporting research and development efforts to expedite commercialization of SSL in general lighting applications. This federal initiative provided additional support to existing, private-sector development of the high-brightness, white-coloured LEDs which today are becoming the principal light source for internally illuminated signs. At the same time, DOE launched efforts to phase out less-efficient, conventional lighting components in the U.S., including various types of fluorescent lamps and magnetic ballasts.

The second development was an initiative launched by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to implement new efficiency standards for electric signs as part of the state's Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Program. Among other energy-saving measures, Title 24 established higher efficacy

standards for sign ballasts, neon transformers and power supplies. Principally because California is such a large and economically powerful U.S. state, these standards had a significant and immediate impact on the entire American sign industry.

Because magnetic-type sign ballasts were unable to meet the CEC efficacy standards, Title 24 effectively mandated usage of electronic sign ballasts in California. While sign builders in other U.S. regions continued to use magnetic ballasts for some time after the Title 24 standards had been adopted, the DOE eliminated this option in November 2014, when it implemented new product-testing requirements which effectively phased out all U.S. production of magnetic sign ballasts.



Figure 1: Prior to commercialization of white-coloured LEDs, the initial application of SSL lighting was as a replacement for red neon.

Fluorescent lamp ballasts

Ballasts are devices which convert mains voltage to electrical current suitable for operating a specific type of lamp. Magnetic ballasts (also known as "ferromagnetic") achieve this conversion when the mains voltage passes through an internal induction coil composed of laminated, steel cores which are wrapped by copper wire coils. Magnetic ballasts normally operate at lower frequency (e.g. 60 hertz) and are less efficient than electronic ballasts.

Electronic ballasts serve the same function as magnetic ballasts, but the mains voltage is converted by means of solid state circuitry and the ballast typically operates at much higher frequency (e.g. 20,000 hertz). In similar applications, electronic ballasts are substantially more energy efficient than magnetic ballasts.





Figure 2: SSL systems have almost entirely displaced neon as the principal light source for channel letters.

Market transition

Responding to these changes, North American manufacturers currently are producing a new generation of electric signs having far greater efficacy than those of the past. At the same time, widespread retrofitting of existing signs with high-efficiency lighting components and systems has yielded a significant, additional boost in overall energy efficiency. In the North American market today, SSL lighting has almost entirely displaced neon for illumination of channel letters (Figure 2).

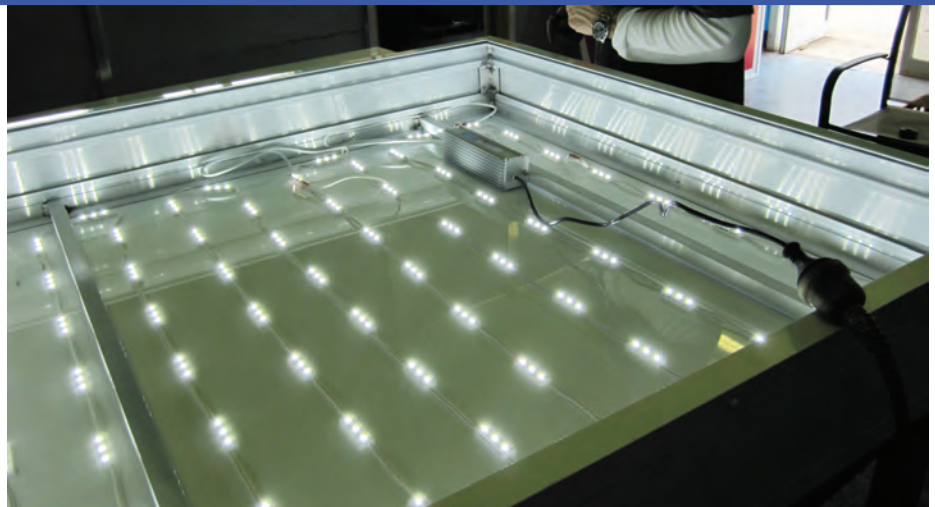


Figure 3: Cabinet signs also increasingly are being illuminated by SSL systems.

This market dominance has been achieved within a relatively short time span as the result of significant advantages, not only in terms of lower energy costs, but also because of reduced maintenance costs, ease of installation and superior durability in shipping and handling.

Concurrently with this dominance in channel letter applications, the overall percentage of cabinet signs (Figure 3) that incorporate SSL systems in North America has also grown steadily. While the efficacy of conventional, fluorescent signs operated by electronic ballasts compares favorably to that of SSL-illuminated signs, similar advantages of lower maintenance cost and better durability have contributed to increasing the market share for SSL-illuminated cabinet

signs. Today, this growth has reached dimensions suggesting that similar dominance of SSL systems ultimately will occur in the market for cabinet signs.

Efficiency gains

Two examples illustrate the substantial improvements in energy efficiency realized during this technological transition. In the first example, a large, freestanding sign measuring approximately 3.3 by 8.5 metres (Figure 4) formerly might have incorporated either a High-Intensity Discharge (HID) lighting system operating at 9600 watts or a 4,500-watt, fluorescent system operated by magnetic-type ballasts. In the past, less-efficient, HID systems have been widely utilized in the U.S. principally to reduce maintenance intervals and particularly with respect to large, tall signs of this type which require high-reach service equipment.

When this sign's lighting system is converted to SSL, however, its electrical consumption is reduced to 3,300 watts. Similarly, when the same sign incorporates fluorescent lighting powered by electronic ballasts, it operates at 2,700 watts. Thus, whether an existing sign is replaced with a new, more-efficient sign of equivalent size, or if an existing sign is retrofitted with efficient lighting in the field, energy consumption may be dramatically reduced.



Figure 4: The Comfort Inn sign shown here is an example of the substantial improvements achievable by utilising SSL systems or electronic ballasts for large signs.

FROM ACROSS THE POND

Electric sign solution yields unparalleled efficiency

The second example is a retrofit project involving very large, existing signage identifying the headquarters building of a major American bank (Figure 5). When originally built and installed, the signage incorporated an HID lighting system and its total electrical load was 128,000 watts. After being retrofitted with SSL lighting, however, total electrical load was reduced by approximately a factor of 14, to 8,800 watts.

Progress and regulatory challenges

Considering the massive number of electric signs currently in use throughout North America, in addition to the huge number which will be installed in the years ahead, these substantial improvements in efficiency have a profound impact. In terms of overall progress in the sphere of energy efficiency, therefore, the North American sign industry has achieved very impressive strides during the past decade.

Nevertheless, governmental authorities may erroneously equate electric sign usage with wasting of energy. Another common error involves efforts to regulate electric signs as though they were forms of lighting. In reality, of course, a sign is a messaging device designed to broadcast information in all directions from which it may normally be viewed. Despite these fundamental distinctions in function and purpose, some jurisdictions have incorrectly applied to electric signs regulations developed for controlling the brightness and dispersion of outdoor lighting.

In view of the enormous strides in product efficiency occurring during the past decade, signs may now be considered among the most improved electrical devices in terms of overall energy utilization. For this reason, the rationale for regulating outdoor signage as an energy-saving measure is considerably weaker today than ever before.

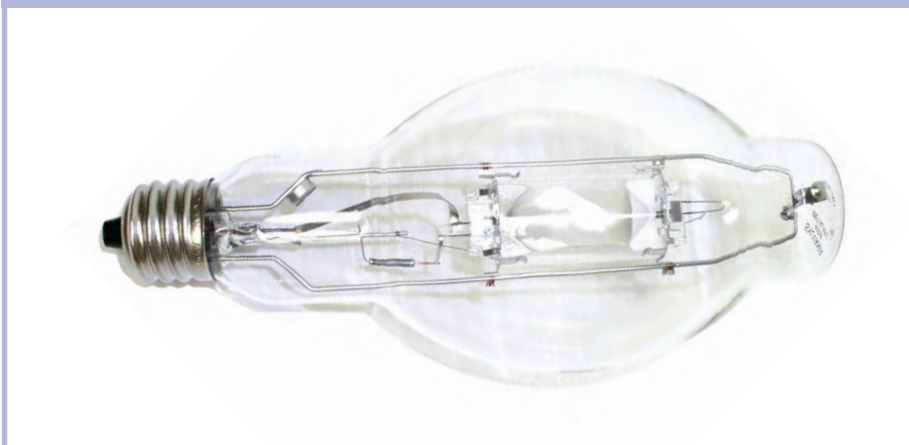


Figure 5: The energy consumption of extremely large signs such as those on this bank building may be reduced quite dramatically when conventional lighting is replaced with SSL systems.

High Intensity Discharge (HID) Lighting

This high-brightness lamp operates via an electrical arc passing between tungsten electrodes within a sealed, gas-filled "arc tube." This arc tube also contains metal salts which glow brightly when vaporized by the electrical arc. "Metal halide" is the most common form of HID lamp used in signage and retail lighting

applications. Due to their longer life span, these lamps are widely used to illuminate very large, tall signs which are costly to maintain. Whereas HID lamps are highly efficient in general lighting applications, their efficiency for internal illumination of signage is substantially less than that of fluorescent or SSL systems.



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Save with special trade-in offer from AXYZ International

For a limited time, AXYZ International is offering current owners of Pacer routers a cash discount of up to £7,500, when they trade their old Pacer router against a new AXYZ or Pacer machine. Customers will also have access to a new or recently introduced production tool enhancements.

These machine upgrades include an expanded (up to 33 stations) Automatic Tool Change (ATC) facility for work requiring multiple tools. And the new AXYZ Auto Zone Management system, which makes sure the material being processed is always held securely throughout the routing/cutting process.

The new enhancements also include the latest A2MC machine control system that reduces 'bounce' and vibration caused by sudden acceleration and/or deceleration. And the integrated AXYZ Vision System (AVS) enhances routing/cutting accuracy as well as being fully compatible with all of the cutting tools used on AXYZ International machines.

The latest helical rack and pinion drive system enables a more even distribution of the workload due to the multiple gear teeth configuration employed. According to the company, this leads to higher throughput rates; quieter machine operation; reduced material wastage; and ultimately a longer machine life.



For a limited time, customers can get a discount when trading in an old Pacer router for a new one.

Mimaki's textile printer wins Viscom Best of Award

Mimaki's TS300P-1800 inkjet printer is this year's winner of the Viscom Best of Award for Textile Refinement.

The TS300P-1800 1.8m wide roll-to-roll sublimation inkjet printer is a dedicated transfer paper printer, designed for low-cost production of digital textile applications. Its capabilities have been enhanced with two

fluorescent inks, which are available in yellow and pink. These inks were made especially for use in the low-volume, high-quality sublimation paper transfer market and are suited for fashion, sportswear, swimwear and shoes.

"The digital textile print market is one of the most innovative and fast developing sec-

tors. This Viscom Best of Award serves as a recognition that our solutions are perfectly designed to help operations capitalise on the emerging opportunities," says Mike Horsten, General Manager Marketing EMEA at Mimaki Europe.

The TS300P-1800 is able to print on lightweight transfer paper at speeds of up to 115sq m/h maximum when four colour printing (62sq m/h when printing with six colours for high quality print). The printer achieves accurate dot placement even with high head gap printing (adjustable from 2 to 7 mm) and features Mimaki's automatic Nozzle Recovery System for consistent quality printing.

The newly developed Sb410 sublimation transfer ink is available in bulk ink packs. The printer features Mimaki's Uninterrupted Ink Supply System for unattended continuous printing. An external dryer delivers up to 30 per cent faster drying of the printed paper; and their new TxLink3 RIP ensures 'exceptional colour management including colour replacement, accurate profile creation and fast file processing'.



Mimaki's award winning TS300P-1800 1.8m wide roll-to-roll sublimation inkjet printer.

www.hybridservices.co.uk

Radecal to 'revolutionise' UV print industry with the launch of their large format UV printers

Radecal Machines Sales and Service have been appointed sole distributor for Docan UV Printers in the UK and Ireland.

Docan are a 'lead player in the UV print industry with their cutting-edge technology, excelling in size, ink capacity and overall cost' in over 50 countries.

This new flatbed delivers uses advanced Ricoh print head technology, and is capable of printing onto materials of up to 10cm thick such as glass, wood, metal panels and ceramic tiles.

The machine can reach speeds of up to 45sqm/hr while still maintaining 1440dpi high resolution imagery using UV lamp technology; the perfect work horse for any sign maker looking for quality finish and precision, according to the company.

The printers cater for all business sizes, with models starting from as small as 1.2 by 1.2m up to 2.5 by 5m in length.

Chris Economides, Managing Director of Radecal, said: "We are proud to bring Docan UV Printers to the UK. When I first saw these machines in operation I knew that they would be a hit and they will more than compete with any of the current printers on the market."

All machines come with CMYK, LM, LC and white as standard, with the option of adding a varnish cartridge to create a 'glossier, sleeker finish'.



The Docan flatbed can print onto materials up to 10cm thick.

Radecal Engineers are all fully trained using the new kit and software after attending an extensive training programme. This means they can install machines, train customers and offer an on site warranty to give customers peace of mind.

Radecal are perfecting a new demonstration facility to home their new UV technology, along with their Piranha and Spartan branded machinery.

www.radecalmachinesales.com

All signs point to growth at Brownings

Brownings Ltd. has 'big plans' for the future after investing in new premises, thanks to a six-figure loan from Yorkshire Bank.

Brownings Ltd previously operated out of three sites with a combined space of 9,000 square feet. The deal has enabled the business to consolidate and buy one recently refurbished single 15,000 square foot site.



Danny Ruston, Yorkshire Bank, Mike Gentle, Richard Vincent and Dean Harrison from Brownings.

The trade-only sign manufacturer supplies many sign companies across Britain. Its signs grace the fronts of most major retail outlets and many other high street businesses, says the company.

They started in the late 1990s as a plastic sheet business, with its main market based in Hull. But as the marketplace became more competitive, to create additional value it targeted the sign industry.

Since Managing Director Mike Gentle joined in 2001, the business has grown significantly and now sells its products UK-wide.

Mike said: "Operating out of three sites became increasingly inefficient. Our new site opens up huge opportunities. We are already seeing the benefits. Within two weeks of moving we produced our largest sign box ever at 12 metres squared. We would not have been able to do something of that scale in our old site."

"We are now able to upscale our production capacity. Everything is undercover and new machinery will increase efficiency. The new site also allows for an ideal working environment."

Their deal with Yorkshire Bank, delivered by relationship manager Danny Ruston, will enable the business to target new revenue streams, such as aluminium pans.

Anthony Hutt, Head of Yorkshire Bank's Business and Private Banking Centre in Hull and Humber, said: "Brownings Ltd. is a great example of a local business which has been able to grow significantly and became one of the UK's leaders in sign making."

Yorkshire Bank recently launched a series of lending initiatives for UK businesses, designed to encourage growth for new and existing customers. As well as capital-free periods for up to five years, the Bank has also introduced high percentage funding for businesses to purchase trading premises.

Open House event reflects XYZ International success

The first of two 2015 Open House events took place on 21 October at the company's UK and Continental Europe headquarters on the Telford T54 Business Park. Company directors, together with members of the XYZ International marketing and technical support teams, welcomed not only owners and potential new owners of the company's machines, but also editors and publishers of many of the leading journals in the industry.

The event marked the first public showing of the new Trident integrated digital print finishing system. And the latest Version 16 of the XYZ PANELBuilder solution that is widely adopted by sign manufacturers for the processing of aluminium composite sheet materials, used extensively in the manufacture of large-format fascia and corporate ID exterior signage.

It also enabled visitors see the new and expanded machine assembly, servicing, demonstration/showroom and distribution facilities at the new facility that collectively contribute to a 100 per cent increase in the production capacity of XYZ International.

Other key products demonstrated included the twin-carriage XYZ 8010 router; the Pacer 4008 heavy-duty and the entry-level and lower-cost Z Series of machines. These were shown in application mode and featured powerful new or recently introduced



Visitors got a tour of XYZ's new headquarters as well as a look at their machines.

machine upgrades; including the new Auto Zone Management facility, the XYZ Vision System (AVS) and the latest A2MC machine control and helical rack and pinon drive systems.

INDASOL celebrates 10 years

Some 11 or so years ago, the founders of INDASOL were fed up with working for companies that only offered customers what they

had on the shelf instead of what they actually wanted. So in 2005 Martin Sadler and Paul Robinson started INDASOL, a dedicated supplier of technical tapes and adhesives to the sign industry.

Since then the company reports 'excellent growth' even during the 2008 downturn.

INDASOL supplies the UK and Ireland with a next day delivery from stock items, and can tailor make most tapes, foams and UHB products to suit individual applications. Parent Company to AVANTI Tapes (purchased in 2012), INDASOL manufacture protection tapes in the UK from their factory in Wednesbury.



Indasol's range, supplying businesses everywhere for 10 year.

"It's been a fun and challenging 10 years with many changes in both the supply and customer markets. We have seen competition from China with substandard products; changes in substrate materials proving challenging to bond to; and economic challenges which we have fought off. We are proud to be a growing UK employer, providing high performance solutions to the sign industry," says a spokesperson.

Some of their success stories over the include: working for 20 hours to help one customer fulfil an in store promotion for Christmas; being the main supplier of adhesives to the Captain America Film; having our UHB products specified and used for major installations in UAE; and having their innovative Sign Block specified by a number of leading high street retailers for their 3D signage.

Brett Martin targets sign and display sector through Europoint partnership

Brett Martin recently formed a new partnership with Europoint for the distribution of its Marpet-g FS PETg and Marpet-a FS aPET substrates to printers and fabricators. The PETg and aPET material options are new additions to the Brett Martin range, and part of its ongoing investment in product innovation and development.

"With the continued growth of the signage market, this partnership represents an exciting new opportunity for both companies," says Nick Hughes, Sales Manager at Brett Martin. "We're thrilled to have the commitment and support of a wide format substrate supplier such as Europoint. Thanks to this new deal, we now have full technical and sales support for our Marpet-g FS PETg and Marpet-a FS aPET sheets throughout the UK."

Frank Moran, Managing Director at Europoint, said: "We have found a highly reputable partner in Brett Martin, a well-established UK manufacturer that has been trading for over fifty years. Starting immediately, the company's comprehensive range of 'A' and 'G' product variants will be available through Europoint's services."

Marpet-g FS is a clear transparent PETg sheet available in a variety of thick-

nesses ranging from 0.8mm to 12mm. As an amorphous co-polyester that will not crystallize, the sheet can go through heating and vacuum forming processes without the risk of whitening or cracking. It does not require pre-drying, which cuts down on both time and costs for thermoformers.

The sheet's wide window of processing capabilities (it can be easily laser-cut, die-punched, edged, digitally printed and screen-printed) allows for the realisation of complex shapes and designs. This makes it ideal for sign, display and store fixture applications, such as illuminated signs, POS equipment, graphics arts, poster covers and light boxes, says the company.

Marpet-a FS aPET is a range of high optical grade amorphous polyester sheets. Whilst the sheets can be thermoformed and line bent within a controlled temperature range, Marpet-a FS is the ideal material for flat and cold bending applications.

Available in thicknesses of 0.8mm to 4mm, Marpet-a FS aPET is suitable for POP purchase displays, shop fittings, price tags, cold food storage and hinged applications, as well as light boxes and poster covers.



Brett Martin and Europoint have announced a key partnership that will supply the sign and display industries.

Colourgen announce positive financial year



Colourgen's Managing Director, Jeff Biggs.

Colourgen has announced positive, profitable results for its financial year ending June 2015. Revenues increased overall by 20 per cent, with all the brands we represent benefiting from the growth, says the company.

Jeff Biggs, Managing Director of Colourgen, said: "Our results last year were very pleasing during what was for many a difficult trading year. We have adapted ourselves well to the market and we are using our resources efficiently and productively to ensure we maintain the high levels of customer service, satisfaction and loyalty that has always been our trademark."

Highlights from Colourgen's 2014/15 fiscal year include a growth in its Epson business which saw nearly a 50 per cent increase in printer sales. "The growth in Epson business is particularly good news for us and

is a result of the quality of our technical and logistics capabilities. We will continue to invest in this area to ensure further growth in Epson business," says Jeff.

Mutoh sales remained steady with a slight increase in the number of printers sold compared to the previous year.

Sales of laminators have shown the most dramatic rise, with Colourgen increasing sales of Kala and Seal products by 124 per cent.

Jeff said: "Our results reflect the fact that we are now seeing more movement as the market recovers, which is demonstrated in increased capital investments. The market remains difficult though and we will continue to add value, especially in logistics and technical."

www.colourgen.com.

Fespa awards 2016 open for entries

FESPA has launched its call for entries for its 2016 Awards, marking the start of its search for pioneering and innovative projects in the print industry.

FESPA's annual awards programme celebrates the achievements of print service providers globally, aiming to find the 'brightest and best print projects, demonstrating innovation and precision.'

This year the global competition consists of 15 categories covering a variety of application themes such as: in-store; fine art print; decals, outdoor and vehicle decoration; special effect print; garment and wearables; interior decoration; and industrial and functional printing. There's also a brand new category for non-printed signage.

Each category can be entered using either a digital print process, screen print process or a combination of any print processes.

Entrants have until the 29 January 2016 to submit their work, which will be judged by an independent panel of global industry experts. Outside of the application-led categories, there are three separate awards: Young Star, Best in Show and People's Choice.

The Young Star award is open to an employee or student in a print related discipline aged between 16 and 25. Best in Show is decided by the judges, across all the short-listed entries, for the piece of work that offers the most outstanding example of print. The People's Choice award is voted for online by the FESPA community. Voting will open on the 15 February 2016.

FESPA has long been a champion of printers and young designers and this awards programme is an opportunity to showcase some of the world's most exciting print creations.

All shortlisted entries will also be exhibited at the RAI Amsterdam, The Netherlands, during FESPA Digital 2016 from 8-11 March. The winners will be announced in front of an elite audience of global industry experts at FESPA's Gala Night on Wednesday 9 March at the historic Beurs van Berlage in Amsterdam.

"I am pleased to announce FESPA is again looking for ambitious printers to compete for the now annual FESPA Global Awards," says Duncan MacOwan, Head of Events FESPA.



A global event: At the FESPA Awards 2015 gala dinner.

"This is the 33rd year we have run the competition and expect the calibre of entries to be just as great, if not greater, than in 2015. Print service providers are the lifeblood of the print industry, and I look forward to meeting the finalists, and congratulating the winners, at FESPA's Gala Dinner.

"Winning a FESPA Award offers significant credibility to a print business providing the perfect platform to showcase their skill and expertise, which enables printers to instil confidence in their customers and support new business ventures," says Duncan.

www.fespa.com/awards

Sign & Digital survey results

According to a recent survey, Sign & Digital UK 2015 performed above the industry benchmark for visitor satisfaction, with 85 per cent of visitors describing their overall experience as good or excellent. This outperforms the industry benchmark of 79 per cent, according to organisers. Customer satisfaction has also increased by 6 per cent since 2014.

Sign & Digital UK has nearly 30 years of history supporting and reflecting the sign making, display solutions and digital printing industries through its annual exhibition at the

NEC, Birmingham. Sign & Digital UK has always offered a 'unique and relevant' marketplace in which buyers and sellers can do business.

The 2016 show will introduce scheduled live demonstrations and an enhanced free educational seminar programme. It will also launch a new meeting booking facility, which will enable exhibitors and visitors to schedule face-to-face meetings. This is to make sure that they can plan ahead to make the best use of their day.

Rudi Blackett, event director for Sign & Digital UK, said: "We have worked hard to build the show as a trusted brand and we communicate closely with our exhibitors to ensure that they have the information required to make informed choices. This is done in two ways – the first being feedback from customer surveys, and the second being an independent audit of visitor attendance by the BPA.

"The audit which is conducted in accordance with the Association of Event Organisers' (AEO) 'rules for calculation of statistics for AEO member events' gives us a really clear picture of not only the number of visitors to the show, but also the type of visitor that attends. Face-to-face meetings at exhibitions are, despite the rise in online and social media, still one of the most effective ways to attract new business and to consolidate relationships with existing customers. Having independently confirmed visitor numbers and demographics to give to exhibitors is extremely reassuring and allows them to make an informed decision."

Sign & Digital UK 2016 takes place at the NEC, Birmingham on 19-21 April and is free to attend for trade visitors.

www.signanddigitaluk.com



Perfect Colours team train on new HP DesignJet range

Five members of the Perfect Colours sales team have attained Master grade at the DesignJet Production Academy, a 'rigorous' training programme devised by HP. The course makes sure that customers

receive the best possible service from reseller partners, according to the company. It covers installation, software, technical and graphics applications, and matching product to business need. It primarily covers

the new HP DesignJet T-series machines for technical and CAD applications.

Freddie Ashmore, Les Bird, Lee Heywood, Sam McKay and Nick Martin are now amongst the few world-wide to have achieved this grade, with the UK the only country to offer it in the whole EMEA region. Having studied under the supervision of Perfect Colours sales director Jon Telling, the five-strong team took the examination at HP's Bracknell offices.

With a pass-mark of 75 percent, the HP DesignJet Production Academy is composed of four modules. Graduating with the title of 'Master' means that the five Perfect Colours team members scored more than 85 percent, signifying an 'exceptional level of technical competence'.

Freddie Ashmore, sales account manager, said: "The four modules were highly educational and I feel completely confident in the product range. When a customer is about to invest in the newest printer in their fleet they need to know you are technically competent, as well as understanding their business. Being able to demonstrate that HP has accredited me as a Master in DesignJet equipment will give them peace of mind as they come to a decision."



Freddie Ashmore is delighted to receive his award from Yucel Salih, partner business manager for HP's UK and Ireland DesignJet division.

FESPA Textile 2016

FESPA Textile, formerly FESPA Fabric, will open its doors alongside FESPA Digital 2016, at the RAI Amsterdam from 8-11 March 2016. It will take place in a hall 7,342 m², with textile equipment and applications on display throughout many wider areas of the FESPA Digital show. Visitors will have every opportunity to investigate the most appropriate digital textile solutions for their business.

The recent FESPA Print Census showed textile is one of the fastest growing areas of digital print globally, with 81 per cent of respondents viewing it as key for their business. Roz McGuinness, FESPA Divisional Director, said: "The results of our FESPA Print Census highlighted that textile printing for garments and décor are huge growth areas, with textile printing for soft signage not far behind. With this in mind, rebranding the former FESPA Fabric as FESPA Textile was a logical solution.

We know that textile covers many different areas, from garments, to interiors, banners and beyond; and we are confident that next year's event will be a key launch platform for many technology innovations in this dynamic segment of speciality print."

FESPA Textile 2016 features exhibits from suppliers offering equipment, consumables, substrates and apparel solutions such as: Brother, Bullmer, Kiian Digital, INX Digital, Pongs, Screen Europe, MS Printing Solutions, Stahls and Kornit Digital. Visitors will be guided to textile exhibits and content by the icon of Textilewoman, one of a line-up of FESPA Digital superheroes. She will help printers locate new opportunities in soft signage, apparel printing (including garment print & decoration and embroidery) and interior décor.

www.fespatextile.com



Textilewoman! The superhero of soft signage, apparel printing and interiors.

Roland DG Academy launches new training courses and website

Roland DG has added new courses at its academy, as part of its commitment to 'continue to improve on customer knowledge and involvement with the brand'.

The Roland DG Academy is a training facility available to businesses and individuals working in the print industry.

The latest expansion of the Roland Academy has seen two new training courses and two of the popular Better Business Boot Camps introduced to its programme. The new training course additions have been designed following a growing need from the industry for small format flatbed UV technology and design software knowledge.

The VersaUV LEF range of printers have been a huge success and the Academy has noted this growth with the new course designed specifically for these extremely diverse machines. To help users get the most out of their design software, the CorelDRAW Graphics Suite course is a great way 'to maximise the potential of your businesses with the design capabilities to match'.

The Roland DG Academy has also built on its popular Better Business Boot Camps series, which offer short and informal ses-

sions for Roland DG users looking for new avenues to expand and build their businesses.

The new Lightbar Better Business Boot Camp provides attendees with expert advice on the latest solvent-UV ink technology available for Roland DG printers.

The second new Better Business Boot Camp is called 'Material Matters' and is designed to help businesses maximise their profit margins by understanding how important it is to choose the right materials to use with their machines. Often in the graphics industry it is hard to find all of the information that you will need to make the right choices when it comes to materials.

Offered at two central UK locations, Bristol and Walsall, the Roland DG Academy presents attendees with an engaging learning environment equipped with modern training technologies and the latest Roland DG technology, according to the company.

Joe Wigzell, Academy and Creative Centre Manager at Roland DG UK said: "The Roland Training Academy has been providing ideas to further business development and insights into the advanced capabilities of

our products for many years. We are proud to cater to all skill levels and support new and familiar clients by aiming to provide inspiration and versatility through our technology."

New Roland Academy course prices include:

- Intermediate Digital Print reduction from £195 +VAT to just £125 +VAT
- Two-day Vehicle Wrapping course, is reduced from £350 +VAT to £250 +VAT
- All VersaSTUDIO BN-20 purchases will receive a free course.
- All one day courses only £125

Roland Academy has also added new dates for the other existing Better Business Boot Camp sessions:

- Texart Dye-Sub BBBC – 22 January 2016
- BN-20 BBBC – 12 February 2016

www.rolanddg.co.uk/support/academy/



Training at the Roland DG Academy.

Trophex 2016 attracts a diverse range of exhibitors

It's not long to go now until Trophex 2016. The two day show takes place at the NEC Birmingham on Sunday 17 January from 10am-4.30pm and Monday 18 January from 10am-4pm. This is the show for you if you work in the trophy, awards, engraving or personalisation industry, say the organisers.

Exhibitors will showcase a diverse range of products and services and say there are some great reasons to visit.

Mastergrave will be offering 10 per cent off all orders of gift and pet tags placed at the show and will be running various offers on cutting equipment.

Charles Birch will be showing their new range of crystal and awards which are already proving very popular. The company has updated their engraveable gift range to include a whole new range of ideas for 2016 including top quality silver plated picture frames, tankards, hip flasks and wedding gifts.

Engravamet will be showing their new product range and will have some fantastic special offers only available for orders taken at the show. Their partners Smith & Huang will demonstrate their new laser machines.

Crystal Galleries will have a selection of exciting new glass and crystal products on display at Trophex 2016. They will also demonstrate sandblast engraving techniques on their Trophy Master engraving cabinet. As well as how to produce in-house engraving masks using the full range of APM films for which they are exclusive UK distributors.

Amaya Sales UK will demonstrate leading equipment in the garment decoration industry. On show will be a number of machines and there will be some great show deals on all equipment, together with special introductory offers on their range



of textile vinyl/garment film, transfer papers and DTG inks.

New exhibitor Lockdecoders will be showcasing their new innovation – Magic Engraving Series, which is a quick, easy to use and virtually silent and offers a complete spectrum of engraving possibilities, including multi-key coining and 3D engraving.

And visit Gravograph to see their full range of personalised systems from small desktops to laser engravers.

This year at Trophex we have some great educational seminars for you to attend which are free of charge. These take an open forum style and include talks from

Roland DG (UK) Ltd, Gravograph, Corel UK Ltd, DecoNetwork, The Pen Warehouse, Ralawise, Rayzist and HPC Laser. The Knowledge Centre also returns with experts from all over the industry to give you a helping hand with queries and problems. The Trophex Awards also return. New to Trophex 2016 will be a demonstration area where experts in the field of hand engraving will be giving demonstrations of various items including signet rings and trophies.

Trophex is free to attend and there is no charge for car parking.

www.trophex.com

Apprenticeships are key at Octink



Not only do they support apprentices, Octink also win awards! Here they are winning 'Printer of the Year' at the Printweek Awards.

Apprenticeships are high on the agenda for display specialist Octink, as the company puts a lot of emphasis on support for school and college leavers as they start out in their careers. They are keen to give young people work experience and employability skills; and develop staff for themselves and for the benefit of the company. They also back local initiatives like Spark! to prepare people for working life and to enhance their employability through practical, accredited and inspiring work-related experiences.

Mike Freely, Managing Director at Octink, said: "The skills shortage and what industry can do about it has been very visible in recent months. We pride ourselves on being active in

supporting young people and staff in their progression. We believe that everyone should have development plans; and apprenticeships are a great way to kick start those plans, while also bringing talent and skills into the company."

Recent examples of where Octink has encouraged staff to develop include a school leaver who has just completed a signmaking apprenticeship. And an office junior who showed such initiative that Octink had no hesitation in enrolling her as an apprentice to complete an NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration.

www.octink.com



ColorPainter | Reviews

A2B Signs and Graphics offer a wide range of services from design and manufacture to installation. Products include signage, LED display signage, labels, vehicle and fleet livery, website design, POS displays, wide format digital print and stationery. The sign and graphics company have worked with some of the UK's leading brands in recent years and pride themselves on their meticulous nature combined with excellent service and product quality. With business booming over the past 8 years, A2B Signs and Graphics required a new wide format printer to sustain their high output demand. After testing

several different makes and models the company purchased a ColorPainter M-64s from Signmaster Systems. Managing Director James says "We have always found the service from Signmaster both prompt and reliable and the decision to buy the ColorPainter M-64s was made based on price and performance. I was very impressed with the print speeds at high quality and the colour output is great, we have never had any problems with Pantone matches. Overall the M-64s performs very reliably and has increased our capabilities enabling us to be more competitive whilst maintaining high end results."



James



Matt

Jamm Creations are a forward thinking large format print and install signage company based in Hemel Hempstead. With over 15 years' experience in the industry, the company pride themselves on trust, quality, flexibility and reliability, using the latest technology and materials to provide the best results.

Managing Director Matthew Bacon strives to stay one step ahead of the competition and after a recommendation from a friend in the industry, booked an appointment at Signmaster Systems to see the ColorPainter range of printers by OKI.

"We were so impressed with the output of the ColorPainter, it produced fantastic results every time whilst being really easy to use. We purchased our ColorPainter W64s from Signmaster in and have found it to be a solid printer that can be relied upon time and time again, the business is growing as we now have less down time and more productivity. The services provided by Signmaster have been brilliant; the team are always helpful and attentive whilst providing expert knowledge."



Digital printing company IGG Creative Ltd produce a wide range of projects for clients all over the country and the work varies from business cards to full display stands. IGG had previously owned a Roland LEJ-640 UV flatbed printer but made the decision to invest in their ColorPainter M-64s and Rollover flatbed applicator after seeing the workflow benefits as well as the dramatic cost savings. Director Ian says

"We chose the ColorPainter for its speed and quality and we haven't been disappointed as we have doubled our production capabilities and gained a number of new business wins. The colour output is fantastic, blacks are true blacks and the skin tones are truly life like so we feel so proud of what we are producing. I have no complaints what-so-ever regarding the reliability of our M-64s, it simply works, all day, every day."



Ian



David

Seymour Sign & Print Ltd is a small family run business based in Salford. The company provides high quality vehicle livery and digital print solutions to a wide range of clients from multi national PLC's to local independent traders.

With a growth in business and after experiencing a few issues with the print quality and speed from their maturing wide-format printer, Managing Director David Hammond decided it was time for an upgrade. Following a visit to Signmaster Systems in April 2015, David and the team decided to purchase a

ColorPainter W-64s by OKI. "After seeing the build quality of the OKI, coupled with the speed and density of the colours, we were converted! The ColorPainter not only printed faster and more vibrantly than anything we had seen before but the prints were dry enough to handle straight off the machine. Our customers commented on the colour outputs immediately after we installed the machine. Overall the ColorPainter W-64s is a solid, reliable piece of kit and we have nothing but praise for the OKI machines and the staff at Signmaster Systems."



Since purchasing their ColorPainter W-64s from Signmaster Systems, Ali and the team at Sign n Print have been blown away with the performance and reliability of their new machine.

Sign n Print pride themselves on providing the complete solution for companies offering a graphic design, printing, signage and web service. Ali says "The ColorPainter has allowed the business to increase turnaround time on printing whilst maintaining a high quality of product. The

performance of the ColorPainter is without question the best from any wide format printer I have used and the build quality is also one of the best I have come across. Every component is well thought out, for example the printhead, most printers I have seen are exposed and susceptible to damage whereas the ColorPainter is enclosed in a metal casing preventing this damage. I would highly recommend this printer and the service from Signmaster Systems has been exquisite. They are professional and also maintain the customer relations after the purchase."



Ali

OKI

ColorPainter W-54s\W-64s



- 64" print only
- 4 or 6 colour
- 2 year warranty
- 17.8sqm p/h
- Print head protection

Includes Signlab software worth £2,300

ColorPainter M-64s



- 64" production print only
- High capacity ink system
- Auto calibration
- 2 year warranty
- 66sqm p/h
- 6 or 7 colour
- Print head protection

Includes Signlab software worth £2,300

ColorPainter H3-104s



- 2.6m print only
- High capacity ink system
- Print head protection
- 8 colour
- Auto calibration
- 2 year warranty

Signmaster Systems Ltd

Roland

VersaCAMM
Print & Cut SP-540i



- 54" print & cut
- 6.7sqm p/h
- 4cl : CMY
- Also available in 30" and 64"

SOLJET PRO4
XR-640



- 64" print & cut
- Dual head
- 49.1 sqm p/h
- Optional white + metallic

VersaUV
LEF-20



- UV Printing - Instant curing
- Up to 100mm thick
- Print on to almost anything
- CMYK + White + Gloss

VersaUV
LEJ-640F



- UV Printing - Instant curing
- Print upto 1.6x2.5m
- Print up to 150mm thick and 200kg

Second hand refurbished equipment also available from £4,995

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- SM2** - SS21 equivalent (for Mimaki JV33/CJV30 and JV5 printers)
- SM3** - ES3 equivalent (for Mimaki JV33 or CJV30 printers)
- UV-M** - Mimaki UV equivalent (for LH-100 and LF-140 printers)

APPOINTMENTS

Hayden Kelley appointed CEO of Drytac®

Hayden Kelley has been appointed as the company's new global chief executive officer, effective immediately. Kelley is a graduate of Dalhousie University with a BA in Economics and an MBA in International Business. His previous roles include regional sales manager for Drytac's Western United States territory and vice president of sales and marketing for Drytac Canada.

During his tenure with Drytac, he has 'proven capable of delivering measurable results while maintaining the company's reputation for quality products and exceptional service'. Hayden Kelley aims to further strengthen the brand through innovative product development, collaborative partnerships and streamlined costs.



GMG appoints new Business Development Manager

GMG UK has appointed Mark Griffiths as Business Development Manager.

Prior to joining GMG, Mark worked as business manager for Apple Retail where he had a specific remit to build relationships within major brands and the creative industry.

Drawing on his relevant experience, Mark is looking forward to the challenge of introducing GMG to these growing sectors who demonstrate a desire to invest in technology to enable improvements in productivity.



Mike Wren Joins Imprint MIS

Imprint MIS has appointed Mike Wren as Customer Support Co-ordinator.

Mike, formally with Woodford Litho, has worked in the publishing and the print industry for 32 years. Mike's background covers many disciplines such as customer liaison, estimating, costing, production planning, print and distribution purchasing and paper procurement. Mike has also been involved in the implementation of various MIS systems and FSC, PEFC and ISO accreditations.



Toine Prudon joins Screen Europe as wide format International Sales Manager

Screen Europe has appointed Toine Prudon as International Sales Manager for its Truepress Jet range of UV wide-format printers. Toine brings 25 years of experience in the industry with leading suppliers, such as Thiemer, Spandex, Océ/Canon and SwissQprint.

Toine's appointment strengthens Screen Europe's commercial team and he is based at Screen's European Solutions & Technology Centre in The Netherlands.

New Marketing and Demonstrations Manager at CMYUK

CMYUK has appointed wide format digital print specialist Amira Bouchiba in the new role of Marketing and Demonstrations Manager.

Amira has joined CMYUK from her previous post at EFI's European demonstration and training facility in Brussels where she was a senior VUTEK application trainer. Prior to her position with EFI, having initially trained as a graphic designer, she was responsible for technical training and customer support at Hewlett Packard.



CLASSIFIED

Check our website for the latest job vacancies or items for sale.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Niche printing business for sale

After 30+ years of making decals for bicycles the current owner is wishing to retire and see the business develop further in the hands of an enthusiastic artisan. With a worldwide customer base this well-respected business is easily run from a home-office and is relocatable as all sales are mail order. Whilst highly profitable the new owner will need to have an absolute passion for top quality artwork and print and ideally have an interest in cycling.

- Sale to include:-
- MIMAKI CJV30 printer and consumables
 - All current stocks of decals
 - Massive vector artwork collection from 30 years of detailed work
 - Specialist equipment and storage
 - Huge archive of original decals, back to 1920's
 - Customer base - trade and retail
 - Website and ebay presence
 - Goodwill and established brand
- Worldwide mail-order sales to:-
- Repeat trade customers.
 - Repeat and one-off retail customers.
 - New product launch and photoshoot work
 - One-off and bespoke work.
 - Design, development and proof work
 - Branding for artisan small volume frame builders.
 - Branding for importers of cycle frames and wheels.

OIRO £69k. For more detail visit www.signupdate.co.uk/bus#s

JOB VACANCIES

aps
SIGNALS LTD

Unit 3
holcroft street
bd21 1pf

Vacancies

**Experienced & Trainee
Sign Maker & Digital Printer**

We require good all-rounders with a positive attitude to work.

Key Responsibilities

- Operation of PC, cutters, printers & CNC
- Involvement in design layouts
- Preparation & fitting of vinyl and digital print
- Laminating / mounting
- Fitting signage
- Ensuring that goods are produced correctly to a high standard

Salary negotiable based on ability & experience
t. 01535 608333

**Application by CV to
sales@apssigns.co.uk**

Graphics/Sign Installer

with CSCS card
Hertfordshire

£20,000 - £28,000 a year
Permanent/full time

A good knowledge of installation, vehicle wraps, interior office branding and exterior shop signs, window film, and good knowledge of event/stand building.....

The candidate will contribute to completing jobs on time while paying attention to detail.

A clean driving license is vital as deliveries of graphics and displays will be part of this role.

www.signupdate.co.uk/gsih

Gerber Edge 2, Envision 375

Both are in good working order and have had very little use as our business is predominantly wide format.

Edge 2: £3000

Envision 375: £3000

Or both for: £5500 (will also include various foils and the PC that runs them with the Omega software).

Based in Ely, Cambridgeshire.

Contact by email: allgoodfun@me.com



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Quarter page:	£120
1/8 th page:	£ 70
1/16 th page:	£ 40
1/32 th page:	£ 30

Job Vacancies and items for sale also go online at no extra cost.

For the latest jobs visit:
www.signupdate.co.uk/job

Mimaki UJV-160 UV LED

Approx 3 years old
Print test available on request but is still in use as seen in the pictures. Sale due to not being used to full capacity and potential. York - YO61, collection or delivery. Requires 1 new print head but has been regularly serviced. Selling for **£15,000 inc VAT** though reasonable offers will be considered.



Contact tanya@eventprophire.com

Technical Artworker / Signage and Graphics Designer

Burgess Hill, West Sussex

Due to continued growth we are looking for a motivated individual with experience in sign and graphic artwork design through to production and manufacture of finished product to fit in with our enthusiastic team.

The role involves both the creation of visual proposals for clients and accurate technical drawings for our manufacturing / production department to work from, so a keen eye for detail is essential.

You will be organised, flexible and have a can-do attitude to consistently delivering the highest quality standards at all times.



Using a range of vector graphics software you must be able to prepare CAD / mechanical 2D drawings and maintain design data through accurate version control - this data feeds our specialist printing and cutting equipment.

We currently use CorelDRAW!, Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator as well as AutoCAD but are looking for someone to help standardise and develop this area of the business.

Our ideal candidate will have an engineering or sign making background, a great technical mind, excellent communication skills and drive with the ability to work well under pressure, adapting to new tasks quickly.

For a full job specification and to apply for this role, please email your CV and covering letter to Emily Darnell on hr@pvluk.com or call 01444 258980



Artworker/Production

AR Signs is a lively and fast growing sign company, operating out of two offices in Nottingham and South Luffenham. We are looking for smart, ambitious and hard-working individuals to join our team of six at the South Luffenham office. Candidates need to have experience of one or more of the following, and have a willingness and desire to learn new skills, to cope with the exciting variety of work that we deal with:

- > Artworking and design
- > Digital printer operation
- > Vinyl cutting and preparation
- > Vinyl and Print application to vehicles and signs
- > Manufacture and installation of signs

We pride ourselves on the quality of product and service that we provide, and candidates need to have good communication skills and be comfortable dealing directly with our clients. An excellent salary and benefits package is available to the right candidate.

To apply, please send your CV and contact details to: andy.h@arsigns.co.uk



Sales Representative

East Midlands

Oshino are a well-established lighting manufacturer in automotive, aerospace and signage and have been based in Nottingham for over 35 years. We are looking to fill a vacancy for a Sales Representative to cover a wide geographical region in the UK promoting our LED products and Power Supplies to the signage industry.

You will need to have:

- a track record of achieving set sales targets
- a good knowledge of the signage industry
- a professional appearance and good communication skills
- a sound knowledge of LED lighting
- the ability to work within a small dedicated team

We offer:

- a basic salary plus commission and pension
- a fully expensed company car, travel expenses, laptop, mobile
- some overseas travel

Please e-mail your CV in confidence to david.tyler@oshino.co.uk

or by post to: Oshino Lamps UK Ltd, 1 Churchfield Court, Robey Close, Linby, Nottingham NG15 8AA



MORGAN
Signs & Design

Project Manager

This is an exciting opportunity to become part of a friendly team working on varied and interesting projects.

We are looking for a hard working, self motivated & communicative individual.

From a signage background you will have knowledge, understanding and commercial awareness that will enable you to successfully manage various projects.

Problem solving skills and a keen eye for detail are key to this position and the ability to understand and work to the clients expectations/deadlines.

Although not essential, competence in Adobe illustrator and photoshop would be beneficial to give you the ability to produce visuals for the clients approval.

As you will be attending site meetings and carrying out site surveys, a full UK driving license and your own vehicle is essential.

Please send your C.V and covering letter to:

Morgan Signs & Design Ltd,
Unit A4 Walsall Enterprise Park, Regal Drive,
Walsall WS2 9HQ.

or email: gareth@morgansignsanddesign.co.uk

www.morgansignsanddesign.co.uk



Sign Department Manager

FIRST SIGNS & LABELS (BISHOPS STORTFORD) LIMITED
Hertfordshire

Job Details:

- Detailed technical knowledge and practical experience in all aspects of sign making.
- Ability to organise, manage, motivate, and work with others within the department.
- Possession of excellent communications skills, and seek to maintain, develop and strengthen relationships with customers.
- To be able to plan, prioritise and manage work-loads coupled with the ability to work under pressure.
- To be a team member with the desire to work co-operatively with other staff within the Company.
- Ability to set clear goals, track progress, and to be able to assess performance.
- Drive and Ambition to grow the department to meet the exciting opportunities that exist.

Responsible to: Managing Director.

Salary: Negotiable based on experience.

Holiday Entitlement: 28 days per annum including bank holidays.

Hours of Work: 38.75 hours per week.

Please apply by sending your CV to chrisbaudains@firstsignsandlabels.co.uk

Company Details:

First Signs is a long established business having been in existence for over 30 years. Ideally located at Bishops Stortford in Hertfordshire, just off Junction 8 of the M11 & close to Stansted Airport. We are an expanding business with current annual turnover of £1.4M.

In addition to the sign department, the company has a large screen print department, and an engraving department which includes CNC routing. The business undertakes digital printing, both flat bed and roll to roll, plus we print and supply estate agents boards.

On the other side of our business we refurbish and maintain estate agents offices, and we also have our own fitting team.



SMART
GRAPHICS

Vehicle Graphics Applicators

Smart Graphics are looking to add skilled vehicle graphics applicators to our already experienced applications team to cover the South East of the UK preferably based around Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire.

We also have a second position to cover Leicester, the Midlands and further afield as required.

The successful applicants duties will involve the application of printed and cut vinyl graphics to bus and commercial fleets and also some sign and graphic requirements at customer or dealer locations.

Experience of wrapping digital images and cut vinyl graphics is essential to this role as is a clean and full driving license. Experience of working with graphic installation on buses would be an advantage but is not essential.

The successful candidate will be, presentable, have good communication skills be self-motivated, able to work from home, be flexible to accommodate the differing needs of our customer base and the projects we undertake and also have strong on site problem solving skills.

A great package is available for the successful candidates including a competitive salary, overtime payments, a company vehicle, mobile phone and expenses.

Please submit your CV to Paul Bellard via careers@smartgraphics.co.uk

National Sales Director Wanted Now.

- ➔ **Rapidly expanding national corporate rebranding contractor**
- ➔ **Specialists in Signs & Graphics**
- ➔ **Complete in-house design, engineering & installation**
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Brand Consortia are a rapidly expanding National Signage and Rebranding Contractor based in Greater Manchester who have many national household name clients, some of whom have worked with us for decades. We have a strong belief in forging lasting relationships with our clients and growing together.

We proudly design, engineer and install from start to finish, using our extensive, recently refitted, in-house fabrication facilities, which are driven by a customer focussed and loyal team.

After several successful years we are on a major growth initiative which includes "World Class Manufacturing"

to complement our ISO accreditations. We would love to hear from like-minded professionals who have the drive to bring in new work and a strong desire to grow their own sales team.

The position warrants at least 5 years' experience in a senior sales position with a signage contractor.

We offer a package that will exceed your expectations for results that will exceed ours.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our exciting development please apply via Email, including a full CV, to:

hr@brandconsortia.com



Petrol Sign

A division of MS INTERNATIONAL plc.

MSI has established Petrol Sign operations in key European markets alongside Global-MSI the group's Petrol forecourt Canopy and Structures business.

We are building a strong European sign team to service the Retail Petroleum Market and now require:

Commercial Contract Manager/Estimator

Doncaster Office Based

Candidates should have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar role within the UK sign industry, and ideally have knowledge of Petrol Forecourt Sign Packages.

They should possess good organisational/computer skills and the desire to work in a small developing team, servicing a fast moving multi-priority environment.

Responsibilities will include:

- Timely preparation of quotations and tenders
- Contributing to the commercial aspects of offers
- Ensuring maximum value to the company on all work
- Supporting Business Development activities
- Monitor Financial Performance
- Liaison with Group Production facilities

Experienced Sign Installation Engineers and Sub-contract Sign Installation teams

Nationally throughout the UK

We require qualified and experienced installation engineers as full time Company Employees throughout the UK.

Applications from Qualified Sub-Contracting teams who wish to be added to our contractor database are also welcomed.

Minimum requirements are 5 years with a significant level of Petrol Station Installation &/or Maintenance work.

All operatives will have current UKPIA, PASMA, IPAF, Asbestos Awareness, First Aid and Ladder use qualifications as a minimum.

Applicants with expired qualifications will be considered for re-training.

Applications should be by e-mail only with a full CV attached for the attention of the Managing Director, Petrol Sign Ltd and sent to info@petrol-sign.com

Petrol Sign Limited, Balby Carr Bank, Doncaster, DN4 8DH, a division of MS INTERNATIONAL plc



PS&G
Principle Signs & Graphics Ltd

Based in Chorley/Preston PR6 0BL
are recruiting for the following roles due to continued new client work from major national retailers

Sign Installation fitters

We are looking to recruit sign fitters with proven experience to work across the UK.

We work with national retailers and therefore require good all round installers in the usual disciplines of flexface, LEDs and general store front signage.

Essential is the ability to enjoy the job, be presentable and reliable.

Project Manager

We are looking to employ exceptional Project Managers.

You will oversee our blue chip national clients. As an experienced person you know exactly what is required from you; great client skills and the ability to ensure the production manager has understood and is working to the right deadlines and products.

In addition you will have an astonishing breadth of sign knowledge and an attention to detail that ensures no mistakes and a zero snagging mentality.

Vinyl Wrapper

We are looking to employ an experienced sign maker/vinyl fitter and vehicle wrapper on a full time permanent basis, you must be willing to install wraps across the country.

Your duties will involve vehicle wrapping, application of vinyl to various shop signage and fitting interior vinyl's in store.

The ideal candidate will have a good eye for detail, common sense and a can do attitude.

CNC Operator / Fabricator Fitter

We are looking to employ an experienced CNC operator ideally with fabrication skills, i.e. welding aluminium. However if you have either skill set please apply, training can be given in the other.

The candidate will be in charge of making letters, trays, panels and signs from the usual material i.e. aluminium, ACM, perspex and foamex.

The ideal candidate will be conscientious and able to work well under tight deadlines.

Please send your CV's to john@principleltd.com

Telephone: 01257 232 228

Experienced Sign Fitter West Sussex

Xtreme Signs are looking for an experienced sign fitter in all aspects of signage to join our expanding team. Ideally with 5 years + experience and happy to work as part of a team or on their own initiative.

Vehicle graphics, prints, hoardings, general signage, banners etc.

Ideally with a knowledge of cutting vinyls, weeding, preparation, printing, wrapping, and confident to work with any task given to them.

Applicants should hold a full UK clean driving licence.

We are based in Crawley Down, just 5 minutes from Gatwick Airport.

Salary: negotiable and dependant upon experience. Applicants should be open to working overtime on projects, which is essential to the role.

To apply please include a full CV, to: sam@vansignwriting.co.uk

crescentsigns Experienced Signmaker / Fitter

Newbury, Berkshire

Key roles & requirements:

- Digital printing & vinyl graphics
- Use of Coreldraw & Illustrator
- Sign assembly
- Sign fitting
- Min. of 2 years in sign industry
- Full UK driving licence

The candidate must be hard working, flexible, self-motivated & able to fit in with a busy team.

For details please contact: 01635 48606 or send a CV to office@crescentsigns.co.uk

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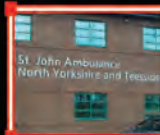


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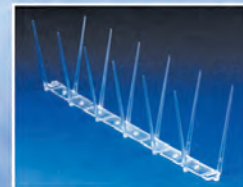


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Trade suppliers of quality 3D built up acrylic letters and logos in colours and finishes from a variety of different sheet manufacturers. Built up letters are available with halo and/or face lit illumination from our award winning and cost effective LED range. Please ask for an information pack or contact one of our friendly and experienced sales staff for assistance. (Flat cut lettering is also available).

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Marcon House, Wyther Lane, Leeds LS5 3BT
Tel: 0113 2242124
sales@icesigns.co.uk
www.icesigns.co.uk
Manufacturers of built up acrylic letters and logos. We can offer face or halo illumination with the installation of LEDs if required. Please call our staff on the number below if you have any questions.

SIGN HERE

179 Fosse Road North, Leicester, LE3 5EZ
Tel: 0500 428 021
sales@sign-here.co.uk
www.sign-here.co.uk
Trade service for 3D built up lettering & logos in a variety of materials. We will give you a professional reliable & efficient service at a competitive price. From a single letter to a fully illuminated sign ready for installation. For a quote or just friendly advice contact us. We are here to help.

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In house manufacturers of high quality built up and flat cut lettering and logos in aluminium and stainless steel, we also offer a painting or powder coating service & most letters can be fitted with LED modules. Our prices are very competitive and offer a prompt service.

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Tel: 0117 951 0234
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Specialist manufacturers of built-up/flat cut letters, logos in stainless steel, brass, aluminium etc. Very competitive prices, excellent delivery, highest quality, full design service. Prompt response to all enquiries.

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Trade suppliers of quality 3D built up metal letters and logos. Lettering starts at just 50mm high in materials such as stainless steel, brass, copper, titanium and aluminium with a variety of different finishes. Built up letters are available with halo and / or face lit illumination from our award winning and cost effective LED range. Please ask for an information pack or contact one of our friendly and experienced sales staff for assistance.

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www.fabriccut.co.uk

Trade suppliers of 3D built up letters and logos. Full LED service available for Halo or Face illumination. Stove enameling available from BS, RAL and Pantone colours. Fast turnaround with competitive prices.

FABSIGN

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HP41AH

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info@fabsign.co.uk
www.fabsign.co.uk

Fabsign are a company who specialise in built up letters and logos and metal fabrications. We are experts in this field so we can offer our customers a non compromising service to manufacture to their requirements and expectations at the lowest prices available. We also supply flat cut letters and logos in any material. So give us a call and let us see what we can do for you.

I.C.E.

Marcon House, Wyther Lane, Leeds, LS5
3BT

Tel: 0113 2242124
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www.icesigns.co.uk

Manufacturers of Built Up - Flat Cut - Rim and Return Letters and Logos in Stainless Steel, Aluminium, Copper and Brass. We also fit neon tube or LED modules within the Letters for face or halo illumination.

LOGOTECH DISPLAY SOLUTIONS LTD

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NE23 1WP

Tel: 01670 737 225
sales@logotech-ltd.co.uk
www.logo-tech.co.uk

In our fully equipped metal department we produce high quality built up letters/logos in aluminium, stainless, brass and copper. Supplied to the trade nationwide, at a very competitive price. We also manufacture boxes, post signs, gantry signs, frames and panels, which can be finished to your specifications. We have our own in-house neon department and can supply you with the complete sign service, ready for you to install.

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www.sign-here.co.uk

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SYGNET SIGNS LTD

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Nationwide specialist trade suppliers of alu/stainless steel 3D built ups. Brushed/Satin/Mill/chemically coloured finishes. 1050 grade alu, 316 or 304 grade s/s. We can also supply a variety of back trays to suit and fit LEDs/Neon etc for face/halo illumination. All works carried out in-house. (we also supply flat cut text/logos).

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Trade Signs is a company committed to innovative technology, service excellence, rigorous quality control and a culture of continuous improvement where our total workforce is passionate about exceeding customer expectations.

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E-Signfittings are one of the largest suppliers of Cable & Rod Display Systems in the UK. We have large stocks available on next day delivery for orders received before 3pm. Other products in our range include Standoffs, Screw Head Covers, Poster Hanging Systems, Sign Hanging Systems, Leaflet Holders and Poster Displays. Visit our web site to check our current stock levels and fantastic prices.

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Mid West Displays stock a wide range of sign support systems. We also stock wall mounts, snap frames, mirror screws, cable/rod suspended systems, LED Display Panels, poster pockets and many more. We are pleased to be working with the highest quality materials at competitive prices.

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www.sott.co.uk

Specialists in the manufacture of quality cast signs - mainly cast in polyurethane but also grp, bronze, brass and aluminium. All patterns are made by our in house pattern maker to your specification. A few millimetres up to several metres in size. Cast signs for town entrances, buildings, way finding fingerpost signs, blue plaques, street signs.

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www.ward-signs.co.uk

Plaques, Crests, Lettering. In aluminium and Bronze. From Pattern Making to Finishing in Stove Enamel. 60 Years of Experience.

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Tel: 01241 828 694

info@signindustries.com
www.signindustries.com

SIGN INDUSTRIES are specialist TRADE MANUFACTURERS of etched Stainless Steel, Brass, and Bronze. We also Laser Engrave Plastics and Wood as stand alone products as well as moulds for castings. SIGN INDUSTRIES normally work with 3 mm thick material, and can etch bend and weld Stainless Steel up to 3 metres x 1.5 metres, and down to small sequential tags for wiring looms.

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enquiries@sott.co.uk
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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.

WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE
Tel: 0117 955 3385
info@ward-signs.co.uk
www.ward-signs.co.uk
Wards of Bristol Specialise in manufacture, restoration and accurate reproduction of historic and modern coats of arms. We are able to produce from originals, information from heraldic associations, or even from a photograph. Check our website for recent projects.

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sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk
www.mercuryphillipsigns.co.uk
Manufacturers of plaques in stainless steel, brass and aluminium, chemically or machine engraved, colour filled to your choice. Logos and text from artwork supplied.

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Tel: 01241 828 694
info@signindustries.com
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Sign Industries is one of the UK's leading sign making manufacturers, offering a broad range of memorial and commemorative plaques in many varying styles using the finest materials such as bronze, brass, stainless steel and wood. You can now create your own custom plaques and nameplates and order them directly from our website.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES LTD

Wingfield Road Tebworth, Beds, LU7 9QG
Tel: 01525 874 185
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 quote.

WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE
Tel: 0117 955 3385
info@ward-signs.co.uk
www.ward-signs.co.uk
Wards of Bristol have produced countless cast metal commemorative blue plaques, but also specialise in traditional bronze plaques and custom 3D hand crafted plaques, which are hand painted to depict scenes of historical events, places and figures.

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www.applelec.co.uk
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Manufacturers of flat cut letters in ALL materials. Incl. Acrylic, Foamex, MDF, Stainless Steel, Brass, Copper, Corian. Many finishes available- Gilding, painting, powdercoating, lacquering. A special service at a competitive price.

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A fully comprehensive service to the trade in acrylic, foam PVC, MDF, brass and aluminium. Contact us for price list or quotation.

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www.sign-here.co.uk
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The UK's widest range of digitally printable wide format magnetic and ferro sheet (both over 1200mm wide). Maxmag vehicle grade magnetic materials available in white, plain or adhesive backed - by roll or cut to your specific requirements. Also available neo magnets, vehicle roof magnets, sign grippers and a full range of high tape to suit every budget and application.

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Specialists in media for digital printing, Doro Tape supply products from major European manufacturers including Ritrama, Aslan, Xerox and Poli-Tape for all large format printers. Whether it's for sign graphics; interior exhibition or retail displays; floor graphics or vehicle wraps, Doro can supply the right product. Contact Doro Tape for expert advice on digital media.

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We are the only company in Europe stocking clear acrylic Domes & Dishes in 20 sizes. We have over 140 other special sizes available and can make ovals, squares and oblong domes. By covering any shape with vinyl or screen printing you can have your own special sign.

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Manufacturers of edge lit signs incorporating a variety of extruded profile options along with bespoke engraved acrylic panels. With award winning and cost effective LED modules and a choice of mounting or hanging shop fitting kits, Applelec supplies an unrivalled range of edge lit trade components. Please ask for an information pack or contact our friendly and experienced sales staff for assistance.

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DIAMOND 24V LED light boxes and GARNET light panels can be produced in any size up to 2500 x 1500mm. Diamond light boxes have a 20mm deep frame and 25mm snap frame front. Standard sizes in A4 up to A0 for next day delivery. Custom boxes & GARNET 8mm deep light panels can be made in single colour LED or RGB with controllers, can be dimmable or have built-in phasing. No minimum order quantity.

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The complete sign service Engraved / Etched & Screen Printed signs Nameplates etc. in all materials. Very competitive prices, excellent delivery, highest quality, full design service, prompt response to all enquires

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Engravers of all types of plaques, plates, labels and control panels in a wide range of materials. Fine detail etching in brass and stainless steel. Industrial and Laser Engraving and Component Marking. Full colour printing from labels to wide format.

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Largest range of moulded acrylic letters in the UK. Mirror effect moulded letters, LED illumination, logos, panels, complete fascia panels, blow moulding, aluminium, composite trays and more! Samples on request.

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS

51/59 Waterworks Rd. Norwich NR2 4DA
Tel: 01603 666699
sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk
www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk
Moulded letters and logos in all standard Perspex colours and UV stabilised gold and silver acrylics, in 8 standard sizes, bespoke sizes available on application. Press, vacuum and blow moulded pans, in acrylic and petg also available.

SIGNTRADE LETTERS LTD

225 Long Lane, Finchley London N3 2RL
Tel: 020 8346 8515
sales@signtrade.co.uk
www.signtrade.co.uk
Moulded letters are our speciality with stock of 20 fonts 8 letter heights in coloured Perspex and 1000's of flat cut letters as well. Your own font or logo is made by our own toolmakers. With over 60 years of experience to call on.

WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE
Tel: 0117 955 3385
info@ward-signs.co.uk
www.ward-signs.co.uk

Having patented the original method of making cast resin letters, Wards of Bristol can manufacture and supply resin lettering to the highest standard. Our stock patterns for resin letters are a cost effective method of achieving the same styles as traditional bronze and aluminium (which we also cast in house) but we can also make custom designed patterns for letters and logos for all your needs.

NAMEPLATES

MOCKRIDGE LABELS & NAMEPLATES LTD

Cavendish Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs OL6 7QL
Tel: 0161 308 2331
sales@mockridge.com
www.mockridge.com
Specialists in chemically etched nameplates. Brass, Stainless Steel and Anodised Aluminium. Any size up to 2400 x 1200mm (8ft x 4ft). One-offs up to 5000+. Trade work is totally confidential.

NEON MANUFACTURERS (TRADE)

A1DESIGNS

4 Sandy Lane North, Wallington, Surrey SM6 8JX
Tel: 020 8646 9886
enquiry@a1designs.co.uk
www.a1designs.co.uk
Neon & Cold Cathode Manufacturers to the Trade. Fast turnaround & Delivery, Quick repair service. Installation, Fault diagnosis, Repairs & Maintenance. Confidential Service. All neon accessories, Transformers, Cable, Tube supports etc.

AVENUE SIGNS LTD

216-222 Luton Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 5BS
Tel: 01634 841300
info@avenuesigns.co.uk
www.avenuesigns.co.uk
Full computerised design service neon and cold cathode lighting. Fully qualified installation engineers, fault diagnosis, fast repair service. Complete sign service from vinyl through to acrylic to polished stainless steel to transformer and neon accessory supplies.

LOGOTECH DISPLAY SOLUTIONS LTD

Unit 6, Atley Business Pk, North Nelson Ind Est, Cramlington, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE23 1WP
Tel: 01670 737 225
sales@logotech-ltd.co.uk
www.logo-tech.co.uk
Specialists in neon manufacture to the trade, all types of neon work undertaken. Quick repair service. Very competitive prices. Over 25 years experience in the sign trade.

NEON PLUS®

THE SIGN GROUP

Victoria Works, Bruntcliffe Road, Morley, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS27 0LF
Tel: 0113 25 24 706
info@thesigngroup.co.uk
www.thesigngroup.co.uk
Ultra Slimline illuminated letters and shapes suitable for interior and exterior applications. Extremely bright with various colour options. Very strong and robust, easy to fit and will outlast other comparable alternatives.

NOTICE BOARDS - LOCKABLE/EXTERIOR

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ
Tel: 01934 852 888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.signscape.co.uk
Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of modular sign systems and notice boards. We have the widest range of exterior notice boards of all UK manufacturers, and specialise in tailoring our boards to suit each location. This is achieved through a wide range of options, including; wall, rail, post and stand mountings, mains/solar illumination and custom graphics.

SIGNWAVES

Lefevre Way, Capton Hall Industrial Estate, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 0NW
Tel: 01493 419300
enquiries@signwaves.co.uk
www.signwaves.co.uk
Signwaves supplies Noticeboards and Poster Displays suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. As the UK's largest manufacturer of point of sale signs and displays, we can provide you with high quality Poster Frames, Snapframes, Menu Cases and lockable Noticeboards.

NUMBER PLATES

TENNANTS UK LTD

Tennant House, Mount Street, New Basford,
Nottingham NG7 7HX
Tel: 0115 973 8080
sales@tennantsuk.com
www.tennantsuk.com

Distributors of quality number plate components and suppliers of the UK's best selling number plate printing package the 'Print Pro' system - Full colour number plate printing being used around the world. Our optimised number plate printer will also print Health & Safety Signs, Business Cards, Banners & more. For prices and a free no-obligation demonstration, please call or visit our website.

PLASTIC SHEETS

BRETT MARTIN PLASTIC SHEETS

24 Roughfort Road, Mallusk, Co Antrim
BT36 4RB
Tel: 028 9084 9999

semifinished@brettmartin.com
www.brettmartin.com

Brett Martin is a leading manufacturer of plastic sheet products for signage, interior design, shop outfitting, POS displays and fabrication. Products include Foamalux, the extensive foam PVC range in bright White, Satin and Gloss colours and an environmentally friendly Recycled material in addition to Polycarbonate, PVC, Acrylic, aPET, PETg, SAN and Styrene sheet.

N E PLASTICS LTD

Unit 1, Ruxley Corner Industrial Estate,
Edgington Way, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5BL
Tel: 020 8308 9990
sales@neplastics.co.uk
www.neplastics.co.uk

One of the largest independent stockholders of semi-finished plastics in the UK, offering a huge range of both branded and own label products including Perspex, Alliance ACP, Foamalite, Lumex and Arla. A next day delivery service on cut to size and polished Perspex is available. We also offer a trade service on CNC Router & Laser cutting, Sign trays and bespoke plastic fabrication.

PERSPEX DISTRIBUTION LTD

2-3 Lonebarn Link, Springfield Business
Park, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 5AR
Tel: 01245 232800
sales.chelmsford@perspex.co.uk
www.perspex.co.uk

Perspex Distribution offer Perspex cast acrylic, extruded acrylic, aluminium composite, PVC foam and other thermoplastic sheets for the sign industry from their 4 distribution centres in Blackburn, Chelmsford, Tamworth and Weybridge. With a comprehensive stock-holding in many colours and finishes and a cut to size service at all branches, Perspex Distribution can deliver your requirements fast.

RIGHTON LTD

Righton House, Elliott Way, Nexus Point,
Holford, Birmingham B6 7AP
Tel: 0121 356 1141
marketing@righton.co.uk
www.righton.co.uk

UK distributors of Polycasa cast & extruded sheet & Policril cast acrylic. Available in a wide range of clear, opals & colours. Also stocked: Marlon solid Polycarbonate, PETG, Foamalux, Komadur, Hygienic Cladding Rigid PVC, Aluminium Composite Sheet, aluminium sheet, Sign Post System, Stainless steel sheets, aluminium extrusions, fasteners, copper, brass & bronze.

TELEGAN PRESSED PRODUCTS LTD.

Unit 3, Old Mercedes Building, Stour Road,
Bathside, Harwich, Essex, CO12 3HF
Tel: 01255 554141
sales@teleganpressedproducts.com
www.teleganpressedproducts.com
Leading manufacturer of plate pressed PVC sheet offering equivalents to Darvic, Pacton and Cobex under our trade name TELBEX. We also manufacture VYNALAST™ engraving laminate. A comprehensive range of photoluminescent boards and self adhesive vinyl is available in PSPA class B and Class C to order.

THYSSENKRUPP MATERIALS (UK) LTD

Coxs Lane, Cradley Heath, West Midlands
B64 5QU
Tel: 0844 846 9573
plastics.tkmuk@thyssenkrupp.com
www.thyssenkruppmaterials.co.uk
ThyssenKrupp Materials are stockists of Plastics and Aluminium for the Sign industry. Experienced staff and an extensive product range give customers the flexibility to cover all requirements. Products include Orogas Cast Acrylic, Marlon Polycarbonates, Marcryl Extruded Acrylic, Forex Foam PVC, Dibond and Etalbond Aluminium Composite, Bayer Petg and Quinn Products.

POINT OF SALE FITTINGS

UK POINT OF SALE GROUP LTD

Horsfield Way, Bredbury Park Industrial
Estate, Stockport SK6 2TD
Tel: 0161 431 4400/4411

www.ukpos.com
UK Point of Sale leading manufacturers of display products Acrylic & PVC poster holders, Sign Supports, Aluminium Snap Frames, A Boards, Poster cases & Point of sale fittings.

POLYSTYRENE SIGN SERVICE

Fonteyne Signs & Displays

Unit 3, 181 Verulam Road, St Albans, Herts
AL3 4DR
Tel: 01727 832146
studio@fonteynesigns.co.uk
www.fonteynesigns.co.uk

Manufacturers of all types of polystyrene cut letters, graphics & 3-dimensional models. Virtually any logo, graphic or shape can be cut in polystyrene. Especially useful for short term exhibition, conference or promotional use (All polystyrene has a fire retardant additive). Polystyrene can be faced with vinyl or inkjet prints. Fitting service nationwide. Established 1976.

POSTER HOLDERS / CASES

Brownings Ltd

157 English Street, Hull, HU3 2BT
Tel: 01482 380900
sales@browningsltd.co.uk
www.browningsltd.co.uk
Brownings is one of the largest, TRADE ONLY suppliers of signage products. We manufacture poster frames, menu cases, slimlocks, signtrim, troughlights, acrylic-faced light boxes, flexfaced signage and now our new Texsign frames for internal use. The two versions of poster holders, the slimlock and menu case are both thin, lockable and hinged. They are available in any practical size and colour.

Insight Sign Systems

67 Dykehead Street, Queenslie Industrial
Estate, Glasgow G33 4AQ
Tel: 0141 774 5990
sales@insightsignsystems.com
www.insightsignsystems.com
Insight is a trade only manufacturer, offering a made to measure service, with in-house powder coating. A wide range of options is available for displaying posters and transparencies (panels not included), including back-lit or non-illuminated, wall mounted or free standing etc. Hinged opening front provides access for maintenance. Rubber gaskets and slam locks provide security. Suitable for outdoor use.

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper
Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ
Tel: 01934 852 888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.signscape.co.uk
Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of modular sign systems, notice boards & information displays. Our Avenue poster case provides high quality yet affordable, external poster display. Sizes from A4-A0, in wall, post, and rail mounted versions, with headers and sign panel options. We also manufacture illuminated menu cases for hotel and restaurant settings.

Signwaves

Lefevre Way, Capton Hall Industrial Estate,
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 0NW
Tel: 01493 419300
enquiries@signwaves.co.uk
www.signwaves.co.uk
Signwaves supplies Poster Displays suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. As the UK's largest manufacturer of point of sale signs and displays, we can provide you with high quality Poster Frames, Snapframes, Menu Cases and lockable Noticeboards.

UK POINT OF SALE GROUP LTD

Horsfield Way, Bredbury Park Industrial
Estate, Stockport SK6 2TD
Tel: 0161 431 4400/4411
www.ukpos.com
UK Point of Sale leading manufacturers of display products Acrylic & PVC poster holders, Sign Supports, Aluminium Snap Frames, A Boards, Poster cases & Point of sale fittings.

PRINT/POSTER FRAMES

Brownings Ltd

157 English Street, Hull, HU3 2BT
Tel: 01482 380900
sales@browningsltd.co.uk
www.browningsltd.co.uk
Brownings is one of the largest, TRADE ONLY suppliers of signage products in the UK. We manufacture poster frames, menu cases, slimlocks, signtrim, troughlights, acrylic-faced light boxes, flexfaced signage and now our new Texsign frames for internal use. The aluminium frame are available in two widths, 25mm and 38mm, can be supplied to your specification and can even be illuminated.

Signwaves

Lefevre Way, Capton Hall Industrial Estate,
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 0NW
Tel: 01493 419300
enquiries@signwaves.co.uk
www.signwaves.co.uk
Signwaves supplies poster displays suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. As the UK's largest manufacturer of point of sale signs and displays, we can provide you with high quality poster frames, Snapframes, Menu Cases and Lockable Noticeboards.

UK POINT OF SALE GROUP LTD

Horsfield Way, Bredbury Park Industrial
Estate, Stockport SK6 2TD
Tel: 0161 431 4400/4411
www.ukpos.com
UK Point of Sale leading manufacturers of display products Acrylic & PVC poster holders, Sign Supports, Aluminium Snap Frames, A Boards, Poster cases & Point of sale fittings.

PROGRAMMABLE LED DISPLAYS

Jayex Technology Ltd

13 Sovereign Business Park, Coronation
Road, London NW10 7QP
Tel: 020 8838 6222
sales@jayex.com
www.led-signs-international.com
Jayex is the UK's largest trade supplier and designer of dynamic moving message LED text and video products. We provide indoor and outdoor LED displays that can be embed into static signs or used as stand-alone item providing an eye catching display of virtually any shape and size. We will design and price LED products for your project, helping to keep your workload to a minimum.

MESSAGEMAKER DISPLAYS LTD

Unit 43 Ormside Way, Holmethorpe
Industrial Estate, Redhill, Surrey RH1 2LG
Tel: 01737 774 738
info@messagemaker.co.uk
www.messagemaker.co.uk
Programmable LED text and video specialists for Electronic Digital Signage, standalone or incorporate in your own sign project. Many products are available from stock for Indoor & Outdoor applications, over 15 years experience in the market. Call now for a free quotation or to arrange a visit from a member of our national sales team.

PROJECTING SIGNS

IRON DESIGN

37A Douglas Rd., Poole, BH12 2AU
Tel: 01202 463573

enquiries@ironsigns.com
www.ironsigns.com

Leading trade suppliers of high quality traditional and contemporary projecting signs and brackets, offering a large range of brackets, panels and lights off the shelf, as well as a comprehensive bespoke service. Competitive prices and next day service. Please visit our website or phone for a brochure.

SIGNWAVES

Lefevre Way, Gapton Hall Industrial Estate,
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 0NW

Tel: 01493 419300
enquiries@signwaves.co.uk
www.signwaves.co.uk

Signwaves are a UK based supplier and manufacturer of Projecting Signs, fabric Flags and Flying Banners for internal and external use. Our range also includes Snapframes, Pavement Signs and A-Boards, Internal and External Poster Display and Café and Rope Barriers.

REFLECTIVE VINYL/TAPES

ATC LTD

Calf Hey South, off Well'ith Lane, Rochdale
OL11 2JS

Tel: 01706 633043
sales@apptape.co.uk
www.apptape.co.uk

Suppliers of Micro prismatic reflective tapes (3m, Avery, Reflexite) and glass bead reflective vinyl for use on emergency vehicles (police cars & chapter 8 legislation etc) also HGV markings as per EC 104. We stock Conspicuity tape manufactured by Reflexite and Avery which are some of the most reflective materials available on the market. Chapter 8 chevron kits also available.

TENNANTS UK LTD

Tennant House, Mount Street, New Basford,
Nottingham NG7 7HX

Tel: 0115 973 8080
sales@tennantsuk.com
www.tennantsuk.com

The UK's largest distributor of Orafol and Reflexite reflective vinyl. Our range includes Class Ref.1, Class Ref.2, Micro-Prismatic, commercial grade, engineering grade, construction grade & hi-intensity in many colours. Used for chapter 8 chevron kits, ECE 104 conspicuity tape, permanent & temporary road signs & emergency vehicles. Visit our website for guides, prices & application instructions.

ROAD SIGNS

TENNANTS UK LTD

Tennant House, Mount Street, New Basford,
Nottingham NG7 7HX

Tel: 0115 973 8080
sales@tennantsuk.com
www.tennantsuk.com

Tennants UK is one of the UK's largest manufacturers of temporary road signs and distribute economy grade Zintec road signs through to BS EN 12899-1 specified permanent signs. Many years have been spent working closely with leading Traffic Management and construction companies enabling Tennants UK to cater to their every need, including metal frames, cones, barriers, lamps & sign design software.

ROUTER CUTTERS/PLOTTER BLADES

ATA ENGINEERING PROCESSES

ATA House, Unit B, Boundry Way, Hemel
Hempstead, Herts HP2 7SS

Tel: 01442 264411
sales@ataeng.com
www.ataeng.com

Extensive range of high quality solid carbide, PCD, carbide tipped and HSS cutters manufactured by ONSRUD CUTTER offer routing solutions for most types of material.

EDWARD MATHIAS & CO

PO BOX 121, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 1AA
Tel: 01928 739 799

info@edwardmathias.com

www.edwardmathias.com

Specialist manufacturers/suppliers of tungsten carbide plotter blades and router cutters. We don't just sell blades, we are the UK's leading manufacturer. Note - we have no connection with any other company who sell or re-sharpen blades.

SCREEN PRINTING

3S PRINT & DISPLAY

Unit 9 Hortonwood 33, Telford, Shropshire
TF1 7EX

Tel: 01952 677506
sales@3s-signs.co.uk
www.3s-signs.co.uk

www.3sballoons.com

Screenprinters to the sign trade. POS, Estate Agency boards. Full colour up to 8' x 5', vinyl stickers, mark resist, Foamex. Contact us for best trade prices on large or small runs.

CLEARSCORE LTD

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IP4 1DL

Tel: 01473 212751
sales@clearscore.co.uk
www.clearscore.co.uk

Trade service for high quality screen printing, large or small runs on to most substrates. Providing high quality service and products since 1978.

DARTFORD ENGRAVING & SCREENPRINTING LTD

Unit 4 Power Works Industrial Estate, Slade
green Road, Erith, Kent DA8 2HY

Tel: 01322 340 194
mail@desp.co.uk
www.desp.co.uk

DESP has been trading for over 50 years. Screenprinting, anodic printing, correx boards, stickers, overlays, signs, chemical etching, engraving processes also covered (ALL CARRIED OUT INHOUSE), including artwork. So whether its a 1 off or 1,000s off, we can offer a quick competitive turnaround.

FIRST SIGNS & LABELS LTD

Unit 1, Raynham Close, Raynham Rd Ind
Estate, Raynham Road, Bishops Stortford,
Herts, CM23 5JP

Tel: 01279 467999
sales@firstsignsandlabels.co.uk
www.firstsignsandlabels.co.uk

We specialise in high quality screen printing. We are suited to meet print requirements onto many substrates. We have finishing capabilities with die cutting and CNC routing. We offer a fast and efficient service, should you require 1 off's or larger run's give our team a call.

HT SCREEN PRINT

9 Merlin Way, Hillend Industrial Estate,
Dalgety Bay, Fife, KY11 9JY

Tel: 01383 824522
info@htscreenprint.co.uk

www.htscreenprint.co.uk

Trade screen printing of garments, estate agency boards, pvc, vinyl, acrylics, metals, glass, wood, POS, anything flat. HT Screenprint have been in business for over 20 years, supplying the highest quality screen printing to the trade at very competitive prices. Our experience produces quality quickly!

HUMPHREYS SIGNS LTD

Unit 6, Spencer Trading Estate, Denbigh,
North Wales LL16 5TQ

Tel: 01745 814066

sales@humphreys-signs.co.uk
www.humphreys-signs.co.uk

Trade Printers for over 40 Years. Estate agency boards a speciality (price list on our web site) Printing on correx, pvc, vinyls, acrylics, magnetics as well as digital printing. Large and small runs.

MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS

51/59 Waterworks Rd. Norwich NR2 4DA

Tel: 01603 666699

sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk
www.mercuryphillipsigns.co.uk
High quality screen printing to all types of rigid and flexible base materials ie. self-adhesive vinyl, paper, plastic and metal. From single to full colour and small or large runs.

SCULPTORS

BRYAN RAWLINGS DESIGN

45 Nunney Close, Keynsham, Bristol BS31
1XG

Tel: 0117 986 7894 / 7291

bryan@bryanrawlings.com
www.bryanrawlings.com

Designers and makers of coats of arms, emblems and all types of sculptural and decorative signage. GRP, cast resins, metals, detailed hand painting and much more. Large range of royal coats of arms available. Specialist suppliers to the sign trade.

SHEET MATERIALS

N E PLASTICS LTD

Unit 1, Ruxley Corner Industrial Estate,
Edginton Way, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5BL

Tel: 020 8308 9990
sales@neplastics.co.uk
www.neplastics.co.uk

One of the largest independent stockholders of semi-finished plastics in the UK, offering a huge range of both branded and own label products including Perspex, Alliance ACP, Foamalite, Lumex and Arla. A next day delivery service on cut to size and polished Perspex is available. We also offer a trade service on CNC Router & Laser cutting, Sign trays and bespoke plastic fabrication.

RIGHTON LTD

Righton House, Elliott Way, Nexus Point,
Holford, Birmingham B6 7AP
Tel: 0121 356 1141

marketing@righton.co.uk
www.righton.co.uk

UK distributors of Polycasa cast & extruded sheet & Policril cast acrylic. Available in a wide range of clear, opals & colours. Also stocked: Marlon solid Polycarbonate, PETG, Foamalux, Komadur, Hygienic Cladding Rigid PVC, Aluminium Composite Sheet, aluminium sheet, Sign Post System, Stainless steel sheets, aluminium extrusions, fasteners, copper, brass & bronze.

TELEGAN PRESSED PRODUCTS LTD.

Unit 3, Old Mercedes Building, Stour Road,
Bathside, Harwich, Essex, CO12 3HF
Tel: 01255 554141

sales@teleganpressedproducts.com
www.teleganpressedproducts.com

Leading manufacturer of plate pressed PVC sheet offering equivalents to Darvic, Pacton and Cobex under our trade name TELBEX. We also manufacture VYNALAST™ engraving laminate. A comprehensive range of photoluminescent boards and self adhesive vinyl is available in PSPA class B and Class C to order.

VISIONS IN PLASTICS

Unit 3, Delta Court (Robin Hood Airport),
Auckley, Doncaster, DN9 3GN

Tel: 01302 775920
sales@visionsinplastics.co.uk

www.visionsinplastics.co.uk
Stocks of Mirrored Extruded Acrylic in clear, 19 colours, See-Thru, Two sided, Anti Scratch, Anti Fog. Mirrored Polycarbonate, Petg and Polystyrene. Non mirrored sheet in Acrylic, ABS, Polycarbonate, Polystyrene and PVC Foam.

SIGN & DISPLAY SYSTEMS

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper
Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ

Tel: 01934 852 888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.signscape.co.uk

Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of modular sign and display systems, notice boards & other information displays. Our 6 major sign systems are used and combined, to create a wide range of sign display solutions, including full signage schemes. With all products made to order, we specialise in tailoring solutions to suit each client, location and application.

SIGNWAVES

Lefevre Way, Gapton Hall Industrial Estate,
Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 0NW

Tel: 01493 419300
enquiries@signwaves.co.uk
www.signwaves.co.uk

Signwaves are UK manufacturers of signs and display products for internal and external use. Our range includes Snapframes, Pavement Signs and A-boards, Forecourt signs, Poster Displays, Menu and Brochure Displays, Projecting Signs and Flags and Cafe and Rope Barriers.

SIGN CASES

INSIGHT SIGN SYSTEMS

67 Dykehead Street, Queenslie Industrial Estate, Glasgow G33 4AQ

Tel: 0141 774 5990

sales@insightsignsystems.com

www.insightsignsystems.com

Insight is a trade only manufacturer, offering a made to measure service, with in-house powder coating. A wide range of aluminium signcases are available, ready to accept acrylic panels, with several trim styles to choose from, and various options including hinged opening fronts, gas strut assisted opening, stand-off brackets etc.

SIGN MAINTENANCE

THISTLE SIGN SERVICES (SCOTLAND)

19F Winchester Ave Ind Est, Denny, Stirlingshire, FK6 6QE

Tel: 01324 820230

Professional installation and maintenance service throughout Scotland. We specialise in all types of sign work, excavation service for sign foundations, neon, flexface systems, vinyl. Surveys undertaken. All our crews are fully trained and hold IPAF and CSCS certification.

SIGN MAKING SOFTWARE

DELCCAM LTD

Small Heath Business Park, Birmingham B10 0HJ

Tel: 0121 766 5544

info@artcam.com

www.artcam.com

Delcam provides sign-makers worldwide with its ArtCAM range of CAD/CAM software, Express, Insignia and Pro, to create 2D and 3D signs. The entry-level package, ArtCAM Express starts from £99 and can be customised with modules (E.g. nesting and font creation).

SIGN SUPPORT SYSTEMS

E-SIGNFITTINGS HOBDAID LTD

57 Aston Brook Street East, Aston, Birmingham, B6 4RR

Tel: 0121 608 4431

sales@e-signfittings.co.uk

www.e-signfittings.co.uk

E-Signfittings are one of the largest suppliers of Sign Standoffs, Cable & Rod Display Systems in the UK. We have large stocks available on next day delivery for orders received before 3pm and are equipped to supply orders from a few pounds up to thousands of pounds. Products in our range include Screw Head Covers, Poster Hanging Systems, Sign Hanging Systems, Leaflet Holders and Poster Displays.

FAIRFIELD DISPLAYS & LIGHTING LTD

127 Albert Street, Fleet, Hants GU51 3SN

Tel: 01252 758 934

sales@fairfielddisplays.co.uk

www.fairfielddisplays.co.uk

Sign support systems for any internal signage. Wall mounts, directory systems, hanging banner systems, suspended cable/rod systems. Custom made acrylic signs supplied as blanks or printed to your requirements. Best quality components at highly attractive trade terms. See the full range on the website or call for a comprehensive brochure. Showrooms in Fleet & Shrewsbury

I-SPI LTD

47 Mansionhouse Road, Mount Vernon, Glasgow G32 0RP

Tel: 0141 764 1600

sales@ispitrade.com

www.ispitrade.com

I-SPI Trade supplier of sign support systems. Our range includes wall mounts, cable & rod display systems, screw covers, LED lighting and much more all at THE REAL TRADE PRICE. Massive stocks and next day delivery. See our products on our web site or give Stephen or Sean a call for a brochure.

MID WEST DISPLAYS

The Display Centre, Knights Way, Battlefield

Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury SY1 3AB

Tel: 01743 465531

sales@midwestdisplays.co.uk

www.MidWestDisplays.co.uk

Mid West Displays stock a wide range of sign support systems. We also stock wall mounts, snap frames, mirror screws, cable/rod suspended systems, lighting, poster pockets and many more. We are pleased to be working with the highest quality materials at competitive prices.

UK POINT OF SALE GROUP LTD

Horsfield Way, Bredbury Park Industrial Estate, Stockport SK6 2TD

Tel: 0161 431 4400/4411

www.ukpos.com

UK Point of Sale leading manufacturers of display products Acrylic & PVC poster holders, Sign Supports, Aluminium Snap Frames, A Boards, Poster cases & Point of sale fittings.

SIGN SURVEYOR

PB WILLIAMS SIGN SURVEYOR

48 Durlay Rd, Aintree L9 9AW

Tel: 07885 486 182

pbwilliams48@yahoo.co.uk

We specialise in sign surveying to the trade, with 30 years of experience as a sign fitter/manufacturer. I was contracted to large companies in the north west, and country wide. I am based in Merseyside and have PASMA, IPAF/PAL & CSCS qualifications and will travel UK and Europe. For further details please contact the above number or email.

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIERS

BROWNINGS LTD

157 English Street, Hull, HU3 2BT

Tel: 01482 380900

sales@browningsltd.co.uk

www.browningsltd.co.uk

Brownings is one of the largest, TRADE ONLY suppliers of signage products in the UK. We manufacture poster frames, menu cases, slimlocks, signtrim, troughlights, acrylic-faced light boxes, flexfaced signage and now our new Texsign frames for internal use. Any size or quantity, from 1 off to multiple rollouts. We are happy to supply as lengths of extrusion, in kit form or as made-up signs.

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper

Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ

Tel: 01934 852888

sales@signscape.co.uk

www.signscape.co.uk

Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of modular sign systems, notice boards & information displays. Our systems create a wide range of sign solutions including; post and panel, flush panel and curved panel signs; wayfinding signs, wall directories, monolith and fingerpost signs. Other products include exterior notice boards, poster/menu cases, and letter boards.

SIGNWAVES

Lefevre Way, Capton Hall Industrial Estate,

Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 0NW

Tel: 01493 419300

enquiries@signwaves.co.uk

www.signwaves.co.uk

Signwaves is a UK manufacturer of signs and display products for internal and external use. Our range includes Snapframes, Pavement Signs and A-boards, Forecourt signs, Poster Displays, Menu and Brochure Displays, Projecting Signs and Flags and Cafe and Rope Barriers.

SYGNET SIGNS LTD

129 Humberstone Rd, Leicester, LE5 3AP

Tel: 0116 262 6288

sales@sygnetsigns.com

www.sygnetsigns.com

We manufacture most sign solutions you will ever need. Fascia's, built up letters/logos, flat cut letters/logos, laser/router cutting service, "off the shelf" or made to measure illuminated poster cases, LED illumination, powder/stove enamel coatings, 3D development in both design and manufacture. All works carried out in-house.

THE SIGN GROUP

Victoria Works, Bruntcliffe Road, Morley,

Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS27 0LF

Tel: 0113 25 24 706

info@thesigngroup.co.uk

www.thesigngroup.co.uk

We are a specialist trade manufacturer of bespoke sign systems to the signage, design, shopfitting and display industries throughout Europe. Services Include: Built up letters/logos, sign trays, lightboxes, flat cut letters/logos, laser/cnc cutting, SG LightSheet™, LED Stockists. All inhouse, all in control.

SOLAR POWERED SIGNS & DISPLAYS

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper

Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ

Tel: 01934 852 888

sales@signscape.co.uk

www.signscape.co.uk

An eco-friendly and long term cost effective solution, our Eco-Vision Solar Display System provides solar powered illuminated noticeboards, monoliths and stencil cut backlit signage. Powered purely by daylight, it is an ideal solution for remote and highly urban locations where illuminated information is required and where routing a mains power supply is undesirable, impractical or costly.

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Calf Hey South, Off Well'ith Lane, Rochdale, Lancs OL11 2JS

Tel: 01706 633043

sales@apptape.co.uk

www.apptape.co.uk

Suppliers of various speciality films including Etch glass, Reflective, Fluorescent, Reflexite daybrite, Reflexite prismatic reflective, Hi intensity reflective, Photoluminescent, Cast metallics, 2yr Fluorescent, Gemstone metallics, Multi lens, Transparent colours, Checker plate, Mirror colours, Prismatic colours, Glitter colours, Brushed aluminium silver and gold.

MACTAC UK LTD

37 Tenter Road, Moulton Park, Northampton NN3 6AX

Tel: 01604 644697

www.mactac.eu

MACTac are global manufacturers of self-adhesive Speciality Films incl PVC, PET, PP, PE and more. World renowned brands include MACmark (coloured Vinyls) MACscreen, Imagin and Permacolor inkjet printable films and Protection Laminates. Also available, a diverse range of Technical Tapes and Label substrates using Speciality Films and products Class O fire-rated and CBS Outdoors (Viacom) approved.

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enquiries@sott.co.uk

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sales@browningsltd.co.uk

www.browningsltd.co.uk

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sales@themagictouch.co.uk

www.themagictouch.co.uk

Manufacturers of Transfer Papers and Materials used in conjunction with Laser Printers and Copiers (toner based) for full colour image transfer onto T-Shirts, Caps, Polo's, Mugs, Mousemats etc. Plus Magicut® film for use with Plotter/Cutter for heat transfer.

TROUGH LIGHTING

BROWNINGSLTD

157 English Street, Hull, HU3 2BT
Tel: 01482 380900

sales@browningstltd.co.uk
www.browningstltd.co.uk

Brownings is one of the largest, TRADE ONLY suppliers of signage products in the UK. We manufacture poster frames, menu cases, slimlocks, signtrim, troughlights, acrylic-faced light boxes, flexfaced signage and now our new Texsign frames for internal use. The troughlight comes complete with a high impact, hinged polycarbonate face. We supply in any size, colour or quantity.

INSIGHT SIGN SYSTEMS

67 Dykehead Street, Queenslie Industrial Estate, Glasgow G33 4AQ
Tel: 0141 774 5990

sales@insightsignsystems.com
www.insightsignsystems.com

Insight is a trade only manufacturer, offering a made to measure service, with in-house powder coating. A range of trough lighting Highlight Mk4 Highlight HV and Highlight Eco-Star.

VINYL & GRAPHIC INSTALLATIONS

MIDA SIGN SERVICES

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Tel: 0161 8 300 600

info@midasignservices.co.uk

www.bannersandgraphics.co.uk

Specialist applicators of all types of vinyl and graphics. Vehicle application, Windows, Wall & Floor graphics etc. Fleet specialists. Nationwide service.

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3M House, 28 Great Jackson Street, Manchester M15 4PA

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commgraphics.uk@mmm.com

www.3m.co.uk/graphicsolutions

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APA (UK) LTD

Unit 10 Capital Ind. Est., Crabtree Manorway South, Belvedere, Kent, DA17 6BJ

Tel: 020 8311 4400

apauk@apaspa.com

www.apaspa.com

One of Europe's main vinyl manufacturing companies supplying own brand self-adhesive plotter film and Digital Print media. Films from short-term to 10 years including APA-BANNER and APA-TRUCK vinyl. Cast wrapping carbon-effect, frost-effect, printable reflective, bespoke banners and extensive range of Print material for UV, Solvent and Dye/Pigment inks, all application aids are available.

ATC LTD

Calf Hey South, Off Well'ith Lane, Rochdale, Lancs OL11 2JS

Tel: 01706 633043

sales@apptape.co.uk

www.apptape.co.uk

Distributors of Ritrama UK's full range of signmaking vinyls including their complete portfolio of Digital Films. We also have available a full range of signmaking vinyls manufactured in the UK by KPMF. We stock a range of application tapes from R Tape USA and various Digital Media manufactured by LG Hausys. Discounts available on credit card payments.

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sales@dorotape.co.uk

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www.greenstikmaterials.co.uk

Offering a full range of Monomeric & Polymeric Sign Vinyls, Wide Format Digital Inkjet Films, Car Wrap & Interior Decoration Films, 3M Cushionmount™, Trade Slitting (Custom Slitting-Width down to 6mm in any Length available). Credit Card Facilities Available

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37 Tenter Road, Moulton Park, Northampton NN3 6AX

Tel: 01604 644697

www.mactac.eu

MACTac are a global manufacture of self-adhesive materials including Vinyls for CAD CAM plotting, Laminating or Printing using many techniques including Ink Jet, Screen and Litho. The range has products specifically designed Vehicle Wrapping, Wall, Street, Floor and Window Graphics as well as General Signage. Some products are Class O fire-rated and CBS Outdoors (formerly Viacom) approved.

MDP SUPPLIES

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Tel: 0151 334 2300

info@mdpsupplies.co.uk

www.mdpsupplies.co.uk

Distributor to sign makers and garment printers. Stocking Ritrama, KPMF, DeTape and many other leading brands. Order online at www.mdpsupplies.co.uk, by phone or at any of our 7 branches across the UK. No account needed. Last order time - 6pm for next day delivery.

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD

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Tel: 01622 689 410

orders@signtradesupplies.co.uk

www.signtradesupplies.co.uk

Distributor to sign makers across the UK. Supplying a large range of sign making supplies including vinyl, digital print media and sign making tools. Receive next day AM delivery as standard when purchasing online. We stock Avery Dennison, Image Perfect, Ritrama, Oracal, 3M, Reflexite & many more.

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Sydenham Road, Domestic Street Ind. Estate, Leeds LS11 9RU

Tel: 0113 245 8729

info@sydb.co.uk

www.selfadhesivevinyls.com

Distributors of self-adhesive vinyls since 1966. Stockists of a huge range from leading manufacturers: MACTAC, ASLAN, SCHWARZ, POLITAPE, RITRAMA and INTERCOAT. As part of the Pyramid Group we can offer the full range of MACTAC cad and print vinyls along with ASLAN specialities such as 2-sided Metallised films and Memoboard films. All stock available for national next-day delivery.

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Appleby House, Walker Terrace, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD4 7HJ

Tel: +44 (0)1274 774477

sales@applelec.co.uk

www.applelec.co.uk

Trade suppliers of curved or flat-faced way-finding and aluminium display systems with directories incorporating wall mounted, projecting, and totem signs. Poster display frames with a snap side profile to allow for easy interchange of inserts and an exterior light box series are available. Please ask for an information pack or contact one of our friendly and experienced sales staff for assistance.

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Marcon House, Wyther Lane, Leeds LS5 3BT

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sales@icesigns.co.uk

www.icesigns.co.uk

Suppliers of internal and external wayfinding and directory systems to DDA (1995) guidelines if required.

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ

Tel: 01934 852 888

sales@signscape.co.uk

www.signscape.co.uk

Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of modular sign systems & information displays. We have 4 major systems for creating interior and exterior wayfinding sign solutions including: post and panel, flush panel and curved panel signs; desk, door and wall signs, wall directories, monolith and fingerpost signs. We have also offer a full graphics service if required.

WIDE FORMAT SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

COLOURGEN

The AmBer Centre, Oldfield Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1TH

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sales@colourgen.com

www.colourgen.com

Colourgen is the UK's leading specialist distributor of large format digital colour printing solutions, consumables, bespoke software, engineering and technical support services. The Company is the exclusive UK distributor for the Mutoh Sign & Display, Speciality/Industrial, Dye Sublimation and Direct to Textile printers.

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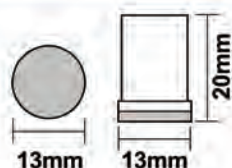
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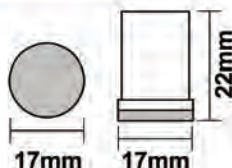


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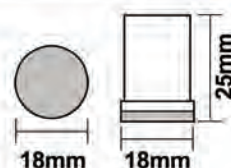


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