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Editorial Submissions:

Roger Hinchliffe 01784 605 602

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Signs 99

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WELCOME Page

Exhibition time and the Roland DG press event in Spain

At the time that this magazine arrives with readers it should be a little over a week before UK Sign & Digital exhibition begins. As always I'll be looking forward to this, as it's the only event of the year which we attend where we



get to visit some of the advertisers and the readers of the magazine. As usual, Paul Hughes from SignMakingTools is expected to be giving many practical hands-on demonstrations, designed to inform people looking to take their first steps in vinyl application and those wanting to add to and develop their skills. No doubt I'll be making the effort to catch up with him as always. I'll also use my time there to sit down to some of the presentations as part of The Sign Lounge. I often do this with features in mind, so one I'll be hoping to attend will be the 'How do we get more young people into sign-making' presentation. The reason being is that I talk to a lot of companies that advertise in the Job vacancies section of our website and magazine, that struggle to recruit experienced people and don't know the best way to train inexperienced people. They often aren't aware of any government funding available for apprenticeships or college courses.

During the dark month of January, I did get to see some sun, as Roland DG invited Sign Update along with about a hundred other members of the press throughout Europe, to Spain's Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya racetrack where the Spanish F1 takes place. It is quite rare that the press get invited to go abroad with hotels paid for, so it was obviously an announcement that was of considerable importance. Roland DG announced its biggest product expansion to date with a major shakeup to it's TrueVIS printer lineup, which you can read about in the Product News section. Among the new models was their first resin ink model. I didn't quite see who this technology was aimed at, so asked Rob Goleniouwski this very question. Rob replied with 'We're expecting core users for this machine to be existing Roland customers looking to diversify into a new ink technology whether this be because they're looking to go greener, are wanting to provide more indoor applications where a safer ink type is required or have a requirement for a specific media which works best with a resin ink.'

Martin Hinchliffe



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PRODUCT News

"Liberty" For All Sublimation Users!

TheMagicTouch in Dunstable, under the DyeSub Magic brand announce the arrival of some real transfer innovation for all sublimation ink users.

Historically the sublimation transfer process has been restricted to applications onto garments and promotional items that required a high polyester content or special polyester coating and had to be either white or pastel in colour. However, this has now changed.

The newly developed "Liberty SubliPrint" printable sublimation transfer media enables vibrant full colour imaging onto a host of garments and fabrics including all types of cotton, mixed fibres and nylon

regardless of colour. All products are certified to Oekotex Standard 100 Class 1. The transfer media is eco-friendly, waterbased, solvent and PVC free and vegan friendly.

This unique one-step printable media available in both A4 and A3 format is printed directly using a traditional sublimation printer. The thin coated product offers a soft touch with good stretch properties. The printed media can be manually trimmed or profile cut using a plotter/cutter with an optical eye function for precise and complex designs. No mirror image required. Designs involving free form text can be applied easily using traditional application tape if needed.



Available now in both A4 & A3 format with 50 sheets per pack.

For samples and further information contact sales@themagictouch.co.uk or call 01582 671444.

ISA-UK launches Best Practice Guides to support sign and graphics industry

ISA-UK powered by BSGA, the leading independent trade association for the UK sign, graphics and visual communications industry, is delighted to announce the availability of two Best Practice Guides to help companies in the sign and display industry to reach and maintain high standards.

Available to purchase and download from the ISA-UK website, the two guides (the ISA-UK Best Practice Guide and the ISA-UK Best Practice Guide – Inspection & Maintenance) reflect the ISA-UK's commitment to developing and promoting clear, robust and implementable best practice and guidance within the UK sign and graphics industry.



The primary aim of the guides is to demonstrate to customers, as well as staff, suppliers and contractors, that a business is acting in good faith and in a manner that is professional and competent.

Industry professionals have the choice of accessing the full guide for best practice or the specialist publication for those companies working across the inspection and maintenance of signage.

The guidance has been built to run alongside and support the values in the current British Standard and Specification for the design and construction of signs for publicity, decorative and general purposes (BS559).

"Best practices are important for processes that you need to work correctly," ISA-UK's CEO Craig Brown says. "They are simply the best way to do things and are found to be the most sensible way to proceed to help you avoid falling foul of regulations and legislation.

"We will be looking to review and revise these guides on a regular basis and welcome constructive feedback from our members and non-members alike." "With regards to the Inspection & Maintenance version, for a variety of reasons, maintenance is one of those topics that is often overlooked or not addressed with potential clients at time of quote or purchase of signage," adds Craig Brown.

"Without trying to state the obvious, external signs in particular are subject and susceptible to the seasonal changes, which put the materials used and the structures they are mounted onto through various states of stress. "As a minimum, regular visual inspections should be recommended to the client, particularly after extreme weather events. This isn't always the easiest subject to broach with clients so in an effort to address the issue the ISA-UK have put together the ISA-UK Best Practice Guide Inspection and Maintenance, hopefully to help give some pointers."

ISA-UK members can purchase the guides for £25, while the price for non-members is £50

For more information or to purchase the ISA-UK Best Practice Guides, please visit:

www.uksigns.org/library/

Roland DG announces its biggest product expansion to date

Roland DG, one of the world's leading providers of digital printing solutions, has announced the expansion of its TrueVIS product family. The latest launch is the biggest product announcement for the company to date, offering the largest range of ink technologies and applications for roll-to-roll printing in one product family.

The new models are expected to shake up the market, building on the ecosolvent heritage of TrueVIS by adding UV print and cut technology with the high productivity LG Series and the multi-functionality MG Series, alongside Roland's first water-based resin ink printer, the AP-640. Together with the four ecosolvent models launched in March 2022, the TrueVIS line-up expands to a total of 10 inkjet devices.

Providing a unique and unparalleled offering for the industry, the TrueVIS range delivers industry-leading image quality in each technology segment that is compatible with the widest of range of applications, ensuring no application requirement or quality expectation is out of reach for customers.

The newly developed resin model offers natural expressiveness that takes advantage of the media texture and uses enhanced environmental and people-friendly inks. The UV models enable high-definition output, including three-dimensional expressions for the reproduction of artwork and for communicating by touch, including Braille,

while the eco-solvent models create graphics with vivid colours, taking UV printing to a new level.

The all-new common hardware platform featured within each machine includes important user interaction improvements and digital connectivity, through Roland DG Connect, designed to increase competitiveness and significantly decrease downtime for users.

Tony Miller, President of Roland DG's Global Sales and Marketing Division comments: "Consumer needs have and continue to dramatically change against a backdrop of fast-paced technological innovation, changes in social structure, and the growing awareness of environmental issues. As a result, printed graphics are increasingly required not only to transmit information, but to offer functionality and expressiveness that create positive impressions and experiences.

"We are excited to support our customers through this changing landscape by launching an expansion to our TrueVIS line-up - offering more options and better, innovative solutions for all. No matter which printing technology they choose, our customers can count on the same industry leading TrueVIS quality of printing and reliability across the full range."

Since the first model was released in 2016, the TrueVIS series has won worldwide acclaim from graphics

production professionals for its ability to produce high-quality graphics.

Alongside this expansion of products, Roland DG has launched its TrueVIS product wizard which helps customers find their ideal TrueVIS product, cutting through the complexity of choice. Each product is scored and weighted to provide accurate response results, recommending the hero product for the customer alongside alternatives to consider.

www.rolanddg.eu



Sign Update was invited down to the huge pre-launch press event at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya race track used for the Spanish F1. They demonstrated all the printers, other demos including a skateboarding halfpipe ramp with talks from a pro-skater and artist who designed the graphics on some of the printed boards. Members of the BWT Alpine F1 Team to talk about some of the developments in F1, including the many benefits of films over paint for the graphics.





PRODUCT News

Josero adds Fujifilm Flatbed Acuity Prime to Wide-Format Print Portfolio

Wide-format equipment distributor and Soyang Europe business Josero is expanding the group's relationship with Fujifilm, announcing an appointment as a Fujifilm Acuity Prime partner to supply the range to customers in the UK. This news follows Soyang Europe's deal to sell the Acuity Ultra R2 in the UK market in May 2022, and a number of key partnerships won by Josero in recent months.

The Fujifilm Acuity Prime flatbed delivers quality printing on various rigid and flexible media options for a range of applications, supported by its five dedicated vacuum zones and jettable primer. With maximum print speeds up to 150m2 p/hr and low energy LED curing, the Fujifilm Acuity Prime balances quality, efficiency, and price point across all models. The recommended Fujifilm Uvijet HM UV LED

inks are manufactured within the UK at the World's Largest UV Ink plant making supply continuous and accessible.

Sarah Winterbottom, Group Sales Director, Soyang/Josero, comments: "The Fujifilm Acuity Prime is the perfect high production, high quality flatbed addition to Josero's offering. It's a great time for us to be strengthening our partnership, as businesses are looking for versatility, efficiency and quality in a cost-effective solution. We can't wait to start showing our customers what the range can do!"

Andy Webb, UK Sales Manager Wide-Format Inkjet, Fujifilm UK, adds: "We are delighted to have Josero on board as a Fujifilm Acuity Prime partner. Josero has a great track record within the industry for being a trusted company with a focus on delivering high levels of customer service, and we as a company decided that they are the kind of partner we want to go to market with our Acuity Prime flatbed. We look forward to building a long-term partnership with Josero and its parent company Soyang Europe."

www.josero.com



Timberstand is a new sustainable sign system

Timberstand is a new sustainable sign system and one of its kind. It is manufactured from 50mm thick birch plywood supplied according to FSC and PEFC controlled timber criteria and finished with Osmo oil protection, it is 300mm wide and weighs 5.3kgs.

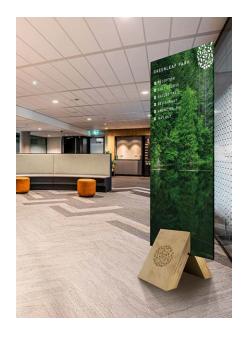
It is a clamp base that can hold sheets of various material either 10mm or 12mm thick. This includes toughened glass and if required, a poster or message can be sandwiched between two 5mm glass sheets and held in place.

It has been specified for a wide range of

internal environments including – reception areas, conference centres, restaurants, hotel lobbies, showrooms, marketing suites, museums, galleries, airports and retail environments. It is also possible to veneer the plywood if required and can be laser engraved with your clients branding, the possibilities are endless.

The natural use of birch plywood has a calming effect and will compliment many interior spaces whilst also forming an important part of internal directional and informative signage.

www.timberstand.co.uk





swissQprint re-certified energy efficiency

swissQprint say they are the only manufacturer of large format UV printers to have the energy efficiency of its current range re-certified. All models again scored excellently, so users can continue expecting proven low power consumption.

It is the second time that swissQprint had its products tested for energy efficiency in accordance with the ISO 20690:2018 standard - once again with success. Representatives of Fogra, the Research Institute for Media Technologies, measured and certified the power consumption of

the swissQprint flatbed printers Kudu, Nyala 4, Nyala 4S and the roll to roll printers Karibu 2 and Karibu S in various print modes. The tests showed 'top in class' energy efficiency for every machine. This means their power needs are very low in relation to performance, which saves costs and resources.

The 2.2 kWh comparison

The Swiss UV LED large format printers consume an average of 2.2 kilowatt-hours of electricity, exactly the same as an average kettle. Another comparison: A twohour video streaming session on a 65-inch 4K TV requires about the same amount of power, calculated from the data centre to the end device.

All swissQprint UV LED flatbed and roll to roll printers are certified for their outstanding energy efficiency.

Electricity consumption in check

For users it is more important than ever to have power consumption under control and, most of all, to use that power efficiently. Which is guaranteed with these Swiss large format printers. According to Fogra, swissQprint is so far the only manufacturer able to provide independent and standardised proof for its products in this respect. Already in 2018 and 2019, Fogra awarded the Nyala and Karibu models for their 'outstanding energy efficiency' in accordance with the

> ISO 20690:2018 standard, which specifies methods for determining the energy consumption of digital printers.

www.swissQprint.com



PRODUCT News

Mimaki launches first Direct to Film printer

Mimaki has announced its first 'direct to film' (DTF) inkjet printer, the TxF150-75, at its Global Innovation Days event. Utilising a heat-based transfer method, the printer is ideal for creating premium, customised merchandising, sportswear and various other promotional textile applications. This is the latest entry from Mimaki for the decorated apparel segment which has made it's EMEA show debut at Printwear & Promotion Live! in the UK (26th-28th February 2023).

DTF printing provides an easy and affordable process for decorating apparel, and is commonly used for decorating T-shirts. The design is printed directly onto a special transfer film, which is then sprinkled with hot-melt powder, and once heated and dried, the transfer sheet is ready to be applied to the fabric using a heat press.

Based on Mimaki's best-selling 150
Series, the new TxF150-75 responds
to the market need for a reliable, stable
DTF technology. A built-in ink circulation
system and degassed ink pack design
help prevent common DTF issues, and
by utilising proprietary Core Technologies,
which include a nozzle check unit and
nozzle recovery system, the printing
process is carried out efficiently with
minimal user intervention.

Mark Sollman, Sr. Product Manager EMEA, Mimaki Europe comments, "Apparel decoration is a hugely popular and dynamic sector, one which we are already operating in with our other textile technologies. However, we could see the impact DTF technology has had on the industry in recent years, with its significant advantages over existing technologies. Namely, DTF avoids the time intensive process of plate creation in screen printing and the required weeding in traditional vinyl heat transfer. The technology can also create vibrant designs with its full colour printing capabilities. We're excited to bring a solution to the market that is designed for those already active in the decorated apparel sector and those looking to enter it, which excels in usability, reliability and quality."

As the company's first entry into a new segment, Mimaki has created its own range of water-based pigment inks (PHT50) especially for this solution. As of



Mimaki's first DTF printer, the TxF150-75

March 2023, these inks are OEKO-TEX® ECO PASSPORT certified, guaranteeing that safety and environmental standards are met in line with Mimaki's sustainability pledges. Unlike sublimation heat transfer printing, DTF is much more versatile when it comes to materials, able to work with more than just polyester and polyester blended materials, and on light or dark coloured fabrics.

The printer is supplied with Mimaki's RasterLink7 RIP software, allowing users to have full oversight and the ability to streamline the process from the design to the final product. Distributed in the UK and Ireland by Hybrid Services, the TxF150-75 will be commercially available via its network of specialist resellers from April 2023.

www.hybridservices.co.uk



With full colour DTF printing capabilities, the TxF150-75 can create eye-catching graphics for textiles, such as t-shirts.



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PRODUCT Choice

UK Feather Flags commits to Innotech Flag Hardware

Innotech Digital has announced a two-year agreement with UK Feather Flags, one of the UK's largest flag producers, to supply their range of Acrobat Flag Hardware, including through the company's new trade-only division, UK Feather Flags Trade. By working closely with Innotech, UK Feather Flags now has a flag hardware range that is designed to meet durability standards and the business's specific requirements.



Josh Candy (left), Director at UK Feather Flags, with Ross Bennett, Regional Sales Manager for Innotech Digital

Innotech's Acrobat flags and bases feature lightweight yet durable fibreglass poles in multiple sizes, as well as a complete range of sturdy bases for any application. Josh Candy, Director at UK Feather Flags, says, "As a trade supplier, we deliver thousands of flag poles, bases and accessories to customers and having an agreement with Innotech gives us several key advantages. We know their flag hardware is the best around, so we can be confident that the solutions we deliver will be fit for purpose. They have developed the poles to make them smaller and easier to ship, which has resulted in significant savings on transport and delivery costs."

Ross Bennett, Regional Sales Manager for Innotech Digital, says, "As a market leader in display hardware, this is how we like to work with our key accounts. We are delighted to partner with UK Feather Flags and have worked closely with them to develop a range of flag hardware that perfectly meets their requirements."

Candy continues, "Turnaround time is critical in our market and our agreement with Innotech means we have stock available immediately and at all times. Innotech's warehouse essentially becomes an extension of our own so that we can meet customer demands every time."

Innotech's stock availability and overall responsiveness were a key fact for UK Feather Flags' decision. "We were working with other suppliers but were finding they were running out of stock and not getting back to us. We simply can't afford to

let people down. Therefore we decided to work more closely with Innotech to design a range of products that is always available, saves us money and allows us to be more responsive to our customers. An easy choice, really."

Innotech has built the range of products required by UK Feather Flags and ensures their stock is always there for them. "We hold very high stock levels so that they can be delivered to customers quickly to help facilitate the growth of our customers. We firmly believe in always having products ready and available off-the-shelf and never letting people down," says Ross.

UK Feather Flags has a very fast turnaround, with a 48-hour guarantee. "As well as our direct customers, we get new trade enquiries daily. It made sense for us to build a trade business with the same high quality and fast turnaround levels. It also made sense to develop this relationship with Innotech. We already knew about the quality of their products, service and their huge stock holding, and by committing to them for a longer period, we can ensure continuity of supply on products that save us money and give us a competitive edge," adds Josh.

He concludes, "Most importantly, we know Innotech's Acrobat flag hardware is excellent quality and very durable. We can offer a one-year warranty because we know they will never let us down."

www.featherflagstrade.co.uk www.innotechdigital.com



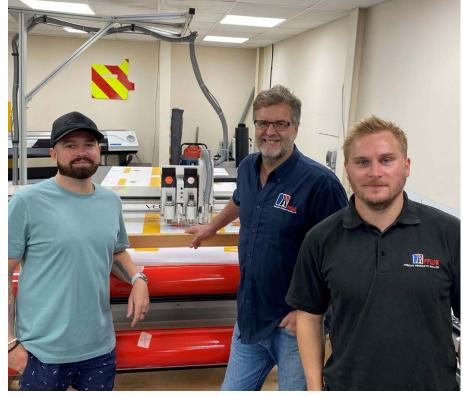
Third Veloblade investment for FPL Signs

FPL Signs recently invested in a new VeloBlade Nexus wide format digital die cutting system from Vivid Laminating Technologies.

Based in Farnborough Hampshire, FPL Signs are experts in the signage and print graphics industry. The company offer services from building signage and vehicle graphics to company wall art and branded office supplies. FPL Signs recently took the decision to install a VeloBlade Nexus to expand their signs-related cutting and routing capabilities. Particularly with wide format substrates including vinyl, Foamex, ACM and acrylic.

Nick Brooks, Operations Manager at FPL Signs said: "We decided to install Vivid's VeloBlade Nexus wide format digital die cutting system due to its functionality, versatility and because of the existing Vivid equipment already in use within the group. FPL Signs are part of the Sandhurst Autoprint Group of Companies and the company have previously invested in a VeloBlade Volta and Nexus digital die cutting system from Vivid. So, we felt confident using the system and the fact that the Nexus came in at a cost-effective price point made sense for us to invest in."

Brooks added, "This new investment will enable us to expand our range of bespoke signs that we can now produce in-house such as ACM tray signs, acrylic lettering and panels. We are using numerous vinyls, such as cast, monomeric, printed



Nick Brooks (middle) with the FPL Signs team and their VeloBlade Nexus

and kiss-cut. Our most used material is a 7-year polymeric vinyl complete with over laminating."

FPL Signs are extremely pleased with their recently installed VeloBlade Nexus and



VeloBlade Nexus works with many wide format substrates including Dibond, Vinyl, Corrugated Paper, Foamex, ACM, Acrylic and much more

with the quality of service received from Vivid. "Vivid's service engineer Matt Milnes is extremely efficient in his workings and along with the technical support team we are working towards advanced use of the VeloBlade Nexus's capabilities. Including cutting, kiss-cutting and CNC routing of various substrates such as Correx, ACM & acrylic."

"With practice and with the help of Vivid's technical team we will be able to maximize the use of the system to its full potential. The level of service received from the initial scoping, surveying, supply, delivery, installation, commissioning, training and support provided by Vivid have all been excellent," Brooks concluded.

www.vivid-online.com





PRODUCT Choice

swissQprint's Nyala 4 ticks all the boxes for King & McGaw

Sussex-based art publisher and online retailer, King & McGaw, has chosen swissQprint's Nyala 4 to deliver performance and quality, whilst providing exceptional return on investment and sustainability credentials for its growing business.

With the mission to 'celebrate art' King & McGaw serves end users via their own website kingandmcgaw.com, alongside more than two dozen white-label websites for which they fulfil an extensive range of orders. In addition, they also supply many of the UK's museums and galleries with prints for their gift shops and create wall art products for major retail groups.

The 3.2×2 metre flatbed Nyala 4 is the latest addition to their plant list of over a dozen machines but is already demonstrating its ability to outperform them in terms of speed of production, capability, and reliability. And with such high resolution printing there is no compromise in the industry-leading quality for which King & McGaw has a strong reputation.

"It really is a win/win solution for us," said King &McGaw's Operations Director, lan Brooker. "We were looking to enhance both our performance and our productivity in one acquisition. With the swissQprint build quality and low running costs, the Nyala 4 gave us the answer for which we had searched. It is an investment for our future and its productivity, reliability and flexibility means our ROI is already very positive."



The 3.2 m flatbed Nyala 4 with roll to roll and dual roll functions has enhanced performance and productivity in one acquisition.

Features like the Tip Switch Vacuum system have boosted King & McGaw's efficiency in printing on rigid materials. Also, the roll to roll and dual roll functions, and light black ink, now provide a broader range of products and services for customers, with still more to come in terms of productivity and finishes. This newfound functionality is even helping King & McGaw win additional work from third party trade customers, producing, for

example, items that would previously have been screen or pad printed.

The new Nyala 4 installation supports King & McGaw's strong commitment to the development of sustainable print production. Its low energy LED curing and cutting-edge engineering, as evidenced by swissQprint's ISO 20690:2018 certification, keep energy requirements low, while reliable precision printing saves inks and paper, reducing wastage.

Erskine Stewart, Managing Director for swissQprint, is pleased to see how perfectly the Nyala has met all King & McGaw's requirements, in terms of operational benefits, the cost of ownership and sustainability: "Working with customers who recognise the wider advantages of swissQprint equipment is a delight, and we feel sure that the Nyala 4 will continue to deliver for King & McGaw for many years to come."

Brooker concluded: "Our operators love it; our customers love its quality, and I love its positive impact on both our portfolio of products, our bottom line and our carbon footprint. The Nyala is an exceptional machine and its agility in printing a wide variety of new materials at speed and to the highest of quality, combined with its production and environment-friendly features, mean it is our new flagship printer."

www.swissqprint.com



King & McGaw's Founder, Gyr King, is impressed with the Nyala 4's return on investment credentials.

featherflagstrade.co.uk invests in a Canon Colorado 1630 UV LED roll-to-roll printer

featherflagstrade.co.uk, a new online trade services business has invested in a Canon Colorado 1630 UV LED printer from CMYUK. It was purchased to enable lightning speed turnaround of roller banners and popup stands. Set-up last year, the business guarantees 48-hour turnaround times for its feather flags, and next day delivery for all roller banner orders received by 11.00 am.

The Canon Colorado 1630 was purchased on the advice of several trade contacts who were familiar with the UV-gel printer, and very happy with its speed, reliability, and colour fidelity. "Everyone we spoke to who owned a Colorado said that they were amazing. When we finally went for a demonstration at CMYUK, it was in a different league to what we were used to – just fantastic," says Josh Candy, Director, featherflagstrade.co.uk.

Josh has worked with CMYUK since 2013 – initially buying material trims for feather flags. "I always knew that when the day came for me to directly purchase production equipment, CMYUK would be first on the list. When I rang up about the Colorado, a demonstration was arranged

in no time, with delivery and installation following within a week and a half, which was very gratifying," he says.

Speed and colour

The company chose the Canon Colorado 1630 that offers a resolution of up to 1800dpi and print speeds of up to 111sq.m per hour. A smart option for users looking for versatility, this printer can be configured to today's needs but upgraded retrospectively as volumes increase.

In addition to fast reliable speed, Josh is extremely pleased with the Colorado's colour reproduction widely acknowledged for its consistency, precise, sharp dots, wide colour gamut, and strong saturation for dark colours as well as accurate skin tones.

"With this printer we have full confidence that you can put the artwork through and just press the Print button. I've not had one customer complain once about colour fidelity, which is really impressive," he says.

Boosted productivity

Productivity is pivotal to the Colorado's design. Unattended printing, fuss-free job switching, reduced ink and energy requirements are big-draw features of this printer, while printhead reliability, and low maintenance ensure maximum production uptime.

One of Josh's favourite aspects of the Colorado is its dual rolls – that allows him to print 850mm wide roller banners on one, and then 2 x up on the second roll. "It just makes life really easy. We prefeed both and select which roll we're going to use and just press print. It has made our throughput much faster and efficient. It's just fantastic," he says.

The Colorado too, has come into its own for the printing of magnetic popup stands. In the past the company would print these off on its HP Latex printer, laminate, add magnetic strips, and then cut. Now thanks

to the Colorado the process is much quicker. "Now we output on the Colorado, cut them and then add the magnetic strips. Colorado prints are so scratch resistant – you can put them on the floor, stand on them, pick them back up, wipe them down, and there's no scratches on them. To be fair – it's unreal," says Josh.

While the Colorado has the capacity to handle multiple jobs and a wide range of roll materials – including thin and heat sensitive up to 64-ins wide – on a single device, for featherflagstrade.co.uk, this printer will be dedicated in the main to what it was purchased for.

Says Josh, "We're not planning to do anything else with it. We like to stick to what we're good at and do lots of it. Before installing the Canon Colorado 1630 we were at full capacity, now we could do an extra 100 or so roll banners easily if we wanted to. Our printing is now done in the morning, and we don't have to worry about the afternoon. It's made my life much less stressful. It's just very easy."

featherflagstrade.co.uk www.cmyuk.com



Josh Candy, Director, featherflagstrade.co.uk



PRODUCT Choice

Print-2-Media unlocks new markets and greater productivity with Nyala 4

Cornish-based signage and fine art printer, Print-2-Media, has installed a swissQprint Nyala 4, adding efficiency, quality, and productivity to its print room, as well as opening up new areas of business.

The 3.2×2 metre flatbed Nyala 4, has delivered significant advantages in both speed and capability over the 2-metre machine it has replaced. Print-2-Media's team of eight is already seeing the Nyala 4's productivity and ease of use contribute significantly to all aspects of their business.

Diverse international customer base

Operating in a variety of commercial sectors and with almost 40 percent of its business derived from its online presence, Print-2-Media's clients range from individual B2C commissions to local, national and international artists seeking limited-edition fine art prints.

In addition, the business works in several specialist sectors, including the production of internal and external signage for both schools and national garden centre chains. With its additional roll unit, six inks including CMYK, white and varnish and a double row of print heads, the Nyala 4 has provided significant flexibility to their production output.

New workload dynamic

The production team arrives for work in the morning and, within minutes, are printing high-quality results. Virtually no time is lost to head cleaning or dropped-out nozzles. "This 'plug and play' capability alone is already making us realise that our investment in Swiss-built quality is well founded," said Glenn Wrigley, Director of Print-2-Media.

Print-2-Media has seen a complete change in the workload dynamic, too. Historically, its finishing department was waiting for the printers to complete a job. Now the pressure is on them to keep up with the Nyala 4's production speeds.

Profitability and sustainability

Further to the Nyala's clear production efficiency and operational benefits, the contribution it makes to Print-2-Media's long-term capital investment planning is impressive. "When calculated over the



Glenn Wrigley, Director of Print-2-Media: "Our investment in Swiss-built quality is well founded."

expected working life of the equipment, swissQprint's renowned low service costs and durability credentials mean that we get all the production advantages and flexibility, essentially at no additional cost. This is a clear case of 'buy right, buy once'," said Wrigley.

The Nyala's larger 3.2 metre flatbed has also widened the range of products that Print-2-Media can offer to its clients. Print-2-Media's recent new venture, The School Sign Shop, launched during the pandemic, already accounts for ten per cent of the firm's turnover, a result brought about in no small part by its enhanced production versatility.



Print-2-Media, has installed a swissQprint Nyala 4, adding efficiency, quality, and productivity to its print room.

Being able to deliver a complete service across an impressive array of products using the Nyala 4 has seen Print-2-Media increasingly become a 'one-stop shop' for many clients who seek the highest quality results in both print and sustainability. "We are delighted at swissQprint's strong eco credentials, too, through the Nyala 4's low use of energy and waste-reducing precision," Wrigley added.

Effective Swiss-made solution

Erskine Stewart, swissQprint's Managing Director, is pleased that all the wider benefits of ownership that are built into swissQprint machines are making such a difference to the team at Print-2-Media: "Seeing the Nyala 4 contribute so positively to so many areas of their business is affirmation of our drive to produce effective solutions for our customers."

Whilst capital investment and performance are vital, sometimes it's the little things that make operators fall in love with equipment; and swissQprint's output software is one of these. "Setting step and repeat jobs and having templates ready in an instant, makes the team's day a delight! The Nyala 4 is our new favourite machine," concluded Wrigley.

www.swissqprint.co.uk

Ainsley Signs invests in UVgel dedicated roll printer

Ainsley Signs has invested in a Canon Colorado 1650 UVgel roll printer from CMYUK. The printer was purchased expressly to boost the throughput times of its banner production. It follows close on the heels of a Kongsberg X24 Digital Cutting Table installation, also purchased from CMYUK last year.

The business specialises in signage for the house building and construction industry including building sites, highrise branding, fence panels, and the like. Other UV printers were considered but as this business specialises in volume 1.6m wide output, the Colorado was the perfect choice.

"We do lots of banner work using 50 and 100m rolls and we chose the Canon Colorado 1650 purely for its speed. We can literally print a 50m banner in 30 minutes now, it's absolutely phenomenal," says Josh Ainsley, Commercial Director, Ainsley Signs.

Increased speeds mean that for Josh now, jobs can be started later in the morning and regular weekend working is a distant memory. The Canon Colorado was designed for volume unattended printing. It features continual nozzle monitoring, automatic printhead maintenance, automated media feed, and a winding roll option.

CMYUK help and support

This is the second large investment that Ainsley Signs has made with CMYUK. Once again, Josh found the CMYUK team helpful, able to provide the exact solution for his business needs. Prior knowledge and familiarity with the ONYX RIP meant that training was concentrated on the physical aspects of the printer such as paper and ink loading. "The guys in our studio were absolutely fine with the printer, getting cracking on it after a day's training, and since we've installed it, we've just run it day in, day out with no problems whatsoever. Jason McNulty [Digital Sales Consultant, CMYUK] who looks after us, has been a big part of why we've decided to make the equipment investments with CMYUK over the past year. We're really impressed with everything he's done and how he's gone about supporting us as a company. CMYUK offers really excellent customer service and he's been absolutely brilliant," says Josh.

Colorado versatility

The Colorado 1650 is a large format UVgel, dedicated roll-to-roll printer that has won plaudits across the sign and display industry for its versatility, speed, and excellent colour reproduction.

While Ainsley Signs has dedicated the Canon Colorado to its banner work, this printer offers huge flexibility and versatility. It outputs a wide variety of materials such as SAV, heat sensitive and Polyesterbased textiles, making it suitable for numerous applications such as window graphics, wallcoverings, soft signage, posters, banners, floor graphics, fleet graphics, POS, canvas reproductions, backlit, and frontlit display graphics.

While the speed/quality ratio of the printer has blown Josh away, he is also mightily impressed with the UVgel inks. Stretchable and flexible, they ensure a stable image even when prints are folded, wrapped or bent. They are also incredibly robust offering serious scratch resistance. "You can literally tip white spirit over them and rub them, and it doesn't even touch them, they are amazing," says Josh. These inks also help to lower the cost of production, offering up to 40% savings on ink usage when compared with competitive products.

The Colorado also allows users to print matt and gloss finishes without the need to change inks or media as the switch is done automatically and Josh has been applying the matt finish to some banner jobs.

Improved workflow

Ainsley Signs has two production sites next to each other in Middleton, Manchester. The arrival of the Colorado prompted a new layout and refurbishment of the facilities. A mezzanine has been added to the unit that houses the old print room, effectively doubling space capacity to house 1 x flatbed, 3 x solvent printers, and the Colorado. The Kongsberg which was originally sited in the second unit has been moved into the print room to enable a workflow that is faster, more efficient, and convenient

"We print, cut on the Kongsberg and then this goes next door for manufacturing. It's a really efficient production line now," says losh

The business is currently designing wallcoverings for its meeting room area and will be utilising the FLX feature on the Colorado that cleverly allows users to print matt and gloss on the same print in a single pass.

Says Josh, "The Colorado is an epic addition to our business. We put it in to speed things up and that's what it's done. We just throw things at it all day and every day. It's amazing."

www.cmyuk.com www.signsmanchester.com/



From left to right: Carl Booth, Senior Signage Consultant; Dom Dearden, Head of Design & Print; Tom Knight, Operations Director; Harry Spenser, print operator.



PRODUCT Choice

Super-Wide DIGITAL invest in second Agfa printer

Lancashire based trade printer, Super-Wide Digital (SWD) has invested in its second Agfa print engine. They took delivery of a new Avinci CX3200 dye sublimation machine in December.

The new printer will join several dye sublimation printers at the firm, but it's the first dye sub purchased from Agfa. Luke Drogan, from SWD explains: "We took delivery of an Agfa Jeti Tauro H3300 LED hybrid wide-format press in late 2019 and during Covid it worked 24/7 producing the many miles of Social Distancing graphics for our customers. It quickly became the production teams favoured print machine, and it was the reliability of the Jeti Tauro that gave us the confidence in the Agfa product. So, when we decided to add another dye sub machine to cope with the demand of our growing soft signage business, the Agfa Avinci was a key printer

At a time when energy costs have become the number one consideration of most businesses, the dye sublimation process, with the requirement of a heated calendar unit, could be a concern for some. But SWD had the foresight to install solar panels across a large section of their roof

in 2016 and February will see three times as many installed on the remaining roof space. This investment, as well as an off-site wind turbine, has meant that they will be fully reliant on their own power generation for the year providing the business with a very stable foundation.

SWD has a huge arsenal of printers on their Bacup site and they have a policy of consistently investing and updating their equipment so that they have efficient machines using the minimum of power. They will largely use their new Agfa Avinci engine to produce backlit textile graphics for POS and exhibition work. They also have large scale finishing which is key when dealing with textiles and can often be the bottle neck in the process. But they have the benefit of laser cutting technology on an 8x3m bed to heat seal material edges and prevent any woven media from fraying. The business sensibly quotes lead times based on their capability of output from their finishing department as opposed to press lead times.

The Agfa Avinci CX3200 3.2m wide dye sublimation roll-to-roll printer can print both directly to textile and to transfer paper at a speed of up to 270m² per hour. Requiring

offline fixation, it provides flexibility and reduced waste. It's also much more energy efficient and features the Agfa 'Thin-Ink-Layer' technology resulting in very low ink consumption.

Final word from Luke: "It's been an interesting and challenging few years in business, first with Covid, then the fall in supplies and now the cost of living and energy crisis. As a business we have looked at a wider investment plan to help us through the turbulence and the resulting solar power and wind turbine will help us significantly this year. We are also trying to navigate through potential 'greenwashing' in the industry to focus on truly sustainable products and materials. Strong relationships with suppliers who have the same values are key to our business and our relationship with Agfa is growing. We are already impressed with the results of the Agfa Avinci, there is a robustness and consistency to their machines which means we can run them confidently. We are already talking about investing in more Agfa machines and I'm sure that with the benefit of their finance package, this will be a reality very soon."

www.agfa.com





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PRODUCT Choice

Tiato Sign & Digital purchases Mimaki UCJV300-160 print and cut from CMYUK

Tiato Sign & Digital has invested in Mimaki UCJV300-160 UV print and cut technology from CMYUK. The business was founded by Tim Tomblin, who since leaving school at the age of 16, has been working with wide format Mimaki technology.

Tim started out with 2 solvent Mimaki JV300-160s, a Mimaki cutter CG-160FXII, an Easymount Laminator, and a flatbed applicator. The company specialises in producing seasonal window displays for national high street retailers that includes a mixture of in-window graphics, vinyls, and glass clings.

"I've always stuck with the brand. The equipment is well built and solidly reliable, the colour and quality of the output is really good, and it's very easy to work with," he says.

The move to UV LED technology is a response to the company's growing high street retail clients, all of which demand fast turnaround times. The Mimaki UCJV300-160 offers instant dry prints and integrated cutting which has significantly improved throughput speed and efficiency at this Amesbury-based business.

"It was the curing times and the ecological issues around solvent that led me to UV.

With the old solvent printers, we had to let the prints cure for 24 hours before sending them out. Now I can print, cut, and despatch on the same day, making time savings of up to 50%. Also, if there were any output errors with the solvent, it would be another day before we could send replacements to the client. The new UV printer allows us to reprint, still despatch on the same day, and not upset our customers," says Tim.

The Mimaki UCJV300-160 is a 7-colour printer (C, M, Y, K, Lc, Lm, W, Cl), although Tiato has opted for a double White configuration rather than White and Clear. It also offers 4 ink layers and a resolution of up to 1200dpi. "A lot of our work for leading retailers involves skin tones, and the ability to print with Light Cyan and Light Magenta really adds to the quality of the skin tone," says Tim.

The ability to print white too has also become a game changer for the company. "If retail staff are going to apply graphics to glass themselves for example, we can print white to cling, and they can just fit this to the inside of a window. White is massive for us," he adds.

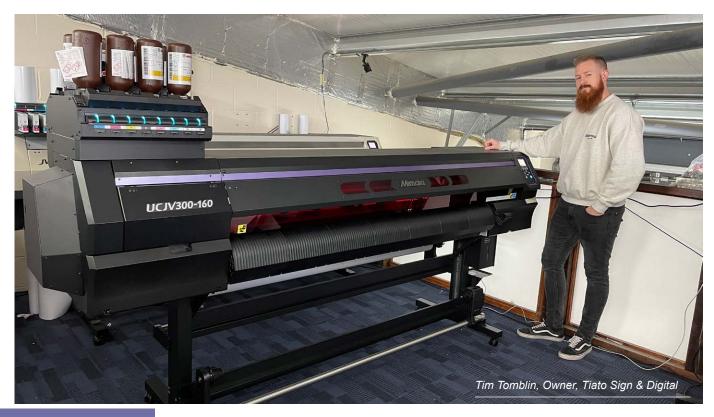
The installation of the printer last month has meant that the company has been

able to reduce its outsourcing from twenty percent to under 5. "The purchase of this printer means that we can now do just over 95% of everything we need inhouse with the equipment we have – it's rare that we have to put something out now. Investing in UV also means that we can start to offer eco-friendly versions of banners, vinyls, and other popular media types. It's something we're increasingly being asked about, and we want to make sure we have all the latest solutions on offer," he says.

Tiato has already produced work for a museum using PVC-free vinyl from CMYUK's sustainable materials portfolio that offers proven high performing alternatives to all popular sign and display applications.

Says Tim, "I am impressed with CMYUK, its customer service and am looking forward to revisiting the showroom in Shrewsbury in the near future. I have a real vision for this business and over the last three years it has been playing out nicely. Retail display is our speciality, and our investment in Mimaki technology is key to servicing our growing customer base in the best way possible."

www.cmyuk.com



Paramount4 invests in Mimaki printer and an Easymount laminator

Newbury-based Paramount4 has invested in a Mimaki UCJV300 -160 printer cutter from CMYUK. Installed in December 2022, this 1.6m wide UV LED roll-to-roll printer will be used for the output of vinyl graphics. It joins a Mimaki UJV55 – 320 UV LED 3.2m roll printer and Easymount laminator also purchased from CMYUK. The new equipment replaces HP, Jetrix, and Roland equipment.

Paramount4 is an exhibition stand building and events business. It started out 32 years ago building stands for the company that gave the world Bob the Builder. While expo stands and events are still its core activity, it also provides print, build and installation services for roadshows, conferences, and set backdrops amongst other things.

"We do a lot of agency work, so the clients that we have will ask us to do an office or retail fit out, one thing leads to another depending on what they want," says Gareth Jenkins, Project Manager, Graphics.

Gareth has been at the company for 22 years, and in this time has lived through numerous aesthetic trends and technological advancements in digital graphic production. Back in the day, the business was using solvent machines to print vinyl PVC while exhibition graphics were printed onto paper, laminated and then mounted onto board. Eight years ago, the business moved to textile printing, buying a Jetrix dye sublimation printer. While the printer was temperamental and high maintenance, it bought the advantages of soft signage to the fore.

"I loved the fact that we could fold the printed fabric, pop it in a suitcase and get it over to Vegas or wherever. Clients were leaving artwork to the last minute, way after exhibition containers had been shipped to the States or Europe, so printing onto textiles made the logistics of our job much easier," says Gareth.

Embracing UV

A watershed moment for production came in June 2021 with the arrival of James Taylerson, who works as a Project Manager in the Graphics Department alongside Gareth.

"I knew instantly that the business would really benefit from updating its equipment, and the revamp would provide the potential for bringing in a great deal more work. The company has really gone for it, and the results have been brilliant," he says.

Gareth and James put their heads together and systematically went about researching the various types of print technologies, and different printers weighing up the pros and cons of each, and the overall suitability to the business.

"We looked at what our maximum print widths were on jobs, the best quality for the best price, and a model which didn't incur massive consumables bills – the Mimaki UJV55 – 320 ticked every box," says James.

James had used Mimaki equipment in a previous role and was impressed by how user-friendly, simple and straight forward the interface was to use. Another plus in the Mimaki's favour was its good looks. "We're turning our graphics studio into a working showroom as many of our clients and colleagues visit here to see our print capabilities and look at the samples and finishes that are on display. The Mimaki UJV55 wasn't just the best on performance, it looks the part as well," says James.

For James, though what really sets Mimaki technology apart is the vibrancy of colour reproduction. "What really jumped out is the richness of colour, and the balance between speed and quality. Also, installation was a breeze - literally plug and play, straight out of the box," he says.

The latest UCJV300-160 printer cutter installed in December 2022 was purchased to output vinyl jobs, allowing the UJV55 to concentrate on fabric.



The Mimaki UJV55 – 320 UV LED 3.2m roll printer is mainly used on fabric

"With this UV LED printer, the quality is pinpoint sharp. It prints and cuts to our desired time frames, and again, is very easy to operate. With both printers in situ, we are much more productive as we no longer have to wait to change from fabric to vinyl on the UJV55. We're now able to tackle different elements of a job at once which is much more efficient," says Gareth.



The Mimaki UCJV300-160 printer cutter was purchased to output vinyl jobs

Lamination

Paramount 4 also purchased an Easymount 1600 Single Hot laminator from CMYUK to ensure greater protection for graphics being transported to expos across the world.

"Sometimes we over-laminate our PVC vinyl prints that are being used outside for added weather protection, but we also use it as security for ourselves. A lot of print we produce is flat, and often when its shipped, lots of other objects get loaded on top of it. The extra lamination gives us peace of mind, an insurance against damage in transit," says Gareth.

A culture of excellence

The investment in the new equipment is part of a wider strategy at the company to attract more ambitious and high-profile work, and the strategy has been working. Says Gareth: "Everyone working here has developed a mindset of quality and it's become something special that is being noticed. There are lots of conversations being had with new clients and large blue-chip customers. Our work is being recognised and everyone is starting to bang on our door."

www.cmyuk.com



PROJECT News

Upcycling to turn LED strip offcuts into colourful wonders

As a company, The Sign Group are always looking for ways to be more sustainable and reduce waste. So when

they found themselves with buckets of LED strip offcuts, silicone covers, and other unused materials, they knew they had to put them to good use. And that's exactly what they did!

With a little creativity and a lot of enthusiasm, they transformed these offcuts into beautiful and vibrant pieces that have quickly become a hit in their office. The result is not only a more sustainable solution but also a visually stunning one.

Some of their colour combinations have been bold and daring, but overall, the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive says Grey Hoole, Managing Direoctor at The Sign Group. Not only have they reduced waste, but they've also created a product that could potentially be rolled out on a larger scale.

In a world where sustainability is more important than ever, Grey says "we're proud to have found a way to give these offcuts a second life and create something truly amazing. Who knew something so simple could have such a big impact?".

www.thesigngroup.co.uk



Hollywood Monster debuts PONGS® DESCOR® innovative track system

Hollywood Monster has debuted its first commercial job using the PONGS® DESCOR® track system from Arkutex, the surface textiles division of CMYUK.

Produced for client Design Built
Exhibitions, Hollywood Monster created
the external shell for the Jazwares stand
at the recent Toy Fair expo held at London
Olympia. This project follows on from
Hollywood Monster becoming a certified
DESCOR® Premium accredited installer
after members of its Exhibitions Team
attended a training course organised
by CMYUK at the PONGS® HQ in
Dusseldorf.

Offering a smart alternative to conventional surface design, the DESCOR® track accommodates one-piece stretched tension textiles that cover walls, ceilings and panels, hiding the substructure behind. The textile is simply pushed into the track profile by a unique spatula and tensioned tightly to appear as a solid finish.

DESCOR® is also clean and easy-to-install removing the traditional need to 'make good.' It integrates essential lighting and HVAC services, and as it doesn't interfere with underlying architectural features, can be used for the interior refurbishment of historical buildings. Entire surface imagery can be replaced quickly and cost-effectively whilst retaining the DESCOR® track ¬¬— making it suitable for immersive brand experiences, promotional events as well as refurbished interiors.



Hollywood Monster printed approximately 200sq.m of PONGS® DESCOR® textile on its EFI VUTEk Q5r UV LED roll-to-roll printer that was installed to create the stand's four stretched perimeter walls. Internal booth graphics were supplied by another producer.

Hollywood Monster's Head of Live Events, Noel Tilley, who attended the training course said, "It was an excellent trip and inspiring to see the multiple applications of DESCOR® at Villa Lantz. Seeing how this system can be used with various textiles

was very impactful and I see can it gaining greater traction for exhibitions over the next 12 months. We recognise the potential of DESCOR® to transform spaces beyond exhibitions and events including retail, sports, hospitality, leisure, heritage, office interiors, education and health. We will be bringing it to the attention of the print brokers, purchasing teams and agencies that we work with."



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Portable Signage

Very Displays talk Tube Fabric Displays

Very Displays services the display and printing industry with great products at exceptional value. Supplying to Trade Only, their range of products extends from roller banners to multiple display solutions. Very Displays Consistent growth as one of the leading Trade Only suppliers on Europe has been bolstered by being part of the Trifibre Group – Europe's leading casing manufacturer.

Impact of Portable Signage.

According to Kirsty Corcoran, Very Display's Marketing Manager, portable signage has an ever-increasing role in a shifting economy. "Flexibility, as well as its ability to be used time and time again. Even in the smallest promotional spaces, portable display hardware is a must for any sign maker, business, or brand. Lightweight, easy to assemble, costeffective, and able to be used at multiple events, making communicating a message incredibly simple. The ease to be able to keep hardware and change graphics for a new event/promotion and have a display that can also be easily transported to any event make portable signage a no brainer.

"Our bestsellers are three-fold really; Roller Banners, Promotional flags and Tube Fabric Displays. Roller banners have always been a staple favourite in the event & exhibition industry as they are easy and quick to assemble and get a message across quickly. Promotional flags are by far the best outdoor products, and we see them all over from high streets to forecourts.

Lastly Tube Fabric Displays are our growing product line. They are easy to deploy, stylish with seamless graphics and suit a variety of stand sizes. Plus, the hardware is robust and reusable making it a more environmentally conscious option." As technology and materials are making advances, Very Displays have been meeting this demand by "investing in new technology and machinery, with a current focus on our textile equipment to ensure we are primed and ready for this growing trend. We've just added the latest colour management software to ensure a tighter tolerance on our print, as well as a new high spec grand format textile printer and cutter; we're becoming more agile to meet the consumer shift towards this more adaptable portable display offering."

New Growth

Since Covid and the economic crisis, there has been many market shifts with companies needing to evolve and adapt. Kirsty noted upon this Global impact on the industry; "We can't hide from the fact that covid had an impact on the industry. With events closed and hospitality impacted, we found a shift in product demand and a need for health and safety hardware".

This was a trend many sign companies faced during the pandemic. "For us it was a case of rolling with the changes, developing our ranges to fit growing demands, managing stock closely and putting a strong team in place to support our customers."

After Covid and the economic crisis, Very Displays have seen a resurgence of the Signage Industry. Kirsty noted "Companies are looking to promote hard to recoup revenue and businesses are also freshening up their brands so lots of rebranding opportunities - we're so excited to see the industry coming back and to be out and about seeing customers, going to events, and creating strong relationships again."

Being a Trade Supplier in an ever-evolving market requires a company to adapt to new ideas and product ranges. Boasting their own in-house product development expert, Gary Parker, Very Displays seeks to innovate with Gary "constantly tweaking and improving current products but also finding gaps in the market to ensure we keep up with trends and demand." Kirsty also notes that "regularly attending Trade shows across the UK, Europe, and Asia ensures that Very Displays are constantly abreast of latest technology and development trends."

Sustainable Future

Due to the robust nature of the signage industry, sustainability can be an issue within the industry. Mentioning this change in dynamic, and with businesses looking for greener solutions, Kirsty commented "As a business it's the top of our agenda! We are reviewing each element of our business for improvement across printing, sourcing, materials used and office initiatives. Some of this includes reviewing the inks we use, the outer packaging we source, moving the products we can to UK production...even the lighting we have in our warehouse and office. We have already taken steps to bring our tyre base manufacturing inhouse at our sister company Trifibre in Leicester, as well as ensure we maximise space on all containers and encouraging and informing on our reusable hardware for our customers. Watch this space for more updates on our sustainability journey."

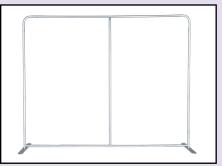
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Portable Signage

Making waves within the industry

Signwaves was founded April Fools Day, 1989, and they're certainly laughing now as consistent growth has seen the company expand to a three-acre factory, warehouse and office site in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk and supported by a joint manufacturing facility in Dongguan, China. Signwaves specialise in the manufacture and printing of sign and display products for blue-chip brands and retailers, agencies and trade sellers. "Signage and printed display material is a fundamental form of business marketing, and realising this in an attractive, functional and innovative way for our customers is our passion.'

From their first order of Walls' Ice Cream, they have produced 'hundreds and thousands' (their joke, not ours). Signwaves has researched, designed and tested different brand products to produce some striking effects. Poppy George, marketing Manager, commented on a particular success within their portable signage range. "We're really proud of our patented POW! Sign, which can currently be spotted on Shell forecourts around the country. It goes above and beyond the standard rectangular poster or banner sleeve, delivering striking breakout shapes guaranteed to draw attention." The POW! Sign is a familiar feature outside most newsagents and forecourts throughout the UK, bringing theatre and breakout shapes to traditional signage.

Shell GO

SAY

HELLO TO

REWARDS

COOD THINGS HAPPEN

WHEN YOU GO! IT

CONTROL THE CONTROL

POW! with waterfill base guaranteed to draw attention

Poppy elaborates further on the popularity of portable signage that they supply "We stock a wide range of portable signage, but our pavement and forecourt sign ranges can be seen on any high street and outside the majority of businesses around the country!

Enjoy a Footlong Sub

Available after 4pm

Chazar from a may of Footlong Mode
for the price above after time above,
out from this table.

And from a control of the control

We proudly hold patents on a number of our most popular ranges including our Swinger pavement signs, our fully recyclable Ecoflex range and our Adfresco® Café Barriers too. A choice of three shapes and three sizes in our Flying Banner range, alongside their three year hardware guarantee, makes them another popular product for any environment."

Signwaves' list of indoor/outdoor range is supported by a range of printing capabilities "On-site we have a large selection of printers which can deal with rigid and fabric roll materials. We can provide screen print, digital print, varnish over-print and dye sublimation services. Our site includes an expansive manufacturing shop floor, and our own workshop dedicated to our in-house manufactured Woodworkz® range. We even have an accelerated weathering tester which allows us to put our products through rigorous testing to ensure the best outdoor performance." Intrigued by what a weather accelerator is, Poppy continues. "The Accelerated Weathering Tester is an enclosure that simulates outdoor weather conditions: moisture. sun and temperature cycles occur at an accelerated intensity. Years of real-time testing can be condensed down to a matter of months or even weeks. It gives us an advanced understanding of product performance over lifespan, ensures the best materials and finishes get used, and it can accelerate the route to market for new product development."

With the way shopping trends have changed, we asked whether they had

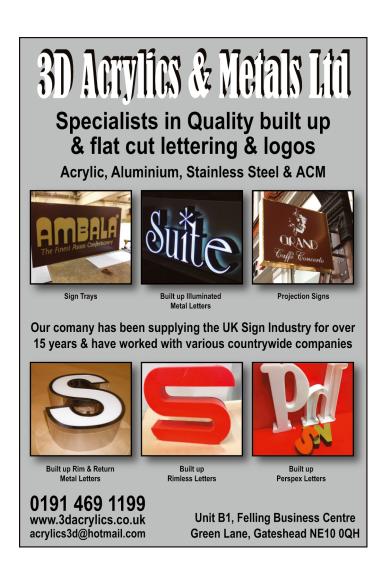
noticed a difference to the traditional forms of portable signage within the industry, Poppy commented "According to Sensormatic's UK Retail Review 2022, not only has UK retail seen a robust recovery in 2022 in terms of footfall, but 71% of UK shoppers still prefer shopping

in store than any other channel. To put it bluntly, the high street is NOT dead! In 2023, it is essential that businesses fully appreciate the importance of effective, eye-catching, persuasive messaging and branding in the out-of-home landscape. Every piece of your business's portable signage is a 24/7 sales rep that you can employ for pennies per day! Signage truly can provide that extra nudge to consumers' behaviour that not only attracts footfall into your store, but emphasises the value of your offering at the point of sale."



Swinger 2 Black Frame with Aluminium Pane

Touching on the topic of recovery since Covid, Poppy says, "Fortunately, Signwaves fared well during the Covid pandemic, as many organisations required signage and display products in order to communicate messages such as social distancing guidelines. During these uncertain times, some organisations ordered products in bulk which resulted in a reduced need for repeat orders at their usual frequency. However, we're pleased to report a return to near-normal trading conditions since then, and are delighted that the vast majority of our customers weathered the storm and continue to deal with us today, some stronger than ever."





Striving for innovative methods in production and sustainability, Signwaves have made strides toward a sustainable future within the signage industry. "Many of our products are fully recyclable, and

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Flying Banner Line Up - Events

we offer replaceable graphic panels on many of our products to save on the cost/wastage of just replacing the whole sign." They are also accredited to ISO 14001, a certification intended for use by an organization seeking to manage its environmental responsibilities in a systematic manner that contributes to the environmental pillar of sustainability.

Additionally, Poppy adds that Signwaves has installed a "Major 360kW solar panel installation to our factory roof in 2019, which generates a good percentage of our electrical energy needs — whilst reducing our carbon footprint. The rest of our electricity is from a supplier who generates 100% of their energy from wind and solar farms — it costs a bit more but long term we know it's the right thing to do. We also engineer our packaging to reduce transportation and use a minimum of 80% recycled board material in our cartons."

Signwaves has more than just a commitment to business and sustainability, they also have a commitment to their workforce. "Our team are like a family (meaning we have our ups and downs, like any family!) but ultimately we all get along, have a bit of fun, and we all share a common bond; a love of good design and great customer service." Their

longevity and continued success is a tri-factor of quality products, sustainability and a strong team ethic. In short they're no fool when it comes to succeeding in a competitive market.

www.signwaves.co.uk



Ecoflex showing Fwipp artwork



Portable Signage

Planting a flag in portable signage

Based in the Midlands, UK Feather Flags is dedicated to making high quality banners, feather flags and custom flags within the UK. Using 100% polyester, a fully recyclable material, they are perfect for use both indoors and outdoors. Specialising in business and marketing, feather flags promise an almost immediate exposure to passing trade, simply through the nature of the way the signs dance in the wind.

Impact of Flag signs

Flags have always had a heavily symbolic nature throughout our history. Planting a flag claims a space, land, country, even down to Neil Armstrong planting one on the moon. A flag is a statement of intent that signifies "we are here." As such, it will always draw the eye of the passer-by. "Feather Flags can have a positive impact on a company's presence and interest by

increasing visibility, promoting the brand, and providing a cost-effective solution for outdoor advertising."

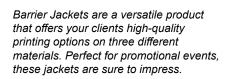
Josh, at UK feather flags states the benefits of incorporating Feather Flags as an effective tool for marketing purposes. "Businesses that have a brick-and-mortar location can draw in a significant amount of outside traffic if they use the flags strategically. When ordering a flag, it is important to understand that one is often not enough; attention can be instantly grabbed when many flags are out and dancing in the wind. One flag can work, but to be effective it is all about having multiple flags visible." Considering the historic nature of a flag, the impact of a feather flag sign can't be ignored.

Intrigued by the nature of feather flags within portable signage, we asked Josh about what the impact of signage means

to UK feather flags. Josh responded with, "It can have a positive impact on a company's presence and interest. It allows for greater flexibility and ease of use in promoting a business's brand, products. and services. It can also help reach a wider audience by allowing companies to easily relocate their signs to different locations. The use of portable signs can also save a company money compared to traditional permanent signs by reducing the need for multiple signs at multiple locations. Additionally, portable signs can increase visibility and draw attention to a business in a more dynamic and eyecatching way."

Another unusual way of emphasising the impact of flag designs is within team building exercises. Upon asking Josh what his most memorable sign has been, he replied, "One of the most distinctive projects we embarked upon





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Feather Flags are a top-selling product that should be a part of every print reseller's inventory. Their exceptional quality and striking design make them an excellent choice for promoting businesses or events.



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was the production of 50 flags for a major accounting firm. Although the production was routine, the unique aspect was the absence of any pre-designed artwork, and left as pure white canvas. The flags provided a unique and creative outlet for the employees of the accounting firm to express their vision of design and aided to foster collaboration within the team." This uncommon method of team building exercise helps to make an employee express their vision of a company through design and enhancing their own sense of value through the company.

Quality driven results

With a competitive market, we asked what is UK Feather Flag's aim for keeping pace with market trends and a common demand for immediate results. Josh tells us, "Last year, we made a strategic investment in state-of-the-art printing technology by acquiring a 3.2m wide DGI Fabrijet printer from Sabur Ink and a Canon Colorado 1630 from CMYUK. This acquisition has allowed us to maintain a competitive edge and improve our production efficiency. As a result, we are able to stay ahead of the curve and deliver high-quality products in a timely manner."

Keeping in line with turnover for results, UK Feather Flags only request a three-

day lead period with a design ready to print. With a simple process of choosing, type and size of flag, type of base, design and then delivery, they offer quality prices and fast results. However, through their expertise they also offer advice to their customer base. "Selecting the right colour to represent your brand in order to attract your target audience will help with the effectiveness of the marketing. Colours that are brighter reach a larger audience, however you do not want to be too bright; it can have a negative impact upon the professionalism of your brand."

Sustainable practice

Businesses and small enterprises are now more keen than ever to enter into business with companies that offer a sustainable practice. Upon asking Josh this question, he tells us, "We have embarked on a pioneering effort to evaluate the feasibility of utilising recycled materials, specifically post-consumer plastic bottles, in the production of our flag's material. This initiative aligns with our commitment to environmental sustainability and presents an opportunity to launch a comprehensive recycling and upcycling program. Should customers choose to participate, they would be encouraged to return their used flags to us. In return, we would offer a discount to new customers on

partially used poles, bases, and frames, accompanied by the option of a new ecofriendly print. This program not only has the potential to reduce waste, but also serves as a step towards promoting a more sustainable future for our industry."

Josh concludes their mission with "Placing the flags in the correct place is by far the most important and crucial part of any traditional campaign strategy. Not every retail business has the greatest location, however you do not want to place the flags away from your location unless you are promoting a remote event. Flags should be placed where the most amount of traffic can visually see them. If your business is positioned next to a busy street, but the front of the business points towards a small street, it would be wise to place the flags on the side of the street with the most traffic. Feather Flags are not just restricted to business site needs, but are also a great promotional tool for events such as festivals, sporting events, conferences and special events within the local community."

www.featherflagstrade.co.uk





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Hand Painted Signs

Enamel paint on cast signage

Photocast Products is a Liverpool based company that specialises in Zinc etching, and part of the CHC foundry group of companies. With their blend of modern and traditional techniques, a natural partnership formed with gifted Signwriter, Vanessa – Morris Cast Signs, an independent enthusiast who studied art from a young age and whose passion eventually led to developing her own business of hand painted signs.

Modern methods, with a twist.

With any traditional signage, time is the key. In a fast-paced economy with quick turnover, the traditional signage industry has to offer something special in its place. Upon speaking with Chris Hogan, Sales Director of Photocast Products, he commented. "Our opinion is that traditional sign making has a much greater impact than more modern ink printed sign. Traditional signs use only a small amount of paint which is generally oil based and lasts far longer than more modern techniques, which show signs of fading in a relatively short period. A key factor for a lot of our customers to choose our products over a cheaper option."

Photocast Products breach the gap between utilising modern technology and traditional methods to create an item that is crafted with care that means something to a community. As such, the blend of signwriting onto cast signs came into being. Chris describes the marriage between casting and sign writing as, "something we believe complements one another perfectly to produce fine end products. The skills needed to produce these types of work have been developed over many years on many projects. The aim is to give the customer exactly what it is they require in the most efficient way."

With any traditional methods, there is the element of time. Yet, with time, there is an understanding and relationship between the product and customer. Vanessa felt strongly about this topic, telling us, "The product is a work of art that the customer/community can be closely involved in, if they choose, they can even help to paint areas of the sign giving a more prominent meaning. This is something that would not be possible with most alternatives." This statement highlights the integrity of the work and impact of not just being another sign, but a deeper part of a community.

Quality Time

In terms of timescale, Chris and Vanessa were kind enough to elaborate on the

intricate nature of the products they have worked on together. "There are 4 stages in the process to produce a bespoke cast handprinted sign.

Artwork design – We receive a brief from the customer along with photos of what they would like to see on the sign and produce a digital artwork proposal.

Pattern Build - Once the artwork has been agreed, a full-size relief pattern of the artwork is built. The pattern back board is made from Plywood or MDF. The artwork is constructed using Sheet wax and modelling materials. Text is then also

applied using pre-cut Perspex letters. Before casting, the whole pattern is sealed to protect the artwork during the process.

Casting - This process is completed at the Charles H Coward Foundry in Sheffield using traditional sand-casting techniques and detailed hand finishing.

Painting - The whole plaque, once cast, is wet sprayed in black and cream. The final stage is the application of the full colour to the relief artwork. Enamel paint is used for this part and finished with a top coat lacquer to protect the paint work.





In total, an average order for two signs with a full scene artwork can take anything from 16 to 26 weeks, from conception to finish. For digital artwork products, such as Zinc chemical etched and cast bronze signs, the product is estimated from artwork approval to hand finished and delivered within 4-6 weeks."

An Enduring passion for design.

Intrigued by Vanessa's background into her background, we discovered that her love of Design found a natural niche within hand painted designs. "I have always had a passion for art and being creative. From school to university, I followed the creative route from graphic design through to Illustration and animation. The art world however is a tough nut to crack and I found myself working in the travel industry as airline crew for over 20 years. I was always pulled back to art and this continued with it as a hobby rather than a career. My passion for creativity led me to finding the unique and fascinating world of bespoke sign making. I felt like I had finally found what I was always supposed to do and over a period of two years, learning the sign trade and flying part-time I transitioned from pointing out emergency exits to pointing out the way to beautiful towns and villages with gateway signs."

Vanessa's passion for the industry is apparent as she explains her methods of painting; "the preferred brush is a Sable hair Filbert ranging from size 1 - 4. For finer detail painting we will use either a sable hair round brush size 0 - 00 or we have found masking brushes work well with the enamels and they hold their shape for longer. We start with flooding the scene with as much colour as possible. The enamel paints are slow drying and each layer must dry before applying the next coat, applying two coats of the base colour. However, if when we have an artwork for example with sky and clouds, we will often apply the paint layers while wet this enables me to blend the paint on the plaque, we will use a harder brush to help blending. Once the artwork is completely covered with its base colour, we start on the detail work. There is a wide range of enamel colours, but we hand mix to get the right colours for the scene. The final stage is two applications of a clear top coat lacquer, which helps to preserve the colour of the enamels."

Sustainability and USP of the products

As the modern signage industry is a waste heavy industry, traditional cast signs does offer a sustainable future. Chris and Vanessa offered their opinion on the credentials of their products:

- Long lasting high-quality products in both manufacturing and finishing.
- Low maintenance and able to remedy, which is ideal to reduces costs for customers over a period of time.
- Weight and size means they are less likely to be damaged or stolen, we also find that people do show more respect and care for a hand crafted piece of art.
- The look and feel of a hand painted sign speaks loudly about the quality and the craftsmanship involved in creating such pieces.

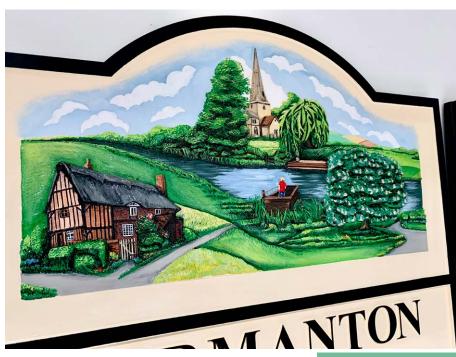
Future prospects

With the current niche market of both products, we asked where both companies saw their future within the industry. Chris and Vaneesa commented with, "The partnership between Photocast Products

and Morris Cast Signs will continue to push the boundaries of what is achievable with hand crafted plaque work and signage with developing new interlinking techniques and continuing to produce bespoke fine quality, highly durable products at a price point that is open to all budgets. Drawing on all our joint knowledge and manufacturing expertise, combining it with creative thoughts, designs and unique skills to move both businesses forward into new projects both independently and as well as side by side. There will always be a huge demand for the traditionally made heritage craft of hand painted signs and with this aim to keep relevant and in the moment along."

www.morriscastsigns.co.uk www.photocast.co.uk







Hand Painted Signs

Sign Painting by Dawn

Dawn is a traditional sign-painter based in the South West of the UK, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. With an artwork portfolio that ranges from shop frontages, fascias, A-boards, windows, chalkboards and vehicles, Dawn is one of the emerging number of women who have taken up the craft of Traditional Had Painted Signs.

When asked what drew her hand painted signs, Dawn tell us "I've been painting signs now for 7 years, around 4 of which have been full-time. Back in 2016 I learnt the techniques from Nick Garrett, a London based signwriter who taught weekend workshops on the basics of traditional signwriting. I nervously went along not really thinking about what it might actually lead to, but I found myself hooked immediately by his passion. After that I bought one brush (which I still have!), and two tins of enamel paint, and started painting." Different from the traditional aspect of apprenticeships, the availability of workshops and technology has led to an opening up of the once reserved occupation.

Dawn's background and flair for sign writing stemmed from an early love of design. Elaborating on this, we were told "I think I have always subconsciously been drawn to letters. In school I loved art but I usually seemed to find a way to incorporate words/song lyrics/literature into my paintings. Afterwards at University I studied graphic communication mostly because I was interested in type and fonts and layout, but I soon realised that I hated how digital everything was in that industry. I love old packaging, advertising, and physical, tangible things like books and records. I like variety and if I became a graphic designer then I knew I would be sat at a computer all day, 5 days a week, which would ultimately probably make me miserable."

Technology and Tradition

With a background of studying Design using Technology has since been complemented in Dawn's preparation work. "I use mostly traditional materials but updated with a modern twist. I know a lot of older generation signwriters that would flinch at the idea of using technology and would meticulously draw absolutely everything out by hand, but investing in a decent iPad was a game-changer for mocking things up and quickly changing colours on Procreate." Technology had a major impact on the traditional sign



Down The Rabbit Hole - exquisite example of gold leaf application to shop frontage

writing industry, yet there is also an aspect where technology is useful, even within an industry that has always relied on manual expertise. "I like to have the option of drawing digitally as it is a huge time saver."

However, there are challenges that even technology can't help with, "One of the biggest frustrations I would say, is the unpredictability of the weather. If it's raining a lot, really windy, freezing cold or even too hot, then it becomes a bit of a struggle - Another challenge is determined by the surface of the sign - often we'll have to paint really rough or bumpy walls. corrugated metal, or other surfaces which are the opposite of smooth! There is joy in this though too as we can paint on any surface using the right paints." Dawn continues, "Everything seems simple in the studio but then when you're solo, up a ladder on a busy high street, battling with a roll of paper 10m long and it's flapping around uncontrollably, things suddenly seem a lot harder - Patience goes a

long way and the end-result is often very satisfying and worth the challenge."

Hand painted signs are unique in the aspect of the Signage industry. It is a craft that requires dedication and patience to achieve spectacular results. "My recent favourite was designing and gilding a big window for Down the Rabbit Hole tattoo shop in Gloucester last year. I hadn't done such a large gold leaf piece before and it was quite daunting but I was really pleased with how it came out. Real gold just catches the light so nicely and you can't beat it. It's always nice to get a client who trusts you completely and lets you be creative with a really fun brief." Dawn continues to explain her methods of painting, "When it comes to painting I'll use pounce patterns for transferring the drawing onto the surface, enamel paints and sable brushes. I buy all my brushes and paints from A.S.Handover in London which is a fantastic place for everything you need."



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Dawn hand painting "Dunkerton's Organic Cider" to timber fascia.

Women within the industry

With there being an increase of women in a traditionally Male dominated role, we asked Dawn about how she feels, working in this type of industry. "The signwriting industry like other trades has always been a male dominated one, but there are now lots more upcoming women signwriters doing this day to day. It can be quite lonely to be to be a woman in the trade, I'm always surrounded on sites by mostly men." Much in the same vein of traditional



Sign Writers, meeting to discuss topics with like minds, Dawn tells us "Last year, Rachel Millar, a fellow signwriter based in Glasgow, organised a letterheads meet up for women and non-binary painters and it was amazing to see so many of us brought together in the same space." Dawn

definitely sees a bright future for women and non-binary sign writers to aid in the maintenance of traditional Hand Painted Signs, and with the use of technology, the preservation of the artform for a modern era.

www.signpaintingbydawn.com



Sustainability

Hybrid scheme helps Mimaki solvent printer users do MORE for the environment

Mimaki's UK distributor, Hybrid Services offers a programme intended to reduce the many tonnes of solvent ink cartridges that are destined for landfill. Launched back in 2008, the company's pioneering 'Let's Do MORE' rebate-linked recycling scheme seeks to combat these potential environmental challenges whilst rewarding users of Mimaki's solvent printers with free ink, as well as assisting them with their print waste management.

"With 'Let's Do MORE' Hybrid has offered a rebate linked solvent ink cartridge recycling scheme for 15 years that's designed to not only assist our customers' print waste management procedures, but actively reward them for it too," says the company's Reseller Account Manager, Martin Southworth. "Hybrid collects their spent cartridges, processes and recycles them – and rewards the customers with free ink for being part of the scheme."

"Since the scheme started, we have overseen the recycling of an enormous quantity of plastic cartridges," Southworth continues. "'Let's Do MORE' is centred around the concept of lots of little actions amounting to significant results, and the tonnes of plastic waste that have been kept from landfill warrant the effort put in from all parties to make it happen."

"Naturally, we either courier at our cost, or try to tie collections of cartridges with our other deliveries in the area to make it as environmentally conscious as possible," states Southworth. "We then return them back to our facility in Crewe for processing before sending the recyclable elements to



Mimaki solvent cartridges are processed and recycled in the UK

a UK company that handles the final part of the jigsaw."

The scheme delivers on multiple levels – removing some of the burden of waste management from the print service provider, financially rewarding them with valuable ink rebates and still offering a solution for processing the plastics used in their manufacture. Southworth also alludes to how the popular Mimaki SS21 solvent inks – utilised in the multi award-winning JV and CJV ranges of printers and printer/

cutters benefits from GREENGUARD Gold certification.

"GREENGUARD Gold certification comes about through strict testing criteria that considers safety factors that ensure a product is acceptable for use in environments such as educational and medical facilities," he describes. "This further emphasises Mimaki's commitment to developing not only technologically advanced, but also safer products to gain such certification."

Any UK-based print company using Mimaki SS21, SS2 or HS2 inks in either 440cc or 220cc cartridges stamped with the 'MORE' sticker are eligible for the scheme and Southworth encourages firms to participate. "Whilst Mimaki has multiple sustainable and reduced impact printing options, solvent ink still delivers a unique result, and there remains a strong rationale for using it to produce outdoor durable prints," he concludes. "We welcome any companies that haven't yet registered for Let's Do MORE to join the scheme and help their internal processes, benefit from an attractive ink rebate as well as doing a little bit more for the environment."

Companies yet to sign up need to simply visit www.letsdomore.co.uk to register for the free scheme.

www.hybridservices.co.uk



Popular sign making solutions, like the Mimaki CJV150-160 printer/cutter use Mimaki's SS21 solvent inks

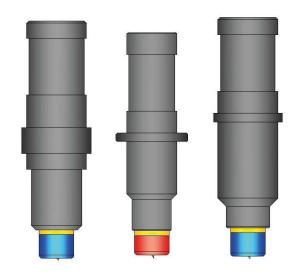


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We also manufacture the standard type blades for most machines, but most people prefer the Smart Knives.



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GRAPHTEC





Sustainability

Dufaylite offers a cheap sustainable alternative

Dufaylite are a sustainable signage company, catering to the packaging and signage industry since 1955. They have independently manufactured the best quality recycled paper honeycomb board, and through continued investment and product development, they are one of the leading suppliers of ecofriendly packaging and display board materials in Europe. With their range extending from exhibition, pop-up display stands, graphic and retail displays, to protective packaging and bespoke honeycomb packaging, their experience in the industry is second to none.

Dufaylite's unique product is 100% recyclable. The honeycomb board has an unparalleled strength to weight ratio. Its sustainable core and numerous outer facing options means it can be used for almost any project, from long term installations, to one off retail displays, pop-ups, window dressings and banners to freestanding panels and signage.

Their product's real-world applications range from Packaging, Construction, to Graphics and Displays. The lightweight material offering a cheaper alternative to traditional graphics and displays. MD Ashley Moscrop states "Our product is not only cheaper due to the lightweight material, meaning cheaper shipping costs, but also offers a cost-effective solution to the customer as every part can be recycled and not go to landfill." Ashley expands on Dufaylite's commitment to a completely sustainable . "In the push for more sustainable products, we are looking at developing lighter materials for hanging signage to enable printers to stop using PVC and rigid plastic sheets.'

With a smooth, printable surface and a high strength to weight ratio, Dufaylite's Ultra Board honeycomb is ideal for a variety of signage. Ashley tells us "Our material is used



Durable & Lightweight: Stunning printed "Parisian" sign for advertising in a retail centre.



100% recyclable stand alone "SALE" signs for Lyle & Scott, Scotland.



100% recyclable stand alone "SALE" signs for Lyle & Scott, Scotland.

evenly across hanging and floor standing signage applications," which shows a mindset shift of customer's wanting sustainable alternatives for their signage. Ashley notes that "Since Covid, I have seen an increased push and demand for sustainability. We evolved our offering during the pandemic and exclusively partnered with Premier Paper who now handle the day-to-day stocking and logistics of Ultra Board to the market. This allows us to maximise our focus on sustainable manufacturing and new product development."

Dufaylite's product development across the signage industry has extended to introducing a new 3D board range to their product. Developed with FSC certified materials it is, "a genuine alternative to traditional MDF. corrugated centre, foamboard or polypropylene sheet...using less material than our competitors with an even more dense core and smaller cell size." This has become popular for POS and retail displays. The V-cutting capabilities gives perfect corners and crisp edges. The nature of the material also reduces the need to smooth edges of other alternatives, and offering "brighter white outer facings that give outstanding printed results, it really is a honeycomb board for any graphic, display, exhibition or retail application."

Intrigued by what FSC certified materials were, we discovered that FSC stood for Forest Stewardship Council. Certification from FSC means that customers are given the option to choose forest products like paper and wood that have been sourced in an environmentally-friendly, socially responsible and an economically viable manner. Founded in 1993, it was formed in response to concerns about deforestation. A survey by Statista notes "In 2019, paper and board consumption in the United Kingdom amounted to 10.8 million metric tons." This statistic demonstrates the



Leading SP Series large format laser cutters. 88% more economical for processing acrylic.

Crystal clear edges without flame-polishing, intricate designs and tight radii, print and cut with high accuracy, minimal wastage and no swarf or shavings, no tool wear, no downtime for loading/unloading, lower power consumption compared to other technologies. The SP series cutters increase productivity and profitability through a streamlined and efficient workflow.

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volume of waste that most are not aware of. Dufaylite's vision for the future is to face the challenge by sourcing responsible materials and developing their product range without affecting quality.

Ashley continues by extolling Dufaylite's most popular seller which is their 2D product "Graphic". Developed with an eco-friendly 100% recycled core, it is a sustainable replacement for lightweight signage. "Graphic out-performs a number of competitors when it comes to durability and flexibility, making it the solution of choice for ambitious brands with the highest of standards." Offering guaranteed printed results, 'Graphic' offers a myriad of applications in the creative, retail graphics, printed industries. "At Dufaylite we understand that in the creative



and print industry, timescales are often very tight, so by holding a range of eco-friendly stock boards, with next day delivery on standard sheet sizes we can help reduce your production times."

Ashley Moscrop concludes Dufaylite's vision with, "We are lucky that our products are recycled and 100% recyclable. However, we continue our focus on reducing our waste further. Even though it gets recycled, it's still waste. We are also looking at transitioning our energy to renewable sources such as solar at our HQ in St Neots where we handle all our manufacturing." Dufaylite's vision for progression and pioneering development with sustainability in mind looks set firmly on the future.

www.dufaylite.com



Sustainability

Fujifilm - award winning Speciality Ink Systems

As the sustainable market becomes ever more prevalent, Fujifilm have been implementing sustainability initiatives over the last ten years and recently, under the guidance of Antonina Realmuto, Group Sustainability Director, a greater focus has been emphasised on accelerating change towards more sustainable options. "When it comes to sustainability and protecting the earth, it's important for us all to do more. Whether it's consuming fewer products, opting for products with less packaging, or reducing waste – we must all play our part."

Fujifilm's ink technology

The Fujifilm award winning factory in Broadstairs, Kent, manufactures Speciality Ink Systems that produces high performance inks for a range of markets including UVjet wide format inkjet inks, Sericol screen and flexo inks. One example of their sustainable digital printing products is textile printing. Fujifilm's article on steeping up sustainability states "As a mass consumer product, textile production

is under scrutiny as environmental impact becomes a prominent global concern." The impact of traditional dye-based inkjet printing, requires later amounts of water in production and printing, with high amounts of energy in fixation and washing using harmful chemicals.

Pigment ink technology is a more sustainable alternative for many textile applications. Fujifilm's RxD® pigment dispersion technology enables the formulation of high performance, robust inks that jet reliably. Unlike dye ink, it has Pigment ink technology on tiny particles that collectively formulate the color. Unlike the dye ink, which absorbs into fabric and other substances, pigment ink forms a colored layer on the top of the paper. Top layered patterns and different vivid color results make it possible to stay fresh on paper or transferred material for longer than sublimation inks. The pigment ink is equally good for printing on light and dark surfaces.

Fujifilm's ink R&D and manufacturing facility in Broadstairs, Kent, has regularly

made the news as a three-time winner of the UK's Best Factory Award in 2013, 2015 and 2017, but it is for its sustainability initiatives that it is now rapidly creating waves.

Craig Milsted, sustainability advisor. outlines the initiatives that have been implemented so far: "With the recent changes in personnel, including my own role, there is now a renewed focus on sustainability, and therefore a tremendous amount of work going on behind the scenes to help us operate more sustainably. This work is ongoing, but we have made a number of notable recent changes to our equipment and processes which are enabling us to operate in a more environmentally friendly way

Big energy saving

Fujifilm have been making extraordinary steps in reducing their emissions and cutting back on conventional energy use. "In 2016, we started to buy renewable electricity to power our factory, and in the



Thinking sustainably – Fujifilm offer free to use EV chargers at their premises.



Changing the way they package their product, Fujifilm have successfully recycled 689.7 tonnes of waste in 2021.



Installing more Solar panels, Fujifilm have increased their energy generation by 181%.



Fujifilm cutting costs by £183,000, and saving energy by managing the HVAC system at their warehouses.

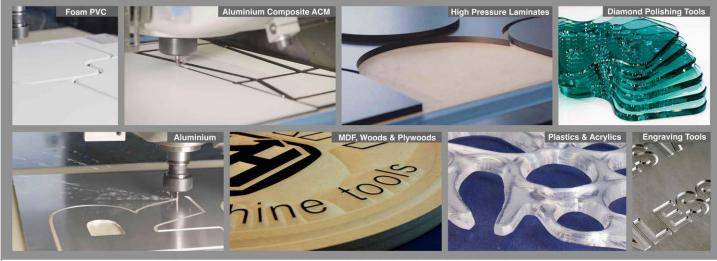


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same year installed many solar panels on the grassy grounds of our site." Since then, they have increased the number of panels, increasing their energy generation by 181% from 29,185KW to 82,240KW per month. Roughly, this is enough to "power a typical UK household for 26 years". Further steps, such as switching off their HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems overnight has saved in the region of "£183,000". Encouraging staff to switch to electric vehicles, they have installed free-to-use car charging points within their facility.

Smart cutbacks on solvent ink

As technology progresses, and printers becoming more technologically advanced, less ink is required for the printing process. But "you can't print without ink - it's the most crucial element of printing. So for the inks that we produce at our factory, previously we would typically use around 140,000 litres of oil-based solvents to clean the vessels used in our ink-making and mixing equipment. However, very recently we replaced our oil-based solvent cleaner with an 80% water-based (aqueous) cleaning solution, manufactured by a company called Safe Solvents."

Safe Solvents, a cleantech business makes a major contribution to the climate change solution. Their Patented

Ambimization®, their transformative approach to mechanical and industrial cleaning. Our partners are benefiting from superior cleaning properties whilst creating less waste and making work a safer place.

Craig Milsted comments, "Suitable for use with the new aqueous cleaning solution, the machine offers a significantly more efficient pot washing solution on our site. The aqueous cleaner and pot wash machine combo makes it possible for us to separate solvent and aqueous waste, and in the future, it could enable us to reuse the pots after they have been cleaned, and then when they are beyond reuse, have the clean plastic shredded and sent for further recycling."

Impressive waste reduction

Craig Milsted continues with Fujifilm's efforts for sustainability, "It's not only energy consumption that we have been targeting. Since 2013, we've significantly cut back on the waste produced at our ink factory, and last year (2021), 689.7 tonnes of waste produced on site went for recycling." In part this is due to initiatives that Fujifilm have put into place such as 100% of raw materials packaging being reused and recycled, and returning 1000 litre IBC's (Intermediate Bulk Containers) for cleaning and reuse. "Additionally, we now secure our pallets with straps rather

than using shrink wrap, which reduces our waste by around 8 tonnes annually."

Concluding Fujifilm's commitment to increasing sustainability, Milsted finishes with "It really is a painstaking, but ultimately very rewarding process – we have achieved a great deal in the last 12 months with our renewed focus, but we are confident we can continue to make iterative improvements all over the site, across all areas of energy, waste and material reductions, to make this award-winning factory a world-class, sustainable one too."

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How the Hospitality Barrier Light works

The scheme here shows 9×1500 mm barriers with a 1000mm gangway. We can advise you on the right combination of equipment to suit your venue perfectly.



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ACCREDITATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS















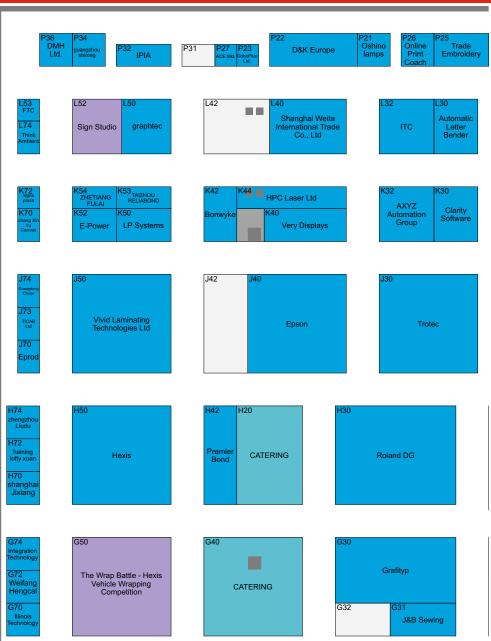






2023 Floorplan

This floor plan was correct at the time of going to print, but may have changed slightly.



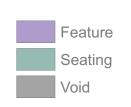














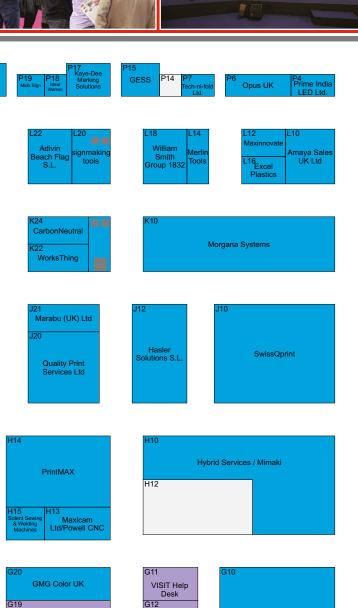




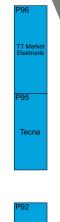


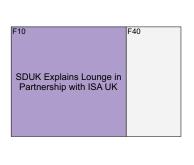










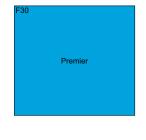


P83

PrintIQ

Sign Update

SDUK Sales Lounge



Soyang Europe

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|-----------------------|--|
| The Magic Touch | |
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ZHETIANG FULAI NEW MATERIALS CO., LTD.



Sign & Digital UK 2023 exhibitor list

| P84 | ABCMIX Co., Ltd | H13 | Maxicam Ltd/Powell CNC |
|-----|--|------|---|
| P27 | ACE Marketing | L14 | Merlin Tools Ltd. |
| L22 | Adivin Beach Flag S.L. | P19 | Mida Sign Services UK Ltd |
| L10 | Amaya Sales UK Ltd | K10 | Morgana Systems |
| L30 | Automatic Lettter Bender UK LTD | P6 | Opus UK Binding & Foiling Ltd |
| K32 | AXYZ Tailored Router Solutions | P21 | Oshino Lamps UK Ltd |
| K42 | Bonwyke Ltd (Cover Styl) | P86 | Photo USA Electronic Graphic Inc. |
| P70 | Boxford Holdings Limited | F30 | Premier |
| K24 | CarbonQuota | H42 | Premier Bond |
| K70 | Chang Xin Yu Canvas | P4 | Prime India LED Ltd. |
| K30 | Clarity Software | P85 | PrintlQ |
| P22 | D&K Europe Ltd | H14 | PrintMAX |
| K52 | E-Power Co., Ltd | J20 | Quality Print Services Ltd |
| J70 | eProductivity Software | H30 | Roland DG |
| J40 | Epson UK Ltd | H70 | Shanghai Jixiang Building Materials Group Co., Ltd |
| L16 | Ex-cel Plastics Limited | L40 | Shanghai Weita International Trade Co., Ltd |
| C22 | Faversham House | L20 | Sign Making Tools |
| L53 | FTC (UK) Ltd | P87 | Sign Update Ltd |
| P15 | Global Erecting Sign Services Ltd | K72 | SIGNS PLAZA |
| G20 | GMG Color UK | H15 | Solent Sewing & Welding Machines |
| P23 | Goboplus LTD | G10 | Soyang Europe Ltd |
| G30 | Grafityp | P3 | Spectron LED Ltd |
| L50 | Graphtec GB | P2 | Stanford Marsh plot-IT |
| J74 | Guangdong Chuse LED Sign Co. Ltd. | J10 | swissQprint |
| p34 | Guangzhou Shining Advertising Co. Ltd | K53 | Taizhou Reliabond Co.,Ltd |
| P14 | GUNNAR International | P7 | Tech-ni-fold Ltd. |
| H72 | Haining Lofty Xuan Banner Textile Co., Ltd | P95 | Tecna UK |
| P78 | Haining Tianfu Warp Knitting Co., Ltd | P26 | The Online Print Coach |
| j12 | Hasler Solutions S.L. | P92 | TheMagicTouch |
| H50 | Hexis UK Ltd | L74 | Think Ambient Ltd |
| K44 | HPC Laser Ltd | P25 | Trade Embroidery |
| H10 | Hybrid Services / Mimaki | J73 | Trade Industrial Company AB SP. Z O.O. |
| P18 | Ideal Warren Ltd. | J30 | Trotec Laser Ltd. |
| G70 | Illinois Technology | p96 | TT MARKET ELEKTRONIK LIMITED |
| G74 | Integration Technology Ltd. | K40 | Very Displays |
| F10 | International Sign Association UK | J50 | Vivid Laminating Technologies |
| L32 | ITC Limited | G72 | Weifang Hengcai Digital Photo Materials Co. Ltd. |
| G31 | J&B Sewing Machine Co Ltd. | L18 | William Smith Group 1832 |
| P17 | Kaye-Dee Marking Solutions Ltd | K22 | WorksThing |
| K50 | Lp Systems Ltd. | G20 | Yuzde100 |
| J21 | Marabu (UK) Ltd | H74 | Zhengzhou Liudu Mechanical Electric equip. Co.,Ltd. |
| 140 | BAAV Incorporate a | 1754 | THETIANO ELLI ALMEMINATEDIALO COLLED |

MAX Innovates

I12



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SDUK 2023, is back again with a host of events

Sign & Digital UK (SDUK) is back, with more than 100 exhibitors, including some of the biggest names in the industry, like Roland DG, Epson UK, Premier, Hexis UK, Vivid Laminating Technologies and swissQprint. Sign & Digital UK is THE place to find the sign and graphics solution you are looking for to drive your business forward

Event director, Jenny Matthew, says, "We have seen a huge increase in exhibitors for this year's show and more are signing up each week. As well as some of the industry's biggest names, we have businesses from all areas of the sign and graphics market signed up and raring to go. We also have a host of special features, including the Explains Lounge,

the Sign Studio, The Hexis Battle UK Wrap Contest, the Sustainability Trail and a new feature – the Sign Surgery."

The Sign Studio

Whether you are a vinyl veteran or just setting out on your vinyl adventure, The Sign Studio is a must-see for visitors at the show this year.

It will run daily, with live demonstrations and practical workshops hosted by experienced sign-maker Paul Hughes. These sessions will allow visitors to learn more about the basics of vinyl application, vehicle livery, wall coverings and more. "I will give practical, hands-on demonstrations designed to inform people looking to take their first steps in vinyl application and those wanting to add to and develop their skills. There will even be something for more seasoned pros on the hunt for the latest tips and tricks," says

The Explains Lounge – hosted by ISA UK

Building on its popularity last year, the Explains Lounge will host a full programme of presentations designed to engage, inform and inspire. All of the sessions are free to attend and there's no need to book. Event Director, Jenny Matthew, explains, "We have invited experienced experts in their field to explain how to make your sign business more successful. They will look at various important topics, such as when it's right to outsource or take work inhouse, how to win more tenders, and how sign-makers can work together to build their businesses."

Daily Panel Sessions bring a range of industry experts together to discuss the big issues affecting the signage industry. On Tuesday, a group of experts from BPIF and POPAI will examine the danger of 'Sustainability Fatigue'. They will discuss how to reinvigorate the market to keep sustainability in focus and benefit themselves, their customers and the planet.

Wednesday's panel session will be hosted by Women in Sign-Making, focusing on the role of men in supporting women in sign-making. On Thursday, the panel will examine the skills shortage affecting sign-makers up and down the country. They will discuss the pain points for the



Kevin Henry, Sales Manager at Eurobond Adhesives Ltd giving demonstrations of UV curing adhesives at the exhibition last year.



Have the chance to learn more about the basics of vinyl application, vehicle livery, wall coverings, and more, from experienced signmaker Paul Hughes.



sign industry, and highlight the key actions companies can take to overcome them.

Confirmed presentations include Frazer Chesterman from FuturePrint, talking about sustainability and the drive to use recycled PVC in signage. Marcus Timson, also from FuturePrint will talk about the importance of adaptability for sign-makers and print providers. Alex Liggett from The Vinyl Guys looks at the huge diversity in wide format printing media and advises business owners on taking advantage of this versatility while keeping focused on their core applications.

Megan Griffiths, Sustainability Business Development Manager at POPAI UK & Ireland, will present the organisation's Sustainability Standard, which embeds environmental and sustainable principles and provides a framework for ongoing improvement. Sam Armstrong from the Make it Happen Signage Consultancy talks about how sign-makers should be signage consultants for their customers and Dan Tyler of Vism provides tips on how to grow your sign business.

In addition, there will be regular Exhibitor Spotlights, giving you the chance to see what's happening at the show and help you plan your visit, all from the comfort of the Explains Lounge.

The Sign Surgery

A new feature for 2023 is the Sign Surgery, which takes place alongside the Explains Lounge and will be an informal environment where visitors can put questions to ISA-UK directors. Craig Brown, CEO of the ISA UK, says. "The Sign Surgery will be a vibrant and welcoming place where visitors come to discuss the issues and challenges most important to them. ISA directors with decades of experience in sign-making will be available throughout the show to answer questions and discuss real business issues. We have seen and lived it all in signage as a group, and this is a rare opportunity to share this knowledge with fellow sign-makers."

Jenny Matthew adds, "The Explains Lounge will be based in the heart of the show, and we have put together a schedule that should have something of interest and value for everyone attending the show. Whether you are a small start-up looking to gain vital knowledge and advice from experienced industry experts, or a more seasoned professional wanting to keep up to speed with the latest developments, we have something for you on the Explains Lounge."









Check the website at https://www.signuk.com/sduk-explains-lounge for the latest schedule of presentations and speakers.

Hexis UK Wrap Battle

As well as a broad and diverse range of exhibitors, SDUK is running a series of features designed to educate and inform sign-makers of all shapes, sizes and experience levels. The ever-popular UK Wrap Battle 2023, hosted by HEXIS, will run throughout the show, giving visitors a rare chance to see the very best of the vehicle wrapping profession as they demonstrate their skills in a battle of speed and accuracy to claim the title of Best UK Installer 2023.

To see the latest schedule of speakers and presentations, visit www.signanddigitaluk. com

Sustainability Trail

The Sustainability Trail has become a hugely popular feature of the show, and this year will include even more exhibitors. Visitors will find displays around the show, signposting them to participating exhibitors. This will include the Sign Surgery and Explains Lounge, where there will be regular features on sustainability.

Why attend?

Sign & Digital is a great place to see innovation in action and experience the latest technology and solutions from over 100 leading suppliers. "No other show in the industry offers the opportunity to network and socialise with your peers than



The SDUK Explains Lounge in partnership with ISA UK, will have a programme that will help you gain insight to strengthen and grow your business, and identify new revenue opportunities.

at SDUK," says Jenny, adding, "We try to make the show as experiential as possible, packed full of inspiration and creative ideas to propel your business forward. We also aim to bring you new ways to grow and future-proof your business, save money and answer your technical questions through our exciting programme of demonstrations and presentations."

She continues, "We are so excited about the show this year. We want everyone who joins us to get real value from their time so we are doing our very best to make sure there is something for everyone. The schedule will be jam-packed with fantastic exhibitors, exciting features and thousands of networking opportunities, to ensure that visitors will be informed and inspired by everything they find at SDUK 2023."

"We are particularly keen to welcome sign-makers of all shapes and sizes to the show this year. From small local sign-makers who are looking for new ideas and the latest products, to larger companies looking for big production solutions for their for sign and display business. We have some of the biggest and most advanced manufacturers and suppliers of printing and other sign-making equipment, so you are sure to find what you need at the show."

Jenny Matthew concludes, "SDUK 2023 promises to be a no-holds-barred celebration of all that is good and great in the wonderful world of sign-making and large-format digital printing. Many people have told me that SDUK 2023 is their first opportunity to see the latest technology and innovation in person for years, and they can't wait. And neither can we!"

With some big announcements still yet to be made, stay connected to discover further exciting SDUK news being released in the run-up to this year's show.

Sign & Digital UK will take place at the NEC, Birmingham from 21-23 March 2023.

Free to attend for visitors: Register here or signuk.com or click on the logo below.



Try your hand at vehicle speed-wrapping or cheer on contestants as they battle it out for the title of 'Best UK Installer 2023'





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The SDUK Explains Lounge timetable

Tuesday 21st March

11:00 - 11:30

The benefits of business coaching. The Online Print Coach.

11:30 - 12:00

Driving growth in your sign business: Tips VISM

Panel session - Sustainability: Addressing the issue of fatique around sustainability avoid it being a tick-box exercise - BPIF

14:00 - 14:30

Feature session: Addressing sustainability from a commercial perspective

14:30 - 15:00

Industry advice: What does net zero mean and how can you work towards it.

15:00 - 15:30

Technical: Ink - The latest ink technologies and how to choose what is right for you

15:30 - 16:00

Technical: Applications - meeting the everchanging demands of your customers.

Wednesday 23rd March

10:30 - 11:00

Cutting demonstration from Graphtec

11:30 - 12:00

Managing your sign business: Being more successful through the tendering process

12:00 - 12:30

Business advice - Signmakers - Be more of a consultant to your customers

12:30 - 13:00

Panel session - Men supporting Women in signmaking.

14:00 - 14:30

Feature session pt 1: Recycling PVC for signage

14:30 - 15:00

Feature session pt 2: How to adapt your business for success

15:00 - 15:30

Industry advice: Sign installations - Staying on top of the latest regulations and requirement

15:30 - 16:00

Technical: Media: Controlling diversity in wide format - The Print Cookbook

Thursday 24th March

11:30 - 12:00

Sustainability Standards. POPAI UK & Ireland.

12:00 - 12:30

Business advice - Design: Why good design is still important.

12:30 - 13:00

Panel session: Dealing with the skills shortage.

14:00 - 14:45

Feature session: How do we get more young people into sign-making

14:45 - 15:15

Managing your sign business: Collaboration (BPIF) How can small signmakers work with others to build their business

15:15 - 15:45

Technical: Applications: Where are the crossovers between applications



ABCMIX Co., Ltd

Unlike the signage made by street shops or your local sign makers, we use a unique ABS housing and letter shaped LED system. Our signs are shadowless, UV-resistant, and we offer 5 years quality warranty.

We have indoor and outdoor letters for you to choose available in multiple colors.

Adivin Beach Flag S.L.

We are the most affordable banner factory in Europe because we are 100% Online and we work exclusively for sign makers and advertisers.

We reduce our costs by lowering the prices and reducing the variety of products. Thanks to that, we can offer free shipping or delivery within 24 hours.

All catalogues, packaging and products we deliver are unbranded.

We are the perfect fit for anyone who wants to distribute flags in Europe.

Amaya

Amaya Sales UK offer the widest range of garment and product decoration equipment. See Melco embroidery machines, Texjet DTG printers, Roland Print and Cut, Roland Versa UF printers, OKI white toner printers and Forever transfer paper, Stahls Heat presses and SEF garment film and flock.

Showrooms in Nottinghamshire and Hampshire.

Automatic Letter Bender

Our mission is to provide the best solutions for letter bending. With full confidence we say that our equipment is the best choice regarding quality and price. Each offered automatic bending machine for channel letters is a device with unique properties, specializing in bending strips of various kinds. This is why Automatic Letter Bender provides the most valuable solutions in the signage channel letter bending.

AXYZ

Discover the AXYZ difference! Join us on Stand K32, and learn about the latest CNC innovations that AXYZ has to offer. Our Technical Specialists are geared up to answer all your questions about our most popular CNC machines – the AXYZ TRIDENT, INFINITE, and INNOVATOR Routers. The TRIDENT'S router-knife-hybrid system is the best option for sign

makers interested in processing a variety of materials. The INFINITE'S customisable design is available in different lengths/ widths to meet your specific business needs. Grow your machine's capabilities as you grow your business with the INNOVATOR'S standard Option Ready Installation Packages.



Bonwyke Ltd (Cover Styl)

Bonwyke Ltd have been supplying window films and vinyls throughout the UK and much of Europe for 40+ years.

We are the Premium Re-seller for Cover Styl' Smart Interior renovation products for the UK. New to our product line is Data Jammer electronic data masking film. We are the largest UK distributor for Avery Dennison Hanita window films, alongside the Alpha Vision brand for both Architectural & Automotive PET films.

Boxford

Boxford will show their latest range of cost effect Laser Cutting & Engraving Machines, as well as their fully enclosed bench-top Fibre Marking Laser. Latest features added to their BGL range of C02 Laser Cutters, include Lightburn laser software, an integrated 4K camera for artwork positioning, image tracing and live monitoring and auto extract on/off. These features, in addition to the already integrated chiller cooling system, air compressor, auto-focus, honeycomb table and red light pointer, make Boxford laser systems unbeatable in terms of price, functionality and reliability.



CarbonQuota

CarbonQuota works with businesses across the value chain including corporates, logistics providers, manufacturers of products, and producers of raw materials. Automation through our portal allows businesses to baseline and build de-carbonisation plans using data from the ground-up, providing precise and science-based calculations. This approach is changing the market and uniquely provides advice without depending on spend data or offset calculations.

Chang Xin Yu Canvas

Inkjet Canvas Manufacture.

Clarity Software:

Clarity Software is the most powerful business tool you will ever own. A complete software solution that manages the entire business process. Providing transparency, alignment between teams and complete profit assurance. Supporting more than 1000 companies in the Sign & Graphics Industry you can be confident in the knowledge that Clarity Software is the solution that truly supports the vision of your business.

D&K Europe Ltd

D & K Europe has long been in the forefront of both narrow and wide format business graphic presentation, with a range of innovative products for mounting, laminating and encapsulating.

This year on our stand will be the Neptune B3 laminator fitted with the optional foiling capability, Atlas HT wide format laminator and a desk top, manual foiling machine.

Installation of our laminators is quick and easy with D&K engineers giving full operator training once the machine is installed.

eProductivity Software

eProductivity Software is a leading global provider of industry specific business and production software technology for the packaging and print industries. The company's integrated and automated software offerings and point solutions are designed to enable revenue growth and drive operating and production efficiencies.



Epson UK Ltd

Visit the Epson stand and experience our full range of creative and versatile printing solutions for all types of graphics, signage, hard substrates, home décor and textile. You will see demonstrations of Epson's large-format printers including our 64" Resin printer the SC-R5000, which uses odourless water-based ink, and our first UV flatbed printer, the SC-V7000. In addition, the new 6-colour 44"-wide dye-sublimation printer, the SC-F6400H will be on display, along with the dual-roll SC-T7700D high-speed poster printer.

Ex-cel Plastics Limited

Excel Plastics Limited (A Jain Irrigation company) is a leading manufacturer of PVC foam Sheets. For over 25 years Jains have been manufacturing PVC Foam, PVC Integral Foam and PVC Solid Sheets in India. In 2014, Jains set up a state-of-the-art Manufacturing Plant in Ireland to service the European Market. Excel Plastics produce PVC Foam sheets from 1mm to 35mm in a wide range of colour and sizes.

Global Erecting Sign Services Ltd

We are a well-established sign installation company which has been installing various signs and banners worldwide for the past 20 years. We install all types of signage from street level through to extreme high level including complete building wraps and various other creative works and considered the industry leader.

Goboplus LTD

GoboPlus was established in 2013 to offer high quality solutions for urban landscape projections. Using standard designs and custom gobos to provide customers with projected signage, logos and commisioned artwork.

Founded by gobo experts, GoboPlus strives to offer an unbeatable level of support to ensure the quality of your end result matches expectations.

Grafityp

PVC FREE Digital Print Media, Digital Printing Media, Omega Skinz Wrapping Films, Heat Transfer Films, Sign Vinyls, Display Systems, Exterior Signage, Interior Decor & Signage, Wide Format Printers, Laminators, Vinyl Cutters.

Graphtec GB

At Graphtec GB Ltd we offer a direct route to purchase as well as supporting and supplying our extensive nationwide dealer network with all Graphtec branded products. We supply and support, Graphtec Cutting Plotters, Graphtec Data Loggers, Graphtec Scanners, Graphtec Software, Graphtec Label Printers.

Our services also include:

- Technical support for both machines & software bought within the UK & Ireland
- On the road and in-house machine servicing and repair.
- Training on both machines and software.
- · Installation of machines.



Guangdong Chuse LED Sign Co. Ltd.

CHUSE SIGN Co.Ltd is a company specializing in high-quality signage design and manufaction since 1994. We have been manufacturing and exporting signage for many famous brands such as George, Valentino, MAC, SWAROVSKI, TESLA, SUBARU, Dior, Bottega Veneta and LACOSTE etc. We expanded our overseas market since 2005 and sold our products to Europe, USA, Australia, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, South Africa and so on. We have a brand-new 10,000 square meters factory of expert production standard in 2018 and employ more than 100 people.

Guangzhou Shining Advertising Co. Ltd

SHINING SIGN has been engaged in advertising and lighting industry for more than 18 years. It is a large-scale led lighting production factory integrating independent research and development, production and manufacturing and a sales service. Our factory has a number of professional talents with rich experience, excellent quality and perfect technology.

With the progress of the society, we combine the constant innovation of digital technology and production technology to explore the updating material to meet the customer's visual requirements.

Gunnar

Highly modular and upgradable cutter and cutting tool concept. Very compact and ergonomical machine body design. Single or twin cutting tool adapter with easy to operate fast tool change system. Cutting, Routing, Writing, Drawing, Scoring, Debossing, Engraving. State-of-the-art front and back side touchless sensor based operator safety system. Available in different lenghts and widths.

Haining Lofty Xuan Banner Textile Co., Ltd

GEBO TEXTILE offers an extraordinary range of industrial fabrics including PVC tarpaulin, 100% recyclable fabrics, PVC coated fabrics, and vinyl fabrics which are widely used in machine covers, truck tarpaulin, mattresses, tents, awnings, etc., and are made of good quality fabric for the purpose of protection. The width is up to 5m to reduce your welding cost.

Haining Tianfu Warp Knitting Co., Ltd

Established in 1991, Haining Tianfu Warp Knitting Co., Ltd is a professional manufacturer of warp and weft knitting textile.

Based on the philosophy of high-technology and sustainability, TF is consistently developing functional textile and recyclable textile. Our products include advertising sublimation textile and apparel textile. Advertising sublimation textile is wildly applied in flag, indoor display and backlit. Apparel textile is frequently used in sportswear, swim suits and yoga pants. All the fabric are suitable for heat sublimation, heat transfer printing, screen printing, UV, latex.

Hasler Solutions S.L.

Hasler solutions, european manufacturer of high tech automatic cutting machines.

UK showroom is based in Dewsbury.

Hexis

UK Distributor of Hexis Sign Vinyl, Digital Print Media, Vehicle Wrap and Garment Decoration Films to the Sign Making Trade.



HPC Laser

HPC Laser is a UK leading supplier of CNC routers and laser cutting and engraving machines. Established in 2006, our skilled engineers have delivered, installed and supported over 5500 Laserscript machines across the UK into a multitude of industrial applications.

Many of our models are available with laser upgrade options depending upon the material and thicknesses to be processed and our clever modular design allows many of our larger machines to be split to fit through narrow access.

All our PRO machines are covered by a 1 year ONSITE warranty and options are available to extend up to 3 years.



Hybrid Services / Mimaki

With a stand located right at the entrance to the exhibition, Hybrid Services, as Mimaki's exclusive distributor for the UK and Ireland, will be showing a broad selection of the latest solutions from the Japanese printing and cutting technology manufacturer.

Presenting an unrivalled line-up of products, ranging from wide format solvent and UV printers to the latest full colour 3D printing systems, visitors will be able to view new machines and applications, as well as discuss the opportunities they create with the Hybrid team on the stand.



Ideal Warren Ltd.

Our digital displays has an extensive experience in helping brands to build market presence and we stand out unique and authentic. We are selling a range of digital displays for both indoors and outdoors at an affordable price. Window facing ultra bright displays which are almost 10times brighter than normal TVs and sun light readable. Display screens are powered by Android, military grade aluminium panels, network connected and Content Management Software(CMS). We are less 20% - 50% than the market price. We will also create your promotions, posters, videos and designs at an affordable price.

Illinois Technology

Shenzhen Illinois technology co., LTD is a professional manufacturer and supplier for large format inkjet printer spare parts, our main products: ink pump, electromagnetic valve, ink filter, ink tube, sube tank, raster, motor, data cable, solvent ink, dampers, wiper, cap top, Eco-solvent ink, printheads etc. For all kinds of large format printers.

Integration Technology Ltd.

Integration Technology (ITL) - part of the IST METZ GmbH & Co. KG group - is a market leader in UV LED and Arc Lamp technology for inks, coatings and adhesives, offering the largest portfolio of UV LED and UV Arc Lamp curing solutions in the World.

ITC Ltd

ITC is a specialist tooling supplier. Our objective is to supply our customers with the best possible products, at the same time making them more efficient by introducing productivity and method improvements. To achieve this we continue to invest in our team of capable and enthusiastic engineers and technical sales people, backed up by an in-house team which we believe is second to none.

From solid carbide and PCD tooling, through to indexable milling, turning and boring, plus top quality tool holders, ITC has an unbeatable product range.



J&B Sewing Machine Co Ltd

J&B Sewing Machine Co Ltd has been trading for over 60 years building up many of years experience. We offer in our opinion the best aftersales experience in the industry so you can buy with confidence knowing we will be there when you need us. We offer Embroidery, DTG and DTF machinery to suit all of your requirements. Epson - Brother - Printline.

Josero

Josero and Soyang Europe are partners for print solutions from Fujifilm, Jetrix, Mimaki, Bubble Free and Ricoh. We will be running Soyang products on the Mimaki UJF6042 and Mimaki UJV100 roll to roll printers.

We will have an application wall where we will be doing material demonstrations and showing our range of textiles etc.

Kaye-Dee Marking Solutions Ltd

As an exclusive UK and Ireland distributor of 3sixty Rotary Digital UV LED InkJet printers, Teca-Print pad-printing machines and Ruco printing-inks we specialise in printing solutions for a wide range of products. We also offer Mimaki industrial-digital printers and the innovative NANOVIS range of solvent- free cleaning systems. Together with supplying machines we also offer a comprehensive printing service, print consumables, training and service support.

LP Systems Ltd

LP Systems Ltd based in Nuneaton provide automation machinery to the whole of the UK. We have over 25 years' experience within the automation industry and offer automation solutions for the die making, sign making, metal fabrication and plastic fabrication industries. Our products include: laser cutting machines, Easybender automated bending and processing systems and a full range of plastic fabrication equipment.

Marabu (UK) Ltd

Marabu UK offers combinations of inkjet inks, primers, and liquid coatings for users and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). We leverage our experience as a printing ink manufacturer to develop new and even better inkjet inks and coatings. Innovation is also driven by our close cooperation with research organisations, universities, and suppliers – resulting in continually better products for our customers.







Maxicam Ltd/Powell CNC

Laser cutters/engravers, CNC routers and CNC machinery suppliers in the UK.



Merlin Tools:

Merlin Tools is a market leader in the supply of premier quality Solid Carbide Tooling and associated Cutting Tools within the UK and Europe.

We have been established for over 20 years and continue to develop and expand our range to bring the latest cutting tool technology to the market.

Mida Sign Services

Mida Sign Services UK Ltd are your trusted partner for the installation of all types of signage, graphics and banners, also offering wide format printing service with knowledge and experience over 39 years working throughout the UK

Our experienced installation teams have an in-depth knowledge with support from our dedicated office team, who have a wealth of technical knowledge.

Our print and finishing department allowing us to offer customers a comprehensive wide format service, from artwork completion to print and finishing requirements. We can print direct to various substrates and are able to maintain quick turn-around times at competitive prices.

MidaSign Servicesuk

Morgana Systems

Based in Milton Keynes, Morgana Systems is a wholly owned subsidiary of Plockmatic International, a part of the Plockmatic Group. The company supplies a wide range of innovative and market leading inline and offline post-press equipment to the printing industry throughout the world.

Opus UK Binding & Foiling Ltd

We provide our customers with covers, binding and foiling solutions that makes their publications and products stand out, be picked up, read, and retained.

We do this with our range of highly accurate, easy to use short run vertical foiling and binding machines that provide consistent results. All of our systems are supported by a wide range of consumables, our expertise, experience, and personal service.

We are the UK's leading supplier of OPUS print products, a brand that is recognised throughout the world for its quality and endurance.

Oshino Lamps UK Ltd

Oshino Lamps design and manufacture a broad range of lighting products for global automotive and aerospace applications.

In addition, we offer competitive pricing, comprehensive stock holding of LED modules, PSUs and an unbeatable service from our centrally located Nottingham office/warehouse. We are confident that this makes us the ideal lighting partner for you.

Photo USA Electronic Graphic Inc.

Photo USA Electronic Graphic Inc. has been the leading manufacturer of dyesublimation ceramics and a full range of dye-sublimation image products. We develop and sell products to be processed with dye-sublimation presses, dye-sublimation presses to create high-quality ceramic images, and the full range of sublimation machines and raw materials for making high-quality ceramic products. We have utilized our 31 years of experience to bring you the best coating on the market.

In addition to the high quality of our sublimation printing process, Photo USA offers ORCA coatings on all of our products. ORCA is the highest standard in the industry; with it, we guarantee a consistently superior line of products.

Premier

Discover a showcase of products, perfect for creating POS/POP displays and graphics, that are truly out of this world.

From window graphics to thermoplastics, Premier's portfolio of sign and display products has been put together with the printer and end user in mind and will help to make some of the most eye catching, memorable and innovative retail displays.

Premier provides an unparalleled level of customer service with their nationwide network of stock holding branches, their own dedicated delivery fleet and team of experienced account managers and product specialists.

Premier recently announced the acquisition of GPMI, a leading paper merchant with a strong and established position in the Irish market, supplying to both the commercial print and sign & display sectors.



Premier Bond / Sign Architects

Premier Bond are recognised industry leaders in the supply of signage material, Aluminium Composite Panels, PVC Foam Boards (Foamex), Acrylic Sheets, LED Modules, Neon Lighting and Awnings. Established in 2013, our unwavering vison was to become the largest supplier of signage materials in the UK. Our experience has helped us become the One-Stop-Shop for all sign makers. Our knowledgeable and friendly staff are here to help with all your trade signage requirements.

Our plethora of customers range from those specialising in the signage, construction, interior design, hospitality and tendering sectors to name but a few.

PrintIQ

We've built printlQ for the industry. Rather than adapt your business processes and pricing to fit your software, printlQ offers dedicated pricing functionality to streamline roll-fed estimating and production. Streamline estimating with custom shape calculators that simplify quoting circular jobs and other nonstandard sized jobs.

PrintMAX

Supplying the best solutions from Roland and Mimaki, printMAX promise visitors and customers a little extra when visiting their stand at SDUK this year. With competitions, unbeatable offers and more...



Quality Print Services

Uk Main Distributor for Nazdar Digital Inks. DuPont Artistri Textile Inks Distributor. UK Distributor for ColorJet Large Format Ink.let Printers.

Authorised Roland DG Ltd Dealers.

Roland DG

Roland DG Corporation is the world's leading provider of digital printing solutions. The company's inkjet printers, printer/cutters and cutting machines are widely used to create a broad range of promotional items including banners, signs, vehicle graphics, stickers and labels, and to provide customisation services for apparel and personal items like smartphone cases.

Recently, Roland DG has embarked on a promising new retail frontier by capitalising on individuals' increasing desire to create their own, uniquely designed and decorated items. The company has developed proprietary design and print management software which enables customers to design their own gifts, apparel and treasured mementos, and to enjoy an unforgettable creative experience.

Shanghai Jixiang Building Materials Group Co., Ltd

We are the one of biggest aluminium composite panel manufactuers in China. Our factory have 16 production lines and 4 paint production lines.

Shanghai Weita International Trade Co., Ltd

We engage in the field of selling chemical products and are one of the authorized agents of MITSUBISHI Chemical to sell MMA/MAA and other methyl-chemicals in China

Sign Making Tools

Sign Making Tools was created by sign makers for sign makers. Paul and Julia hold over 30 years' experience in the sign industry; they make signs every day, so know it's frustrating when all you need are tools for vehicle wrapping, knives, cleaning and preparation (the job everyone hates), squeegees and advice. Ask any question, Paul and Julia like to share information and knowledge. They offer support from a quick telephone call to on-site training for your staff. We want to make your job easier. So come and have a look and a chat; you can buy and take away the smaller tools immediately.

Sign Update Magazine

Established in 1990 by a signmaker as a printed magazine, Sign Update is the UK's longest established signage magazine, that has also evolved to become an online news portal and the place to go for job vacancies and selling equipment.

Published 6 times a year, we cover various aspects of sign related news, based on new products, services, company profiles and various topics as part of features.



Signs Plaza

We are Signs Makers of bespoke channel letters - Pioneers in offering an instant quotation tool that allows you to obtain the final price of your sign in only 3 minutes by uploading a .dxf file in our website.

We stand out for our wide variety of effects and materials in more than 100 models of channel letters and neon flex led.

Solent Sewing & Welding Machines

Solent Sewing & Welding offer a range of Miller Weldmaster fabric welding machines and automated systems for the sign and banner sectors. We also offer the Solent Texsew series of sewing systems for sewing soft signage (SEG), flags and PVC banners.

Being sewing and welding specialists we are able to offer the complete service from equipment recommendations to after sales and follow up service, spares and accessories.

Soyang Europe Ltd

Soyang Europe is a leading supplier of digitally printable media for a broad range of sectors including the wide format and super-wide, outdoor, retail POS, flag and signage. Having recently acquired Josero, Soyang Europe are also now in a position to service your hardware requirements. Soyang Europe and Josero are partners for print solutions from Fujifilm, Jetrix, Mimaki and Ricoh. Further, we stock a broad range of field-proven finishing systems and productivity-boosting print

room equipment and accessories.

Spectron LED:

Spectron LED Ltd is a supplier of commercial grade LED lighting components; illuminated built up letters; logos; trough lights and neon signs.

Established in 2010 by a sign maker with over 40 years industry experience, Spectron LED has positioned itself as a market leading innovator of LED sign lighting and trough lights within the UK.



Stanford Marsh

Discover high speed output with the HP PWXL Pro, prints from roll and directly to sheet & board with Stanford Marsh.

In addition we will be exhibiting HP Latex 300 series print & cut with Summa for low budget users. Print finishing from Neolt including electric trim, foam cutting and folding + ask our Neolt team about XY cut.

The Canon GP series will be on the stand, from under 2k with pink ink, low cost banners and posters!

swissQprint

swissQprint is presenting its latest innovations in flatbed and roll to roll printers alongside some impressive applications in UV printing, on stand J10. Print service providers seeking the latest in added functionality, productivity and sustainability will discover swissQprint's innovative printers and applications, including neon inks, texture printing and 3D effects, delivering an array of effective solutions.

Throughout the show, live demonstrations will showcase Europe's best-selling flatbed printer, the Nyala 4, featuring cutting-edge print head technology for premium print quality – up to 1350 dpi resolution – combined with impressive productivity. Visitors will be able to see its impact at first hand.





Taizhou Reliabond Co..Ltd

Our RELIABOND is a leading manufacturer of aluminum composite panel and PVC FOAM BOARD in China. We provide about 4 million square meter ACP and 22,000 tons PVC foam board to the market to its global customers every year.

Tech-ni-fold Ltd

Increase your turnaround and reduce your wastage and outsourcing costs with our patented range of more than 400 innovative rotary creasing, microperforating and cutting products.

From digital or medium print shops through to large offset and web printers, our products, which include the globally-renowned Tri-Creaser Fast Fit, have been revolutionising the printing industry for more than 15 years.

Combine that with the CreaseStream range of award-winning and versatile desktop machines, any printer or print finisher can achieve flawless, accurate creasing every time.

Tecna UK

We are Tecna UK - Transforming your ideas into unforgettable display experiences. Since 2007, we have become leaders in modular event, exhibition, conference, experiential and retail displays.

We create stunning stands combining the versatility of modular with the style options of custom build. Our T3 system is the world's most innovative, easy-to-build, modular system providing you the ability to reconfigure multiple exhibition stands from just one system.

We create unique solutions for our clients, bringing together design, project management, production, and installation and can do as little or as much as needed to create you a bespoke display.

The Online Print Coach

In 2004, I decided to enter the world of self-employment and over the next 13 years would go on a roller coaster journey with the many highs and lows of running a printing company.

From bringing investors on board, sourcing the right kit, finding the premises, the challenges of managing staff, franchising to have 12 UK locations, bad debts, making good and bad financial decisions, and landing big blue chip clients, I bought the T-Shirt as they say.

TheMagicTouch

TheMagicTouch, since 1992, have pioneered the digital image transfer business with award winning innovation and service in all aspects of product and garment personalisation. The company offer toner-based transfer printers and papers, full range of sublimation solutions, garment flex (HTV) vinyl's together with the latest in Direct To Film (DTF) transfer printing. All products are supported by professional technical, sales and marketing support. TheMagicTouch is the perfect no-risk addition to any business.

Think Ambient Ltd

Think Ambient are distributors of low tack and no-tack printable materials. All their products are easy to apply, easy to remove and damage free. Their products are widely used for retail graphics, point of sale signage, events and exhibitions and much more. Think Ambient can advise the most suitable material, whatever the requirements. Make sure to visit stand L74 where you can collect a selection of free samples.

Trimalco

Here at Trimalco HQ, we've made leaps and bounds with our dust free cutting options over the past year through our new SGE range of upgraded cutters and brand new accessories being launched at Sign UK.

For cost effective, accurate cutting of almost any signmaking substrate we offer robust solutions that won't break your bank.

Visit us for a live demo and to speak to our team about how we can improve your workflow.

Trimalco. Affordable Accuracy.

TT Market Elektronik Limited

Ledajans (TT MARKET) is a company that imports, exports and manufactures Led Display systems and Led Display parts.

With branches in Belgium, Turkey and Greece, Ledajans sells its products to a total of 52 countries.

Trotec:

Visitors to stand J30 will experience firsthand demonstrations of laser cutting and engraving technology for the signs, display and print sector from Trotec, a marketleading manufacture. Featuring laser systems to suit all budget requirements, the show marks the return of the awardwinning SP3000 laser cutter to a UK Trade show.

Our machines are currently used in more than 90 countries around the world and with six showrooms across the UK and Ireland, wherever you are, we're close by and available to guide and support you with your laser investment.



Very Displays:

Very Displays is a Trade Only supplier of portable display hardware including Roller Banners, Flags, Fabric Tube displays, Pop ups, Outdoor signage, Event counters and more. Plus, we offer printing services for our trade customers as well. We pride ourselves on being flexible, supportive, and easy to work with, ensuring your experience is always positive.

This year on our stand K40 you can meet our friendly team, explore our new literature, see brand new products, and enter our social giveaway.





Vivid Laminating Technologies

Europe's leading designer and manufacturer of laminating and print finishing systems for over 30 years. Committed to developing, improving and upgrading our products to meet the everchanging demand of the print industry. At Vivid we strive to empower our customers and partners to achieve the most impressive print finishing results in the most cost and time-effective manner. Take your print finishing to the next level with our wide range of cutting-edge equipment and premium supplies.



Weifang Hengcai Digital Photo Materials Co. Ltd.

Manufacture of inkjet print roll materials. Aqueous, eco solvent, uv, latex, dye sub print roll materials. PVC free green print materials. Max width can be at 5.05m.

William Smith Group

Leading trade supplier, William Smith Group 1832, offers one of the largest material supply services in the UK. We stock a wide range of films and accessories from leading brands including 3M, Avery Dennison, Arlon, VION, Cover Styl', Squid, and R-Tape.

As part of our service, we run training courses on vehicle, architectural, and window film applications through our dedicated Academy. Building strong partnerships and placing high standards on everything we do.

We are the sole UK distributor of ROLLSROLLER Flatbed Applicators. Benefits of a ROLLSROLLER in sign production include up to 80% time savings, no extensive training needed and safter working conditions.



WorksThing

The easiest way to manage sign & graphics installations

Streamline every part of your business with WorksThing

From enquiry to proposal. Planning through production. Surveys, scheduling and installation. Invoicing and payment.

All in one clever system.

Zhengzhou Liudu Mechanical Electrical equipment Co.,Ltd.

A professional manufacturer of Hot air welding machine, eyelet machine, XY cutting machine, eyelet. We focus on the production and sales of PVC hot air welding machine and eyelet machine for many years.

Zhetiang Fulai New Materials Co., Ltd.

Specialising in the production of Graphic Printing Materials, Label Facestock, and Electronic Grade Functional films. Fulai became public listed company in 2021.

At present, Fulai have four production plants with over 1000 employees, land area over 75000 square meters. Over 50 sets of high precision automatic coating lines provide a consistant annual production capacity of over one billion square meters of different functional coating composite materials.



Coronation Plaques

Multitechnic expects increase in demand for commemorative plaques

Demand for commemorative plaques is going to be unusually high due to the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort in May predicts Colin Edge, Managing Director of Multitechnic. A lot of these will be for tree plantings. because people love to plant trees to commemorate this sort of event, and you need to be able to offer them something appropriate that will ideally outlive the tree. All sorts of events will be taking place to mark the Coronation, so you are likely to be asked to provide plaques to commemorate these events under trees, inside buildings, outside buildings, or maybe even up a mountain, and you will be expected to know what is best for the job.

How should you advise your customer when they ask you for a commemorative plaque, whatever the occasion that is being commemorated? Well that of course depends on what it is for, and where it is going. Sometimes you will get the answer to the first question straight away. "I need a plaque for a royal visit" or "We need a memorial plaque for somebody" but rarely are they told the answer to the second question, which is the one that really matters.

Always ask where the sign will be going, because if it is by the sea, by an indoor pool, on the ground. or in any similar challenging location, you need to know that at the very start. Sometimes it is obvious. If they send an inscription that starts with "This tree was planted...." asking for a brass plaque, alarm bells should sound immediately. A brass plaque under a tree is simply not an option, but at least you know where it will be going, so you can advise something appropriate from the start. Brass outdoors is generally a bad idea unless it can be polished frequently, but under a tree, subject to damp conditions and what birds tend to do in trees, it is a particularly bad idea. If they like the idea of a metal plate, then you can advise etched stainless steel or anoprinted aluminium, or engraved

slate or Corian are other good options for plaques under trees, in planters or flowerbeds, and other locations where signs will have to survive a bit of watering and gardening.

You will have to think about fixing the plaque in an appropriate manner. This might be a simple stake so the sign can be removed for garden maintenance and then put back, but you may need something more secure, so be prepared to design the sign around a sturdy post. If the plaque is likely to get a hard time in a public place, then mounting onto a secured block of stone in the ground may be best.

Brass is appropriate for indoor signs of course, but again you need to think about the sign itself, what will please the customer and work well. Traditional mirror polished brass is great outside a solicitor's office where it will be polished almost daily to give that traditional look, but is that really what your customer wants for the opening of their new library? Often these plaques have quite a lot of small text, which is difficult to read against any sort of highly reflective surface, so if they like the idea of a brass opening plaque, offer them a light satin finish which looks much nicer, is not reflective, and can be lacquered so it will not require cleaning.

Size is another consideration. For tree plaques, small is usually beautiful, but for opening of a building, you tend to want something reasonably large to suit the space. Bigger will also mean more expensive, so get an idea of budget before working out costs for a large exotic plaque. Bench plaques are limited by the available space, and your customer is almost certainly going to know what size they want, but for everything else they will probably rely on you to advise the right size.

You will also be expected to know the correct wording, so keep this article handy. Many customers will arrive with the inscription



Satin stainless steel with etched and paint filled graphics is a popular choice for outdoor commemoration plaques. Rust staining is a common problem with outdoor plaques, so it's best to only use the best quality 316 marine grade stainless steel with plated brass or stainless steel fixings to ensure a long life.



Anoprinted aluminium is also available with a gold colour that is permanent for outdoor use. This can be useful where a gold colour is required but where brass would not be a practical choice.



Etched brass is a traditional choice for indoor memorial plaques. A satin finish can be applied to reduce reflections and a lacquer to protect the surface, so just an occasional clean with furniture polish will keep it looking superb for many years. Outdoor brass plates are supplied with a polished finish and will require frequent cleaning with Brasso or a similar metal polish.

GRAPHTEC CE7000 Series

Roll Fed Cutting Plotter

The CE7000 series of cutting plotters will handle a wide range of flexible media used in multiple PRINT & CUT applications in the signage and graphics, interior decor, packaging and garment decoration and promotional products sectors... to name but a few.

- Available In 4 Widths
- 3 Model Formats
- Max Cutting Speed: Up To 1000mm/s
- Cutting Force: Max 450gf
- Networking Capabilities
- ARMS 8.0 Optical Eye For Print & Cut
- Continuous Cut Capabilities (Barcode Reader)
- Reliable Long-Length Tracking (Up To 5m)
- Large Graphic Type LCD Control Panel
- Warranty: 2 Years



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Officially Distributed In The UK By: GRAPHTEC

that they have agonised over for weeks, editing it until they are finally happy, but is it correct? As always, the sign maker is expected to be the font of all knowledge and an expert on grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and some customers will require a bit of help to get it

right. One thing that you can ensure they get right is the correct title for the Coronation in May, which is the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort, and yes those capital letters are correct. The King's title is King Charles III, and if in doubt about the correct title for any of the Royal Family, it only takes a few seconds to look it up on Google and ensure you advise your customer well.

Most importantly of all, offer something that you know you can obtain reliably and quickly. People tend to think about commemorative plaques for a long time, usually far too long, so by the time they know what is to be written on it, time is usually getting a bit tight for getting it made in time. Make sure you can either make it yourself, or that you have a good supplier who can make it quickly for you, because commemorative plaques are almost always left just that little bit too late.

www.multitechnic.co.uk



Anoprinted aluminium is a good choice for plaques under trees or in garden locations where watering, grass cutting and bird droppings would damage less robust plaques. It will even stand up to being stood on, and if the graphics are black, it will never fade, not even in extreme sunshine.



Industry View

Interview with the William Smith expert



In Smith's latest Meet the Expert piece they sit down with Ian Spence to get his thoughts on his new role, his time at the company, and the future of the signs and graphics industry.

When and how did you join William Smith Group 1832?

I joined the business in June 2005.

I had just arrived back from travelling in Australia and had some friends working at William Smith who made me aware of a job opportunity. Everything happened so quickly, I flew back in on a Monday, did my interview on Friday, and started the following Monday. My first role was in the Fabrication department. I was responsible for fabricating KFC flex face boxes, which was a project that lasted approximately 6 months.I was also manufacturing a lot of CE-marked traffic signage, 'bollhoffing' the channel to the back of the plate.

As Sales Manager what does your new role entail?

Currently, the most important element of my role is strategic development within the Estimating department. I'm introducing processes that can help develop the department and staff members further.

I also work closely with the team to help with enquiries, opportunities, and any challenges that may present themselves. Although mainly office based, I do spend time on the road visiting customers, this is crucial to developing existing and new relationships. When required, I still support team members and customers with distribution queries.

You've had several different roles throughout your time with the business, how have they helped you develop as a professional?

Believe it or not I'm a qualified Stone Mason by trade, so when joining Smiths I started in Fabrication, and completed a Level 2 NVQ in Signmaking. I sometimes joke about this with people as they didn't know such a thing existed.

After 2 years in the business, I was given the opportunity to join the Estimating Team in the sales office. I had no sales background at the time, but this opportunity set me on my journey and gave me the grounding for where I am at today.

I also have 8 years of experience on the distribution side of the business, first working as an Internal Account Manager and then as an External Account Manager. I was responsible for looking after the North East of England, Yorkshire, and parts of Lincolnshire.

I've now come full circle and returned to the manufacturing side of the business.

What is the most challenging aspect about your role within the company?

I would have to say the current economic climate and navigating the challenges that come with it. People don't need me to tell them about this, I think we're all conscious of it

What impact do you hope to have on the business and the industry?

Working with the wider team I want to help project the Smith brand as the leading sign manufacturer in the UK.

Whilst growing the business it's important to ensure we keep our identity and upkeep the values that have got us to where we are today. Our heritage is deeply rooted in being genuine people that take pride in demonstrating a wealth of knowledge and providing excellent service for our customers.

Is there a specific time period within your career that you reflect on as being the most valuable?

I've had a lot of valuable moments, but I think moving from the shopfloor to the Estimating Team is the best career decision I ever made. It opened doors and allowed me to build my knowledge. I now understand the industry from a completely different perspective.

What do you believe differentiates Smith Trade Signage from other trade sign manufacturers?

As noted in a previous question our brand values mean a lot. We've managed to forge a good reputation within the sign and graphics industry over many years because of our values. Putting the customer first goes a long way in any business sector.

What's your vision for the business?

I want the industry to view us as a one stop shop for all fabricated signage products. The leading trade only sign manufacturer in the UK.

Are you able to provide insight into any exciting developments that may occur in the next 12 months?

We're currently working behind the scenes on a new website, this is due to launch later in the year. I can't say too much about it right now, but it will enhance our service offering and have significant benefits for customers. Continuous development in personnel and processes is always ongoing and it will be the same in 2023.

How do you see the future of the sign industry?

I think the future is bright (no pun intended). People are always wanting to push the boundaries of what is possible. Although I think the product mix within the industry will largely remain the same, signs will become bigger, brighter, and bolder.

If you could provide one piece of advice to your peers in the sign industry, what would it be?

Take every opportunity given to you. If you are being offered an opportunity, then take it with both hands. It's a good indication that your potential has been realised.

For those that don't know you outside of the workplace, what do you like to do in your spare time?

Spending time with family is important to me. My wife, Rachel, also works within the business. We have two sons who love playing football. They play for the local youth setup, Barnard Castle FC, so most weekends we are supporting them.

When I'm not spending time with the family I'm usually out on my bike. I'm the Chairman of Teesdale Cycling Club. We're a non-profit organisation, and it's my responsibility to increase memberships, organise events, and help make decisions that are in the best interests of the members. I do also like to spend the odd day fishing over in the Lake District.

Want to speak with lan about an industry related topic? You can contact lan via email at ian@williamsmith.co.uk.

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Industry View

Signs 2 Signs for 3D Built-up Acrylic letters

Signs 2 Signs is a highly skilled and experienced trade manufacturer with over two decades of knowledge, specializing in 3D Built Up Acrylic Letters and Logos. Their small yet fantastic team of certified Perspex fabricators and trained technicians will take your signage game to the next level says Peter Potts, owner of Signs 2 Signs.

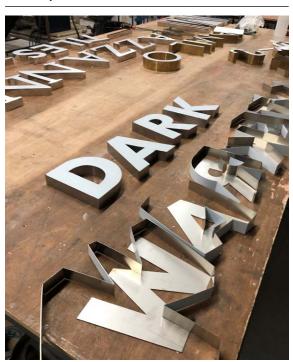
"We're masters in the art of fabrication, and our skills extend to metal built up letters, available with LED illumination. But our speciality lies in acrylic built ups, where we can create simple or complex letters and logos. We use high-quality materials from trusted brands such as Perspex, which come with a 10-year guarantee. Plus, all our letters can be supplied with LED illumination, for an added pop of pizzazz!"

Pete continues, "Our stateof-the-art AXYZ CNC routers enable us to create the faces, returns, and backs for acrylic built up letters and logos of any size, with sheet size parameters, and returns anywhere from 20mm to 170mm deep. But what sets us apart is the level of care and precision we put into every sign we create. Our acrylic built ups are handmade and crafted with the utmost care and attention to detail, ensuring a flawless finish every time.

"Using our time served technique to soften the acrylic, we then precisely bend the returns to the exact shape needed. With razor-sharp accuracy, the returns are cut to the perfect size for each part of the built-up, bonded to the face of the acrylic, and trimmed to reveal a clean and polished edge. For letters with LED illumination, we use our CNC machines to cut foam backs for face illumination or polycarbonate backs for halo illumination. And the LEDs are CAD-optimized for the best distance between each module, resulting in even illumination of the sign.



3mm Acrylic Faces with 3mm returns, 10mm foam backs



1.2mm Stainless Steel faces with 0.8mm Stainless Steel returns



Built up acrylic Letters , two tone returns (Black and Clear) with Red side and Halo Illumination

"Our metal letters are a thing of beauty too! With different finishes such as standard, brushed, or mirrored, and options for powder coating, they can be made to fit any style. And like our acrylic letters, they can be standard 3D, rimless, rim and return, with all types available for LED illumination. We laser-cut the stainless-steel faces and use our computerized metal bender to create precise returns with perfect bends and folds. Finally, we fit the returns to the metal faces using a laser/ ark/solder process, ensuring an accurate finish.

"Our built-up letters and logos can be used in a variety of settings, from shop fronts, shows, and exhibitions to restaurants, bars, and offices. And whether they're for internal or external use, you can rest assured that our built-up letters and logos are built to last.

"In addition to our expertise in creating 3D built-up letters and logos, we offer a range of other high-quality signage solutions. This includes flat-cut letters in various materials such as acrylic, composite, and metal, as well as a range of mounting options to suit your needs. We can also create trays and panels using any of these materials, ensuring that all of your signage needs are met with precision and care.

"We're a B2B trade manufacturer based in Manchester, but we ship throughout the UK and Europe, and our expertise and experience span across many different industries. Clients love working with us because of our friendly and helpful staff, who can answer all their questions and provide the best signage solutions. Plus, our passion for creating high-quality, bespoke signage that exceeds their expectations is evident in every project we undertake." concludes Peter.

Instagram: @Signs2Signs

www.signs2signs.com



SIGN News

ArtSystems announces the Vanguard Europe UV flatbed printer channel in the UK&I

Diatec, Papergraphics, Pyramid Display Materials and SEDO – Large Format Solutions are appointed as Vanguard Europe's UK & Ireland partners to promote the UV Flatbed printer range.

ArtSystems, the Nottingham-based specialist systems distributor and service provider, has appointed Diatec, Papergraphics, Pyramid Display Materials and SEDO – Large Format Solutions as the new Vanguard Europe partners.

On the announcement, ArtSystems' Technical Director Mark Lambert says: "We're extremely pleased to be able to announce such an excellent set of companies to join us in bringing the Vanguard family of printers to Britain and Ireland. Each company has a superb reputation for service, applications knowledge, and a driving desire to get the best solution for their customers."

The Vanguard range of flatbed UV printers, which are designed in the US and assembled in Europe, represents the latest in sustainable print hardware, with low-cost upgradability in the field enabling users to extend their printer life and capability. The range offers six colours (including LCyan, LMagenta) plus White

ink and varnish alongside an advanced media handling feature to maximise productivity.

Diatec will address the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland markets whilst Papergraphics, Pyramid Display Materials and SEDO – Large Format Solutions will have responsibility for England, Wales and Scotland.

All four partners will be running open days and product briefings for their customers in the opening months of 2023.

Vanguard Europe is a subsidiary of Vanguard Digital Printing Systems Corp, of Lawrenceville, Georgia, US, that produces 200 systems a year. Vanguard was acquired by Durst Group in 2020. European staff are now based adjacent to the headquarters of Durst Group in Brixen, Italy, in the 5,300 square metre 'Kraftwerk' premises, which was officially opened in September.

Peter Bray, Managing Director of Durst UK & Ireland, says: "It's great to see the completion of the reseller network. We are looking forward to working with this team in the coming months and years."



Fujifilm UK boosts wide-format market presence with Wide Format Sales Manager

Andy Webb, who has worked in the sector for more than a decade, will be responsible for the sale of Fujifilm's Acuity range throughout the UK, as well as managing channel partner relationships.

Having recently launched its all-new Acuity range of wide format presses, Fujifilm is looking to strengthen and grow its market position in the UK, with the appointment of Andy Webb as Wide Format Sales Manager.

Prior to joining Fujifilm, Webb held managerial, consultant and sales roles at a number of respected print and technology firms, including Canon, Vpress and Ricoh.

Commenting on his new position at Fujifilm, Webb says: "What Fujifilm is doing in wide format is tremendously exciting –

but what I found equally appealing about the company, is that so much is happening in other parts of the business too – and there's a real sense of joint purpose across the whole company. It's an established business, doing new and innovative things, and I'm delighted to have joined at such an exciting time."

Speaking about the new Acuity range, Webb adds: "The first time I saw the Acuity Prime and Acuity Ultra R2, I was blown away by their print speeds and output quality, and I was very impressed by the prints they produced. The range features an amazing product line, with the potential to be really transformative for UK print businesses."

Andy Kent, Division Manager, Fujifilm UK comments: "I am delighted to welcome

Andy to the UK team. We are immensely proud of our new wide format range, and Andy's extensive print industry knowledge and experience will be invaluable in bringing it to a much bigger audience across the country."



Andy Webb, Wide Format Sales Manager

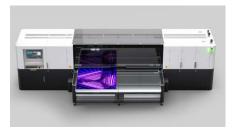


SIGN News

Fujifilm announces first global beta site for its Acuity Ultra Hybrid LED

Fujifilm announces that the installation of the world's first Acuity Ultra Hybrid LED got underway at Echo House in Surbiton, UK on Friday 27th January. The highly-respected design and sustainable creative production company has a long and successful history of partnering with Fujifilm – having installed an Acuity Select flatbed press in 2014 and, more recently, the world's first Acuity Ultra in 2018.

The Acuity Ultra Hybrid LED was Fujifilm's big reveal at Fespa 2022 – the latest development in its 'new blueprint for wide format' concept that introduced an all-new Acuity range redesigned from the ground up for maximum ease of use and ROI.



Echo House in Surbiton, UK will trial the new superwide hybrid press in a global first

A 3.3m high-end printer offering exceptional print quality and performance on both rigid and flexible substrates, the Acuity Ultra Hybrid LED prints at speeds of up to 218 m²/hr (RTR), and delivers a print resolution of up to 1200 x 1200 dpi. It is unique in being able to combine ultra-high quality and a competitive return on investment, for both rigid and flexible applications, all in one platform.

The machine features a range of intelligent design features to ensure unrivalled ease-of-use and excellent overall performance and Fujifilm has also created an entirely new ink range, Uvijet UH, especially for the new machine, with six colours (CMYK, Lm, Lc) available as standard and white ink also available as an optional extra. The new ink range has both Greenguard Gold and AgBB certification.

Peter Onyskiw, Director of Operations at Echo House, comments: "We've built a collaborative and trusting relationship with Fujifilm over the many years we've worked with them – that's what led us to be the first company in the world to install a 5m Acuity Ultra back in 2018. That machine is still going strong – though we did have to move it to a new spot to make room for the

new one! We're excited to be first again. We work in a rapidly innovative and highly creative sector, serving some of the largest companies in the world, with brands who set extremely high expectations for us. The Acuity Ultra Hybrid LED combines exceptional quality with greater flexibility through its hybrid capability – giving us even more creative potential to continue to meet, and exceed, our customers' expectations. The technological efficiencies, flexibility and reliability further extend our sustainable credentials to boot"

David Burton, Director, Fujifilm Wide Format Inkjet Systems says: "We've had a long and successful partnership with Echo House over many years – they're never afraid to be first – so they were a natural fit to be the first to trial the latest press in our all-new Acuity range.

"We're delighted to be starting a new chapter in our journey with them – and we look forward to working with them as they look to harness the considerable potential of this hybrid press to target new business opportunities."

https://echostudios.co.uk

Countdown to The Sign Awards begins

Signmakers from across the UK and Ireland are gearing up for a big reunion, as brand new industry event The Sign Awards begins the countdown to the inaugural gala dinner.

The event, taking place in Birmingham on March 22nd during Sign & Digital, will bring together more than 250 signage industry professionals to learn who has won each of 12 prestigious awards, at a glittering evening hosted by ITV'S Emma Jesson.

The organisers have been overjoyed at the response to the competition, which has been organised by the team behind the now well-established UK Graphic Awards.

With well over 100 submissions, an international jury of industry experts has had the tough task of shortlisting 34 of those as finalists.

The event has received a warm response from industry suppliers too, with a host of big names getting behind it as sponsors including Spandex, 3M, HP, Amari, William Smith, Metamark, Tradeprint, Sloan LED, ISA-UK and Vism.

Isabella Jelinek, North West Europe Marketing Manager for Large Format at HP, has been a keen supporter of the team's events since their first. She commented "For HP it's important to sponsor those types of events in order to



celebrate and recognise the talent and creativity that goes into producing the most exceptional projects across the industry. The UK Graphic Awards team has done an outstanding job in planning and executing an unforgettable awards evening so we are looking forward to another unforgettable evening full of innovative projects."

Dan Tyler who leads the organising team said "We're thrilled to have the privilege to give the industry a new opportunity to come together, recognise and celebrate their very best work and biggest achievements."

He continued "Our team have been working hard to put on a night to remember, and have really nailed it with the venue. Birmingham's Town Hall building promises to be a fantastic location for our celebration."

The full shortlist and details of the sold-out gala dinner are available at the signawards.

Premier starts 2023 with Irish acquisition

Following on from the acquisitions of WBC, the luxury packaging and retail display company; and the purchase of Zulu, the packaging and lamination films supplier, Premier has announced that Dublin based GPMI is the latest company to be acquired by the group.

GPMI is a leading graphics and paper merchant and has a strong and established position in the Irish market supplying both the commercial print and sign & display sectors. With warehouses and offices in Dublin and Belfast, GPMI has a turnover of around €28m with 50 employees.

Michael Beever, CEO of the Premier Paper Group says: "GPMI is an exciting addition to the Group and opens up a new geographical market for Premier.
These latest acquisitions are consistent with our strategy of achieving good organic growth, based on our traditional paper merchanting foundations, together with selected acquisitions in new but complementary markets."

GPMI Managing Director Enda Brophy commented: "Being part of Premier will open up many opportunities for GPMI and



will allow us to further develop our service offer and product choice to our customers. Being part of Premier and the wider global OVOL Japan Pulp & Paper Group gives our customers and suppliers confidence and reassurance of our commitment to the future of the print and graphical communications market. I am looking forward to starting the next phase of our development during 2023 as part of the Premier organisation"

The Premier Paper Group had a turnover of £187m in 2021 and is a leading supplier of paper, packaging and materials to the UK market. In turn, Premier is part of OVOL Japan Pulp & Paper Group, a global company that operates in 21 countries.

www.paper.co.uk

Ricoh analyses potential 2023 trends

Back in October 2022 Ricoh UK announced the launch of its second series of 'Anything in Print' podcasts which highlight and celebrate organisations championing the print industry.

The latest episode in the series has now gone live and features an indepth discussion with Independent Print Industries Association (IPIA) General Manager Brendan Perring about the major trends that will drive growth in the industry during 2023.

Available to download for free from the Anything in Print section of the Ricoh website, episode four of series two considers what it will take for the average print service provider to succeed over the next 12 months and how they can ensure business growth.

Tim Carter, Commercial Print
Sales Director at Ricoh Graphic
Communications, and one of the hosts
of the Anything in Print podcast series,
speaks with Brendan Perring about some
of the stand-out trends from 2022 and
which of these are likely to carry over into
2023.

The episode also looks at what is driving some of the most important current trends and what print companies can do to take full advantage of demand for certain products and services and grow their business as a result.



Dedicated to the UK print market, the IPIA is committed to serving and protecting the interests of print as well as connecting the industry with associate ones – such as creative and design – to help its members access further growth opportunities.

"The industry has seen more unparalleled challenges in the last couple of years than ever before, and we are very proud to be working side-by-side with its leaders to innovate, collaborate and problem-solve for a successful future," Tim Carter says.

Following the success of the original podcast series that launched in 2021, the second series of Anything in Print once again pays tribute to the businesses and organisations at the forefront of the sector, highlighting the work they do and how they can support print companies in the modern market.

A total of four episodes from series two are now available to download. In episode one, Charles Jarrold, CEO of the British Printing Industries Federation (BPIF), discusses the ever-evolving landscape that businesses need to navigate and delves into why – and how – they keep going.

Episode two features Cara Walker, Executive Director of Digital Solutions at Communisis; and Christina McMinn, Executive Director of Manufacturing and Logistics for Communisis, talking about how the business is combining innovation and

operations to power personalisation and customer engagement.

In addition, Sue Evren, Managing Director of the Paragon sites in Tewkesbury and Bristol, joins Simon in episode three for a look at the power of integrated communications and how a joined-up approach can transform customer journeys, improve team satisfaction and drive the message of sustainability.

Further episodes – 10 in total – will be released monthly and will feature leading industry organisations as well as print champions from associated sectors.

All Anything in Print episodes are available to listen at https://tools.ricoh.co.uk/aip-podcasts-on-demand, where listeners can also subscribe and receive notifications of future content. The podcasts are accessible via all major streaming platforms including Apple podcasts and Spotify.

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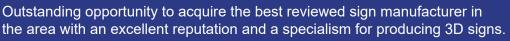
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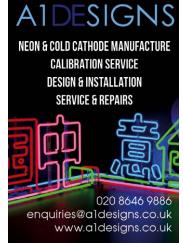
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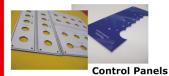






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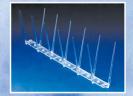


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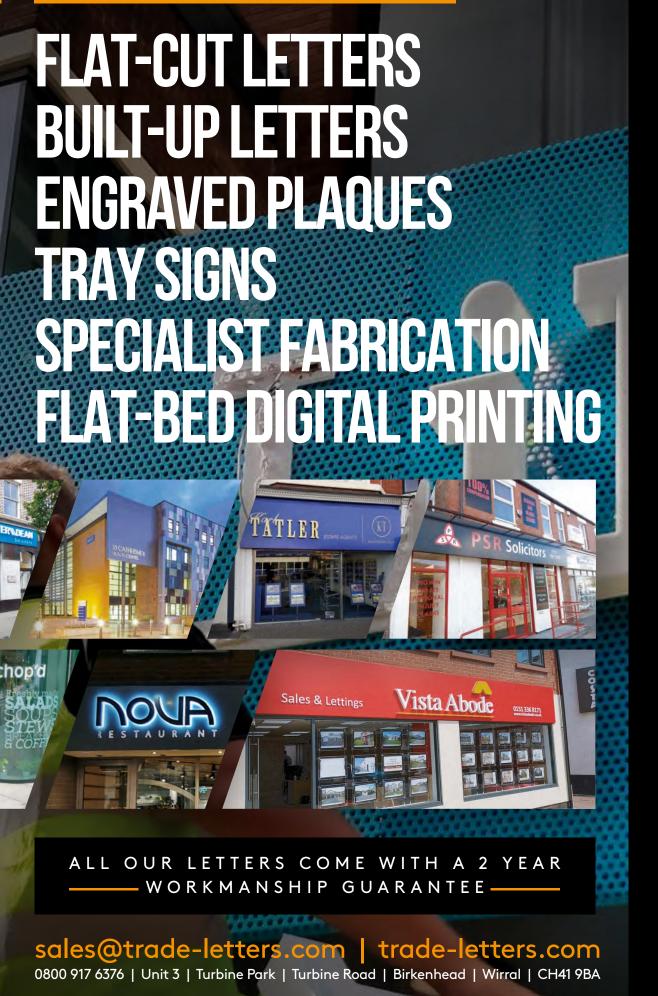


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