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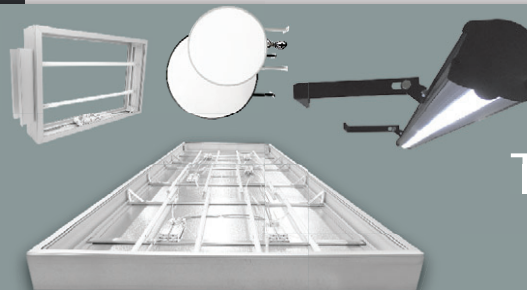


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## Crisis management

As I write this we are in the grip of a global pandemic. With COVID-19 dominating our lives right now, there is much talk of economic recession and businesses closing down. What impact is this all likely to have on the sign & display industry? Suppliers have been keen to get the word out that they will continue to provide a service as long as possible but will they and you be able to keep your doors open while meeting the requirements for keeping our distance from each other?

At time of going to press the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) had responded to a joint statement from the IPIA and BAPC with regard to the impact of COVID-19 on the industry, providing clarity that print businesses do not need to seek special status in order to trade and any that wish to continue production to fulfil orders can do so providing they follow safe working practices (for full statement see page 58).

Signage has appeared in supermarkets, alerting customers to the social distancing requirements and looking ahead, sectors including retail, leisure, entertainment and hotel/restaurants will be eager to advertise that they are back in business, providing plenty of work for signmakers. However, this current situation is a totally new one for everyone, everywhere and the outcome therefore, difficult to predict but life will return to normal and there will always be a demand for signage.

In this issue we feature sheet materials, large format textiles and neon lighting while our Toolbox tackles the question of how to select the right ink for textile applications.

All the team at SignUpdate wish you all the best from both a personal and a business perspective, as you work through this challenging but nevertheless, temporary, crisis.

Sue Deane  
Editor



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## Window graphic media offers 50% greater opacity

Drytac has announced global availability of its SpotOn White M50 window graphic media for “vibrant, eye-catching displays, which offers 50% more opacity than standard SpotOn White products”.

Light-blocking properties are said to make this matte media suitable for window applications in retail, medical or office environments as well as for wall graphics, trade show displays, indoor signage or retail promotions where show-through would otherwise affect the design.

In particular, this 100µ (4 mil) monomeric PVC film is “perfect for short-term applications” thanks to Drytac’s adhesive technology: a dot pattern adhesive that is virtually undetectable but enables easy and bubble-free installation, reliability while in place and clean removal within 12 months.

Global product manager Shaun Holdom says: “SpotOn White M50 is the perfect choice for retailers who want vibrantly coloured window graphics that can be changed quickly, easily and frequently, thanks to the combination of 50% greater opacity and Drytac’s adhesive. The fact that this product is suitable for wall



*Light-blocking properties make this matte media “ideal” for window applications.*

graphics and internal signage makes SpotOn White M50 a great all-rounder for a range of customers who can install it with minimal effort.”

Drytac SpotOn White M50 is an ink-receptive printable vinyl compatible with

UV, latex, solvent and eco-solvent printing technologies. It is available in roll widths of up to 1,370mm (54”) and offers interior durability of up to three years and outdoor of up to six months.

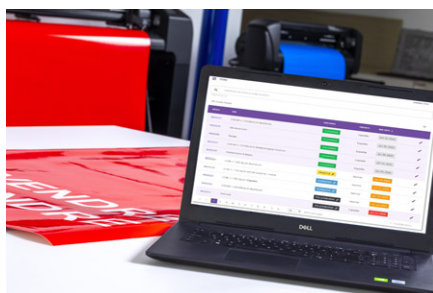
[www.drytac.com](http://www.drytac.com)

## Software delivers smoother workflow

SA International (SAi) has announced the availability of SideKick, a convenient and easy-to-use job organisation tool that helps sign and large format print businesses to effortlessly manage their end-to-end production operations, from quote creation to invoicing.

SideKick comes loaded with a database of predefined products and finishing options including average industry costs, to rapidly and accurately configure pricing, while factoring in materials, labour, commissions, discounts and taxes. Users can tailor pricing for their own business.

Via an intuitive quoting system, sign shops and large format print providers can quickly create professional and personalised PDF job quotes to send to customers within a few minutes, based on size, quantity and finishing of the product. Thereafter, SideKick allows users to organise account contacts, convert quotes



*SAi SideKick allows users to track jobs through various production stages.*

into orders with one click and track jobs through various production stages. This enables jobs to be rapidly exported into the invoicing process so that payments are made quicker and cashflow is improved.

“No one likes doing paperwork but it’s necessary if you’re running a business,”

says VP marketing Annette Plummer. “Our smaller customers, in particular, frequently tell us that administrative tasks are the most time-consuming part of their jobs. SAi SideKick ensures hassle-free shop management at a low monthly operating cost. The result is a more streamlined administrative process that ultimately saves time.”

Accessible via monthly or annual subscription to existing SAi users, SideKick functions as a standalone tool independent of both SAi’s Flexi sign making and EnRoute CNC CAD/CAM software solutions. Customers accessing Flexi or EnRoute on a subscription basis can take advantage of a preferential pricing structure when subscribing to SideKick which can be purchased directly by visiting: [www.thinksai.com/en-eu/products/sidekick](http://www.thinksai.com/en-eu/products/sidekick).

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## Translucent hanging solution creates 'floating' effect

UK manufacturer Gripple has introduced "the industry's first translucent hanger solution for the discreet suspension of retail signage, decorations, acoustic panels and lighting".

InvisiGrip's patented mechanism uses a clear filament to create a 'floating' effect and comes in ready-to-use kits, eliminating the need for steel wire and metal hooks. The system has a 5kg safe working load per suspension point and can loop through or around most objects.

A simple twist release unlocks both channels at once and easy one-step adjustment which significantly reduces the time required to work at height and so has major safety advantages.

Product manager Will Anderson explains: "This latest innovation was born from a customer request for a clear version of one of our existing suspension products to improve the aesthetics of their displays and signage. We developed a totally new product that combines the qualities needed for discreet signage that doesn't detract attention from decorative signs and lighting but retains the efficacy of a strong and trustworthy suspension system.



*Easy one-step adjustment significantly reduces the time required to work at height, offering major safety advantages.*

"As time and labour saving is at the forefront of everything we do, we set about developing a solution which uses a strong translucent filament that allows light and colour to travel through the device and uses a gripping mechanism which doesn't compromise the filament and retains security and longevity. This product fills a

need for versatile, simple to use, easily adjustable, quick change solutions needed in the fast-paced retail, leisure and office environment where displays are frequently changed and we believe this is the first of its kind on the market."

[www.gripple.com](http://www.gripple.com)

## Digital printer uses water-based ink for décors

Roland DG EMEA has introduced the EJ-640 DECO printer, using ecological water-based ink, designed for digitally printing "stunning" interior décor applications. Developed specifically to meet the demands of the thriving interior décor market, the EJ-640 DECO can produce customised wallpaper, lampshades, blinds, posters, exhibition graphics and outdoor promotions, supplying the ever-growing consumer appetite for eco-friendly products and designs that "stand out from the crowd".

"With low production costs and impressive versatility, the EJ-640 DECO delivers exceptional quality and durable print on a range of materials," says Paul Willems, director of business development and product management. "It's the printer the industry has been waiting for."

This printer combines the creativity of the design world with the technical possibilities



*EJ-640 DECO inks deliver bold, light-fast and washable prints with the highest AgBB rating of A+ for indoor air quality.*

offered by wide format printing. Rachael Taylor, surface pattern designer, creative stylist and co-founder of Make it in Design, comments: "the EJ-640 DECO printer is perfect for bespoke wallpapers; a great way to showcase my own designs.

Roland DG has really understood what designers and consumers want from

décor. I especially love the more natural look of the prints alongside its environmentally friendly credentials. I can't wait to see more of my designs printed on the EJ-640 DECO."

The high density water-based inks are compatible with a wide range of media including coated, uncoated, PVC-free and even standard wallpaper from sustainable sources. EJ-640 DECO inks are said to deliver bold, light-fast and washable prints with the highest AgBB rating of A+ for indoor air quality. The fast-drying inks require no outgassing to allow same day print, finish and supply. Along with durable printheads, low temperature drying and reduced ink costs of up to 50% compared to similar printer systems, the EJ-640 DECO is the only choice for customers serious about décor, says Roland DG.

[www.rolanddg.eu](http://www.rolanddg.eu)



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# Trade Service



## CorelDRAW unveils 'fastest, smartest' graphics suite

CorelDRAW says its Graphics Suite 2020 enables graphics professionals and teams to break down creative barriers with cutting-edge artificial intelligence (AI), impressive performance enhancements and access to cloud-based collaboration to speed up the creative workflow. Offering native suites for macOS and Windows plus CorelDRAW.app for the web, the software is said to deliver the power designers need to get from original concept to flawless output in record time.

With a complete collection of professional applications for vector illustration, layout and typography and photo editing, CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 2020 makes its debut with extensive updates to accelerate the creation of complex projects and graphics. Use CorelDRAW.app to work with design files virtually anywhere and for the first time, subscribers can take advantage of the app's new collaboration features to simplify the entire review and approval process.

"Our flagship CorelDRAW release introduces state-of-the-art tech to enhance your entire design experience," says John Falsetto, senior director of products, CorelDRAW and productivity. "Teams and clients can now access a centralised



*CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 2020 offers new capabilities to produce visually stunning designs and high quality assets, every time.*

collaboration hub to get everyone on the same page in real time; while designers can discover the power of machine learning to create striking results, faster than ever. We've leveraged artificial intelligence across the suite to make the biggest impact on your professional graphics workflow."

CorelDRAW Graphics Suite 2020 offers

new capabilities to produce visually stunning designs and high quality assets, every time. CorelDRAW.app collaboration features are available exclusively with a CorelDRAW Graphics Suite subscription, licensing with maintenance or an additional CorelDRAW.app Pro subscription for perpetual license customers.

[www.coreldraw.com](http://www.coreldraw.com)

## Polymeric vinyl film for CAD/CAM plotters

Ritrama is launching its RI-Mark Premium series of polymeric vinyl films designed to meet all needs in the sector of self-adhesive materials for CAD CAM plotter



*The high conformability and flexibility of the 60µ face allows users to obtain excellent results even on complex surfaces including convex or concave.*

use. A range of 40 new gloss effect colours are said to be suitable for every need from personalisation of vehicles to POP advertising in sales points to creation of signs and interior decoration.

The high conformability and flexibility of the 60µ face allows users to obtain excellent results even on complex surfaces including convex or concave with staves and moulding.

The exclusive combination of the polymeric PVC face and permanent, solvent-based acrylic adhesive provides the certainty of a product with excellent technical performances comparable to that of cast film both in terms of adhesion to the substrate and versatility; with an average duration outdoors of 8-10 years, says the company.

The high quality of the PVC "ensures high

dimensional stability and good coverage of the substrate, for an excellent final result".

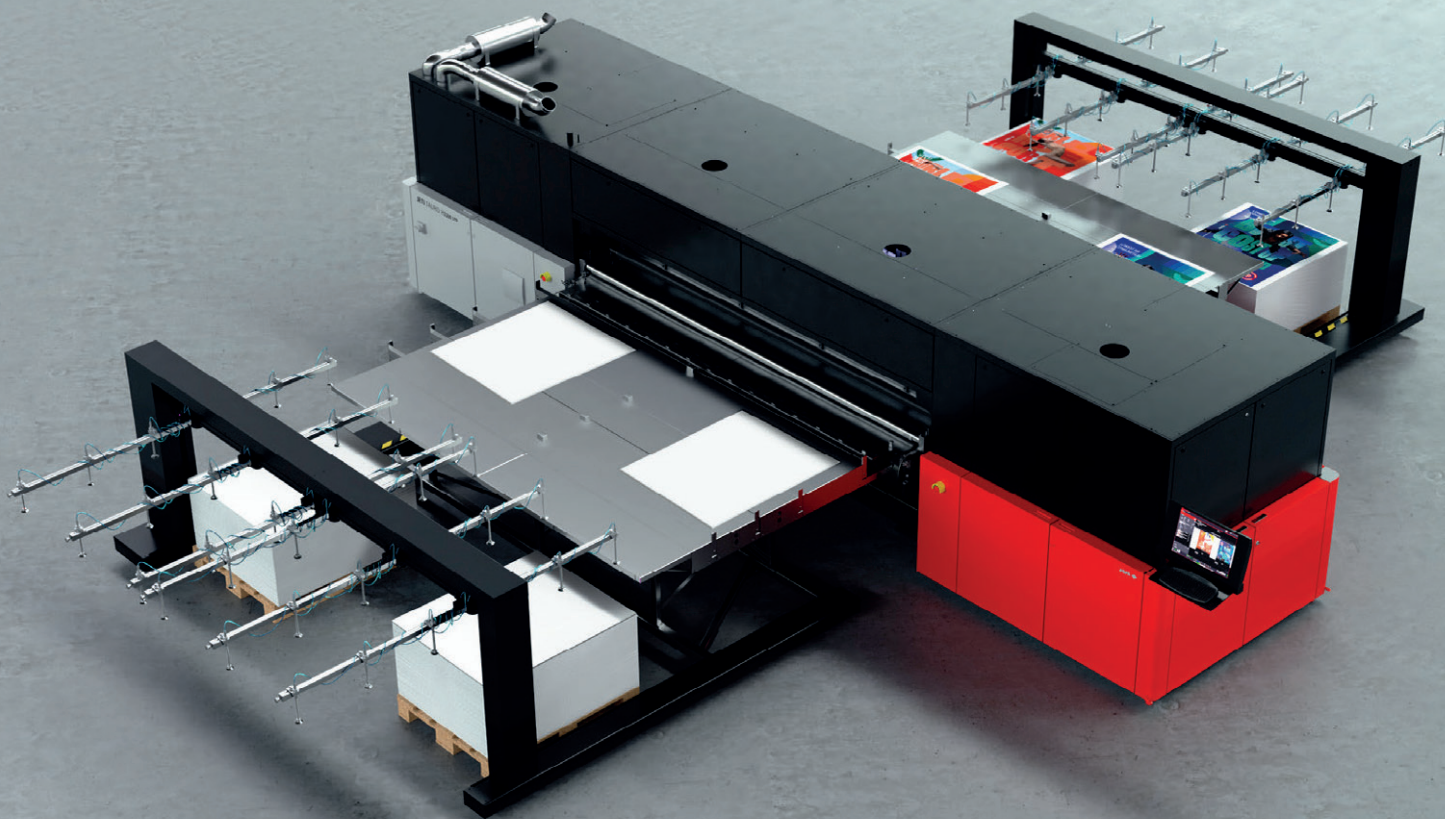
The increased level of film coverage and combined high gloss allow the creation of any kind of decoration, even on very dark surfaces, without risk of colour alterations or discolouration over time.

In terms of workability, RI-Mark Premium is said to allow excellent cutting and peel-off performance without adhesive residue thanks to the Kraft paper support for fast and easy product application.

The RI-Mark range includes further plotter films for a wide range of needs from monomeric matt or gloss effect films to translucent and transparent films; from special films with high visual impact to glitter films with metallic finishes.

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## Roland introduces new UV printer and RIP software update

Roland DG has introduced two new products: the VersaUV LEF2-300D has been introduced to enhance print possibilities, while the latest version of Roland's RIP software, Ergosoft Roland Edition 3 is designed to enhance user experience for Texart customers.

The VersaUV LEF2-300D with 200mm height, not only supports taller items but adds capacity for a wider variety of jigs, expanding the print potential on offer; it "creates vibrant colour and realistic textures, allowing for on demand customisation across a range of products and substrates" including leather bags, shoes, phone cases and other promotional items and gifts.

Product manager Francisco Lozano says: "given the versatility of the VersaUV LEF, we've seen fantastic success stories from a range of users. They come not just from the print industry but from retail, manufacturing and other industries, many of whom previously only relied on screen printing processes without a complementary digital device such as the VersaUV series."

With a variety of new features and improvements, including a redesigned



*The VersaUV LEF2-300D with 200mm height, not only supports taller items but adds capacity for a wider variety of jigs.*

user interface for intuitive operation and enhanced user experience, the ability to quickly find and reach target spot colour, automatic spot replacement and overall improved user efficiency and productivity, this latest edition of Roland's RIP software is a perfect match for high quality textile printing, says the company.

Existing Texart XT-640/RT-640 users who have activated editions 1 and 2 are eligible

for a free upgrade between 24 March and 30 September 2020. Director of business development & product management Paul Willems comments:

"We're so excited to be able to finally introduce our latest developments, created not only to assist current users and printers but to inspire creativity and print potential for future use."

[www.rolanddg.co.uk](http://www.rolanddg.co.uk)

## Latex printer solution for wide array of substrates

HP has updated its portfolio of Latex R Series printers with new features to make it easier for print service providers (PSPs) to benefit from HP Latex printing on a hybrid printing platform, including achieving high image quality on a range of rigid and flexible materials using HP's water-based Latex Inks.

The HP Latex R Series "brings vibrant colors into the rigid printing world along with HP's White Latex Ink, a glossy, high quality 'true white' that doesn't yellow over time like traditional UV-based white ink."

This portfolio introduces the entry level HP Latex R1000 model, offered at an attractive price point, enabling customers to benefit from higher productivity and efficiency. Software productivity advancements include expanded queue management capability and automated



*HP Latex R1000 entry level printer is said to allow customers to benefit from higher productivity and efficiency.*

updates. More efficient multi-sheet media loading and handling will help significantly boost output.

These upgrades will be available to existing R Series printer customers. The R series will boost capability of PSPs to grow

applications such as custom short-run packaging, POP corrugated displays and printed thermoforming, benefiting from fine details and saturated colour image quality on cardboard stock and HP Latex ink elongation capabilities when producing thermoformed printer parts.

Rigid substrate capabilities of the R Series include paper and plastic foamboard, PVC foam, corrugated board, acrylic, polycarbonate, compressed cardboard, honeycomb board, aluminum composite panel and wood.

Roll substrates include PVC banner, self-adhesive vinyl, coated paper, polypropylene, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polyester, textiles and canvas.

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## 3D printer large scale production up to three times faster than conventional FFF

Mimaki Europe has launched the Mimaki 3DGD-1800 3D printer, facilitating large scale production up to three times faster than with conventional fused filament fabrication (FFF) type 3D printers. It connects the company's 2D printing expertise and 3D technology innovations, providing customers with a cost effective, total solution for 3D sign and display applications.

Capable of producing objects up to 1.8 metres tall in just seven hours with its assembly-based design allowing for the creation of even larger designs, this 3D printing system boasts several time- and cost- saving features including dual-head configuration to enable the simultaneous output of two structures.

The Mimaki 3DGD-1800 facilitates the production of support-free hollowed structures, further streamlining production while allowing for increased portability and the possible addition of interior illuminations. This technology will open up a diverse range of potential applications from signage, events and creative art through to interior design. Customers can utilise Mimaki's extensive portfolio of 2D print solutions to cost-effectively decorate these applications, opening doors to a range of products that combine creativity and innovation with Mimaki's tried and tested high quality results.

"Part of what makes our approach unique here at Mimaki is our dedication to being a Total Solutions Provider and as such we have ensured that even beyond the 3D printing stage, our Mimaki inkjet printers can then be utilised to add colour and décor, making created objects even more impressive and immensely versatile," comments senior product manager Bert Benckhuysen. "With our unique vision, wealth of experience from across the print industry and unwavering commitment to innovation, we intend to lead the sign graphics industry in both two- and three-dimensional signage and the introduction of the Mimaki 3DGD-1800 is a fantastic step toward achieving this goal."

The Mimaki 3DGD-1800 is set to revolutionise the way in which large-sized objects are created, enabling a switch from costly and time-consuming conventional handcrafting methods which



*Capable of producing objects up to 1.8 metres high in just seven hours, the Mimaki 3DGD-1800 3D printer is expected to present sign makers with new opportunities.*

require significant expertise, to effortless, high speed production utilising 3D data. Whereas large objects have traditionally been produced by manually sculpting foam materials, Mimaki's new 3D printing system transforms this process right through from concept to manufacture; designs can be visualised as a finished product just based on the 3D data and then produced in various sizes from a single data set.

Contrary to other 3D printing methods involving hot-melt lamination, the 3DGD-1800 employs gel dispensing printing technology, extruding gel-type UV curable resin lineally and utilising LED UV light to instantly cure the resin, enabling lamination speeds of up to 350mm in height per hour.

The 3DGD-1800 3D printer is expected to present sign makers with new opportunities across a number of diverse sectors, with the potential to easily create life-sized displays, event decorations, movie props and large product mock-ups, as well as quickly and efficiently producing industrial production parts including moulds for vacuum forming, helping

manufacturers to reduce their lead times. "We are very excited to be able to bring such a transformative product to market," continues Bert. "With unprecedented modelling speeds and the possibility to create enormous objects even beyond the sizeable formation area, the 3DGD-1800 represents a real transformation in large-sized production.

"Combined with the superior quality that we have become known for at Mimaki, the potential impact of this new 3D printer is tremendous, particularly for the sign and display market but also far beyond that."

Brett Newman, chief operations manager at UK and Ireland Mimaki distributor Hybrid Services, comments: "This is an exciting release from Mimaki that will be of great interest to the UK and Ireland 3D printing market.

"Mimaki's continued innovation in 3D printing, combined with its heritage across 2D printing provides a wonderfully unique approach that will give a complete solution for print service providers."

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\*\*CMYK

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## ACRYLIC PERSPEX® Colours Gold & Silver add 10% for Gold & Silver

£18 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
<b>3mm</b>	0.90	1.18	1.28	1.50	1.87	2.41	2.94	3.32	4.01	4.65	5.89	7.49	8.56	9.63	11.77	14.45	18.19	32.10	39.49	48.00
<b>5mm</b>	1.30	1.77	1.93	2.46	3.10	3.75	4.23	5.78	6.90	8.03	9.36	10.70	12.84	15.52	17.91	19.26	25.15	32.10	48.15	62.00
<b>10mm</b>	2.50	3.00	3.96	4.92	6.15	7.86	9.15	12.84	13.91	16.85	19.30	23.01	26.22	30.50	34.24	38.52	53.50	78.11	100.58	130.00

## FOAM PVC (all available colours - 10mm & 19mm available in white only)

£18 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
<b>3mm</b>	0.75	1.10	1.16	1.25	1.35	1.57	1.98	2.39	2.70	3.02	3.88	4.78	5.41	5.82	6.97	8.22	10.92	17.16	19.76	22.50
<b>5mm</b>	0.95	1.30	1.61	1.98	2.39	2.81	3.22	3.54	4.11	4.68	5.84	6.86	7.80	8.32	9.67	11.02	17.16	23.40	26.00	28.50
<b>10mm</b>	1.70	1.98	2.70	3.74	4.37	5.04	6.19	7.20	8.22	9.15	11.02	13.10	15.60	17.16	19.24	22.36	27.04	31.20	47.32	56.00
<b>19mm</b>	2.80	3.95	4.58	4.99	6.66	7.80	9.36	10.92	13.21	15.50	16.64	19.44	22.36	24.75	26.83	30.16	38.48	41.60	55.64	84.50

## 3mm ALUMINIUM COMPOSITE (Dibond, Alupanel)

£18 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	350mm	400mm	450mm	500mm	550mm	600mm	700mm	800mm	900mm	1200mm
<b>Colours</b>	1.65	2.12	2.65	3.13	3.71	4.77	5.83	6.99	8.06	8.94	10.88	12.19	14.84	16.96	18.02	21.73	25.97	37.10	48.76	66.78
<b>Mirror</b>	2.50	3.06	4.24	5.30	6.89	8.48	9.54	11.66	14.31	16.96	18.55	21.20	24.91	28.09	29.68	34.45	40.28	50.35	54.06	102.29
<b>Brushed</b>	1.85	2.33	2.97	3.71	4.24	5.19	6.25	7.42	9.01	10.60	12.19	13.78	16.96	18.55	20.67	23.32	30.74	41.34	51.94	71.55

## MILL FINISH ALUMINIUM (Comes in its raw form ready for coating)

£18 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	700mm
<b>2mm</b>	2.88	4.03	4.56	6.10	6.89	7.69	8.69	10.02	11.13	12.24	13.52	16.80	19.93	28.51	38.16	49.50
<b>3mm</b>	3.20	4.45	5.09	6.25	7.21	8.06	9.01	10.28	11.50	13.25	14.79	18.97	22.68	31.69	44.52	66.00
<b>5mm</b>	3.50	4.88	5.83	7.00	7.84	9.01	10.18	11.87	13.67	15.74	17.76	22.95	26.50	36.84	51.94	71.60

## EXTERIOR MDF

£18 + VAT minimum charge + carriage

Height	50mm	75mm	100mm	125mm	150mm	175mm	200mm	225mm	250mm	275mm	300mm	375mm	425mm	500mm	600mm	700mm
<b>6mm</b>	0.58	1.10	1.72	1.92	2.84	2.99	3.47	4.15	4.78	5.67	7.25	10.24	11.81	13.39	15.70	47.78
<b>12mm</b>		1.90	2.23	3.11	4.46	5.15	5.99	6.74	8.03	10.08	11.03	12.81	15.23	18.48	20.74	62.95
<b>18mm</b>		2.70	3.42	4.46	5.57	6.77	8.35	9.35	11.60	13.39	15.96	18.27	22.31	24.05	31.45	94.11

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

## MOULDED ACRYLIC LETTERING

(Including locators and paper template) \*ADD 10% FOR SILVER & GOLD

Height	152mm	203mm	254mm	305mm	380mm	457mm	610mm
<b>Colours*</b>	6.14	9.22	14.50	15.85	21.50	25.48	44.75

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## Sheet materials driving new signage solutions

By Jack Gocher

Despite plenty of competition in many areas, the use of flat sheet material in the sign-making process continues to grow and thrive. The range of products from acrylic, aluminium composite, foam board and much more, deliver many important applications and is a market that shows little sign of slowing. We spoke to many of the UK's providers of flat sheet media to find out what's new and where are the opportunities for business growth.

### Antalis shows its rigid material advantage

Antalis is a European paper, packaging and visual communications merchants with extensive experience in the sheet material market. The company provides an extensive product range, which features many leading brands, as well as delivering hardware and training solutions. Chris Green is Head Of Channel Visual Communications & Hardware for Antalis and he says, "We offer customers a one-stop-shop for all their technology and material needs, whatever their printing application may be. We also have the advantage of having our own dedicated conversion centre which will guillotine, slit or saw any material to the exact specification required."

Antalis provides a number of online tools to help customers navigate its product offer and select the right material for their job. This includes SUBSTR8, an e-tool that



*Chris Green says Antalis offers customers an outstanding level of choice*

enable users to choose a sector and see how a space can be visually transformed using a wide range of substrate solutions for specific applications.

"Our portfolio covers a wide range of sheet materials, from thin gauge to thick gauge media such as PVC, polypropylene and polyesters, to large format paper and boards. We serve the sign and display sector for signage and POS applications and are increasingly seeing more commercial printers who are diversifying into new areas, as well as packaging printers who are looking to be more creative. We also cater to businesses

within new sectors, like interior design and hospitality, which are getting creative with the design possibilities afforded by today's evolving printing technology," adds Green.

He continues, "We offer our customers an outstanding level of choice thanks to the diversity of our range and the quality brands we partner with. We offer healthy stock levels maintained at all times, so customers can order for next day delivery nationwide as a standard service."

"As public support gathers behind the call to address climate change, businesses are increasingly looking at what more they can do to operate more sustainably. With this in mind, Antalis has taken steps to update its carbon offset schemes to ensure that we can address the needs of interested customers to help them achieve their environmental ambition, and this includes everything in our visual communications portfolio.

Antalis is also acutely aware of the growing demand for more sustainable rigid boards and plastics. We are constantly working with suppliers towards the development of new and innovative products to meet this demand. Our range continues to grow with Xanita, Triaprint, Lumex A, Katz Board, Smart-X, Priplak, Libra Display Board, Displayflute, Mopguard and Dispa which will be joined by further new products this year."







## Antalis helps HMYOI Aylesbury create a sign workshop

HMYOI Aylesbury is a long-term young offenders' institution, holding the longest sentenced young adult males in the English prison system. Their approach to rehabilitation is visionary, with the education of prisoners being both practical and revolutionary. They sought to create a real business sign workshop where staff could teach prisoners the 'art of sign making'. They wanted to use this, not only to coach and rehabilitate the offenders, but also to put these skills into practice by refurbishing elements of the prison itself, including the prison signage.

Antalis is an established and trusted supplier of the prison service for many different products from its print and visual communications substrate range. HMYOI Aylesbury approached Antalis' team of hardware development managers, who are dedicated to helping print service providers make the correct hardware investment based on their individual needs and budgets.

"Antalis has several hardware partnerships designed to provide a 'one-stop-shop' offer for large format needs. Offering access to the world's leading manufacturers, Antalis can give a truly consultative approach which ensures the correct solutions are sourced and implemented," says Paul Duffy, Hardware Development Manager at Antalis UK.

## The solutions

An initial brief was given to Antalis who made in-depth recommendations based on the requirements. HMYOI Aylesbury agreed to the proposals and Antalis facilitated the establishment of a fully working 'Sign Workshop' within the prison, including the full production systems and all other components of the facility. The workshop contains the latest state of the art technology to enable printing, cutting, laminating, mounting, storage of media and even specialist finishing equipment such as wall and bench mounted media cutters.

The equipment was supplied and installed by Antalis' partner, Granthams Graphic Technology, based in Preston, which is also an authorised Mimaki reseller. They were chosen for this project by Antalis as their preferred hardware partner because of the fantastic reputation they have in the industry. Granthams is a family business, known for their high levels of technical support.

After the system installation Antalis' large format print media experts were on hand to advise on media choices best suited for the applications to be produced.

## The benefits

The Head of Printing for the Prison Service, Kevin Johnson, approached Antalis to make recommendations based on the intended applications to be produced in the workshop. "Antalis listened to, and shared, our vision to create a real working environment within the prison. They provided a free

consultation which extended right the way through the workflow, including advice on design software, PC's, RIPs, laminators, cutting and finishing, as well as the environment in which the systems would be positioned."

Kevin goes on to explain why the new workshop is so important, and how it will benefit the wider prison service. "The workshop is for offenders to produce signage, not only for HMYOI Aylesbury, but for the wider prison sector. The equipment installed enables us to produce all types of display graphics, labels and signage, and we have the capability to cut and finish aluminium, foam PVC panels and over apply vinyl graphics. Additionally, on a very human level, it gives prisoners, who want to learn, the opportunity to develop vital new skills".

In Conclusion, Paul Duffy, said, "We are delighted to have worked with HMYOI Aylesbury's team to set up this workshop. The project took three months from initial brief through to final installation. Kevin and the team at HMYOI Aylesbury are forward thinking in their approach to rehabilitation and we share their passion to improve the education of offenders through projects like this which use the latest technology."

[www.antalis.co.uk](http://www.antalis.co.uk)



*Paul Duffy, Hardware Development Manager at Antalis UK*



## Unique range of materials made in the UK from Perspex Distribution

Perspex Distribution (PDL) are continuing to fly the flag for UK manufactured sheet products for sign makers. Marketing manager, Luke Martyn, explains, "Well known for supplying hundreds of different variants of Perspex® Cast Acrylic, made in Lancashire for over 85 years, our ever-expanding range of substrates is helping increase the choice and options for customers searching for UK produced sheet materials."

PERSPEX® Highlights is the newest range of stunning acrylic colours, perfect for the creation of colourful signage that scream festival vibes at any time of the year. Ideal for upcoming summer campaigns, with a palette set to inspire creative designers by offering 4 bold neon colours; they are bright, dazzling and refreshing. The eye-catching colours are vibrant under ambient lighting but have also been designed to offer enhanced LED illumination with the addition of diffuser particles to reduce hotspots from LED modules.



A further unique offering from Alupanel is their recent £3m investment to build an onsite recycling facility at their UK production facility in Dover

"The exotic gloss colours, named Fiesta Yellow, Carnival Orange, Flamenco Pink and Luau Green, prove right on trend. With the combined benefits of opalescence and a striking fluorescence in one product, this astonishing colour collection is a real head-turner. These new PERSEX® acrylic sheets are the ideal material for any interior or exterior signage project," adds Martyn.

### The only UK-produced aluminium composite

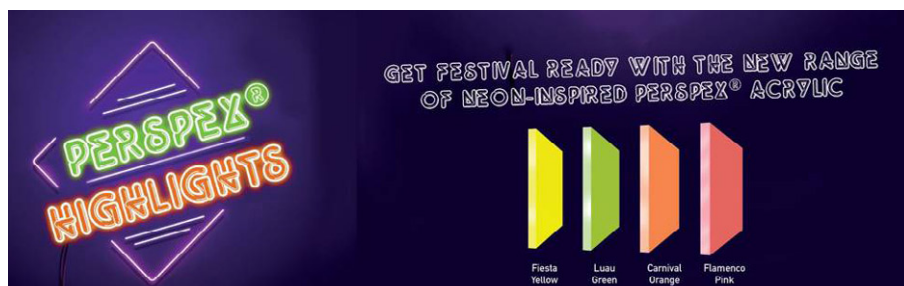
He continues, "Alupanel® is the only aluminium composite product manufactured in the UK. Produced in an ever-expanding range of colours and

effects, Alupanel® is ideal for sign trays, printed signs and graphics and it is easily fabricated into unique shapes. A vibrant range of bold colours, metallic hues, mirror finishes and even galvanised steel panels are all available off the shelf from PDL."

A further unique offering from Alupanel is their recent £3m investment to build an onsite recycling facility at their UK production facility in Dover. This facility enables them to redirect LDPE plastics from landfill to turn into pellets used within their sheets' core. The facility is capable of supplying up to 80% of their LPDE requirements.

### Substrates for all signage needs

For short term signage, Palight® PVC foam also comes with a 'made in the UK' stamp of approval and is ideal for hanging signs and graphics and direct print. "Perspex Distribution has increased its print substrate range with the launch of Palboard, a multi-layered PVC sheet made with a recycled foam PVC core. This innovative sheet combines the extra-tough surface of solid PVC with the lightweight, easy to use characteristics of foam PVC," says Martyn.



The new PERSPEX Highlights is light and bright and perfect for summer festivals



Palboard has an ultra-smooth surface that offers excellent ink-adhesion for digital or traditional printing applications. It is easy to fabricate and can be cold-bent with a v-groove cut offering versatile structures for retail displays, exhibition graphics and general printing. Palboard can be shipped flat, assembled on site and flattened again when dismantled making it ideal for portable signage and display.

Luke Martyn concludes, "Our UK supply chain ensures optimum quality control from raw material to end products as well as fast availability for special requirements, which is key in today's fast moving market. We are focused on supporting customer strategies for reliable stock availability from distribution partners."

[www.perspex.co.uk](http://www.perspex.co.uk)



Also new is **PALBOARD**, which has a recycled PVC core for fabricated signs and displays

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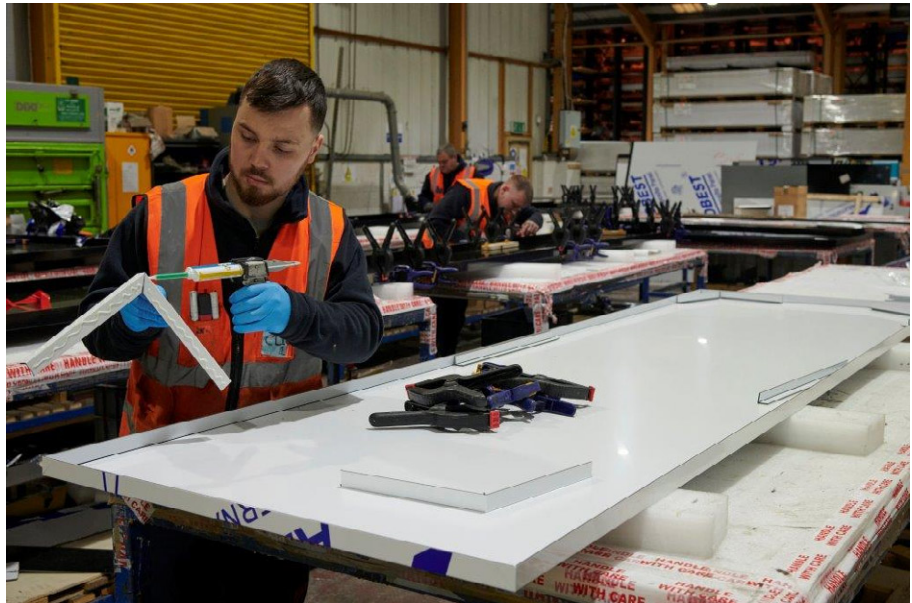
## Righton Blackburns, class-leading materials, national coverage with local service

Righton Blackburns is one of the UK's leading suppliers to the Sign Industry and says it is well placed to meet the demands of this market with 12 locations, all of which carry local stock and offer processing capability on site. Stockists of market-leading, globally known, branded products, Righton Blackburns, says it can provide a quality product for every application.

In addition, the business has a well-regarded Sign Tray production capability, stocks a range of products for post-mounted signage, cut shapes (aluminium, composites and plastics) and railed blanks.

Righton Blackburns says it can supply whatever a customer needs and that includes semi fabrication or just raw material if that is what a customer wants. The sign trade customer base requires the supply of part fabricated or even fully fabricated components and complete elements, particularly in regard to Sign Trays.

In-house processing and fabricating equipment enables the business to manufacture to order, giving a long-lasting signage solution for interior or exterior applications. Using the latest folding technology and bonding adhesive, Righton Blackburns produces sign trays with folded and sealed corners to give an attractive,



*One of Righton Blackburn's engineers assembling a large sign tray*

smooth and watertight finish. Having in-house fabrication capability means that it can offer Sign Trays in a wide range of sizes, colours and finishes to customers' specific requirements.

The material of choice for manufacturing Sign Trays is Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) – it is easy to fabricate to

tight tolerances, has excellent physical properties, is lightweight and will give a long service life. Righton Blackburns also offers a comprehensive range of complementary products including acrylic, both in standard sheets and cut-to-size, PVC foam sheet and a wide range of sundries including fixings, adhesives, cut-out letters and logos.



*Computerised cutting ensures accuracy*

Signage, Point of Sale, Display and Print are important market sectors for Righton Blackburns. Its customers include sign-makers, large format and flatbed digital printers, screen-printers, POS/POP manufacturers and exhibition designers, as well as plastic fabricators and machinists. These are large and technically demanding market sectors that require a comprehensive product offer and a high level of service.

Whatever method of production or requirement for a product a customer has, Righton Blackburns can offer a solution. The company has been supplying aluminium, stainless steel and plastic sheets to the sign, display and print markets for over 40 years and has developed an enviable reputation for innovative, market-leading products. With a national distribution service via 12 service centres it can deliver to all parts of mainland UK within 24 hours.



The Righton Blackburns current product offering includes Alucobest Aluminium Composite, Brett Martins Foamalux and Komaprint PVC Foam, Polycasa Crylux and Crylon Cast and Extruded Acrylic, Vivak PETg along with fluted polypropylene, which are all digital print grade sheets. These are used extensively by printers, point of sale display and sign companies for many forms of signage both internally and externally. Given the dimensional stability and ease of processing, many other 'non-sign' uses are made of these materials including fabrication and cladding.



Road sign display in production

Righton Blackburns' business is service-driven and is one of the largest distributors in the UK of many different materials. They say the offer of a comprehensive range of materials from a single source and on a national basis is a

compelling proposition. The business is focused towards giving a first-class service, backed up by technical 'know how' and continuity of supply.

[www.rightonblackburns.co.uk](http://www.rightonblackburns.co.uk)



# Excellence in Sign & Display Materials

From print sector digital grade substrates, to bespoke signs and road traffic products, Righton Blackburns has the solution.

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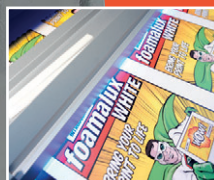
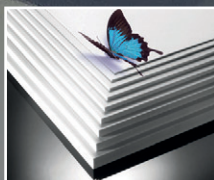
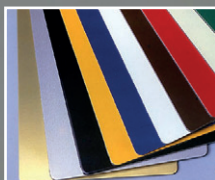
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## White Villa has big plans

White Villa is one of the UK's leading wholesalers of signage and awnings products. Managing Director, James Kalel, told us, "2019 was an interesting year as it was the end of the Brexit era. Whether your leanings were towards in or out, all importers like us were massively affected by the dollar exchange. Now in 2020, we are in the midst of even greater uncertainty due to the Corona virus. Products like our rigid media will soon be like gold dust and so we expect a massive back log in deliveries as life returns to normal."

The company is recently introduced a new range of environmentally friendly products that James says should even give Greta Thunberg a smile! "One of our LED tubes are 95% plastic free and instead using a glass casing. This helps with the product's carbon footprint when manufacturing as well as disposal, which is just as important. I believe that for a product to be truly environmentally friendly it has to meet three main criteria; each of its manufacturing, usage and disposal has to have a low footprint, otherwise it defeats the point. For example, much is said about the environmental benefits of electric cars, but where do the batteries go after the car's tenure?" says Kalel.

White Villa wholesales in most rigid media for the sign industry and the company focuses on having the right levels and variety of inventory and availability at all times. "We have now added a fire rated range to our ACM panels (VillaBond) and certificate can be supplied if required. We have also added yet another shade of grey, now totalling four greys – that's only 46 short of the world record (currently held by a certain book). The VillaBond range has 35 different stocked colours, including the brush copper and brush black. We are



*White Villa's well-stocked London facility*

committed to ensuring customers have the product and colour they want, when they need it, which is critical to the success of the company," he explains.

Kalel continues, "The last few years we've noticed the trend in the sign trade brash gloss colours and flashing lights going backwards. Now, people are looking for a more subtle approach with signage more in keeping with the look and feel of the premises, which means we need to offer a broader range of customisable products. For example, wood facias or lettering has been a huge hit with shop owners, because they give an authentic and organic look and feel."

He concludes, "Due to this increased demand, we now also stock MDF and plywood, which we can cut and engrave with great accuracy and intricately with a CNC router. In addition, our foamboard has been an excellent, cost-effective and popular alternative to wood. We stock a broad range of thicknesses from 3mm to 25mm boards. Our 10mm and thicker boards are a lot denser and tougher than competitive products, which means they can't be dented easily, making it ideal for letters of other decorative purposes."

[www.whitevilla.co.uk](http://www.whitevilla.co.uk)



*High quality awning supplied by White Villa*

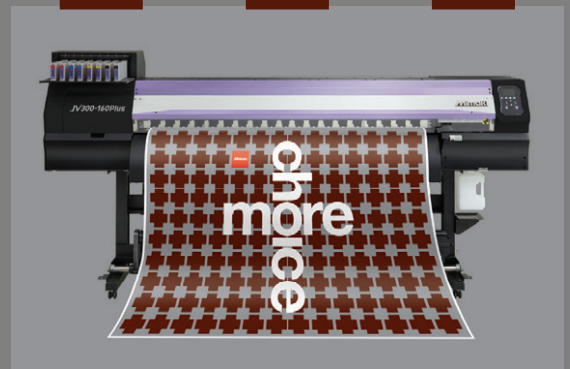




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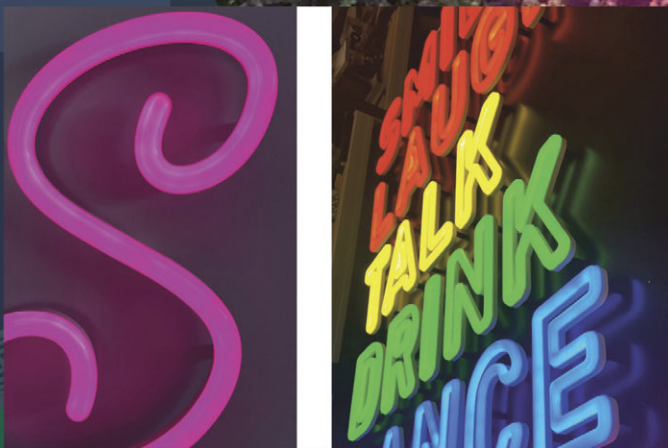
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## Innovating to develop improved ways of displaying information

Signscape and Signconex has been a leading trade manufacturer of sign systems, notice boards, letter boards and other information displays since 1973. Based in Bristol, we serve customers all over the world. The two companies were formally combined in to Signscape and Signconex Ltd in December 2013.

Bristol based Signscape Systems Ltd (previously from the Signfix Group established in 1973) was renowned for road sign fixing systems before moving into manufacturing commercial sign and display systems. Bury-based Signconex (previously Signco, also established 1973) were manufacturing notice boards, menu cases and changeable letter boards, which with their retro style have recently seen a revival in popularity.

Together we offer our customers talent, expertise and experience across all areas of sign, information display and wayfinding manufacture. Our products are designed and manufactured in-house using quality materials and processes including our own proprietary extrusions; this allows us as a business to offer the very best service to our customers in terms of build quality and service levels.

We offer one of the widest range of signs systems and notice boards in the UK and specialise in tailoring signs to suit different locations and/or corporate branding. We have the expertise and experience to deliver any scale of sign, wayfinding or notice board schemes including non-standard and bespoke designs.

### Research and development

Research and development are an important part of our business as we are always striving to develop new methods of displaying information for our customers. Our in-house R&D team are constantly trying to innovate our existing and new products for the benefit of our customers.

Most recently we have developed an illuminated fingerpost system. Using our newest Fingerpost systems, Waypoint 24 can deliver directional signage 24 hours a day when needed. In addition, we recently launched to market a redesigned range of contemporary lecterns interpretation panels which are proving to be very popular. Our solar illuminated noticeboards have smart sensors to pick up movement which saves on energy usage when not needed, a feature which is very important in the current climate.

We believe the sign industry cannot stand still with its products as people are always taking in information in a variety of ways. We are conscious of the environmental impact manufacturing has on the planet, which is why being able to do everything under one roof is an important aspect of our vision and strategy.

Many companies outsource different stages of manufacture which will increase their carbon footprint. Being able to design, manufacture, powdercoat and graphic the signage in-house means a vastly reduced carbon footprint.

Sign makers are often required to be all things. We need to be current and offer a complete service to the customer, starting from design of product right the way through to the product installation.

### Challenging situations

With regard to the COVID-19 crisis, we have taken steps to limit contact between employees with manufacturing stations positioned around 6-12ft apart which allows staff to carry on manufacturing items in a healthy and safe environment. Our current working environment provides each member of staff with the reassurance that every precaution that can be made is actioned to maintain 'business as usual' wherever possible.

Brexit has certainly made our business review how we are interconnected through Europe and globally. We have reviewed our supply chains and are moving to mitigate any material shortages by holding stock and sourcing materials from alternative suppliers.

We are currently working on a number of large projects with our trade customers. Some of these require cutting edge technology using digital format screens mixed with complex fabricated structures. The smart signage infrastructure is evolving to provide today's cities with instant information and advertising/revenue opportunities.

With all the updates being available via Wi-Fi or USB, this provides quick and cost-effective information delivery within our signage structures.

[www.sasl.co.uk](http://www.sasl.co.uk)



Solar illuminated notice boards have smart sensors that pick up movement which saves energy when not required.





## Digital cutter doubles production capacity

Specialised Canvas Group, which encompasses businesses trading as Specialised Canvas, Flagmakers and Banner Box, recently installed its second Zund digital cutter in a move to double production capacity and support the growing demand for their extensive range of products and services.

The camera is mounted above the centre of the cutter and captures all register marks within the working area of the cutting system in a single image in a matter of seconds



*Zund cutters are giving Specialised Canvas Group extra capacity to handle future growth*

With over 40 years' experience, Specialised Canvas runs its production from facilities in Chesterfield, Derbyshire alongside sister companies Banner Box Print Solutions, experts in large format print and Flagmakers, suppliers of premium quality flags and flagpoles.

The Chesterfield based business has been a loyal customer of Zund for many years and until now were using the Zund PN Series, installed just over 13 years ago.

Managing director Paul Noble says: "the business needed to increase productivity to keep up with the increasing demands from our customers and ensure we continue to provide them with an excellent level of service.

"Zund digital cutters are well known in our industry; the build quality, precision and productivity these state-of-the-art cutters offer is outstanding. Furthermore, our existing relationship with Zund through our PN Series machine, meant we knew the level of service we would get, a company that would go above and beyond for their customers. Having visited the demonstration facility in St Albans, we were sold on the modularity and productivity the current

generation of Zund cutters offered. It's giving us capacity beyond our necessity and ensures there is further room for growth, which is a very desirable position to be in."

In addition, Specialised Canvas Group is utilising its increased cutting capacity to offer a material cutting service, designed to help businesses of all different shapes and sizes meet their cutting needs by providing them with a fast, convenient and reliable service.

Paul concludes: "the cutting service is certainly proving popular and the G3 Zund Cutter's ability to cut a wide range of materials up to 3.2m wide is a major reason for this."

The Zund G3 3XL -3200 Digital Cutter was delivered and installed in late December 2019 and is already up to speed, running three shift productions.

Dean Ashworth, sales and marketing manager adds: "Specialised Canvas is the first customer in the UK to have an Over Cutter Camera (OCC), an intelligent optical system for fully automated digital capture of register marks. The camera is mounted above the centre of the cutter and captures all register marks within the working area of the cutting system in a single image in a matter of seconds. This reduces manual intervention in the production workflow to a minimum and increases productivity".



*Specialised Canvas Group is utilising its increased capacity to offer a material cutting service*

[www.zund.com](http://www.zund.com)



## Promotional goods business boosts capacity with printer/cutter

Richardson Promotional Goods has installed two further Roland DG printers in its busy workroom, helping the business take on "a life of its own", says owner Rosie Richardson.

Around 10 years ago it became clear that by implementing a print facility in house it could fill a need that most of its competitors could not, so the business bought a printer and a Roland CAMM-1 GX-24 servo plotter.

"I was literally presented with the two machines by my husband and co-director Ian who said I had a new 'toy'," recalls Rosie. "It only took a few weeks to realise that we needed a printer that would give us greater capacity. Hence our first Roland VersaCAMM SP-540-CMYK printer/cutter was purchased and I now had an even bigger 'toy' to play with.

"Our 'small' print facility took on a life of its own. The VersaCAMM gave us flexible, on-site operation and such a fast turnaround that it introduced our customers to a world where delayed gratification was a long-distant memory."



*The original Roland CAMM-1 is supplemented by a SOLJET Pro 4 XR- 640 CMYK printer/cutter and VersaUV LEF-20 UV-LED printer*

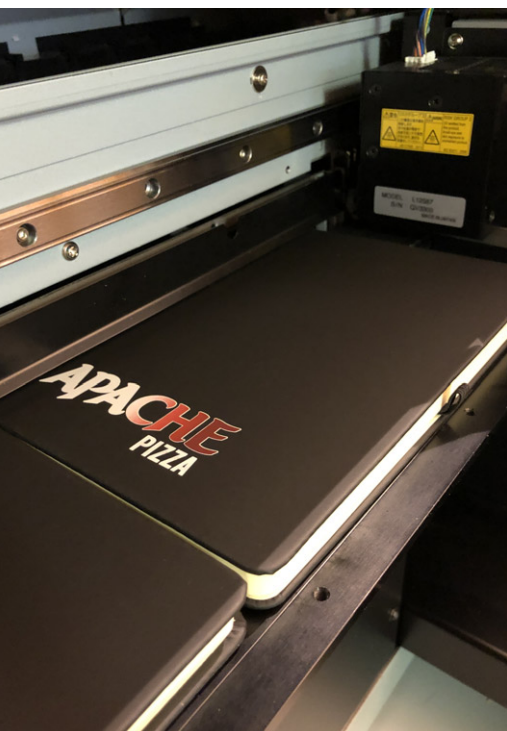
The business now employs a full-time designer, two full-time printers and a warehouse manager/printer, who work alongside Rosie and Ian to produce an extensive range of promotional products, business gifts, branded clothing and sign and display systems. Everything from Moleskine notebooks to stable table phone stands are customised using Roland systems.

The original Roland CAMM-1 is still in use every day and is currently supplemented by a VersaCAMM, a SOLJET Pro 4 XR-640 CMYK printer/cutter and a Roland VersaUV LEF-20 UV-LED printer. Richardson Promotional Goods purchased all of its Roland equipment from Sign & Digital Materials and says it has received 'excellent training back-up and support' from the experienced team.

The VersaUV has been hard at work printing merchandise for banks and other corporate clients, thanks to its ability to print quickly and cleanly onto practically any material or object, even printing white, clear gloss and textural effects.

"We've recently added a Roland digital UV printer to our print 'family', which is giving us even more flexibility with fast turnaround on products," comments Rosie. "As a company that prides itself on providing quality products at fair prices, I have come to trust the high quality print that VersaCAMM produces, and now by running the VersaUV machine we can maintain a high standard with all of our in-house printed items. Our customers continue to receive excellent quality and service without paying over the odds."

[www.rolanddg.co.uk](http://www.rolanddg.co.uk)



*Roland Digital Apache CMYK print phase*

"As a company that prides itself on providing quality products at fair prices, our customers continue to receive excellent quality and service without paying over the odds"



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## Digital die-cutter opens new doors of opportunity for design and print agency

Leeds based design and print agency Digitronix recently invested in the VeloBlade 64 digital die-cutting system from Vivid Laminating Technologies. They have been impressed by the flexibility of the system, the varying products they can produce as well as the "incredible service" they've received from a long-standing supplier.

Tom Stevenson, managing director of Digitronix says: "As soon as we saw the VeloBlade in action at Vivid's showroom we knew we had to have it. It was exactly what we needed to bring die-cutting in-house, reduce costs on short-runs and speed up production times. Since installation, we've produced loads of different jobs to date from kiss-cut stickers to hanging tags, you name it, we've done it"

Digitronix looks for ways to automate the intricate short-run, high value work they

produce for clients. They love the difficult and challenging projects that fall outside of a typical production environment, and wherever possible, aim to produce everything in-house, offering clients an end-to-end service from concept to production.

Over the past year, the company has invested heavily in new finishing kit, enabling them to achieve their goals as a company and to better serve new and existing customers.

"We didn't necessarily have an immediate need or specific application for the VeloBlade but knew that once we enhanced our designs with digital die-cutting, then our clients would go for it, says Tom. "The VeloBlade digital die-cutter is the final piece of equipment to complete a £100k investment in finishing kit in the past 12



months. It's opened up endless creative opportunities to excite our clients with.

"We've always had great service from Vivid. We initially invested in some laminating equipment nearly 15 years ago and the partnership has grown since then. We invested in the Matrix digital foiling system a couple of years ago and the service has always been great, so it was very easy to make the investment in the VeloBlade".

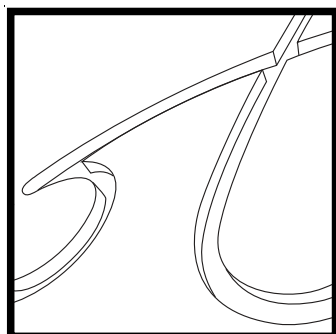
"The VeloBlade 64 was originally launched back at The Print Show in September 2019 and has been incredibly well received within the industry, with sales continuing at a rapid rate", comments Vivid's sales director Richard Marlow. "We're working with our customers and partners to open up new markets and revenue streams, with packaging, POS and labels just a few of the many doors of opportunity".

Due to the tremendous success of the VeloBlade 64, Vivid recently extended its digital die cutting range with the VeloBlade 68 which advances on the 64's capability of cutting SRA3 sheets to now being able to manage stocks up to B2, making it "perfect for those who need to produce a higher quantity or larger finished products".

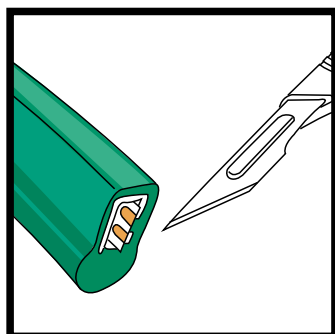
[www.vivid-online.com](http://www.vivid-online.com)



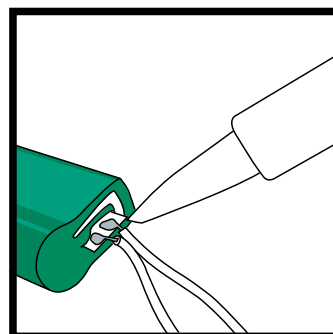
VeloBlade has allowed Digitronix to bring die-cutting in-house, reduce costs on short-runs and speed up production times



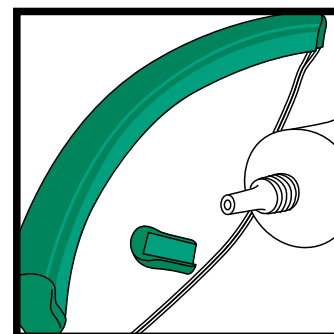
1 CNC shape and groove panel



2 Cut Neonflex to required lengths, trim and exposed soldering pads.



3 Solder thin cable on to solder pads



4 Glue on end caps, fit Neonflex to grooved clear acrylic panel, secure with glue if required.



# Automatic cutting system opens up new business opportunities

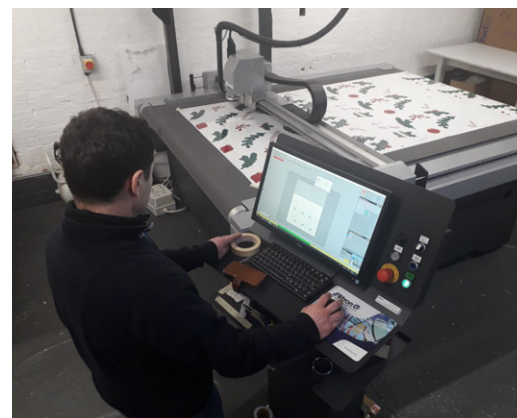
Bedfordshire based GraphicArtz is a small printing and sign making business which was founded In September 2018 by Kenny Harper and Virginia Kairiene.

Originally cutting by hand or outsourcing, Kenny and Virginia wanted to improve quality, increase output and process a wider range of materials. Before ordering the Elitron Spark system Kenny contacted Allan Ashman, managing director of UK distributor Atech.

"Allan gave me an honest evaluation of the Spark; I knew what to expect and these expectations have been met," says Kenny. "I did look at another cutting system but I believe this is the best machine we could have bought for our budget".

The machine was delivered in October 2019 with installation completed in two days followed by three days of training which Kenny said was very smooth and professional.

"When the Elitron Spark was installed the installation team went to great lengths to ensure the machine was in the best possible position," explains Kenny. "Once the Spark was in the place it was accurately levelled to make sure that the cutting surface was set perfectly. I've been involved with other cutting table installations before and have not seen a team work to this level of accuracy. The installation was quick, the installers professional and knowledgeable; within a few days of their arrival the Spark was up and running and we began training. After another few days we were running the machine on our own, cutting live jobs but still under their watchful eye".



*Originally cutting by hand or outsourcing, Kenny and Virginia wanted to improve quality, increase output and process a wider range of materials.*

After a few days  
training the software  
side of the package  
quickly became very  
easy to use

"The Elitron Spark itself is very easy to operate and simple to maintain," says Kenny. "After a few days training the software side of the package quickly became very easy to use.

"We are now finishing jobs in house. For example, the router option enables us to accurately cut acrylic and aluminium composite material to shape. The creasing wheel option has allowed us to produce packaging items which couldn't have done previously. This in turn has reduced production costs.

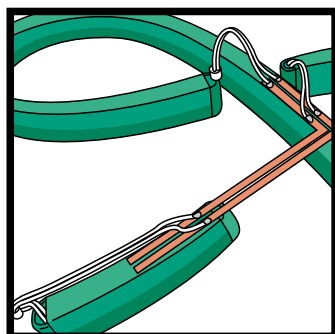
"We hope that as we grow as a business we will be in a position to buy a second Elitron Spark or perhaps a larger cutting table from the range. I've known Atech for many years; they have proved to be an excellent business partner; it's not about the sale of a machine or what it costs but always delivering the best level of support possible".

[www.atech.co.uk](http://www.atech.co.uk)

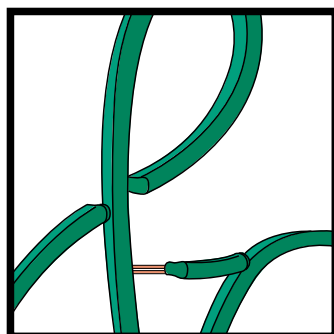


*The Spark is a compact conveyor cutting system with a working area of 1.9 x 1.6m*

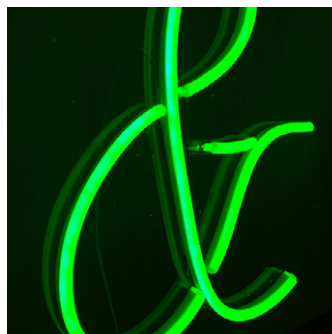
The Spark is a compact conveyor cutting system with roll handling capability and a working area of 1.9 x 1.6m, featuring a camera to read registration marks together with a multi-tool head capable of handling four tools simultaneously. These can include oscillating knife (either electric or pneumatic), router, creasing wheels, kiss-cut, V-cut (45°), circular knife, pen module and laser pointer.



5 Adhere copper tape to the back of clear acrylic and solder cable to tape



6 Disguise copper tape behind Neonflex



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## LED Neonflex

available in 8mm and 5mm width with 10mm cut point. End caps, fixing clips, ready tinned thin clear cables, and no solder cables available separately. For technical support and advice, give our team a call on 0161 236 8828



## Faux neon: better than the real thing?

**Safer and more versatile than its chemical counterpart, faux neon has been making great strides in recent years. Using environmentally friendly LEDs with programmable technology, it is a real innovation in visual signage solutions, says Dave Harrison of Portland Lighting.**

Since 1994 Portland Lighting has been supplying high quality sign lighting with both the strength and durability to withstand extremes in the weather. In November 2019 we moved to our 15,000 sq ft factory in Walsall which includes a powder coating plant with 9m pass-through oven, ensuring high quality finishes and faster turnaround for non-standard colours.

Developed as an alternative to neon signs, Portland FAUX NEON uses super bright 12V LEDs. The acrylic moulded letter faces have a half round profile to mimic neon glass. Available in 17 colours, it can be manufactured in individual or joined up letter sizes up to 1400mm x 1000mm, in any typeface to your bespoke design.

Portland's latest LED sign light Ecolux Mini is packed with new ideas. A sleek 45mm casing is the smallest in the UK with integral drivers and a five-way adjustable multi bracket with spring clip fixing is welcomed by sign fitters, offering rapid installation times.

Multi-bracket, double-slotted chamber allows the fitter to orientate the back plate



*The acrylic moulded letter faces have a half round profile to mimic neon glass; it can be manufactured in individual or joined up letters and in any typeface.*



*Portland offers a range of decorative exterior lighting, ideal for brewery and restaurant projects.*

fixing position from horizontal to vertical, overcoming fixing problems instantly with a clever spring clip fixing captive in the channel at the rear of the sign light. The clip slides and springs over a retaining nipple on the bracket fixing.

This simple but innovative design offers the fitter the fastest and most versatile fixing installation available over any trough light in the UK; cast end caps with rear entry cable glands tidy and conceal unsightly cables.

Behind its 90° magnifying lens, the 1650 lumen 14.4W per metre LEDs deliver a punch to sign facias and an unrivalled performance of even illumination.

Longer runs of Ecolux Mini can be quickly formed: an IP68 connector is concealed within a cast aluminium chamber and sits comfortably in a step grommet, allowing cables to easily and freely pass through. Following 12 months of design and development, the all new LED trough

system is taking the realms of signage lighting into an exciting new era.

Ecolux Super Lens is the LED trough lighting system for evenly illuminating bigger signage and larger format signs up to 5 metres deep. To achieve this, a revolutionary lens has been designed utilising state of the art ray-trace simulation software and the optic can be rotated in conjunction with a new calculated bracket system.

Offering three pre-set positions and bracket projections, the fitter can install the light confidently, knowing that optimum beam angle is achieved for varying sign face depths without having to wait for darkness to make adjustments. Extruded in six metre polycarbonate lengths, the lens achieves a more even spread of light via its asymmetric profile.

Distribution is optimised to limit spill light underneath the sign by concentrating peak intensity lower down the sign face. This



enables energy saving while enhancing uniformity of sign luminance.

This lens offers a 30% improvement in illumination of 5m deep signs over the previous Ecolux lens without the need for longer projection brackets. Each section within the run remains a sealed IP64 rated unit and then joins seamlessly together using a fitter friendly plug and play system. Ecolux Super Lens is sealed and certified to IP64 while the profile houses an integral IP67 driver which slides in and out on runners for easy maintenance.

Ecolux Solar is the first UK LED trough light with the capability to constantly illuminate signs from dusk to dawn all year round. In conjunction with our trading partner Zeta Specialist, solar lighting is the option for the environmentally friendly illumination of retail and billboard signage.

Where any sign installation has no power Ecolux Solar LED eliminates the expense required for running cable and significantly reduces installation time and additional associated costs.

Utilising the Ecolux Super Lens, the optics make maximum use of the 12V LED system and with two different bracket illumination settings and brightness levels 4W, 6W or 12W, Portland Lighting can cater for varying installation budgets.

Ecolux Solar LED utilises a patented controller which can be programmed for the varying hours of seasonal darkness and set to offer illumination throughout the hours of darkness or at customer specified times. Discreet 1000 x 200mm solar PV panels harness the sun's energy throughout the day, charging the long life maintenance-free batteries which in turn power the Ecolux Solar LED trough light.

Batteries and controller are housed in a separate IP66 sealed enclosure and the



*Longer runs of Ecolux Mini can be quickly formed: an IP68 connector is concealed within a cast aluminium chamber and sits comfortably in a step grommet, allowing cables to easily and freely pass through.*



*Developed as an alternative to traditional neon signs, Portland FAUX NEON uses super bright 12V LEDs.*

### Why choose faux neon?

- Safe
- Versatile
- Environmentally friendly
- Fast installation
- Easy maintenance
- Lower cost

system is wired together via simple plug and play connection and instruction. The lightweight weather-resistant IP67 sealed solar PV panels can be mounted either with double sided adhesive tape or screw fixed. Robust and durable, they are hermetically sealed with polymer construction, allowing for an overall thickness of less than 4mm.

Shadow tolerant, they have built-in photocells. If, over time, dirt covers part of the surface, other areas of the panel work

a little harder to cover the portion 'lost'. Self-cleaning, the next rainfall will usually do the trick.

In addition, Portland offers a range of decorative exterior lighting, ideal for brewery and restaurant projects. The vandal-resistant die cut aluminium contact lanterns, globes, lamp posts and plinths are perfect for enhancing entrances, frontages, paved and courtyard areas.

[www.portlandlighting.co.uk](http://www.portlandlighting.co.uk)



## Choosing the right ink for textile printing applications

**Following numerous requests for textile inks other than dye sublimation for more specific applications, QPS expanded its product portfolio with the full range of DuPont Artistri digital inks for textiles. Managing director Chris Bailey provides a few pointers on selecting the most appropriate ink for the job.**

QPS always responds to market demand. There is doubt that digital printing of textiles is in the ascendance, however, as with all emerging technologies, there is a period of learning. Textile printing applications include apparel, accessories, indoor and outdoor soft signage, home décor, active wear, T-shirts. For print professionals new to this market, there is a lot of new terminology covering printing technology, materials and inks.

Digital printing inks available in both pigment and dye-based formulations deliver brilliant colours, excellent fastness properties and robust print reliability. However, it is crucial that print businesses use the right ink an application.

Acid dye inks are used primarily for printing on nylon, wool, silk and nylon/elastane. Typical applications might include activewear, swimwear, underwear and accessories such as ties and scarves. Specially formulated for industrial aqueous-compatible, medium viscosity piezo-electric printheads and offering excellent end use properties over a very wide range of colour offerings, they have properties tailored to fit the appropriate application from sea water and chlorine fastness to light-fastness.

Disperse dye inks are used primarily for digital printing on polyester; typical applications include apparel, flags, banners and home furnishings. These inks



*Digital printing inks available in both pigment and dye-based formulations deliver brilliant colours, excellent fastness properties and robust print reliability.*

are formulated for industrial aqueous-compatible, low, medium and high viscosity piezo-electric printheads and have excellent water-fastness properties.

Reactive dye Inks are one of the major classes of dyes for printing on cotton and other cellulosic materials. Typical applications include home furnishings and apparel. They are specially formulated for industrial aqueous-compatible medium viscosity, piezo-electric printheads and provide high crock levels (colour-fastness when washed or rubbed), wash-fastness and perspiration tolerance. Reactive dye inks also provide excellent colours.

Pigment ink is designed for printing on a variety of fabrics but most commonly used on cotton and cotton/poly blends and give significantly improved light fastness than reactive dyes. Typical applications include apparel and home furnishings where expanded UV resistance is important.

Specially formulated for industrial aqueous-compatible, low, medium and high viscosity piezo-electric printheads, the inks yield full production, high quality crock-fastness upon drying and excellent wash-fastness after post-treating in an oven or calender.

Artistri Brite inks have been developed primarily for direct-to-garment digital printing and specially designed for direct-to-garment decorators and fulfilment houses wanting to move to digital printing but needing a faster, more reliable, process that provides high quality and repeatability. Using these inks significantly improves colour range and everyday direct-to-garment printing production repeatability, to significantly streamline workflow. Artistri Brite inks support the next generation industrial printers that print up to 3X faster.

Artistri Solar Brite inks have been developed for digital printing onto SolarMax UV-resistant fabrics. They provide excellent colour saturation and penetration and superior light- and water-fastness, making them ideal for outdoor applications. Artistri inks, printable on a full range of fabrics, offer brilliant colours, sharp image quality and reliable jetting performance. Backed by a comprehensive printhead warranty when used with the verified range of printheads, DuPont provides technical and colour support for clients making the move across to the Artistri range.

[www.qualityprintservices.com](http://www.qualityprintservices.com)



*Artistri Solar Brite inks have been developed for digital printing onto SolarMax UV-resistant fabrics.*



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# LARGE FORMAT TEXTILE Feature

## Soft touch

By Jack Gocher

**Everywhere you look in the printing industry you will find somebody telling you it's never been so easy to get into digital textile printing and in doing so you will reap huge profits and great rewards while at the same time saving the planet, because textiles are a sustainable and biodegradable material.**

Despite having to be postponed until March 2021, Sign & Digital UK will still have the TextileTech area it was planning to launch this year. Event Director, Jenny Matthew says, "This is an exciting new initiative for Sign & Digital UK and we will be hosting several of the key players in the digital printing textile market. By the time we are able to run the show, the market will be more than ready to ramp up activity and visitors will be able to see all the latest developments and technologies that will be available to them."

The market for digital textile printing is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18.29% until 2021, and the global textile printing machines market size is expected to reach \$13,988 million by 2025. This makes the textile industry one of the world's largest industries, representing some 30 billion square metres of material volume on a worldwide annual basis. Therefore, it will come as no surprise to learn that textile printing is also becoming the next big thing



*Sign & Digital UK is an ideal place for learning more about digital textile printing*

with sign makers and commercial printing companies looking to add additional services and revenue to their businesses.

For the majority of PSPs soft signage (where you can print directly onto a range of fabric materials to produce flags, banners and display items for indoor/outdoor applications) is the most popular textile printing process, driven by not only the availability and ease of use of new printers and fabrics, but by customer demand too. Brands and retailers are increasingly choosing fabrics over traditional PVC based graphics, and this growing trend makes soft signage a key application for print providers to consider.

Matthew continues, "What makes soft signage so attractive is there are no great barriers to entry to this particular sector. All you need is either a 3.2m or 5m wide UV-LED roll-to-roll printer and a willing customer for your products. This should not be too difficult to find because brands are increasingly turning towards soft signage over PVC graphics. One reason for this is environmental. Fabrics will break down faster and can be recycled and the majority of high street brands are now moving toward the adoption of fabrics over PVC materials."

She continues, "To be successful in any market you need to do a fair amount of market research and be prepared to undertake some training, not just about the many varied printing processes available, but also with product manufacturing. But fear not, because this is exactly what Sign & Digital UK is here for. We developed the TextileTech area, our new digital textile and print finishing zone, in direct response to demand from visitors to the show."

Jenny Matthew concludes, "Designed to be a learning zone for visitors, TextileTech will highlight the opportunities available to those wanting to access this new and lucrative market. It will showcase applications and training for interior décor and soft furnishings and provide equipment demonstrations and play host to an array of skills workshops and expert industry speakers. We look forward to launching this again when SDUK returns in March 2021."

[www.signuk.com](http://www.signuk.com)



Visitors looking forward to Sign & Digital UK returning in March 2021



# Quality framing to boost textile signage

Silicon Edge Graphics (SEG) has been a display framing technology that has been around for some years, although nobody really knows who invented or created them. Mike Horsten, Founder of TexSmart, explains, "There were multiple players in Europe that started with the frames all around the same time. The search was for an alternative to the then common heavy weighted Tarpaulin frames from graphic supply companies around the world. For SEG frames I know that at least 4 companies in Europe were at the forefront of this revolution including my own company at the time, Corporate Solutions in the Netherlands."

The only technology left that worked was UV ink, as it would dry directly on the fabric after curing



He continues, "When I made my first SEG frame it was at the end of the 1999 beginning 2000. So, we are talking about something that has been around for over 20 years. Why is it only now that we really start seeing them more and everybody is talking about them. Well you have to look a bit back in the history to understand the importance of the development."



Example of backlit fabric and frameless light box



# LARGE FORMAT TEXTILE Feature

## Early days of digital textile

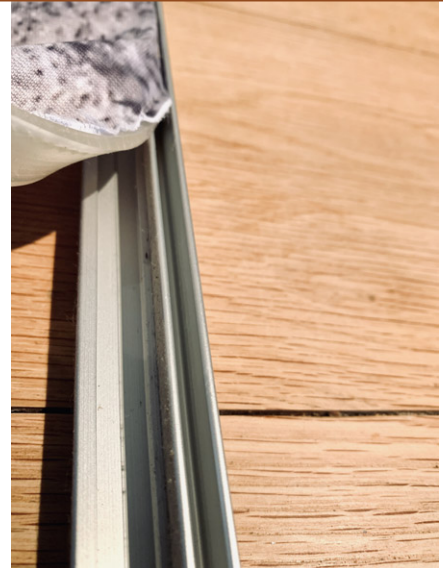
When the first PSP's started playing with textiles it was a very special proposition. Most of the print service providers were printing their posters and banners with Solvent, water-based pigment or this new ink called UV-Curing. The problem with some of these inks is that the color was not really good on textiles, it looked great on banners and posters, but not on fabric. The reason for this was simple, the inks would penetrate into the fabrics and it would look really dull. Also drying of Solvent inks and/or water-based inks on fabrics was an accomplishment to say the least. The only technology left that worked was UV ink, as it would dry directly on the fabric after curing. The disadvantage for UV at the time was that it was not very flexible, so cracking of the ink on a fabric was something you had to live with. Adoption was low, because the benefit of using fabrics was not enough.

Horsten adds, "There was however a problem. The placement of these vinyl murals and banners was very labour intensive and expensive. The staff of most stores had no clue how to mount such a



big piece of sticky plastic. Even if they could, bubbles, scratches and deformations were something you had to accept as a retail outlet. Banners were easier to work with, but still very hard to hang straight. Even paper posters were always a hassle because they would get wrinkles in them or placing them correctly was a challenge. The result, installers had to come in and place the new images, a huge cost factor."

The dilemma of the retail marketing departments was not only cost but also



Selling SEG frames  
and the fabric  
content makes it  
a product you will  
love to make and  
love to sell



*Creating an SEG framed image is simple and quick*



how to get their message out and mount it in the stores in a professional but easy way. This is where fabrics came in, they are easy to transport, as you need no big tubes or containers to carry textiles. Sending a small box with the fabric via courier should do the trick. SEG Fabrics in particular are lightweight and they are cheap to distribute. The added benefit was that they could be mounted much more easily by the local store staff, so that all stores would get the new promo items at the same time.

Mike Horsten concludes, "Selling SEG frames and the fabric content makes it a product you will love to make and love to sell. As well as all the benefits of working with a lighter, easier to install material, the products are much more sustainable and better for the environment, which is something all companies should be working towards."

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## R A Smart offers revolutionary textile display systems

Digital dye-sublimation printing is undergoing a revolution. Macclesfield based R A Smart is the exclusive UK and Ireland specialist reseller for the HP Stitch range of dye-sublimation printers. These printers can deliver super-fast and predictable colour matching either via transfer or direct-to-fabric methods from one single device, with a range of compatible applications for man-made polyester based fabrics including sportswear, fashion, interior décor and soft signage.

Many commercial printers have already made the move into wide-format inkjet printing, and as such taking the next step into the textile arena will be quite straightforward as the workflows, interfaces and operator skills are almost identical



According to managing director Magnus Mighall, "R A Smart has been at the forefront of digital printing textile technology since the early pioneering days of the late 1990's and can rightly claim to be experts in the supply and support of dedicated textile digital print solutions, partnering with the leading equipment manufacturers and installing the latest systems throughout the UK. Many commercial printers have already made the move into wide-format inkjet printing, and as such taking the next

step into the textile arena will be quite straightforward as the workflows, interfaces and operator skills are almost identical."

### The HP Stitch Range

The Stitch S series range comprises the 64" HP Stitch S300, which was designed specifically for new-to-dye sublimation professionals, prototyping departments, and growing print providers. The HP Stitch S500 Printer was designed specifically for high production sites, and the larger 126" HP Stitch S1000 is a super-wide dye-sublimation production printer designed for high performance.

Each printer in the S series range couples HP's latest thermal head technology with industry-standard dyes for superior colour durability and a built-in spectrophotometer to enable fast and exact colour matching. "The internal spectrophotometer is a fantastic added value benefit," says Mr. Mighall. "With it you can monitor and achieve the same colour consistency across a whole fleet of HP Stitch printers. However, it is with colour profiling where the biggest gains are to be made and the HP Stitch series has the fastest colour profiling capability of any machine on the market. We have conducted tests using HP SmartColor software where we have automatically colour calibrated a new material to be printed in under an hour."





According to Mighall the biggest advantage for users of thermal head technology over Piezo is minimal operator interference.

"The biggest, most obvious advantage of this new technology from the user's perspective is the way that HP has designed user-replaceable printheads that can be swapped over in minutes. It means you do not have to battle with the deterioration of head quality over time before it fails and causes down time. The way HP has engineered the platforms means its performance is monitored and then replaced as simply as you would with an ink cartridge. When this is done, the new head will print a colour block to profile it and to align the printhead correctly. The entire process will take a matter of minutes, and you don't need a service engineer to do it."

## Fabric tension systems

He continues, "Fabric tension framing systems have become one of the fastest growing sectors within retail POS, exhibition graphics and the soft signage industry. REXframe allows textiles to be utilised in more innovative and exciting

ways including light box applications for retail, exhibition stands, office re-fits, major sporting and cultural events, or outdoor advertising campaigns."

REXframe can be custom designed or shaped to fit any space, or it can be wall mounted, freestanding, suspended, or used to build an entire structure. It can be single sided, double sided or cubed, or teamed with LED lighting, backlit or spotlight.

Furthermore it can securely support digital signage systems such as LED display units.

"The beauty of REXframe lies in its simplicity," concludes Mighall. "It's incredibly easy to assemble; easy to change graphics; and because it is made from lightweight aluminium it's also very easy to ship."

[www.rasmart.co.uk](http://www.rasmart.co.uk)



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## YPS helping business start-ups in digital textile

Later this year, Your Print Specialists (YPS) will be launching a nationwide initiative designed to attract industry experts' manufacturers, educators and students to come together to enable digital printmaking. Your Print Institute will be collaborating with like-minded creative centres such as Anthony Devine's Print Society in Manchester and Autumn Down in London, with many more planned in the future. The scheme gives people the opportunity to join a range of training courses and receive industry-specific business advice from experienced professionals.

"We are offering these beginner bundles in a range of sizes and costs to suit all start-ups."

These Hubs will be established, rolled out and developed throughout the UK, with each one having its own particular skill sets to strengthen the community. The hubs are relaxed and friendly where makers, creatives and new start-ups can come to learn all aspects of the industry and how to build a viable business within it.

### Your Print Institute's Ambassadors

The first ambassadors will be Anthony Devine – Creative Director and founder, Ministry of Upholstery and Amrit Sagoo – CEO, Autumn Down. Anthony Devine has worked in the furniture and upholstery industry for more than twenty years. Anthony's passion and experience has been the catalyst for opening a modern, forward-thinking learning environment for those looking to gain valuable practical hands-on experience, whilst learning about the craftsmanship of upholstery in a workshop environment. Autumn Down have been soft furnishing suppliers for over 25 years. Amrit has extensive knowledge and experience of creating beautiful bespoke soft furnishings from locally sourced fabrics.



Ministry of Upholstery's famous Union Jack chair displayed at Sign & Digital UK 2019

Georgia Brown, Sales Director for YPS, says, "We are very proud to be introducing this new initiative designed to help accelerate ideas, inspire and invent in a marketplace with huge potential. We have brought together experts from within the industry who will help and support people with how to print and be profitable within dye sublimation. They will look at the skills needed to create products and make available the skillsets and equipment needed to succeed, with minimal outlay and maximise the investment."

### 'Business in a Box'

To support an emerging market and help start-ups become business ready, YPS has launched the 'Business in a Box' solution. This exclusive bundle includes the latest Epson F500 sublimation printer, a TYSEW Lockstitch Sewing machine, an Adkins heat press, software and a starter kit of inks, threads and transfer paper.

Brown concludes, "We are offering these beginner bundles in a range of sizes and costs to suit all start-ups. We will be announcing the launch of the first of our Print Hubs in Newcastle, Manchester and London where people can learn more about how these solutions can support their business as well as receive specific advice to help them create and grow their companies."

[www.yourprintspecialists.co.uk](http://www.yourprintspecialists.co.uk)



YPS's Business in a Box solution for versatile textile printing



# Mimaki leads on textile

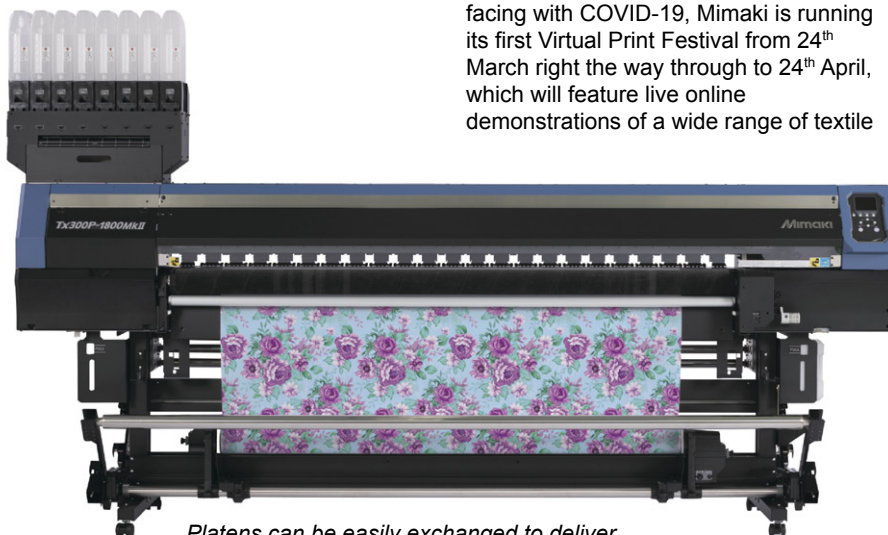
Mimaki has long been synonymous with digital textile printing with the company's first digital textile printer – the Mimaki TX-1600S – launched in 1998. Since then Mimaki has continued to innovate, enhancing its portfolio and capabilities even further in the digital textile printing industry.

The latest addition to Mimaki's textile line-up is a hybrid digital textile printer designed with versatility at its core; The Mimaki TX300P-1800 MkII enables both direct-to-textile and transfer printing, with interchangeable platens and three different ink combinations – providing unrivalled flexibility within a single system and opening new doors for print service providers.

Brett Newman, Chief Operations Manager at Hybrid Services, says, "The game-changing Mimaki TX300P-1800 MkII delivers to businesses an affordable streamlined single-system solution for printing on both paper and textile, but also provides print service providers with the versatility to continue exploring different substrates and applications as they grow their businesses into the future."

## Switching from direct to transfer

The ability of the Mimaki Tx300P-1800 MkII to switch between direct-to-textile and transfer printing is enabled by its interchangeable platens. When printing direct-to-textile, excess ink penetrated through the fabric is drained by a platen with an ink-receiving channel. When printing on heat transfer paper however, this platen can be quickly and easily exchanged for a vacuum platen



*Platens can be easily exchanged to deliver the switch between direct and transfer*



*The Mimaki Tx300P-1800 MkII can switch between direct-to-textile and transfer printing*

needed for paper printing – without the need for service engineers. The hybrid printer is also able to facilitate either a traditional one-way ink set, configured with any one of five ink types, as well as various combinations of inks, providing unparalleled flexibility. Users can select from three different ink combinations: textile pigment/direct sublimation, textile pigment/sublimation transfer, or direct sublimation/sublimation transfer – to provide the best results across various applications.

Newman continues, "As an innovative response to the difficult situation the printing industry, and the world at large is facing with COVID-19, Mimaki is running its first Virtual Print Festival from 24<sup>th</sup> March right the way through to 24<sup>th</sup> April, which will feature live online demonstrations of a wide range of textile

Mimaki's response to the situation we're all facing with Coronavirus is ingenious and we know it will be vital over the coming weeks for the printing industry in the UK and Ireland

kit, including the new TX300P-1800 MkII. Viewers will be able to take part in live chat sessions with Mimaki experts, virtual showroom tours and take advantage of special promotions, all from the comfort of their own home."

He concludes, "Mimaki's response to the situation we're all facing with Coronavirus is ingenious and we know it will be vital over the coming weeks for the printing industry in the UK and Ireland. The Hybrid team will be supporting the 5-week event, with fresh content and inspiration being regularly uploaded to the Hybrid YouTube channel over the coming weeks, giving textile printers, or those considering diversifying into this growing area of the market, the chance to explore their options."

[www.hybrid-services.co.uk](http://www.hybrid-services.co.uk)



## Removable vinyl covers Emmerdale bus at Leeds Pride

The Leeds Pride parade featured an open-top double-decker bus wrapped for the occasion by the team behind Emmerdale's on-screen graphics, using Drytac SpotOn. The Scenic Design Department, part of ITV Studios, installed a Roland TrueVIS VG2 printer/cutter in summer 2019, supplied by Sabur Inks along with Drytac SpotOn for use with the new system. This 4 mil (100µ) high quality, ink receptive printable vinyl is enhanced with Drytac's 'dot pattern' adhesive that enables simple, bubble-free application and easy and clean removal.

These features are "ideally suited" to the work done by the Emmerdale in-house graphics team, who work with the art and production directors to design and produce all printed work seen on-screen including sets, retail signage, advertising posters, vehicle graphics, menus and paperwork handled by the actors and beer pumps in The Woolpack pub. This work has to be of high quality as it will be seen by millions of viewers but completed quickly and is typically very short term.



*Existing graphics on the bus had to remain intact once the temporary wrap was removed*



*The Leeds Pride parade featured an open-top double-decker bus wrapped for the occasion using Drytac SpotOn*

"Our graphics may only be in place for a day - a week at most - and are often applied over existing signage or vehicle graphics that must remain intact after ours are removed," explains ITV Studios graphic artist Ian Sykes. "We went to Sign and Digital UK in April 2019 in search of a low-tac and removable product and several people recommended Drytac SpotOn. When we bought the new Roland printer it was an opportunity to try it out."

The ITV team's first project using SpotOn was the Emmerdale-sponsored Pride bus, which took to the streets of Leeds on 4 August 2019 in temperatures up to 28°C. A sightseeing bus hired for the event, its existing graphics had to remain undamaged after the temporary graphics (LGBT+ rainbow flag with the Emmerdale and ITV logos) were removed.

"We used 3m x 1,300mm sheets of Drytac SpotOn to cover virtually the entire bus with graphics," says Ian Sykes.

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## ArtSystem's Wide Open Print Forum moves online

Given the increasing impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on trade shows and events, plus the updated advice from Government recommending social distancing, ArtSystems has announced a change in proceedings for its Wide Open Print Forum. The Décor event, which was due to take place 8 April at London Bridge, will now be replaced with a series of live webinars exploring the core content due to be delivered.

Sales & marketing director Russell Harpham explains: "We could see that in the current climate it was simply not practical or recommended to continue with the planned event. However, we still have valuable content prepared and ready to share; this is clearly a sector of keen interest. Supported by BPIF and LFR, in collaboration with our key speakers from HP and Dimense, we have created a series of webinars which will provide access to the same knowledge and information in a safe and easily-accessible way."

In the first webinar ArtSystems will not only showcase lucrative business opportunities arising from décor application but will address ways to break down the barriers facing print providers who wish to enter or expand their presence in the décor sector. Taking place on 23 April between 10.30am and 11.15am, the webinar will focus on



*The Décor event will now be replaced with a series of live webinars exploring the core content due to be delivered.*

wall covering and décor media substrates enabled with ColorPRO Technology.

Maria Jesus Perez, large format media marketing product manager and Ivan Cruz, partner marketing manager, HP Media Supplies and Solutions, will

elaborate on the market they service and solutions they provide. There will be a full Q&A session at the end of the webinar for attendees to gain further insight.

To join the webinar or for further details visit [www.eventregistration.artsystems.co.uk](http://www.eventregistration.artsystems.co.uk)

## Sign & Digital UK 2020 suspended until March 2021

Sign & Digital UK 2020 (SDUK), due to take place at Birmingham's NEC on 28-30 April 2020, has been suspended and moved to 2-4 March 2021. Amanda Barnes, CEO of Faversham House, organiser of SDUK says: "We have been



*SDUK has been moved to 2-4 March 2021.*

closely monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and the related Government guidelines. After careful consideration, having spoken with many people involved in our event, we have decided to suspend SDUK 2020. The health, safety and wellbeing of our SDUK community is our priority.

"SDUK is a much-loved annual outing for the whole industry to get together. We're proud of the trust the industry place in SDUK having successfully served it for over 30 years. If the outbreak continues to escalate as the Government is predicting, we believe visitor footfall and exhibitor attendance will be significantly affected and so it is unlikely we will be able to deliver the great event the industry looks forward to. We are acutely aware of the impact this announcement will have and

have taken this pragmatic decision acting quickly to minimise any unnecessary costs and business uncertainty. One of our principal company values is we care: we love what we do and we do what's right and we feel moving SDUK is the right thing to do in the current circumstances.

"We have been in close contact with the NEC over the past few weeks and can confirm the show will go ahead in March 2021 in halls 17 and 18. We thank everyone for their patience and understanding and are now in conversation with all those involved following this decision. Most importantly, we wish to extend our thoughts and best wishes to all those personally affected by the Coronavirus."

[www.signuk.com](http://www.signuk.com)





## Roland Academy makes training even more accessible in 2020

Roland Academy has had a strong start to the year offering new courses, training centre and remote and onsite training options for individuals or groups. Established in 2006, the Academy offers workshops, courses and online assistance. In addition to providing in-depth training on Roland systems, the Academy gives delegates new skills and practical experience to help them grow their businesses.

The new Academy site is centrally located at the headquarters of Vivid Laminating Technologies. This partnership furthers Roland's longstanding relationship with the company. This facility comprises a training room and expansive showroom space with a range of print and finishing equipment, with on-site parking and nearby hotels for attendees planning an overnight stay.

"We're delighted to announce our Roland Academy training site at Vivid Laminating, supplier of some of the highest-rated print finishing equipment on the market," comments trainer Ollie Bishop. "Situated in the heart of the country, the Academy is more accessible to our UK-wide customer base and gives us a platform to provide



*The new Academy site is located at the headquarters of Vivid Laminating Technologies.*

training to even more customers in 2020. The world of digital print is moving really fast and it's probably even faster in Roland, which is why we want to give delegates the most up-to-date and relevant training available."

To create a more inclusive service, Roland

Academy has launched two one-to-one training options: on-site sessions conducted by Roland Academy trainers or online personalised live video training which can be joined from anywhere with an internet connection.

[www.rolanddg.co.uk](http://www.rolanddg.co.uk)

## Print Futures Awards opens for entries

The Printing Charity has launched its 2020 Print Futures Awards giving people aged 18-30 the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £1,500 to support their personal and workplace development to progress in their careers in the UK printing, paper, publishing, packaging, and graphic arts sectors.

The Printing Charity wants to hear from people working in UK print-related organisations looking to develop their practical and personal workplace skills, studying for sector specific qualifications or those with clear plans in place to take their first step into the sector.

Chief executive Neil Lovell says: "This year we'd like to hear from people who are keen to develop their presentation skills, problem solving and leadership. These are often overlooked but can make a real difference to someone's development.



*2019 Print Futures Awards winners with chief executive Neil Lovell.*

"We know the sector has some great rising stars and Print Futures is the perfect opportunity for companies to support them in their application and for the winners to

be recognised for their achievements at our awards event in July."

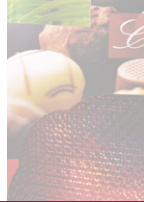
Applicants need to be UK residents aged 18-30 at the time of application. They will need to have a clear plan of how a grant would help them develop their career and include details of the training they want to do, costs and timings. The grants cannot be used to pay for employers' own staff training costs.

Apply at [www.theprintingcharity.org.uk/education-and-partnerships/print-futures-awards/](http://www.theprintingcharity.org.uk/education-and-partnerships/print-futures-awards/) by 26 April 2020.

Interviews for shortlisted applicants will be held in May and June when they will have the opportunity to expand on their application and why an award would make a difference.

[www.theprintingcharity.org.uk](http://www.theprintingcharity.org.uk)





# ITC adopts environmentally-friendly packaging for its cutting tools

As part of its commitment to the environment, sustainability and social responsibility, Industrial Tooling Corporation (ITC) says it has become the first UK cutting tool manufacturer to adopt Bio-HDPE packaging which uses 100% recyclable materials.

ITC manufactures hundreds of thousands of cutting tools annually using the most technologically advanced and carbon neutral solutions available and while the performance of its tools provide environmental benefits to customers, the issue of plastic recycling and disposal has been problematic until its longstanding packaging partner Rose Plastic developed a new range of BlockPack and TwistPack Plus Tubes produced from environmentally friendly bioplastic.

The new biopolymer plastic is produced using ethanol from sugarcane as opposed to conventional polyethylene, maintaining 97% of the chemical properties of conventional HDPE. This ensures that the packaging retains its performance and appearance characteristics while offering 100% recyclability and sustainability. Jo Buck says: "Rose Plastic is fully

committed to its environmental responsibilities and the Bio-HDPE packaging we are manufacturing has environmental benefits throughout the supply chain. This includes a 14% reduction on materials used in the BlockPack range, huge absorption of CO2 throughout the production process and even the Sugar Cane Bagasse residue is recycled to replace conventional energy



*Bio-HDPE packaging uses 100% recyclable materials.*

sources. This is our most environmentally friendly packaging yet and we are delighted to now have a completely new range of sustainable Bio-HDPE packaging solutions available for 2020."

ITC's marketing manager Georgia Graves comments: "As a business we have long been committed to reducing our carbon footprint and in recent years instigated a range of measures to significantly reduce our oil and fluid consumption. We have introduced new machine tools and technologies that have reduced our power consumption drastically and our recycling programme is extremely comprehensive. We are committed to our social and environmental responsibilities and having a long-term supplier like Rose Plastic develop this new packaging is another step forward in our journey to becoming carbon neutral.

"The Bio-HDPE packaging we have adopted from Rose Plastic meets all of our rigorous quality, aesthetics and performance needs while further enhancing our environmental objectives."

[www.itc-ltd.co.uk](http://www.itc-ltd.co.uk)

## British Sign Awards returns to the Athena

The 2020 British Sign Awards will be presented at a Gala Celebration event to be held at the Athena in Leicester City Centre on Thursday, 12 November.

"The Athena has been home to the Awards for the past three years and following last year's fantastic event, which received universal acclaim from both sponsors and participants, we felt we should return to the venue which has provided such a fabulous backdrop to our celebration of UK sign making," says Ray Hirst, who created the Awards in 2013 and, together with a small team, has run them ever since.

"The British Sign Awards are now established as one of the premier events in the sign industry's calendar and our experience over the past six years means that we have everything in place to continue to make them more successful and meaningful. There is one big

difference this year. In the past, the Awards have been run under the banner of a trade association but going forward they will be totally independent.



*The 2020 Awards will return to the Athena which hosted the 2019 event.*

"As a fully independent scheme we feel we can reach out to many more of the estimated 4000 sign businesses across the UK and provide everyone with an opportunity to have their work recognised. We will continue to run the award categories we have established over the past few years, with the addition of a new Green Award which is designed to recognise the efforts of sign businesses to meet their environmental responsibilities."

The first call for entries to this year's awards will go out shortly and closing date for entries will be Friday 12 September. Full details and entry forms can be found on the Awards standalone website. To provide a level playing field for all, entries will be judged by a panel of independent UK experts without involvement from any vested interests.

[www.britishsignawards.org](http://www.britishsignawards.org)





## YPS further strengthens digital textile printing offering

Your Print Specialists' (YPS) has signed an agreement with Epson to resell the SureColor SC-F series of dye-sublimation printers. YPS will add the full range of products to its digital textile printing portfolio and demonstration models will be based at its showroom.

Sales director Georgia Brown comments: "The Epson range fits perfectly within our existing range of direct to textile and dye-sub printing, finishing and service solutions, making YPS one of the leading companies in this exciting and fast growing sector. We have already introduced an innovative approach to the market through our development of a Digital Textile Print Community in collaboration with industry ambassadors, which provides opportunities for skill based learning to students and potential entrepreneurs. Our relationship with Epson means we can extend these opportunities throughout the UK and we aim to launch our Your Print Institute Newcastle Hub at Sign & Digital UK.

"We always want to deliver the very best for our customers and this is what they get with Epson. The printers are unrivalled in terms of reliability, excellent performance and low running costs. In addition, the UltraChrome DS Inks ensure vibrant output and the superior printhead



*Your Print Specialists' (YPS) has signed an agreement with Epson to resell the SureColor SC-F series of dye-sublimation printers.*

technology means minimal downtime and maximum productivity."

Phil McMullin, Pro Graphics sales manager at Epson UK, says: "We are pleased to announce YPS as an approved value add partner for our dye sublimation printers, the Epson SureColor SC-F series. YPS has a deep knowledge of the textile market developed over many years

and an enviable reputation for integrity when advising customers as well as providing excellent support and backup."

An Epson F500 has been installed at YPS' showroom in Newcastle. To book a demonstration visit YPS website or email [georgia@yourprintspecialists.co.uk](mailto:georgia@yourprintspecialists.co.uk).

[www.yourprintspecialists.co.uk](http://www.yourprintspecialists.co.uk)

## Guide to running print and cut business



To help Roland users navigate its growing catalogue, the company has released the *Roland guide to print and cut*. This guide covers every aspect of running a print-and-cut business from basic concepts all the way to choosing the most suitable device. Prospective business owners can get an idea of the investment needed to get started in this field while existing print service providers can find inspiration for product diversification.

Instead of merely producing signage and labels, the guide demonstrates how easy it is to branch into additional applications including vehicle wraps and garment decoration, with additional inspiration in the form of Roland DG customer case studies.

"As a company which deals with several

print and cut solutions, we've recognised the need for a high level guide to this versatile technology," says Joe Wigzell, Roland DG (UK)'s academy and creative centre manager.

"Given the growing popularity of these devices, there are a lot of new players entering the market without the background knowledge to help them make a wise investment. With this guide, we hope we have created a valuable resource for both beginners and print veterans."

The Guide can be downloaded free of charge from the Roland DG website and Roland's product specialists are always on hand to discuss specific needs and business challenges.

[www.rolanddg.co.uk](http://www.rolanddg.co.uk)



# ISA-UK Sign & Print Awards 2020 date and venue announced

The ISA-UK Sign & Print Awards gala event will take place on 25 November 2020 at the Hilton Deansgate in Manchester. This is the only awards event for the sign, graphics and visual communications sector endorsed by the sector's leading trade association ISA-UK, formerly known as the British Sign & Graphics Association.

This is a new awards scheme for the entire UK sign, print and visual communications sector. Run "by the industry, for the industry", the awards are free to enter and open to sign and print companies and suppliers of all sizes: companies do not have to be members of ISA-UK. As a not-for-profit organisation, all the money ISA-UK makes is invested back into delivering resources, training and events that help everyone in the sector to thrive.

"The ISA-UK Sign & Print Awards has been designed to reflect the creativity, diversity and professionalism of today's sign, print and visual communications sector," says director David Catanach. "We have consulted with a range of industry influencers - non-members and members - to create an awards scheme that is relevant, ambitious and aspirational; offering an opportunity for people and businesses from across the industry to showcase their work, network



*Run "by the industry, for the industry", the awards are open to sign and print companies and suppliers of all sizes.*

with colleagues and celebrate everything that makes the signage community so fantastic. We've selected the Hilton Deansgate Manchester as the venue because it is a stylish and contemporary venue which chimes with the modern face of our sector. The gala event will start with a champagne reception at 5pm and conclude at around midnight; offering a full evening of networking, dining and entertainment for guests and sponsors. Tickets cost £75."

The UK Sign & Print Awards 2020 will feature 17 awards categories spanning project work, business excellence and individual achievement.

Entries for all categories will be open in June 2020 and more information on the judging criteria and awards timetable will be announced soon.

All judging is carried out by an independent panel of experts and the names of businesses and individuals are redacted to ensure impartiality.

Sponsorship packages for the awards are now available to purchase, offering businesses of all sizes and disciplines an opportunity to promote themselves to colleagues within the sign, print and visual communications sector. For more information email [awards@uksigns.org](mailto:awards@uksigns.org).

"There will be no headline sponsor at the ISA-UK Sign & Print Awards," concludes David. "Instead we have created a range of packages that offer genuine value for money whatever the sponsor's budget, with opportunities for brand building and sponsorship maximisation throughout the year, as well as at the gala event itself."

[www.uksigns.org](http://www.uksigns.org)

## Drytac Europe achieves ISO certifications

Drytac Europe has achieved two significant ISO certification standards, demonstrating its commitment to quality and environmental management. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has recognised Drytac Europe with certifications for both ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015. The first sets out the criteria for a quality management system based on principles including a strong focus on customers and a dedication to constant improvement, ensuring Drytac provides the best quality products and service.

ISO 14001:2015 sets out a framework for an effective environmental management system. This certificate assures customers that Drytac is committed to measuring and improving its environmental impact across its European operations.



*Drytac Europe has achieved two significant ISO certification standards, demonstrating its commitment to quality and environmental management.*

Operations director Douglas Jackson comments: "We're delighted to announce Drytac Europe is certified for these important ISO standards. They give our valued customers even more assurance

that Drytac's products and services are the highest quality and that we are continually improving our ecological impact."

[www.drytac.com](http://www.drytac.com)





## 3M certifies Colorado and UVgel 460 ink

3M has certified Canon's Colorado 1650 and UVgel 460 ink with its Performance Guarantee after testing on a wide range of media. This certification proves that applications printed on the Colorado 1650 in combination with 3M's approved media achieve the highest quality standards.

The Colorado 1650 printer is an award-winning roll-to-roll printer featuring a flexible yet robust ink set and FLXfinish, a new approach to LED curing which allows the user to choose between matte or gloss modes for each individual print. This means customers can achieve different aesthetic finishes without the need to change inks or media, says Canon.

The Colorado 1650 is recognised by customers for being able to print a wide variety of different applications, both for indoor and outdoor use.



*3M certified Canon's Colorado 1650 and UVgel 460 ink with its Performance Guarantee after testing.*

Canon has worked closely together with 3M on securing the quality and performance of UVgel prints on a broad range of 3M media.

"When we started developing our breakthrough UVgel technology, it was our

ambition to combine all advantages of the existing ink technologies into one solution and offer our customers the opportunity to work with the widest range of media possible", says Dirk Brouns, vice president large format graphics at Canon Production Printing. It is great to see that media manufacturer 3M has certified UVgel ink and Colorado 1650 prints with the 3M Performance Guarantee, demonstrating that our customers can consistently achieve high quality and reliable prints.

"Our ever-growing customer base is rapidly adopting UVgel as their preferred technology, both for media that are widely used today, as well as emerging categories of the future such as PVC-free print media."

[www.3m.com](http://www.3m.com)

## Soyang reassures customers about stock availability

In light of global challenges around coronavirus COVID-19, Soyang Europe is seeking to reassure the industry and its customers about its stock availability.

"It has been a difficult time for our friends and partners over in China in relation to the Coronavirus COVID-19," said Soyang Europe's managing director, Mark Mashiter on 11 March. "However, we want to reassure all of our customers that our UK distribution centre currently has a stockholding of over 1.5 million square metres of material. Our stocks are controlled through an integrated

management system which always factors in factory closures so we always have a buffer of 2-3 weeks with overstocks on fast running materials in case of spikes in business. It is for this reason and the efficiencies of our Chinese colleagues that our stock levels have not been affected during this difficult time."

Since the Soyang Technologies factory returned from the Chinese New Year, six containers with approximately 207,000m<sup>2</sup> of material have already left China.

"Over the past few months, owing to our

great government control and medical measures, the industrial chain in China has recovered and our productivity achieved more than 95%," says Lisa Li, marketing manager at Soyang Technologies. "So far, no employee here is infected with the virus. Your orders are guaranteed both in time and quality."

The strength of Soyang Europe lies in its capacity to hold vast amounts of stock in its UK distribution centre, guaranteeing uninterrupted supply of its extensive product portfolio, which is available on a next day delivery as standard.



*Soyang Europe's UK distribution centre currently has stockholding of over 1.5 million square metres of material.*

"We are proactive with our supply chain and have guaranteed container space on ships booked for months in advance," continues Mark. "It is this forward planning along with stockholding that ensures continuity of product and service."

Soyang Europe's portfolio includes a wide selection of European manufactured printable materials which continue to arrive on a weekly basis, ensuring there is no interruption to supply. The business will focus on its PVC-free range over the coming months, with new additions to its environmentally friendly printable textiles display materials including blackout, backlit, 100% recycled polyesters and flag.

[www.soyang.co.uk](http://www.soyang.co.uk)



# TrueVIS upgrade delivers ink savings

Roland DG EMEA is offering up to 50% off your conversion kit (includes first set of inks) when you upgrade your current TrueVIS device to new TR2 ink. From the moment you upgrade, you'll start to benefit from ink savings of up to 20%, says Roland. This upgrade enables "super-fast job turnaround times with prints ready to laminate and immediately finish in just six hours for true same day installation. Your customers can be assured of long-lasting print results with the 3M MCS Warranty for the VG with TR2 inks and Avery Dennison ICS Performance Guarantee for both the VG and SG with TR2 inks".

TR2 ink is said to deliver impressive versatility on flexible media with up to 200% stretch and enhanced adhesion for vehicle wraps and graphics and is "ideal for textile decoration applications" such as customised apparel, providing increased



*Roland DG EMEA is offering up to 50% off your conversion kit when you upgrade your current TrueVIS device to new TR2 ink.*

adhesion on garment films and unmatched performance when washed. The upgrade gives VG/SG users access to enhanced print and cut functionalities, automated maintenance capabilities and productivity features. This offer supports customers in

their move to TR2 ink in advance of the discontinuation of TR ink; last shipping date for customers in EMEA is 30 November 2020.

[www.rolanddg.co.uk](http://www.rolanddg.co.uk)

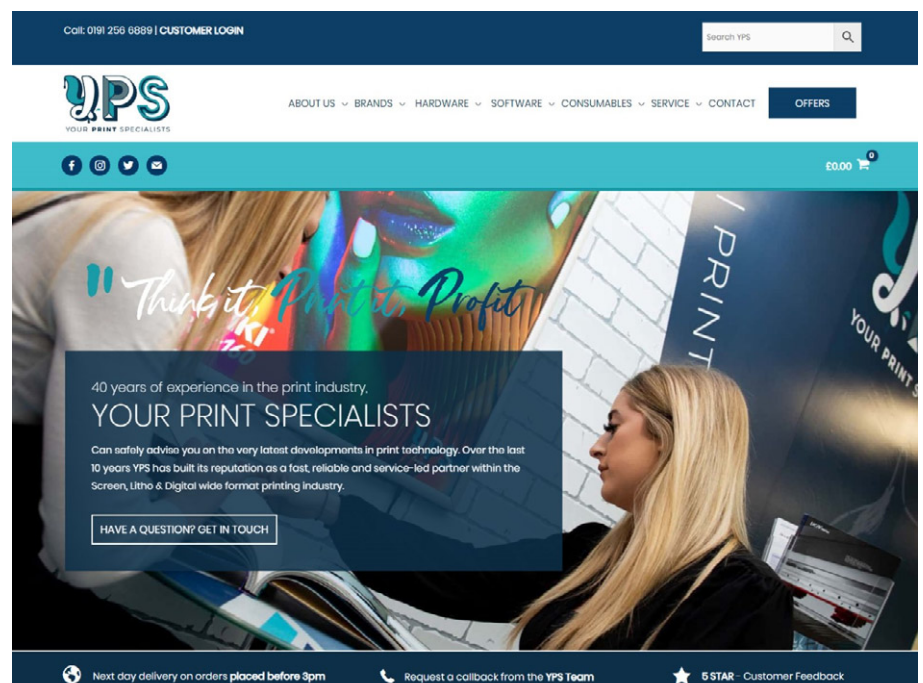
# YPS website include e-commerce area

Your Print Specialists (YPS) has announced a new website which includes an e-commerce area, initially dedicated to the company's core consumables. The site provides comprehensive and accessible information on the broad range of wide format digital printing products and services offered by the company.

Marketing manager Lauren Randall comments: "We are delighted with the new website which gives us a fresh, creative space for visitors to learn more about our company and our products. We wanted to provide anyone interested in wide format and textile digital printing with a clear and informative site that represents YPS as the state of the art, friendly and welcoming company it is. Whether it is a first visit to learn about the company or from regular visitors looking for specific product information or to make a purchase, the site is designed to provide a smooth and positive user experience."

The creation of a secure and reliable e-commerce area is an important addition to the site.

"Through a simple and secure login, customers will have immediate access to our ink products, with bespoke pricing, stock levels and offer details all instantly available. This is something our customers have been asking us for and we are delighted to be able to deliver an easy-to-



*The creation of a secure and reliable e-commerce area is an important addition to the site.*

use system that will save time and reduce administration for our customers."

Visitors will be able to learn about the huge range of printing, cutting, finishing and software products that YPS provides.

"We will be able to utilise the site to

announce special offers from our manufacturing partners as well as provide latest news on our own initiatives," concludes Lauren. "The new website will allow us to work more closely and seamlessly with customers and suppliers."

[www.yourprintspecialists.co.uk](http://www.yourprintspecialists.co.uk)





## GMG UK offers remote proofing service

In response to the current COVID-19 crisis, GMG Color UK is providing a remote proofing service to help businesses remain operational.

The colour management company will assist with proofing requirements for those who cannot access large format printers in their premises, on a pay per proof basis. GMG will endeavor to ship within one working day of receiving files.

The complete proofing solution from GMG Color combines GMG's ColorProof software in conjunction with an Epson large format printer and GMG ProofMedia. GMG's remote proofing service can be provided on a variety of media including GMG ProofMedia OBA and Non-OBA in Matte, Semi-Matte, Gloss and Newsproof substrates. Also available for FOGRA39 proofing is the Epson ClearProof film and metallic foil.

When combining GMG's ColorProof software, an Epson large format printer and GMG ProofMedia, the GMG proofing solution "accurately represents over 99% of the Pantone range of colours and produces proofs verified to all industry proofing standards including Fogra, G7 and JapanColor."



*The GMG proofing solution accurately represents over 99% of the Pantone range of colours and produces proofs verified to all industry proofing standards.*

Managing director Karl Gessner comments: "We understand that everyone is experiencing significant disruption in these challenging times and as such, would like to support our valued customers and the industry as a whole in ensuring business continues where possible."

"We are able to facilitate remote proofing using GMG systems in European countries including Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands and would be happy to make introductions."

[www.gmgcolor.com](http://www.gmgcolor.com)

## Display graphics adhesive applications on video

Drytac has released a series of videos giving insight into how it utilises its adhesive science to develop print media, protective films and bonding tapes and how graphics professionals can use them to achieve "outstanding" results. A behind-the-scenes video narrated by CEO Hayden Kelley looks at how the brand

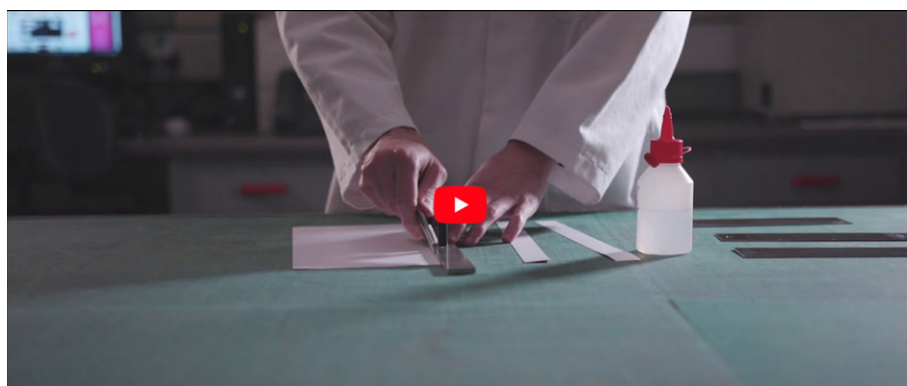
considers the full life cycle of its products from the start of each application to the end. A series of application highlight videos show how Drytac's self-adhesive graphics products can be used.

As a leading international manufacturer of self-adhesive materials for the large format

print and signage markets, each video "informs and inspires" viewers to complete their own projects. An additional film focuses on the Drytac Academy in Bristol which provides an extensive curriculum of training courses for display graphics professionals. It offers the most popular wide-format printing technology from the industry's biggest brands, to offer a comprehensive educational space reflecting real-world workflows. All videos are available on Drytac's YouTube channel and on [Drytac.com](http://Drytac.com), while individual product pages have been updated with the relevant application highlight video.

"We're delighted to release these films giving our customers an insight into the Academy and Drytac as a company," says global marketing manager Amanda Brown. "We're especially excited to provide application highlights for our products, which we hope will help our users achieve fantastic results."

[www.drytac.com](http://www.drytac.com)



*Drytac's series of videos give insight into how the company utilises its adhesive science to develop print media, protective films and bonding tapes.*



# Applelec NeonLux selected for Adobe stand

Held at the Excel, London in January, Bett 2020 focused on the education technology landscape, bringing together over 800 leading companies and more than 34,000 visitors.

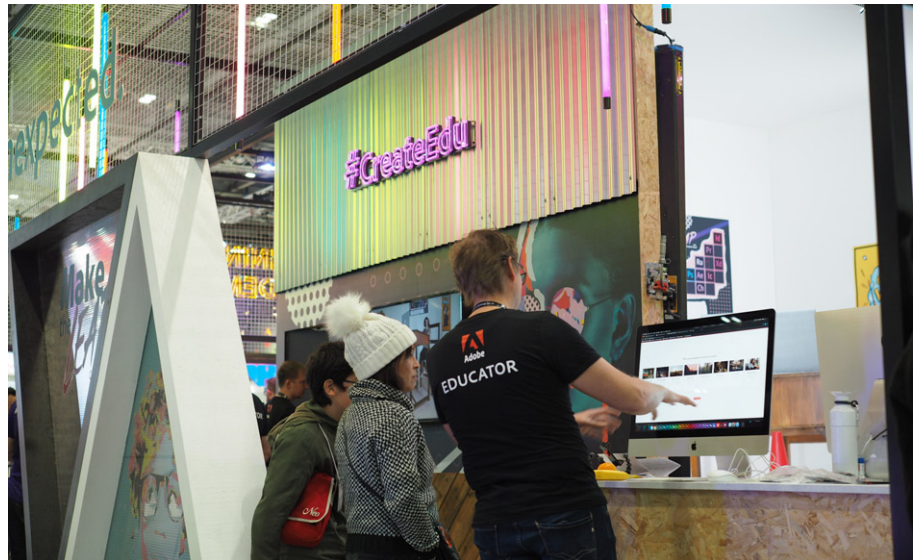
Exhibiting at this year's event, Adobe's mission was to demonstrate how creativity makes the difference in inspiring education and career paths.

In designing the stand, UNLTD\_XYZ interpreted and developed a 3D brand language around Adobe's urban youthful multimedia campaign *Make the Leap*, which encourages young creators to jump into creative processes, take risks and push beyond the expected.

The campaign focus provided opportunity to develop an urban and industrial aesthetic that would be more engaging to the target group and create real impact, helping Adobe further emphasise its standing in the education market.

The exhibition was designed with an open plan scheme to create a welcoming environment and incorporated several interactive zones.

As part of the stand design, UNLTD\_XYZ selected Applelec's NeonLux neon style lettering range to identify the different areas within the exhibition stand and for the retro lettering design to complement the urban, industrial style of the stand. NeonLux was used to create four sets of



*NeonLux was used to create four sets of lettering Q&A, Training Academy, Capture, Make, Share and #CreateEdu.*

lettering: Q&A, Training Academy, Capture, Make, Share and #CreateEdu. Stretching 3000mm at their widest, the lettering was manufactured in a blend of vivid colours to create eye-catching and stylised signage.

Manufactured from 40mm thick block acrylic, the lettering was mounted on to the industrial metal mesh framework, achieving an urban, edgy design. National product manager Andy Armitage says: "The client was looking to create

retro style signage that would work well against the industrial aesthetics of the stand and Applelec NeonLux was selected for its robust manufacture and realistic neon style finish which faithfully replicates traditional glass neon signage. Expertise was required for this project for fitting the signage as there were three different walls types, all of which required its own fixing details and set of wiring exits."

[www.applelec.co.uk](http://www.applelec.co.uk)



*Manufactured from 40mm thick block acrylic, the lettering was mounted on to the industrial metal mesh framework, achieving an urban, edgy design; NeonLux was selected for its realistic finish which replicates traditional glass neon signage.*





## Government takes on board the need to protect print

The IPIA and BAPC have met with The Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and a key piece of confirmed guidance is that following the representations of our industry's associations all print production can currently remain open for business.

BEIS provided clarity that print businesses do not need to seek special status in order to trade and any business that wishes to continue production as it has orders coming through can continue but must heed safe working practices with one exception: public-facing print shop counters should be closed.

"We are helping to protect hundreds of thousands of jobs and I am immensely proud to be part of that work"

Print business staff who cannot work from home and need to attend their place of work physically to carry out their job, can do so. This is distinct from print businesses that supply front line services such as the NHS applying for 'key worker status' on behalf of their staff with their local Council. This may afford them the right to have their children attend school so they can continue to work. All print business employers are urged to fully implement the staff health and safety protection guidance available via the NHS website.

"We have been in direct and intense dialogue with BEIS since the Covid-19 crisis broke and our place is making sure that we represent the print industry to the very best of our abilities so that the economic damage that is being done to our sector is minimised as much as



*The goal of the IPIA and BAPC is to protect as many print industry businesses and jobs as possible during this time of economic crisis.*

possible," says Mike Roberts, president of the IPIA and managing director of PMG Print Management.

"Furthermore, we are in a position of privileged responsibility in being able to take our members and the industry's concerns and challenges directly to Government. It is not a position we take lightly and we will continue to work tirelessly on our sector's behalf."

BEIS was clear that the Furlough Scheme's flexibility will continue to be evolved as it receives feedback from industry about how to maximise its effectiveness. BEIS took under consideration its withdrawal will need to be graduated once the crisis abates.

"The IPIA and BAPC have been invited to meet BEIS regularly and to aid in this effort to shape Government policy we need to hear from you so that we can feed your individual challenges back to them," says Mike.

If you have not already done so, please fill out the Covid-19 business impact form at the link here [bit.ly/printimpact](https://bit.ly/printimpact). These forms are kept in complete confidence and are being directly fed to BEIS, which is using them to advise on policy making.

"We have had a direct input into influencing the Government's decision to keep our industry open so that it can continue to do the vital work of connecting our country and supporting the work of our front line services. We are helping to protect hundreds of thousands of jobs and I am immensely proud to be part of that work."

The IPIA and BAPC await further clarity around the following issues: the print industry's specific economic exposure to the Covid-19 crisis; print industry inclusion in the supply chain for those sectors under special measures; the Government Furlough Scheme – the requisite for it to be rotational and flexible in order that it be of true support to print industry businesses and the need for its graduated withdrawal; classification of print business staff as key workers when their role involves supplying front line sectors; qualification of the Business Loan Scheme and its benefit in the immediate post-crisis economic recovery phase; and the role of print as a trusted means of mass communication and the vital role it will play in the UK's recovery.

[www.ipia.org.uk](http://www.ipia.org.uk)  
[www.bapc.co.uk](http://www.bapc.co.uk)



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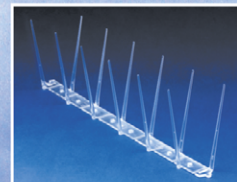
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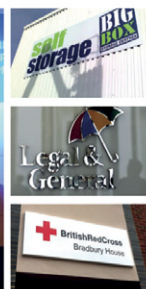
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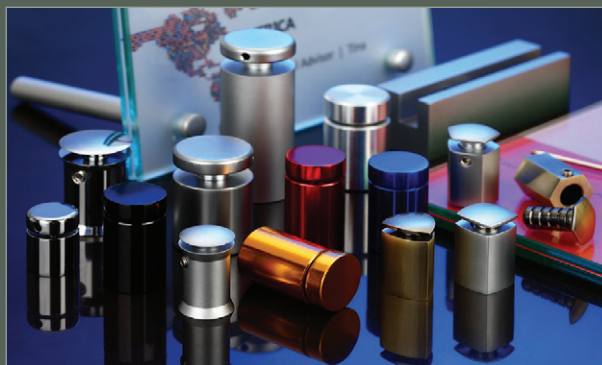
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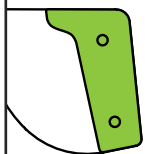
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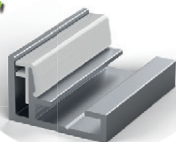
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Bristol BS31 1XG

Tel: 0117 986 7894 / 7291

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www.bryanrawlings.com

Designers and makers of coats of arms,  
emblems and all types of sculptural and  
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### SIGNS OF THE TIMES LTD

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Tel: 01525 874 185

enquiries@sott.co.uk

www.sott.co.uk

Cast in polyurethane with detail in relief  
and hand painted full colours. May be  
cast on their own or as part of an  
entrance sign, blue plaque or street sign  
etc. We also cast coats of arms in  
aluminium, grp or bronze. Please send  
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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  
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51/59 Waterworks Rd. Norwich NR2  
4DA

Tel: 01603 666699

sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk

www.mercuryphillipssigns.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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Unit 3, Roberts Street, Forfar,  
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Tel: 01307 463997

info@signindustries.com

www.signindustries.com

Sign Industries is one of the UK's  
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offering a broad range of memorial and  
commemorative plaques in many varying  
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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.

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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  
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www.applelec.co.uk

Trade suppliers of flat cut out letters,  
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Tel: 0113 224 2124

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www.icesigns.co.uk

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A fully comprehensive service to the  
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Plastic is our speciality including Flat Cut  
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Sygnal Group is the sign-maker's sign-  
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CuttingmatsXXL specialises in transparent and flexible cutting mats to protect your work table. Nr1 table protection for all signage companies. Your blade will cut smoothly through your foil and with the 'self-healing' characteristic the surface will stay smooth. Our mats are also widely used on top of all brands of flatbed applicators like RollsRoller, Roll-X, Lamidesk, CWT and Rollover.

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The UK's No.1 trusted brand and original Rhino Cutting Mats. The Rhino Heavy Duty is a perfect heard wearing choice for cutting and workbench protection. Sizes up to 4880 x 1220mm and 3657 x 1828mm. The Rhino SupaSeal is the ultimate self-healing choice for finer knives and scalpels, and designed to work on all brands of flat-bed applicators. Sizes from 1000-2200mm wide up to 20m long.

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hello@screenspace.live  
www.screenspace.live  
Screenspace is built around a small low-cost device that when plugged into any screen or TV, can in 5 minutes, turn that screen into a smart digital sign, capable of displaying your customers own adverts that can contain text, images or videos. When the device is connected to Wi-Fi these adverts can be scheduled, edited or updated instantly and sent to a screen, anywhere in the world.

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UK Trade Distributor for HP Designjet, HP Latex, HP UV printers, Colortrac scanners, Summa Cutters, and Onyx RIPs. ISO 9001, ISO14001 Certified HP and Canon consumables, Neschen media and our own large format media range called Xativa.

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Mactac is a global manufacturer of self-adhesive materials for wide-format digital printing (solvent, eco-solvent, latex & UV), with ICC profiles for the highest printed quality. Our innovative products help you to express your talents, across applications that include interior decoration, commercial architecture and visual communications – on buildings, windows, points of sale, vehicles & boats.

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### SCREENSPACE DIGITAL SIGNAGE

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Tel: 01932 769 962  
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www.screenspace.live  
Screenspace is built around a small low-cost device that when plugged into any screen or TV, can in 5 minutes, turn that screen into a smart digital sign, capable of displaying your customers own adverts that can contain text, images or videos. When the device is connected to Wi-Fi these adverts can be scheduled, edited or updated instantly and sent to a screen, anywhere in the world.

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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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We manufacture and engrave nameplates, Labels, Tags, Switchplates, Mimics, Brass Plates, Components, Warning labels, Plaques, Logo's and Signs. We also produce printed fire & Safety Signs & Vinyl Graphics.

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www.signuk.com

With hundreds of exhibitors showcasing the industry's leading brands, products and services, Sign & Digital UK is the only place to see the latest developments from across the signage, print, display, decor and design sectors. Free-to-attend and with a whole host of NEW features, demos and content, SDUK returns in 2020 to its new home in Hall 1.

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www.signscape.co.uk  
Serving the Sign Trade for over 40 years, we are a leading manufacturer of Fingerpost sign systems. Our high quality Fingerpost systems combines aluminium or steel posts, with double skin finger-arms, making it highly durable, and ideal for public locations. We have two systems available; Our Traditional fingerpost system and our "New" Waypoint fingerpost system.

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Accent Signs have been supplying the sign trade with quality flat cut letters in Acrylic, ACM, Foam PVC, MDF and other substrates for over 30 years. Our letters are supplied with Plastic Locators, Brass Locators or VHB tape, complete with fixing templates or fixing stencils if required. Fast turnaround and confidentiality assured.

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Trade suppliers of flat cut out letters, logos and intricate laser work. We offer lettering in a variety of materials such as acrylic, foamex, dibond, stainless steel, aluminium and MDF in different finishes, with or without fixings. Please contact our friendly team for more information and to request a free and unbranded product brochure. (3D built up lettering is also available).

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Trade only supplier for all Flat cut lettering and Logo's. Available in Stainless steel, Aluminium, Alupanel, Dibond, Perspex, Foamex, Polycarbonate, Brass and all composite materials. Laser cutting and Router cutting services as standard. Painted finished are always available. We can supply with or without fixings and always with marked fitting templates. We also supply Builtup Metal lettering.

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Trade suppliers of flat cut letters and logos etc with a 24 hr next day service available. Lots of materials to choose from: Foamex, Perspex, Composites, MDF, Ply, Aluminium, Polished/Brushed Stainless. Aluminium Composite trays signs folded, glued ready for you to hang. Plastic, brass & nickel locators, various studs & sleeves, 3M VHB tape, drilling templates also available.

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www.sign-here.co.uk  
Trade service for flat cut lettering & logos in Acrylic Foamex, Dibond, Aluminium, Stainless steel & MDF. 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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Supplier to the trade since 1974, Sygnet Group has a huge selection of over 5000 styles to choose from. You're very welcome to supply your own artwork, and we'll be happy to work with you to create the perfect flat-cut lettered sign. Whether it's acrylic, foamex, mdf, polycarb, Dibond, stainless steel or aluminium signage you require, we'll do you proud at our factory in city centre Leicester.

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Specialise in manufacturing signs to the trade with over 40 years' experience in the signage industry. 3D Built up letters, Flat cut letters, Projecting Signs, Facia Signs, and Illuminated Light Boxes. All work undertaken in house. Competitive prices and prompt service.

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Browning's offer Flex face signage to the TRADE ONLY. We utilise the Signcomp suite of flex face products and we are their biggest Converter here in the UK. Which demonstrates the knowledge we have of the product. The range includes: Econoflex, Retro and Fascia Frame. All signs are produced to your specific needs and can be supplied; fully complete, in kit form or as full bar lengths.

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Browning's is one of the largest, TRADE ONLY suppliers of signage products within the UK. With in-house production we can cater for all your bespoke signage needs, our range includes everything from Flex and textile faced signage, poster displays, troughlights and much more. We can cater for one offs or roll out programs. Please visit our website to see our full range of products.

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Tel: 0117 9411 411  
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For all types of sign. Individual flatcut & built up lettering, illuminated with LED's. Edgelit signs, illuminated signs, Tray signs, Modular sign systems, Frames & panels, acrylic fabrication. LED's, LED Flexi neon & convertors etc. Also material supplies cut to size & laser cutting. A complete service to the trade. For further information, check out our website & online shop.

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Sign Supplier is a leading designer, manufacturer and installation specialist of business signage including signage boards, projecting, illuminated and neon signs, sign trays, sign posts, sign lettering, sign lighting and digital signage.

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"The largest independent sign installation and maintenance company in the UK." Specialists in all sign work, large or small, neon, LED, all Flexface systems, illuminated, non illuminated and vinyl. Corporate change over specialists.

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Channel Islands, JE2 4LR

Tel: 01534 857633  
Mob: 07700 800 999  
paul@blueprintsins.co.uk  
www.blueprintsins.co.uk  
Blueprint Signs & Garments offers a professional signage production and installation service throughout the Channel Islands, fully qualified crews based in Jersey completely cover all of the Channel Islands inclusive of Guernsey, Sark, Herm and Alderney.

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Rope access company specialising in the installation and maintenance of all types of signage, banners and lighting. We operate nationwide and throughout Europe and provide advice, site visits, fast turnaround and most importantly award-winning results.

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Trade service for Laser flat cut & built up lettering & logos in Acrylic, Aluminum & Stainless steel. 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. Work with us.... work with experience

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LE5 3AP

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sales@sygnetgroup.co.uk  
www.sygnetgroup.co.uk  
At Sygnet Group, we offer a laser-cutting service and stock a wide variety of materials in various thicknesses. We can also fabricate signage from free-issue materials, utilising our lasers to cut stainless steel up to 4mm and mild steel up to 12mm in thickness, and cut minute acrylic detail with pre-applied double-sided tape. What's more, all work is carried out on-site, here at our Leicester HQ.

## LASER CUTTING/ENGRAVING MACHINES

### BOXFORD

Dewsbury Road, Elland, West  
Yorkshire, HX5 9BG

Tel: 01422 324 810  
www.boxford.co.uk  
Our range of cost effect Laser Co2 Cutters and Engravers have bed sizes from 500 x 300mm to 1300 x 900mm and feature integrated chiller cooling systems, auto focus system, air assist c/w integrated compressor, red dot pointers and honeycomb cutting tables. Metal Cutting and Marking Lasers also available including fibre based systems. Supplying lasers since 2003, we have a wealth of expertise.

### GRAVOGRAPH

Unit 3 Trojan Business Centre,  
Tachbrook Park Drive, Leamington  
Spa, Warwickshire CV34 6RH

Tel: 01926 884 433  
info@gravograph.co.uk  
Gravograph have continued to pioneer engraving technologies since 1938. Our mechanical and laser systems are manufactured in Europe. Engrave and cut any material including acrylic, wood, metal and more. Our team of inhouse trouble-shooters and field engineers ensure all our customers benefit from our expert advice. Meet us at one of our regional showrooms across the UK for a free demonstration.

### HPC LASER LTD

Castle Mills, Saddleworth Road,  
Elland, West Yorkshire, HX5 0RY

Tel: 01422 310 800  
www.hpclaser.co.uk  
Specialist suppliers of LASERSCRIPT CO2 laser engravers and cutters. Our lasers are capable of cutting, engraving and marking a wide range of materials including laminate, metal, glass, acrylic, textiles, wood, paper, card and leather. Optional 1 to 3 year ONSITE warranty available and unlimited technical support. Established in 2006, over 4500 machines supplied!

### TROTEC

9 Didcot Way, Boldon Business  
Park, Boldon Colliery, NE35 9PD

Tel: 0191 580 1184  
sales@troteclaser.co.uk  
www.troteclaser.co.uk  
Leading manufacturers of laser cutters and laser engravers, Trotec's broad range of flatbed, large format and galvo laser machines are available for demonstration in six dedicated showrooms across the UK and Ireland. In addition, Trotec's UK warehouse holds stock of thousands of rotary and engraving materials and accessories, available with next day delivery as standard.

## LED ILLUMINATED LETTERS

### ACCENT SIGNS LTD

Units 4, Broadcott Ind. Est., Station  
Rd., Cradley Heath B64 6NT

Tel: 0121 561 4600  
accsign1@aol.com  
www.accentesignsltd.co.uk  
Accent signs "SLIMLITE" flat cut letters & logos made from 6mm opal acrylic with imbedded super bright white Led's to create a unique edge and halo illumination. Available with ACM, Acrylic or vinyl faces. Suitable for internal & external use. Supplied with standard locator fixings for ease of fitting.

## LED ILLUMINATION

### 3D SIGN SYSTEMS LTD T/A CITI LED

Unit 1, 411 Pollokshaws Rd,  
Glasgow, G41 1QZ

Tel: 0141 422 2500  
sales@citi-led.co.uk  
www.citi-led.co.uk  
We are a trade only supplier of LED Modules for all types of channel letters, light boxes and solid acrylic "Neon" effect type letters. We have some very unique specialist LEDs, visit our website for product information and installation tutorials. We offer premium grade reliable products at highly competitive prices. Our unrivalled pre-sales guidance and after sales support will ensure your projects are executed with maximum effect.

### APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park,  
Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW

Tel: 01274 774477  
sales@applelec.co.uk  
www.applelec.co.uk  
Sole UK distributor of SloanLED LED systems. Trade suppliers of LED lighting solutions and manufacturers of the flat light unit, LED Light Sheet. We supply energy efficient, award winning LED modules in a variety of colours including RGB (colour changing). We'll support you in choosing the right LEDs for your project whilst our after-sale technical support ensures you receive continued assistance.

### ARTILLUS LTD

Britannia House, 29 Station Road,  
Kettering, Northants NN15 7HJ

Tel: 0333 123 0345  
artillustd@gmail.com  
www.artillus.com  
Our 12v or 24v Garnet super bright edge lit LED boards produce balanced lighting, shadow and hotspot free and will backlight any type of translucent material you care to imagine, such as thin cut stone, marble sheets, fabrics, vinyl etc. providing pure, unadulterated freedom for your creative mind to produce stunning wow factor lighting features for hotels, leisure centres, restaurants and homes.



## FOCUS LED UK LTD.

Unit 38 Cariocca Business Park, 2  
Hellidon Close, Ardwick,  
Manchester, M12 4AH

Tel: 0161 27 27 778

[www.focusledltd.co.uk](http://www.focusledltd.co.uk)

Specialise in LED Lighting for Signs & Shop fitting, Kitchens, Restaurants, Commerical & Domestic Lighting. Quality & Professional Lighting to get your job done by giving you our best advises, there is no job too small. You only pay for quality products at Focus LED. Check out our gallery to see how we helped others to achieve their projects.

## KINGS PLASTICS LTD

The Signbuild Centre, Kelso House,  
St Philips, Bristol, BS2 0PH

Tel: 0117 9411 411

[www.kingsplastics.co.uk](http://www.kingsplastics.co.uk)

White, warm white & coloured LED modules in 4 sizes and LED ribbon – Flexi ribbon & RGB ribbon. New our LED Flexi Neon in two different sizes & LED Cabochon bulbs. 12v power converters, RGB controllers, together with a range of connectors. LEDS ideal for lettering & lightboxes. For full details on our range, prices and for images, check out our website & online shop. Competitive prices guaranteed!

## LED MONKEY

129 Humberstone Road, Leicester  
LE5 3AP

Tel: 0800 999 7797

[sales@ledmonkey.com](mailto:sales@ledmonkey.com)

[www.ledmonkey.com](http://www.ledmonkey.com)

LED Monkey supplies energy-efficient LED products, PSUs and control gear to the sign trade. UK distributors for Hitechled, specialising in RGB modules for signage illumination, we offer a 5-year warranty on trade products. We also supply DMX systems, neon flex and IP-rated power supplies, as well as a wide variety of top quality LED bulbs, light fittings and LED strip lights to the domestic market

## SIGNTRADE LETTERS LTD

225 Long Lane, London N3 2RL

Tel: 08085 456700

[sales@signtrade.co.uk](mailto:sales@signtrade.co.uk)

[www.signtrade.co.uk](http://www.signtrade.co.uk)

Chromasign launched at Sign UK. We offer a complete range of ChromaForm Letters with Halo Lighting not available anywhere else. Ring Susan or Lesley for details and samples.

## LED WINDOW DISPLAYS

## ISPI TRADE LTD

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19 Starling Way, Bellshill ML4 3PU

Tel: 0141 764 1600

[sales@ispitrade.com](mailto:sales@ispitrade.com)

[www.ispitrade.com](http://www.ispitrade.com)

iSpi Trade is the UK's premier supplier of LED window display solutions. With A4, A3 and A2 size options in portrait or landscape, we can supply fully configured kits which are designed to match your windows specifications, plus we provide single panels, accessories and replacement parts, all at low trade prices.

## LIGHT BOXES & LIGHTING

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Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW  
Tel: 01274 774477

[sales@applelec.co.uk](mailto:sales@applelec.co.uk)

[www.applelec.co.uk](http://www.applelec.co.uk)

Trade suppliers of fabricated and extruded light boxes, custom made to client design requirements. From flat faced and curved styles, to LED illumination and colour changing modules, a definitive range of light box products is available. Applelec's flat light unit LED Light Sheet is regularly used to create ultra slim light boxes with bright, even illumination at a depth of just 25mm.

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Britannia House, 29 Station Road,  
Kettering, Northants NN15 7HJ

Tel: 0333 123 0345

[artillustld@gmail.com](mailto:artillustld@gmail.com)

[www.artillus.com](http://www.artillus.com)

DIAMOND 12v and 24v edge lit LED light boxes can be produced in any size up to 3000 x 1500mm. These ultra slim light boxes at 20mm or 16mm deep have a 25mm snap frame front and rounded corners for added safety. Custom sizes in single or multiple units can be made in single colour white LED, Dynamic White or RGB. Frame colours include Polished Silver, Gloss or Matt Black and Silver anodised.

### BROWNING'S LTD

157 English Street, Hull, HU3 2BT

Tel: 01482 380900

[sales@browningstld.co.uk](mailto:sales@browningstld.co.uk)

[www.browningstld.co.uk](http://www.browningstld.co.uk)

Brownings manufacture acrylic-faced light boxes to the TRADE ONLY. With in-house production and utilising our own UK Produced extrusions for both single and double-sided boxes. We can cater to all you individual, specific requirements. Boxes can be supplied; fully complete, in kit form or as full bar lengths. Please visit our website for more details and to see our full range of products.

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UK's largest stockist of magnetic & ferro material including universally printable & wide format digifilm® ferrous media (1600mm) supaferro® ferro sheet (1260mm) & supamag® magnetic sheet (1270mm) with the UK's highest pull force & anti-mark UV coating, in white, plain, self-adhesive & dry-wipe. For graphics, retail POS, signage, holding & hanging products use the UK's leading magnetic innovators.

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[www.bisbellmagnets.com](http://www.bisbellmagnets.com)

The UK's widest range of digitally printable wide format magnetic and ferro sheet (up to 1524mm wide). Maxmag vehicle grade magnetic materials available in white, plain or adhesive backed - by roll or cut to your specific requirements. Also available dry-wipe sheets, magnetic chalk boards, window graphics, neo magnets, vehicle roof magnets and a full range of magnetic and steel tape.

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Tel: 0114 2422211

[sales@magnetic-solutions-ltd.co.uk](mailto:sales@magnetic-solutions-ltd.co.uk)

[www.magnetic-solutions-ltd.co.uk](http://www.magnetic-solutions-ltd.co.uk)

Part of the Sanders Group, Europe's largest combined supplier of magnetic & ferro sheet materials including wide format, PVC FREE magnetic (1370mm) and ferrous media (1600mm). Also available, retail POS graphic materials, magnetic flooring, neo magnets, sign grippers and magnetic tape with a range of adhesive finishes to suit your requirements. We can provide the solutions.

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Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ

Tel: 01934 852 888

[sales@signscape.co.uk](mailto:sales@signscape.co.uk)

[www.signscape.co.uk](http://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.

## MOULDED & FABRICATED PLASTICS

### MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS 51-59 Waterworks Road, Norwich NR2 4DA

Tel: 01603 666699

[sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk](mailto:sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk)

[www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk](http://www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk)

Suppliers of moulded acrylic pans and logos up to 2800mm x 1500mm and other types of press and vacuum forming in PVC and HIPS. Specialists in fabricated plastics for POS displays with full screen print, graphics and CNC routing capabilities.

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Colchester CO2 8HF

Tel: 01206 868696

[project.plastics@btinternet.com](mailto:project.plastics@btinternet.com)

[www.projectplastics.co.uk](http://www.projectplastics.co.uk)

Manufacturers of acrylic domes and shapes, tubes, point of sale displays and showcases. Bespoke plastic fabrication. CNC routing, diamond edge polishing, 3m x 2m moulding oven for oven forming, vacuum forming and screen printing. Plastic cut to size service.

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Tel: 0121 561 4600

[accsign1@aol.com](mailto:accsign1@aol.com)

[www.accentstltd.co.uk](http://www.accentstltd.co.uk)

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.

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Tel: 01603 666699

[sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk](mailto:sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk)

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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.

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N3 2RL

Tel: 08085 456700

[sales@signtrade.co.uk](mailto:sales@signtrade.co.uk)

[www.signtrade.co.uk](http://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

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Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE

Tel: 0117 955 3385

[info@ward-signs.co.uk](mailto:info@ward-signs.co.uk)

[www.ward-signs.co.uk](http://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.



## NEON MANUFACTURERS (TRADE)

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Surrey SM6 8JX  
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enquiry@a1designs.co.uk  
www.a1designs.co.uk  
Neon & Cold Cathode Manufacturers to  
the Trade. Fast turnaround & Delivery,  
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Confidential Service. All neon accessories,  
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Tel: 01634 841300  
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Full computerised design service neon  
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installation engineers, fault diagnosis,  
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Specialists in neon manufacture to the  
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accsign1@aol.com  
www.accent-signs.co.uk  
Accent Signs "LITEFORM" letters &  
logos with a moulded half round acrylic  
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glass. Illuminated with super bright  
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### APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park,  
Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW  
Tel: 01274 774477  
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www.applelec.co.uk  
Trade suppliers of NeonLux, a faux neon  
letter system suitable for interior and  
exterior applications according to  
specification. Available in a range of  
colours and embedded with high quality  
LEDs to deliver bright, clear illumination.  
Don't forget, any shape or logo can be  
created, not just letters! Contact our  
friendly team for more information and  
request a free and unbranded product  
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www.noticeme.org.uk  
Sign companies come to us for a truly  
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and whiteboards. Standard internal pin  
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work. See our complete range of display  
products.

### 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  
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## PLASTIC SHEETS

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Antrim BT36 4RB  
Tel: 028 9084 9999  
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www.brettmartin.com  
Brett Martin is a leading manufacturer of  
plastic sheet products for signage,  
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South Strand, Lawford,  
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sales@teleganpressedproducts.com  
www.teleganpressedproducts.com  
Leading manufacturer of plate pressed  
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trade name TELBEX. We also  
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laminates. A comprehensive range of  
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adhesive vinyl is available in PSPA class  
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Tel: 01322 444 400  
sales@displaydevelopments.co.uk  
www.displaydevelopments.co.uk  
Display Developments began in 1956  
and we have always strived to lead the  
field in providing first class service and  
consistently adding new and better  
products. We manufacture a wide range  
of display and Point of Sale products  
including snap frames, leaflet holders  
notice boards and menu displays etc.

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### BROWNING'S LTD

157 English Street, Hull, HU3 2BT  
Tel: 01482 380900  
sales@browning-ltd.co.uk  
www.browning-ltd.co.uk  
Browning's manufacture Poster displays  
for the TRADE ONLY. With in-house  
production and utilising our own UK  
Produced extrusions. We can cater to all  
you individual, specific requirements.  
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 with the  
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### SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX LTD

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper  
Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ  
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sales@signscape.co.uk  
www.signscape.co.uk  
Serving the Sign Trade for over 40  
years, we are a leading manufacturer of  
notice boards, modular sign systems &  
information displays. Our Avenue poster  
case provides high quality yet affordable,  
external poster display in a variety of  
sizes.

## PRINT/POSTER FRAMES

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157 English Street, Hull, HU3 2BT  
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www.browning-ltd.co.uk  
Browning's manufacture poster frames to  
the TRADE ONLY. Bespoke sizes and  
colours are our speciality. With in-house  
production using our own U.K produced  
extrusions, we can cater for all your  
individual, specific requirements.  
Whether it may be a one off or a roll out  
program. Frames can be supplied  
complete, in kit form or as full lengths of  
extrusion for yourselves to cut and build.

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Tel: 01202 463573  
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www.ironsigns.com  
Leading trade suppliers of high quality  
traditional and contemporary projecting  
signs and brackets, offering a large  
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Estate, 2 Buckley Road, Rochdale,  
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sales@apptape.co.uk  
www.apptape.co.uk  
Suppliers of Micro prismatic reflective  
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emergency vehicles (police cars &  
chapter 8 legislation etc) also HGV  
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Conspicuity tape manufactured by  
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the market. Chapter 8 chevron kits also  
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### SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD

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www.signtradesupplies.co.uk  
Supplying a variety of sign making  
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signs posts, post clips, fixings, vinyl and  
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day despatch. We also provide trade  
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### ATA ENGINEERING PROCESSES

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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.

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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.

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mail@desp.co.uk

www.desp.co.uk

DESP has been trading for over 55 years. Screenprinting, anodic printing, correx boards, stickers, overlays, signs, chemical etching, engraving processes also covered (ALL CARRIED OUT INHOUSE), including artwork.

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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.

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**15 Ridge Way, Hillend Industrial Estate, Dalgety Bay, Fife, KY11 9JH**

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!

### MERCURY & PHILLIPS SIGNS

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Tel: 01603 666699

sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk

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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.

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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.

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sales@rblimited.co.uk

www.rightonblackburns.co.uk

UK distributor of Polycasa Crylux Cast & Crylon extruded sheet acrylic Available in a wide range of clear, opals, colours and special finishes. Also stocked: Alucobest aluminium composite sheet, Marlon solid polycarbonate, PET-G, SAN, polystyrene, hygienic cladding, rigid PVC and fixing accessories, sign post systems, aluminium sheet and extrusions.

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Tel: 01206 803580

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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.

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materials@troteclaser.co.uk

www.troteclaser.co.uk

Leading manufacturers of laser cutters and laser engravers, Trotec's broad range of flatbed, large format and galvo laser machines are available for demonstration in six dedicated showrooms across the UK and Ireland. In addition, Trotec's UK warehouse holds stock of thousands of rotary and engraving materials and accessories, available with next day delivery as standard.

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Tel: 01302 775920

sales@visionsinplastics.co.uk

www.visionsinplastics.co.uk

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### 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.

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Tel: 0116 232 3156

www.VeryDisplays.com

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Tel: 01843 593 440

enquiries@fkmoore.com

www.fkmoore.com

British manufacturers of screw type Brass Locator Nuts, Wall Fixings and stockists of Nylon Locators for the Sign and Shopfitting Industries. As well as other shopfittings, we also manufacture Coverhead Screws, either Flat, Dome, Conical or Mushroom shape in various finishes, in addition to the famous "Moore's Super Clips" mirror fixings.

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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.

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Tel: 0141 764 1600

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## SIGN SURVEYOR

### PB WILLIAMS SIGN SURVEYOR

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Tel: 07885 486 182

[achromesigns@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:achromesigns@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.

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### APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park,  
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Brownings is one of the largest, TRADE ONLY suppliers of signage products within the UK. With in-house production we can cater for all your bespoke signage needs, our range includes everything from Flex and textile faced signage, poster displays, troughlights and much more. We can cater for one offs or roll out programs. Please visit our website to see our full range of products.

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Tel: 0844 800 1020

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[www.discountdisplays.co.uk](http://www.discountdisplays.co.uk)

Discount Displays are UK based experts in all things display and signage. As well as a huge range of hardware for exhibitions, events and retail, we also specialise in large format print solutions. We are able to offer super low trade prices on a variety of printed signage, all produced in-house using high quality inks and materials. Visit our website for more information and to view our full range

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Tel: 01934 852888

[sales@signscape.co.uk](mailto:sales@signscape.co.uk)

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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.

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LE5 3AP

Tel: 0116 262 6288

[sales@sygnetgroup.co.uk](mailto:sales@sygnetgroup.co.uk)

[www.sygnetgroup.co.uk](http://www.sygnetgroup.co.uk)

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Brownings manufacture Textile signage for the TRADE ONLY. With in-house production and utilising our own UK Produced extrusions. We can cater to all your individual, specific requirements. Our TEXTSIGN is intended for internal use only and is developed with ease of graphic change in mind. Profiles range from 18mm to 180mm and can be illuminated. Please visit our website or call for more details.

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Supplying a variety of sign making supplies nationwide including aluminium signs posts, post clips, fixings, vinyl and tools. We have a large UK stock of Image Perfect vinyl, sign fixings and aluminium extrusions ready for same day despatch. We also provide trade manufacturing service including diamond edge polished acrylic, flat cut acrylic lettering, sign trays and more.

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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.

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Discount Displays are UK based experts in all things display and signage. As well as a huge range of hardware for exhibitions, events and retail, we also specialise in large format print solutions. We're able to offer super low trade prices on a variety of printed signage, all produced in-house using high quality inks and materials. Visit our website for more information and to view our full range

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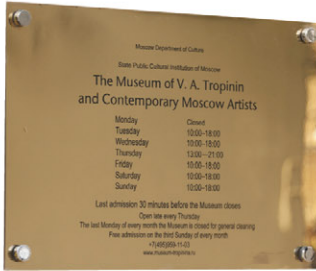
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