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Published by Sign Update Ltd www.signupdate.co.uk Allens Orchard, Chipping Warden, Oxon, OX17 1LX

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Annual Subscriptions:	Editorial Submissions:	

£14–UK (free for signmakers)

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Sign Update 3



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WELCOME Page

Sign & Digital UK 2024 starts on a Sunday

This is the last issue of the year, and I am taking the time to reflect on the year that has just passed. The most significant news for Sign Update, and perhaps the sign industry, is the change taking place with Sign & Digital UK exhibition.

Datateam's acquisition of Sign & Digital UK exhibition from Faversham House and its co-location with Printwear & Promotion LIVE!, where the two exhibitions will run side by side at the NEC in Birmingham, is indeed an exciting development. When I use the word "exciting," I truly mean it. I believe that sometimes extroverts may dilute the impact of words like "exciting," "awesome," and "amazing" among others. You know, those social types who can go out for a meal and describe it as "awesome" even if it's just an average meal. It's great to be around positive people, and people know that, but sometimes I want to be around those who are still in the real world, where you can go out and get a less-than-stellar meal.

The two shows will run from Sunday, February 25th, through to Tuesday, February 27th, 2024, and will be in adjoining halls. This will be the first time that Sign & Digital UK has been held on a Sunday.

They will maintain their own identities with separate promotions, online registrations, and entrances. However, visitors to each will have the opportunity to attend the other event. There will be a link between the two halls to allow for easy access from one into the other, without the need to exit and re-enter through the two main entrances.

When I reflect on the short time I spent doing some sign-making, I quickly ventured into printing t-shirts. Once I had the Graphtec plotter, all I needed was a heat press, and I could start applying garment films directly to t-shirts. When you're creating graphics for a van, it's straightforward to upsell branded t-shirts with their graphics on them, as you already have a version of the artwork that can be used, or it may only require a few tweaks.

I would expect that at least half of all the visitors will attend both exhibitions, whereas last year, only 10% of people attended both. This was because last year, it required two journeys to the NEC, and we all know the rather exorbitant cost of NEC car parking. Don't forget to book your car parking in advance for a £5 reduction.

Martin Hinchliffe



ACRYLIC & METAL FLAT CUT LETTERS R TRA LUMINATION CNC & LASER CUTTING sales@signs2signs.com

Premier's exclusive partnership makes the SpotOn[®] range readily available

Premier, a leading supplier of paper, packaging and materials to the UK market, is thrilled to announce its exclusive partnership with Drytac, a pioneering company in adhesive science and print media technology.

The announcement of Premier and Drytac's exclusivity deal, will see impressive ranges like SpotOn[®], now readily available as part of Premier's product offering throughout the UK and via GPMI in Ireland.

Drytac SpotOn[®] is a trademarked brand of monomeric film, that represents a game-changing advancement in adhesive technology. This unique product features a dot-pattern removable adhesive that is virtually undetectable yet offers unparalleled ease of application.

The combination of Drytac's unique materials and support alongside Premier's delivery makes perfect sense

It allows graphics to be effortlessly installed, ensuring they remain securely in place for the duration of the application and can be removed without any hassle.

SpotOn[®] 's adhesive properties facilitate straightforward, bubble-free application of vibrant graphics onto a wide range of substrates without the need for wet application. Available exclusively from Premier in clear matte, clear gloss, white matte, and white gloss finishes, SpotOn[®] is not only the preferred choice for window graphics but also an ideal solution for short-term indoor applications.

These include wall graphics, trade-show graphics, or retail graphics that require seasonal changes. Brad West, Director Wide Format Media, comments "I'm really excited about our exclusive partnership with Drytac in the UK & Ireland. Premier pride ourselves on delivering first class customer service, the combination of Drytac's unique materials, technical



Drytac SpotOn[®] monomeric film boasts a dot-pattern removable adhesive that allows for effortless installation and removal

back up & support alongside Premier's dedicated delivery fleet, local branch network and experienced sales team just makes perfect sense."

Premier has made big strides in the visual communications arena and has shown it commitment with a number of investments,



Available exclusively from Premier in clear matte, clear gloss, white matte and white gloss finishes

including recently a dedicated Display Graphics Hub in Wellingborough that has a capacity of over 4000 pallets. With dedicated stocks of wide format rolls and display sheet media. It also hosts a Schelling FK6 plastic and composite panel saw, a Cauhe GH 366 heavy-duty guillotine and a wall mounted Streibig Saw. "I am looking forward to working with Drytac to help our customers grow their business with initiatives such as the Drytac Academy." West continues.

Premier is excited to announce a limited promotion for customers who place an order for any SpotOn[®] product from Premier

To celebrate the exclusive partnership with Drytac and the introduction of SpotOn[®] to Premier's product portfolio, Premier is excited to announce a limited-time promotion. During the last quarter of 2023, customers who place an order for any SpotOn[®] product from Premier, will have the chance to win some great 'spot' prizes.

www.paper.co.uk



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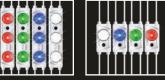


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Smith's new website revolutionises online shopping experience

Smith, part of William Smith Group 1832, is thrilled to announce the launch of its brand-new website, designed to elevate customer experiences and streamline online shopping for Chevron Kits.

Smith's new website boasts a whole host of user-friendly features, making it easier than ever for customers to access products and information, right at their fingertips.



Ordering from Smith's has been made effortless with their transparent pricing

Key Features and Benefits of the New Website

Smith's new website is designed to provide trade customers with an unmatched shopping experience, offering a host of benefits that redefine convenience and accessibility.

A Comprehensive Online Shop for Chevron Kits

The website showcases Smith's full portfolio of Chevron Kits, ensuring customers have a clear understanding of the available options.



An extensive selection of common/popular vehicle types are featured, catering to a wide range of customer needs. This includes templates for all major vehicle manufacturers, including Ford, Mercedes, Citroen, Vauxhall, Volkswagen and more.

Detailed technical information is provided for each product, aiding customers in making informed decisions.

Smith's new website is designed to provide customers with an unmatched shopping experience, offering a host of benefits.

The user-friendly product specification selection functionality allows customers to tailor their purchases to precise requirements.

Customers who already have access to the William Smith site will also have instant access to the new Smith site (and vice versa). In addition to this, trade customers with an existing William Smith Trade Account will be able to self-authenticate their registration for the new site, streamlining the process and removing any delays.

Trade customers now have instant access to transparent pricing, empowering them with the information they need to make swift decisions. Whether on the go or with a simple click, ordering has been made effortless, revolutionising the purchasing process. The availability of comprehensive technical information assists customers

> in selecting the perfect Chevron Kit for their specific needs. Additionally, the personalised login portal ensures a seamless and tailored shopping experience that caters to individual preferences.



The new website boasts a hub for signage solutions, with access to essential support

Signage Solutions Hub

In addition to Chevron Kits, the website also offers a comprehensive hub for signage solutions. · Customers can access essential support documents such as technical data sheets, FAQs, literature, and case studies. · An interactive "Meet the Team" section introduces the individuals behind Smith's exceptional products and services.

The website's dedicated signage solutions hub offers trade customers easy access to crucial support documents, enhancing their knowledge and understanding of Smith's products. A wealth of knowledge and information is now at customers' disposal, providing valuable insights into the world of signage solutions. Furthermore, high-quality images effectively represent products, aiding customers in visualising their purchases and making informed decisions.

Smith's commitment to excellence is reflected in every aspect of the new website, ensuring that customers receive unparalleled service, convenience, and access to high-quality products. The launch of this dynamic platform reinforces Smith's dedication to meeting the evolving needs of its customers and propelling the signage industry forward.

www.williamsmith.co.uk

Antalis introduces their sustainable Coala PVC-free self adhesives

Antalis is delighted to introduce the latest additions to their renowned Coala brand - Coala PVC-free self-adhesives. The range, which is now available from stock, includes Coala PP Stick and Coala Paper Stick and provide a more sustainable alternative without compromising on visual impact.

The innovative new ranges are suitable for solvent, UV, or latex printing and come in a variety of materials including paper, polypropylene, or polyester with various adhesion options.

Coala PP Stick is a PVCfree polypropolene selfadhesive film that offers excellent printability and durability

"We are constantly striving to provide our customers with the most innovative and sustainable products on the market," said Mike Collins, Product Manager at Antalis. "The Coala PVC-free self-adhesives are a testament to our commitment to offer environmentally friendly solutions without sacrificing performance."

Coala PP Stick is a range of PVCfree polypropylene self-adhesive films designed for (eco) solvent, latex, and UV inkjet printing. It offers excellent printability, dimensional stability, and durability, making it ideal for both indoor and outdoor applications. The Coala PP Stick is



Indoor or outdoor, the Coala PVCfree range caters for all applications



Made for the high street, the range of Coala adhesives are ideal for businesses that have sustainability in mind

available with various adhesion options including permanent, removable, and high tack.



Coala Paper Stick is a paper-based alternative that is FSC[®] certified and suitable for short-term indoor applications

Coala Paper Stick is a paper-based alternative to self-adhesive PVC vinyl and plastic equivalents. FSC[®] certified and featuring a water-based acrylic adhesive, the paper product is suitable for shortterm, indoor applications and features a water-based acrylic adhesive that allows for easy application and repositioning. Coala Paper Stick is compatible with UV and latex inkjet printing equipment and delivers exceptional print performance.

In addition to the Coala PVC-free selfadhesives, Antalis has also introduced new Orajet 3720 (removable) and 3740 (permanent) digital printing films. These cost-effective films are made from polypropylene and offer a PVC-free choice for temporary advertising graphics. With a white, matt, coated surface for better UV inkjet printability and water-based, solvent-free adhesives, the Orajet films can be applied on multiple surfaces for vibrant advertising for indoor and shortterm outdoor use.

Antalis include additional cost effective films, made from polypropolene with a PVC-free choice for temporary advertising

The Coala portfolio offers a wide range of materials including self-adhesive films, banners, magnetic solutions, papers, synthetic films, wallpapers, and textiles. To aid in selecting the right material for the application, Antalis offers a free Coala swatch book and samples service.

www.antalis.co.uk

TheMagicTouch offer great new decoration opportunities with 3D "puff" flex transfer



A complete new range of HTV transfer products, ideal for the clothing sector

New HTV Additions

TheMagicTouch introduce new HTV transfer products that offer great new decoration opportunities. Firstly, the arrival of a 3D "Puff" flex transfer with a raised textured effect on the surface of garments and durability as never seen before. With Puff flex you can cut text, numbers and logos creating a spectacular effect. The rising temperature during pressing creates a beautiful curve in the flex and produces a unique embossed print. Perfect for creating eye-catching designs on T-Shirts, Hoodies, Caps, Bags, and lots more. Available in 500mm wide rolls in White, Black, Gold, Silver and sold by the linear metre.

Also new to arrive is new "Reflective" HTV transfer for garments and textiles that allows logos and designs to be visible on low-light conditions. Perfect for enhancing visibility and safety. Reflective transfers are also popular for sportswear, workwear, and outdoor clothing.

Available in 500mm wide rolls in White, Black, Gold, Silver and sold by the linear metre.

And finally, new "Rainbow Spectrum"

The "Rainbow Spectrum" HTV vinyl with its shimmering prism effect changes colour depending on the angle it is viewed.

HTV with its shimmering prism effect with colours changing depended on the angle being viewed. This unique product creates an amazing effect, every single time. Available in 500mm wide rolls in Clear, Yellow, Red, Royal Blue, Green, White and sold by the linear metre.

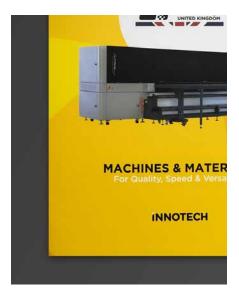
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www.themagictouch.co.uk

Innotech Digital partners with Liyu to release new swatchbook

Innotech Digital has partnered with Liyu UK to release a new swatch book for a selected range of PVC-free, backlit and other digital display media that are fully tested and approved for the Liyu range of UV LED printers. The swatch book was launched and made available on the Liyu UK stand, where Innotech media will also be used for demonstration purposes on Liyu's printers. Liyu UK's stand is the largest stand the show has ever seen and will host much of the company's printer range, including roll-to-roll, flatbed and hybrid printers up to 5m width.

Kieran Dallow, Marketing Manager for Innotech Digital, says, "We worked closely with Liyu UK to test our media on their printers and provide a swatch book of selected media that is fully approved for their machines. Liyu's range of superwide printers is perfect for producing large banners and other wide format output with great image quality, and the media range in the swatch book fully supports these applications. Customers can be confident that the selected range of high-quality media in the new swatch book has been fully tested on Liyu printers and is ready to go."



Liyu swatch book is fully approved and ready to go

The new Innotech Digital media swatch book will contain the following products, fully tested and approved for Liyu printers.

Eddie Tucker, Liyu UK's Managing

Director, says, "We are delighted to be working with Innotech and to have a swatch book of media that is fully approved and ready to go with our printers. It is important for customers to know that there are market-leading media products guaranteed to work well with our printers, and our partnership with Innotech gives them that confidence. We are delighted that they are also supporting us at The Print Show and are looking forward to showing what our products can do together."

Kieran concludes, "Our focus is to work more closely with print machinery manufacturers as this is a great way to demonstrate the range and quality of our media. There is a huge benefit to allowing customers to see that our media works perfectly with industry-leading printers. Similarly, it is important for the manufacturers to be able to show a broad range of top-quality media that is tested and approved for their machines. There will be more such arrangements being announced in the coming months.

www.innotechdigital.com



View our full colour range online: www.perspex.co.uk/colour-selector

Spandex introduces Zeno - a new standard in interactive car wrap design

Spandex, one of the world's leading suppliers to the visual communications industry has introduced Zeno, a virtual 3D car wrap visualisation platform. Zeno will be exclusively distributed by Spandex across Europe and Australia.

Zeno is a subscription-based software tool that helps vehicle wrap professionals create and visualize high quality, realistic full or partial wraps quickly, eliminating the need for complicated graphic design software. The tool is simple and easy to use and does not require design or technical experience. Users simply choose the car model, material and colours, and the software instantly generates a 3D prototype that can be viewed from multiple angles. It can then be put into 6 different simulated environments to test how shadows, glimmers, and reflections appear on the material.

Car wrappers have access to all of Spandex's car wrap brands including Avery Dennison, 3M, Orafol and Arlon, with a full range of wrap colours as well as over 500 vehicle models, including commercial vehicles. In addition, Zeno includes a Customer Design Studio where users can upload their own images allowing extra customisation for digital print and fleet projects. There are also 1000+ decals available to produce more unique designs. There are virtually endless possibilities in what wrap professionals could create.

When discussing with a car owner, installers can show an instant image of what the vehicle will look like, making it much quicker and easier for both parties to discuss ideas and make decisions. There is a simple point-and-click setup that lets you easily choose and apply the chosen material.



The tool is simple, easy to use, and does not require design or technical experience

Once the design has been created, it will show a list of all the materials needed, allowing wrappers to easily click through to the Spandex website to order. Wrap installers can also download the design as an interactive 360° render to share with prospects, display at exhibitions or upload on their website and social media. In this way, Zeno fully streamlines the selling process by decreasing the time it takes to finalise a design and start wrapping.

Leon Watson, Chief Go-to-Market Officer at Spandex, expressed his enthusiasm for Zeno's launch, stating, "We are thrilled to introduce Zeno to our customers. This revolutionary platform embodies our commitment to driving innovation, helping wrap businesses free up more time for projects, generate more revenue and offer a premium service. It's a game changer."

Zeno is available, exclusively from Spandex, as a yearly subscription at the price of £490. It can be purchased directly from the Spandex website.

www.spandex.com

New Mimaki UV printers offer sustainable productive and versatile solutions

Exclusive UK and Ireland Mimaki distributor, Hybrid Services has announced the launch of two new UV printers that extend Mimaki's popular 100 and 330 series product ranges – the UJV100-160Plus and UCJV330-160. The new models deliver enhanced production benefits, providing customers with increased opportunities to extend their application range, whilst also utilising Mimaki's proven UV technology to support a more sustainable future for the industry.

As UV inkjet printing trailblazers, Mimaki launched the world's first UV printer with white ink in 2004 and has continued to expand and develop UV technologies that enable versatile, high-quality sign and graphics printing. The introduction of its entry-level 100 series and its more advanced 330 series printer range took Mimaki's established platforms and applied these robust technologies to the needs of different market sectors and customers at different stages of their digital print business journey.

"The addition of these two new models presents an exciting opportunity for us, and there has been much anticipation around the arrival of the UCJV330-160," states Hybrid's Sales Director, Andrew Gregory. "The drive to lower running costs, increase productivity and offer Mimaki's typically high levels of creativity will ensure a strong uptake."

The two printers are compatible with Mimaki's new cloud-based printer status monitoring tool for all Mimaki products

Arjen Evertse, General Manager Sales, Mimaki Europe, explained, "The pressing need to be more sustainable, as well as the recent pressures associated with rising energy prices has accelerated the industry-wide need to adopt UV technology. UV printing requires considerably less energy throughout the printing process than other technologies, not least due to the fact that LED UV inks



Mimaki set the standard as trailblazers in the inkjet printing industry by expanding and developing their UV technologies with two new printers

cure instantly. This both improves the printer's environmental impact but also saves on production costs and delivery times."

"At Mimaki, we are committed to supporting the move to UV to ensure more sustainable, efficient print production, future proofing the businesses of our valued customers and of course, ensuring we are working towards improving sustainability for all our sakes. The UJV100-160Plus and UCJV330-160 are the latest results of our efforts to expand the UV printing options available to print service providers, whilst also delivering the unparalleled benefits that are synonymous with Mimaki technologies."

The two printers are compatible with Mimaki's new cloud-based printer status monitoring tool for all Mimaki products – PICT. Available for customers to download, PICT improves the efficiency of Mimaki customers' print operations and production management by giving them the power to monitor the operational status and performance of their printers from a PC or mobile device. The printer operation and ink usage results are captured for each Mimaki printer in production or within designated groups, providing customers with improved ink inventory management and maintenance and production planning. The UCJV330-160 has been developed with application and media flexibility in mind to more environmentally friendly substrates

New Mimaki UCJV330-160 1.6m UV printer/cutter

The new UCJV330-160 integrated printer/ cutter offers versatile LED UV roll-to-roll inkjet printing with significantly improved productivity and image quality.

With a production speed of 28m2/h in four-colour configuration or 18m2/h with white and/or clear inks, the UCJV330-160 enables users to offer impressive turnaround times and produce more jobs with increased efficiency. In addition, high print speeds can be achieved with high output quality, thanks to Mimaki's newly developed ink firing technology that improves colour reproduction in high density areas even in high-speed output mode. The UCJV330-160 has been developed with application and media flexibility in mind to support Mimaki customers with the move to more environmentally friendly substrates. The printer is equipped with white and clear inks as standard, and users can print high quality images on traditional media used for outdoor sign graphics applications, as well as translucent, transparent, and coloured materials, including PET, polyurethane and other resin films, textiles and uncoated paper.

This media flexibility combined with the option to offer 2.5D print, watermarks or 5-layer printing further supports businesses with their goals to provide customers with a more diverse and high value product range that will increase their competitive edge. Being an integrated printer/cutter, the UCJV330-160 is also equipped with advanced features for contour cutting to deliver stickers, decals and labels.

New Mimaki UJV100-160Plus 1.6m UV printer

The affordable UJV100-160Plus model features new capabilities and has been designed to consume an exceptionally low amount of power. At just 0.5kW, the UJV100-160Plus consumes less than half the power of eco-solvent and latex/ resin printers on the market, helping print businesses to reduce running costs and their CO2 emissions.

New functionalities of the UJV100-160Plus have been incorporated to expand its range of applications as well as improve operational and cost efficiencies. A new ink saving function reduces ink consumption by up to 50% while maintaining the colour balance of the printed design, with ink reduction levels set by the operator using RasterLink7 software, removing the need for specialised knowledge or equipment for colour adjustment.

A new function included in the printer pulls back the printed substrate to enable up to 3-layer printing, extending the application possibilities and allowing colour-whitecolour or white-colour-clear printing, giving more flexibility to offer a wide range of applications, for increased creative effect or to add value to applications such as window graphics.

The UJV100-160Plus also links seamlessly with Mimaki's CG-AR cutting plotters, enabling users to output cut data directly from RasterLink7 to the plotter, improving workflow efficiencies and linking the printing and cutting even if the output PC does not have design software.

Both models will be available through Hybrid's network of authorised Mimaki Partners, with demo machines arriving at Hybrid very soon. "We look forward to inviting prospective customers to view these exciting new products in the very near future," concludes Gregory. "Offering the latest in high quality output, they also deliver on Mimaki sustainable goals and will undoubtedly be a popular addition to our product line-up."

www.hybridservices.co.uk



CMYUK adds JWEI JCUT to its portfolio of production equipment

CMYUK has added the JWEI JCUT digital cutting system to its production equipment portfolio. A vanguard of innovative disruption, these tables offer accuracy, reliability, and an array of superior features at an investment level that has previously never been attainable.

Available in three sizes – 1600mm x 2500mm, 2100mm x 3100mm, 3200mm x 3000mm, the largest sized table supports super-wide digital printed textile cutting production in both the mid-range and premium industrial printer markets. This 3.2m wide model offers an aspirational solution commensurate with the capital equipment costs of mid-range printers. It is also designed to be the uncompromising and integral multi tool finishing component for those operating premium high-end industrial printer technologies.

Feature-rich as standard

Ambitious in its reach, the JWEI JCUT has a feature set that is nothing short of audacious. This includes an automatic feeding conveyor, 1800kW liquid cooled router for powerful milling, Auto Tool Changer, Universal Cutting Tool, Kiss Cut Tool, Electric Oscillating Tool, Crease Wheel Tool, V-Cut Tool, and a modularised cutting head that accommodates up to 3 sets of tool combinations simultaneously.

The use of a CCD camera on the JWEI JCUT increases the precision of the output, compensating for printing inaccuracies and reducing waste

Its bed is comprised of separate vacuum zones that secure materials and guarantee complete lay flat consistency for all substrates during production. Speed performance from this table is formidable too, running up to 1200mm per second, the equivalent of 75m per minute, with a maximum acceleration point of 1G.



The JWEI JCUT offers unparalleled features with aspirational calibre cutting and finishing performance

All tables are solidly engineered for stability, with the 3.2m wide model fitted with a carbon fibre reinforced gantry that ensures stable precision during super-wide intense production cycles.

Superior operating software

The JCUT range of tables are controlled by the powerful, easy to use OptiScout Vision controller software for accurate and fast automated cutting.

Individually configurable import filters ensure optimum preparation of the cut contours during importation. For example, open contours can be closed or optimised, or duplicates removed. Individual macros can be executed automatically before and after the import, to optimally feed data into the subsequent cutting process. The use of a CCD camera increases the precision of the output that compensates printing inaccuracies and thereby reduces waste. Flexible registration reliably processes even the most problematic of materials that are prone to distortion.

At the heart of 'Production Process

Automation' is the material database that can be accessed at the job preparation stage, ensuring that the material and method are compatible for production, avoiding any errors early on.

OptiScout is supported by all industry leading RIPs, including Agfa Asanti, Aurelon PrintFactory, Cadlink, Caldera, ColorGATE, EFI, ErgoSoft PosterPrint / TexPrint, IGEPA MasterRip, ONYX, Pjannto, PosterJet, Prep-it, SAi, and Wasatch. It ensures the quick and reliable generation of all cut files.

> Mid-range customers want the capabilities and versatility that highend brands offer. JWEI uniquely delivers that at an investment level like no other



Robin East (L), CMYUK Group Commercial Director; Snow Lin, founder and CEO Jingwei Systemtechnik (JWEI); Jon Price, CMYUK Group Finance and Operations Director

Unprecedented prices

Prices for the JWEI JCUT range start from £64,995 + vat for the J-CUT PRO-1625 and £89,995 for the 3.2m J-CUT PRO-3230. All cutting tables come as standard including compressor, delivery, installation, operator and application training,18 months on-site warranty, Auto Tool Changer (holding up to 8 router bits), a range of tools including 1.8kw liquid cooled router, Universal Cutting Tool, Creasing Tool, Electric Oscillating Tool, V-Cut Tool and Kiss Cut Tool. The solution also includes the OptiScout Vision controller software workstation.

CMYUK customer service

CMYUK's renowned customer service infrastructure underpins the JWEI JCUT commercial proposition and offers a choice of extended warranties and service level agreements. Our in-house engineers provide installation, operator, and application training, ensuring customers utilise all functionality available from the equipment they have purchased. CMYUK also includes free lifetime training on equipment, on-going support and service. We also stock all consumables and spare parts to ensure quick availability.

"As an organisation, CMYUK has a great deal of technical knowledge and market intelligence regarding finishing and digital cutting. In our history, we have been very successful with both the Zund and Kongsberg brands and know the market sector intimately. We understand that many mid-range customers want the capabilities and versatility that these respected high-end brands offer. JWEI uniquely delivers this at an investment level like no other.

"Now as the exclusive distributor of JWEI JCUT products in the UK and Ireland, we have the ability to democratise high end digital cutting capabilities. We are extremely impressed with this established technology and are 100% confident that it will transform the digital cutting and finishing leader board – there is simply nothing like it," said Robin East, Group Commercial Director, CMYUK.

JWEI – world class manufacturing

JWEI was founded in 1993 and following considerable commitment in R&D has become an industry leader in digital flatbed cutting systems. Its products are installed in over 100 countries and regions around the world.

The company is head-quartered in the Ningbo National High-Tech Zone, an advanced manufacturing facility that was completed in 2021 representing an investment of more than 1 billion Yuan.

The build calibre and reliability of JWEI's digital cutting technology, in concert with its focus on quality control and inspection processes has underpinned the company's trusted international reputation. It has both ISO9001:2000 and CE certification, and an enviable accolade record that includes TOP 10 Software Enterprise, TOP 10 Innovative Enterprise, National Hi-Tech Enterprise, and Municipal Key Software Enterprise.

The build calibre and reliability underpins the company's reputation

With an R&D team of 50+, JWEI continually strives to innovate and implement progressive improvements to its product offerings through successful collaboration with well-known global manufacturers.

Snow Lin, founder and CEO Jingwei Systemtechnik (JWEI) said, "We are delighted to be working with CMYUK and recognise its considerable reputation and influence within the digital printing industry. As pioneers in our field, our goal is to achieve a technology revolution with perseverance. Our partnership with CMYUK places quality and customer satisfaction at the heart of our joint commercial endeavour."

www.cmyuk.com

The TxF300-75 is designed with greater productivity in mind

Mimaki Announces Faster TxF300-75 printer to maximise Direct-to-Film Productivity.

Mimaki Europe has announced the development of a new direct-to-film (DTF) printer, the TxF300-75. The new system incorporates the stability and functionality of Mimaki's first DTF printer, the TxF150-75, while delivering new levels of productivity with print speeds that are three times higher.

Mimaki's intention, when entering the DTF market earlier this year, was to offer customers a stable, efficient DTF platform that incorporates Mimaki's renowned quality standards. In line with the original machine, the new TxF300-75 meets these objectives, whilst catering to a diverse set of printing demands, including larger companies requiring higher volumes of high-quality output.

The TxF300-75 utilises Mimaki's PHT50 pigment inks, are eco-certified to be in line with Mimaki's sustainability goals

"We believe in giving customers choice and anticipating their needs, which is why we are expanding our DTF printer line-up hot on the heels of the inaugural system" explains Arjen Evertse, General Sales Manager, Mimaki Europe. "The TxF300-75 has been designed to offer even greater productivity. The innovative 80cm width introduced with our first DTF printer remains a feature of this new system, enabling customers to print more efficiently."



The reliability of the Mimaki DTF printer series is achieved through the built-in ink circulation that prevents white ink clogging, and degassed ink pack to lower the risk of poor ink jetting

The reliability of the Mimaki DTF printer series is achieved through the built-in ink circulation system that prevents white ink clogging, and a degassed ink pack, lowering the risk of poor ink jetting. The new printer also includes core Mimaki features, including NCU (Nozzle Check Unit) and NRS (Nozzle Recovery System) for stable, uninterrupted print production. The DTF process also enables customers to print on a wider range of fabric such as cotton, mixed fabric, polyester, and dark coloured fabrics.

In line with Mimaki's sustainability goals, the TxF300-75 utilises Mimaki's PHT50 pigment inks which are ECO-PASSPORT certified - validating their lower environmental impact and meeting the requirements for OEKO-TEX certification.

Distributed in the UK and Ireland by Hybrid Services, the company's sales director, Andrew Gregory, welcomes the addition to the line-up. "Since its launch,



Mimaki TxF300-75 DTF printer delivers new levels of productivity

the TxF150-75 has been an overwhelming success, receiving a very positive response from the market. It's exciting to be able to announce the higher production machine joining the range, and we look forward to seeing it later in the year."

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Potts Print invest in Jeti Tauro H2500 LED wide format printer

Potts Print is one of the largest privately owned printers in the northeast, established in 1875 and initially based in North Shields. Over the past 10 years Potts Print has expanded their offer to include digital printing, direct mail, personalised packaging, large format print and a storage and distribution solution for their customers.

Potts has been supplying large format print for several years and as their demand grew, they acquired their specialist supplier in this area, Digital XL back in 2014. Digital XL had been in large format print for 14 years at the time of the acquisition and with the merger came the expertise of key staff including Dan Tarbit who is now Deputy Director of the large format team for the Potts business.

This specialism sits within the business that has a phenomenal print capacity with 4 Litho presses, 10 small format digital printers, 2 latex and 1.6m printers. All the pre-press workflow across the business is managed on the Agfa, now ECO3 Apogee workflow software and has been for over 10 years and their plate setters are from Agfa too in their Litho Division. They are also currently trialling some beta packaging plug ins for ECO3, on their prepress systems.

Agfa has a really solid brand offer and a great range of machines for the wide format market

It's no surprise that ECO3 selected Potts Print as a test site. They are a forward-thinking business and were early achievers in this market with certifications like ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001 for business processes and FSC and PFC chain of custody for sustainability. The latter enabling them to trace all the way back to source for material supply. They are a Carbon Neutral business and have made big changes to reduce their carbon footprint over the last few years in all areas of the company. They measure their results each year and are already 17% down on their 2020 footprint which they are driving down further with recent investments in the latest print engines, like the Jeti Tauro from Agfa. They offset

the remaining carbon with an ecological charity, hence their carbon neutral status.

"The environmental impact was certainly one of the considerations in the purchase of the new Agfa machine." Said Beck Owen, Deputy Director of their Corporate Services Division. "It replaces two older printers that were coming to the end of life at 7 years old and the energy they used with their halogen lights alone was a lot greater than we are predicting with the new Agfa machine. We are excited to see the cost savings from both energy and ink usage on the Agfa Jeti Tauro that was installed in the middle of June."



The Hybrid Jeti Tauro H2500 LED relies on UV LED curing to offer six vivid colours plus white print

Dan Tarbit explains the key reasons why they chose the Agfa Wide Format press after reviewing the market: "We had the top of the range models with our incumbent wide format printer supplier, so we decided to start getting Sales Representatives in from alternative suppliers mid 2022. We needed more production speed, ideally an upgrade path to support us as we grow and wanted to ensure there were environmental benefits too. Agfa stood out by a mile.

We visited their Antwerp Demonstration area where we could view all their print engines in one place including their range of Anapurna, Oberon, Jeti Mira, Jeti Tauro, Avinci Dye Sub and Onset machines. We even took media with us that we were having problems with, like with adherence on certain clear vinyls and the Agfa engineers showed us how to resolve the issues. So, we came away fairly convinced it was the choice for us. Their Jeti Tauro engine was the best fit for our business today and at the right price point. It is a hybrid machine offering roll to roll and flatbed media feeds and whilst on paper it is 3 times faster than our old machines

because we can run with multiple sheets on the Tauro, we can now run up to 9 times faster on some jobs, so the speed is mind-blowing."

The Agfa machine was delivered in June, the installation went well, and the team received both initial and follow up training along with certification. And whilst is it early days, they are reporting great quality results and a projected 60% saving on inks as they are not only cheaper to buy but with the Agfa 'Thin Ink Layer Technology' their usage is down too.

The hybrid Jeti Tauro H2500 LED relies on UV LED curing to offer six vivid colours plus white print. It is a robust productive printer able to handle extreme workloads. It allows for substrate widths up to 2.54m wide, runs at a print speed of up to 390m²/h and has cutting edge automation for countless rigid and flexible media options. It features up to 32 fastfiring Ricoh inkjet print heads, each with 4 nozzle rows for 2 colours per head offering great quality at speed.



"Their Jeti Tauro engine was the best fit for our business today and at the right price point."

Final word from Dan "Agfa has a really solid brand offer and a great range of machines for the wide format market. Their staff are on the ball with their experience, knowledge and professionalism. Their machines are reliable and with their quick back up service it gave us the confidence to go for one engine to replace the two that we had. We are using the Asanti workflow software which is a tailored wide format version of the Apogee workflow we know so well too, which is a great benefit for us. We see Agfa continuing to be a growing partner with Potts Print, they are just a great BIG brand in print today."

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Mimaki offers real versatility for Pawdeco.co.uk

Pawdeco.co.uk has installed a Mimaki UJF-3042MkII e UV LED printer from CMYUK. The new desktop flatbed will be used in tandem with the company's existing Trotec Speedy 300 laser cutter and engraver to create new product lines.

"My idea was to take the Trotec capabilities and combine these with Mimaki features to create unique items," says Ashleigh Hopwood, owner producer at Pawdeco.co.uk.

While Ashleigh has a background in engraving, it was her career in Dog Grooming and her love of pets that spurred her on to create www.pawdeco.co.uk, a dedicated Pet Keepsake business, founded in 2020 after the birth of her daughter.

Apprehensive about initial operation of the Mimaki, CMYUK were at hand to demonstrate for Ashleigh its ease of use system

"I wanted to bring comfort to pet owners. As a dog groomer, I obviously became attached to the dogs that I was looking after, so, when they passed away, I thought it would be nice to present the owner with a keepsake and that's how the business idea began," she says.

It was during a trade show visit that Ashleigh first spied a Mimaki UV printer on the Trotec stand, and after expressing interest in its capabilities, she was put in touch with CMYUK, which distributes both Trotec and Mimaki equipment.

After visiting CMYUK's impressive demo and training facility in Shrewsbury, Ashleigh invested in the Mimaki UJF-3042MkII e UV LED printer. This flatbed comes in two sizes A2 and A3, but due to space constraints, she opted for the smaller model. This printer offers real versatility with direct printing capabilities on numerous materials such as wood, glass, acrylic,



Mimaki's ability to create more appealing designs and branching into new products has elevated Pawdeco's range and appeal with an influx of orders

and metals, up to 153mm thick. Stable and fast, with consistent quality output, the Mimaki UJF-3042MkII e is suited to a wide range of applications including novelty items, merchandising, awards, badges, greetings cards, and much more.

"I've wanted to incorporate colour into my engraved designs for some time now, but never thought I'd be able to evolve the business to a point where I could. Once I saw the demo at CMYUK, I thought it was just an amazing piece of kit and I wanted to incorporate stained-glass effects into



the product line – which is really what led me to invest in the printer," says Ashleigh.

In terms of operation, Ashleigh was at first apprehensive about operating the Mimaki, but with training from CMYUK was surprised at its ease of use. In addition, the printer has really helped to push her productivity. "It's much faster than I expected, and the good thing is that I can run it in the background while I'm doing other things, which is really helpful," she says.

The Mimaki has been installed for four months now, and Pawdeco.co.uk has seen an uptake in orders, with the printer paying for itself far quicker than anticipated.

Says Ashleigh, "I've noticed an influx in orders since I've had the Mimaki because I've been able to create more appealing designs that are the result of combining Trotec output with UV coloured inks. I'm getting more orders per day. Looking forward, I want to branch out further into new product offerings. I've got the ideas, and the technology, I just need more space."

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Fujifilm Acuity Prime Hybrid unveiled



The Acuity Prime Hybrid effortlessly handles substrates up to 2050mm in width

Following a technology preview at FESPA 2023, and a successful beta trial in the UK, Fujifilm today announces commercial availability of the Acuity Prime Hybrid in Europe. Designed with value, performance, ease-of-use and ROI in mind, the Acuity Prime Hybrid builds upon the remarkable success of the Acuity Prime flatbed, while also introducing the enhanced flexibility of being able to easily handle a wide range of rigid and flexible materials.

The latest addition to Fujifilm's 'blueprint

for wide format', the Acuity Prime Hybrid is designed to achieve an optimal balance between output speed, print quality, and cost-effectiveness, while also incorporating multiple intuitive design features.

When set up as a flatbed, the Acuity Prime Hybrid effortlessly handles substrates up to 2050mm in width. It can print on up to four pieces of rigid media simultaneously, and features registration pins for highly precise edge to edge printing. It can produce print at production quality from 92m2 per hour. Front and back handling tables provide comprehensive support for all media types while streamlining media positioning.

The roll-fed configuration can be loaded with two rolls each up to 0.9m wide, and its GREENGUARD Gold certified ink makes it suitable for wallpaper production – as well as a huge range of other applications.

The Acuity Prime Hybrid is set to meet the needs of print service providers who use a wide range of media – such as Dibond,

"We were excited to showcase the Acuity Prime Hybrid this year at FESPA"

foamboard, acrylic, polyester and more – across a variety of applications.

David Burton, Director of Fujifilm Wide Format Inkjet Systems, comments: "We were excited to showcase the Acuity Prime Hybrid this year at FESPA and delighted that we're now able to announce its commercial availability. This new addition to the Acuity line-up emphasises Fujifilm's commitment to providing print service providers with the tools they need to produce as diverse a range of applications as possible, at consistently high levels of quality."

www.fujifilm.co.uk

Ultimat Frames invests in Fujifilm Acuity Prime

The award-winning flatbed printer has enabled the company to print to a much more diverse range of substrates

UK-based frame manufacturers Ultimat Frames has invested in a Fujifilm Acuity Prime 30 printer to support the expansion of its business and broaden its product offering.

Established in 2004, Ultimat Frames manufactures and installs bespoke frames for businesses operating in the fine art and hospitality sectors.

Dru Cook, Managing Director at Ultimat Frames, sought the Acuity Prime to print on a wider variety of materials and gain new business opportunities. He found that the flatbed printer delivered on quality and versatility, as well as offering impressive return on investment.

Cook commented: "I wanted to expand Ultimat Frames' product offering beyond standard printing and framing, and we knew investing in a UV printer would help us achieve this. The Acuity Prime has enabled us to create the high end, high quality products that we're known for, and print on many more substrates – including glass."

Confirming Fujifilm as a trusted partner, Cook adds: "Fujifilm has been extremely supportive throughout the sales and installation process, with frequent interaction, including site visits and technology support. If I were to invest again, I'd come to the same conclusion."

Cook also says that since investing in the Acuity Prime, the company has received orders for a variety of new applications, including substrates such as glass, leather, wood and acrylic. This has enabled the company to expand its product offering to high-end feature pieces, and durable artwork for hotels and cruise ships. The Acuity Prime was able to print direct to the substrate, reducing previous substrate size limitations, and has opened the door to working collaboratively with self-published artists to create new forms of presentation, thereby elevating their artwork and value.



"Fujifilm offered support throughout the entire sales and installation process"

Andy Kent, Division Manager, Fujifilm Graphic Communications UK adds: "We're delighted that such a huge range of businesses continue to see the production and business benefits of our wide format technology. Thanks to their Acuity Prime investment, Ultimat Frames now has the capability to print on more substrates than ever before, and they can do so cost-effectively and at exceptionally high levels of quality – opening up a raft of new business opportunities."

www.fujifilm.co.uk

MacroArt continues investment in innovation with purchase of Nyala 4

Leading branded environments specialist MacroArt is continuing its major investment programme with the installation of the award-winning Nyala flatbed printer from swissQprint.

The company says the new printer will further enhance its offering to customers, providing increased speed to market without compromising on its reputation for outstanding graphic quality. At the same time, the efficiency of the Nyala supports MacroArt's ongoing sustainability initiatives and its commitment to net zero.

The Nyala 4 delivers superior precision, control and the ability to use precut media with accuracy, reducing ink waste

"The addition of the Nyala allows us not only to continue producing high-quality graphics but to deliver them at a rate which we have never seen before in the business," explained MacroArt's Operations Director Mark Rose. "We are excited to see how it helps take MacroArt to the next level in terms of quality and innovation. When you marry all the machine's qualities with its terrific green credentials, swissQprint's kit ticked every box for us."

Equipped with roll-to-roll capability and an impressive six-colour channel, plus white and varnish options, MacroArt's Nyala offers its clients significant advantages in quality, durability and eye-catching effects. This will enable MacroArt to further expand its capabilities, confirming its position



The Nyala 4 meets MacroArt's five-step sustainability strategy process "MACRO"



The Nyala 4 provides increased speed to market without compromising on its reputation for outstanding graphic quality

as a leading provider of graphics in the property, events, sports, retail and heritage sectors.

One of the most notable changes with the arrival of the Nyala is MacroArt's shift from a hybrid to a static flatbed printer. This delivers superior precision, control and the ability to use pre-cut media, with the additional accuracy reducing ink and material waste. Furthermore, the low-energy LED curing and cutting-edge engineering, evidenced by swissQprint's ISO 20690:2018 certification, keep energy requirements low.

In addition, the efficiency of the new Nyala printer and MacroArt's additional investment in reorganised workflow will consolidate the company's printing operation, providing efficiencies to meet growing demand.

These benefits support MacroArt's five-step Sustainability Strategy process, MACRO: – Measure, Activate, Change, Recycle, and O, representing a commitment and roadmap to net zero. Together with the recent successful implementation of software, such as the new ERP system, and data analysis, which enables the company to track its carbon footprint, the installation of the Nyala will further strengthen MacroArt's net zero commitments.

MacroArt's Nyala 4 offers its clients significant advantages in quality, durability and eyecatching designs

MacroArt engaged in rigorous due diligence in its search for a new printer, which involved trialling eight different models to ensure it selected the right machine for the business.

swissQprint Sales Manager Pete Smallwood was highly complementary of MacroArt's approach: "I must commend the MacroArt team on their due diligence. It was a pleasure to collaborate with them to identify a print solution that met the exacting needs of the business, and we very much look forward to seeing the results of their investment."

www.macroart.co.uk

Verve Display were persuaded by Kongsberg X24's versatility

Verve Display, the Harlow-based bespoke experiential events print specialist, has invested in a Kongsberg X24 digital cutting table from CMYUK. The new finishing table replaces the company's defunct Zund cutter that it's been running for over 8 years. A recent purchase of a new 3.2m wide UV roll to roll printer was also a key driver for the business to update its printing and digital cutting capabilities to maintain the highest quality and speed of its workflow.

"The Zund has been a great piece of kit, and we certainly got a lot of work out of it, but we knew it needed upgrading. We looked at various options because as we had not invested in that side of the business for a while, we wanted to see what was out there," says Verve Director, David Blackholly.

After considering solutions from a number of well-known manufacturers, Verve senior management was persuaded by the versatility of the Kongsberg X24.

"The Kongsberg was the right choice for us. We believe it will do everything we need it to do and more. Having a conveyorised system unlike the fixed bed we had before was very important to us. We were also impressed by the ease of changing the router," says David.

The Kongsberg X24 offers the versatility to evolve with a company's needs

Verve Display is an established company of 20 staff that makes a large impact. Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, it began as a general wide format signage printer, but over the years has evolved into specialist bespoke event build and branding. Verve is also massively involved with its sustainability drive and greener solutions, both its machinery, materials and especially its Zero to landfill commitment. Currently clients include The 02 Arena where it created all graphics for Elton John's 10-night takeover stint of his Goodbye Yellow Brick Road tour, Capital



"Our confidence with the cutter is growing." - David Blackholly, Verve Director

Radio's Summertime and Jingle Bell Balls, The Brit Awards, Classic FM Live, Great Ormond Street Hospital, ATP Tennis with Queens and The OVO Arena, Wembley, plus many more.

Verve has been buying its sustainable PVC-free materials from CMYUK for the last couple of years, and this positive relationship also had some influence over the Kongsberg purchase.

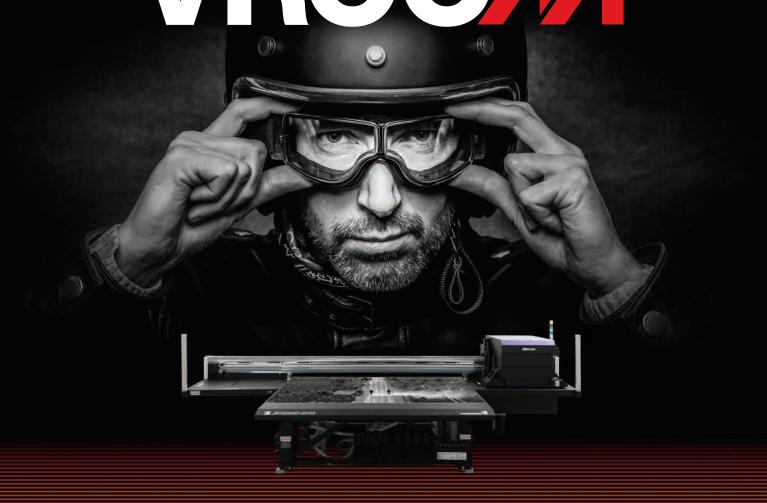


"It was important to us to work with a partner like CMYUK because the transaction goes beyond the sale. We knew having the Kongsberg X24 would be a learning curve for us, and we would need support going forward. Even after formal training, if we have questions i.e., certain settings for a particular type of material, we can just pick up the phone to the technical team at CMYUK – they are friendly, helpful, and always there. The other big bonus is when we recruit new staff, we can send them to the CMYUK demo centre for training on the Kongsberg – all free of charge, which is really good to know," says David.

The installation of the X24 almost immediately impacted the company's working processes. Prior to its arrival a 1300mm plotter was used for vinyl cutting, now all cutting including kiss cuts are directed through the Kongsberg as its fast, efficient, and highly accurate.

Says David, "Our confidence with the cutter is growing. We'd like to push the creative side more to compliment the nature of our bespoke solutions we offer clients, to use it for bending of Di bond or to create washout effects for example. We're experimented with this all the time, when a job comes in, it has to be perfect. We're not just cutting out a shape, we're producing products."

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Mimaki UJV55-320 leaves a lasting impression

Visual merchandising, wide format display and signage company, Impression Ltd, has invested in a Mimaki UJV55-320 UV LED roll printer from CMYUK. This is the company's first 3.2m wide printer, purchased to offer the growing demand of super-wide textile applications across the vast range of market sectors it services that includes retail, exhibitions, corporate interiors, construction, and more.

The Mimaki UJV55-320 joins a plant list that includes amongst others 3 X UV LED flatbeds and a Canon Colorado 1650.

"We're very much focussed on retail and produce high volumes of light boxes and tension frame graphics. The new Mimaki has increased our capacity in that respect. It's given us that 3.2m wide interest, which has been very useful for clients wanting to move into that larger size," says Carl Webster, Director, Impression Ltd (Bolton).

Mimaki UJV55-320 gateway to textile production

Impression's senior management was in discussion about investing in a dedicated roll-fed super-wide printer when a CMYUK promo on a 3.2m wide Mimaki dropped into Carl's in-box. Carl followed up on the offer and before long was visiting CMYUK's demonstration and training facility in Shrewsbury.

"The whole set up for the day was fantastic. We looked at a whole range of equipment, however, the Mimaki felt familiar as it could be easily integrated with our existing set-up. It didn't seem that it would cause that much upheaval or require extra training. We felt it would allow us to be up and running in no time, and we were," says Carl.

The Mimaki's ease of use was a key selling point, underpinned by its universally recognised reputation for quality output and workhorse reliability. In just three months since installation, the Mimaki UJV55-320 has generated early dividends.

"While we have a heavy retail focus, we also service a number of other sectors. It's early days yet but because we can offer 3.2m widths, we've started producing large single piece wall coverings rather than the traditional wallpaper drops we were printing before," says Carl.



The Mimaki's ease of use was a key selling point, underpinned by its universally recognised reputation for quality output and workhorse reliability

CMYUK materials and equipment supply

Impression Ltd has been a long-time customer of CMYUK materials and the purchase of the new 3.2m wide printer continues this trend. Currently, the big drive for this Bolton-based PSP is sustainability, and to this end it has added products from CMYUK's exclusive Kavalan PVC-free range of banner materials to its portfolio.

These include Kavalan Butterfly Weldable Blockout banner, which is a double-sided printable PVC-free banner material, perfect for indoor and outdoor applications.

Joining this is Kavalan Gecko 320GB Greyback, perfect for display systems and paste up wall graphics. Both these products, available in 3.2m and 5m wide rolls, are compatible with Latex and UV ink chemistries and have B1 and EN13501-1 fire ratings. They are also REACH compliant and Life Cycle Assessment approved.

"These products produce fantastically good results," says Carl, adding, "Our clients are driving the sustainability agenda and we're really listening to it. We're changing the way we work and the materials we are using in order to be as eco-friendly as possible. We are planning our own eco materials event aimed at retail sector clients later in the year, which we're very much looking forward to."

CMYUK service provision champion

Carl has been very impressed with the quality of service and support from CMYUK throughout the Mimaki buying cycle and beyond.

As he says, "The whole process was remarkably easy all the way from an excellent demonstration through to Jason [Jason McNulty, CMYUK's Senior Digital Sales Consultant] who helped to ensure the smooth transition since ordering. The installation was completed on time, efficiently, and with minimum disruption to our business. The Mimaki fitted in very well and we were up and running in no time. CMYUK is a supplier that we will definitely go to when we need to make future investments. Impression Ltd has continued to grow since it opened its doors in 2009. We've always reinvested in new equipment and never want to stand still, that way we're always generating new offerings for our customers."

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NOPINZ finishes with flying colours

Founded in 2013, NOPINZ is a renowned UK-based manufacturer of clothing for cyclists and triathletes. The company's first product was the 'SpeedPocket', a product that allows competitors to attach their race numbers more easily (and with 'no pins') while improving the all-important aerodynamics. Soon recognising the customer demand for pre-made attire with incorporated number pockets, the company embarked on a mission to manufacture these new product lines itself. Today, NOPINZ boasts a diverse portfolio, with 60% of its products made in-house, catering to a growing customer base across the UK and international markets.

Gearing up to grow

"We tested out a few printers, before we ultimately settled on Mimaki," Blake Pond, the founder of NOPINZ explained. Now the company's line-up entirely consists of Mimaki's textile dye sublimation solutions, purchased through Mimaki Authorised Partner, Xpres. With an initial investment in two TS300P-1800 in 2016, NOPINZ later upgraded its technology capabilities with a TS55-1800 in 2022.



Bespoke cycling kits are created to the exact colour and sizing of the customer

"During our search we prioritised the ability to produce fluorescence and accurately replicate colours. Customers often come to us with existing kit made by other manufacturers, which they want to match, so accurately replicating colour is extremely important. And even without existing kit, customers occasionally ask for specific pantone colours. When it comes to cycling kit, colour is often pivotal when considering where to buy from."

As two flagship dye sublimation printers, both the TS300P-1800 and TS55-1800 are equipped to print on the various technical fabrics that are needed for cycling attire and faithfully reproduce colours to meet customer expectations.

NOPINZ places a strong emphasis on sustainability and is committed to minimising its environmental impact. Using a micro-factory approach gives better oversight and control of the manufacturing process, including sourcing materials sustainably and locally where possible, reducing transportation, and improving access to recycling. "Our 'zero to landfill' policy, means that we reduce our wastage where possible and either recycle or donate excess product to charity," Blake adds. "We hope to become a B-Corp company in the future."

Aerodynamic production

With a steadily growing customer base across the UK and abroad, NOPINZ began to look for ways to fine tune its processes. "Preparing orders for print was done manually and the time needed to do so had become a significant bottleneck in our production process," Blake explained, "As we looked to scale up, we knew something needed to change. We got a recommendation for Early.Vision, which offer software solutions for the apparel industry, in May 2022 and since then, it's been smooth sailing!"

Early.Vision supports in streamlining the design to production workflow, allowing designers to focus on design and create nesting ready files that are prepared for production automatically based on eCommerce orders. It integrated its software to work seamlessly with Mimaki's RIP software. "We immediately saw significant improvements, in both time and cost," explained Blake. "It used to take us 36 hours to print 150 items, we can now do the same in 90 minutes!"

Beyond the printing process itself, NOPINZ have seen other benefits to taking on Early.Vision's technology. "While we endeavour to produce mostly inhouse (about 60%), when we do need to outsource, it's much easier to send these print runs to other locations to be made. As we look to scale up our own production, this will also be a huge help."

High-tech, high-accuracy

NOPINZ creates speed suits for some of the world's top cycling teams, as well as competitive amateurs. "A World Tour team is like a Premier League football team, winning and losing by very fine margins. A lot of the kit we make for them is custom fitted, completely bespoke, not just in terms of the print but the whole fit of the item. We even look at minute details such as the material placement to further improve the aerodynamics. We then use 3D scanning to get the measurements of the athlete exactly right. For this, the athlete stands in a booth, and are scanned, with those precise measurements being used in the creation of the kit," explained Blake.



Early. Vision software has helped NOPINZ eliminate existing bottlenecks in the design & production processes.

Global expansion with Mimaki

As NOPINZ eyes expansion into new territories, Blake expects that Mimaki dye sublimation solutions will remain the company's printers of choice: "We're looking to further expand in the USA and Australia and because we want to manufacture local to the market, that means setting up micro-factories in those new locations. Considering its importance to our customers, we really want to keep colours consistent no matter where they order from, so we wouldn't consider moving away from Mimaki as our preferred supplier."

www.hybridservices.co.uk

WisePrint Solutions praises the ColorJet's exceptional quality

Birmingham-based design, print, and marketing solutions provider WisePrint Solutions has praised the impact of its new ColorJet Verve 2513 flatbed LED UV printer from Quality Print Services (QPS), revealing the machine has helped increase productivity and efficiency and allowed the company to expand its offering in the profitable events sector.

Boasting over 25 years of combined industry experience, the WisePrint team is made up of expert printers, designers, sign-makers, and finishers, providing a comprehensive range of services to customers across a range of markets.

With WisePrint's offering covering products such as marketing materials, merchandise, uniforms, shopfront signage and vehicle graphics, the company requires machinery that can provide high quality output across all of these application types.

Earlier this year, WisePrint took the decision to upgrade one of its existing printers to increase the quality of printed work and enhance its overall production output. After speaking with the team at QPS, WisePrint identified the ColorJet Verve 2513 as the ideal solution.

The ColorJet Verve 2513 is a true flatbed LED UV printer and enables high-quality direct printing onto almost any kind of rigid surface, including wood, glass, leather, ceramic tiles, and more.

WisePrint Managing Director Vipan Sadhra said while the affordability of the ColorJet Verve 2513 stood out to the business, its ability to produce high quality print at faster speeds than the company was previously operating at was also a major factor in its purchasing decision.

"The ColorJet Verve 2513's exceptional quality within its price range solidified our decision," Vipan said. "Its impressive speed and efficiency have enabled us to maintain exceptional product quality while increasing production speed. Moreover, the machine's versatility in handling various materials aligns seamlessly with our operational needs.



"Since integrating the ColorJet Verve 2513 into our workflow, we've experienced noticeable enhancements in efficiency and production output."

"Since integrating the ColorJet Verve 2513 into our workflow, we've experienced noticeable enhancements in efficiency and production output. This pivotal addition has not only streamlined tasks but also enabled us to expand into more profitable markets, elevating our business presence."

Expanding presence in the events sector

Going into further detail on this expansion, Vipan highlighted the events sector, where WisePrint has been able to expand its services. Since the printer was installed at WisePrint's facility back in the spring, it has been used to produce everything from tailored event backdrops to customised dancefloors.

"We now collaborate with event companies, offering high-quality printed media to enhance their customers' events," Vipan said. "Our services encompass custom-printed backdrops, floorings on hip sheets, seating plans, welcome boards, and unique feature displays."

Vipan added that WisePrint is also seeking opportunities in other markets, saying how the ability of the ColorJet Verve 2513 to handle various materials and deliver high-quality output at high speed will allow the company to present new ideas to customers across more industries.

"We consistently undertake a diverse array of projects that leverage the advanced features and flexibility of the ColorJet Verve 2513," Vipan said. "The machine has played an important role in helping us to diversify.

"Exceptional feedback from event companies regarding the output quality has resulted in increased returning customers and referrals. This boost in loyalty – and recommendations – has fortified our market position and helped with expansion into new sectors.

"Furthermore, the ColorJet Verve 2513's consistent delivery of superior results has empowered us to undertake ambitious projects with unmatched efficiency.

"Overall, the ColorJet Verve 2513 has proven to be indispensable in improving workflows, enhancing productivity, and meeting the demands of our growing clientele."

www.qualityprintservices.com

Sign Architects finds new business opportunities with Trotec Laser

Sign Architects builds an increased customer base with a Trotec laser cutter Sign Architects have introduced a large format laser cutter from Trotec to extend production capabilities and increase business potential.

The London-based signage consultancy and material wholesaler are a one-stopshop for signage and branding. Offering a consultative approach to signage, graphics and more, the company was founded in 2015 and has grown exponentially to work with market-leading clients including Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Paris St Germain, Elie Saab, Bang & Olufsen and Creams Desserts.

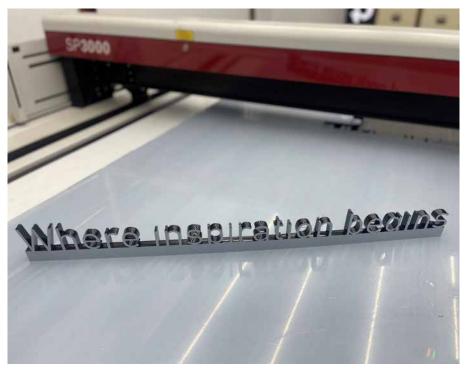
The rise in demand stems from the polished edge finish that laser cutting technology offers

Growing business demand Serving clients across the UK

Sign Architects offers services including letter cutting, illuminated signage, interior signs, vehicle livery and graphic printing. Client satisfaction is at the heart of their company ethos, so the team are committed to pushing the boundaries of innovative design as well as investing in the best equipment to ensure a highquality and commercially viable service for any sized project. Director Yusuf Rab and CEO Imran Haidar noticed an increase in the demand for laser cut work.



Expanding production capabilities, sees a 12% increase in customer base



Laser cutting technology reduces lead times for Sign Archtiect's customers

Sign Architects have noticed that the possible applications for laser cut applications is nearunlimited

Lacking an in-house solution and keen to meet the growing number of sales enquiries of this nature, Yusuf decided to expand the company's production facility to incorporate a laser cutting system, opting for a 200-watt SP3000 CO2 laser cutter from Trotec.

Increased enquiries and a competitive edge

The SP3000 has been a turning point for Sign Architects, with the expanded production capabilities resulting in a 12% increase in new customers. Being the only service provider in their area to offer both CNC and laser work, Sign Architects fulfil on average 15 laser orders per week, and having the SP3000 means that they also pick up work from other signage manufacturers who don't have laser technology.

With two distinct cutting systems, the team use each to their strength, the laser for acrylic work because it creates a polished edge while cutting, and the CNC for aluminium composite.

The SP3000's 200 watt laser source enables Sign Architects to effortlessly and accurately cut acrylic in thicknesses from 2mm up to 20 mm.

The reduction in production steps has saved Sign Architects a significant amount of time which they pass on to customers through reduced lead times. Having the laser cutter allows Sign Architects to reduce the standard 7-10 day turnaround to just a couple of days if needed.

Sign Architects have noted that the laser offers near-unlimited possibilities for the company, something which they are keen to explore and continue to develop.

www.troteclaser.com

Exhibitions

Sign & Digital UK returns to the NEC Birmingham

Sign & Digital UK (SDUK) is back in 2024 for another great opportunity to bring the sign-making, large format printing and visual communications industry together. The three-day show starts on a Sunday for the first time, making it more accessible for small business owners to take the opportunity to see the latest products and network without losing valuable business time.

The floor plan is already taking shape, with some of the biggest names in the industry confirming their stands, including Roland DG, Epson UK, Premier Paper, Mutoh Europe, Vivid Laminating Technologies, and Quality Print Services. More exhibitors are in the process of signing up with a number returning to the show after being absent, and there will be a host of companies from across the sign and display industry ready to inform, entertain and meet with visitors.

Tony Gardner, Event Director for Sign & Digital UK, says, "There are a number of changes to the show in 2024, including co-location with Printwear & Promotion LIVE! and a first Sunday session. We expect these changes to make it an even more valuable experience for visitors and exhibitors. We have seen first-hand how visitors appreciate coming to exhibitions on a Sunday. It gives them a more relaxed opportunity to take in the event, and we have found they stay longer and enjoy more of what is on offer."

Show Features

As well as a hall full of great exhibitors, demonstrating and unveiling the very latest in sign-making and large format printing and finishing technology, SDUK 24 will be hosting some great features, including The Sign Studio, Explains Lounge and 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.

There will be daily 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.



SDUK returns to the NEC from 25th to 27th February with its first Sunday appearance

Explains Lounge and Sign Surgery (hosted by ISA UK)

The Explains Lounge will host a full programme of presentations and panel discussions in a theatre-style environment designed to engage, inform and inspire. We will bring together experts in the industry to present on the topics that are most important to sign-makers and print companies to help them navigate the turbulent waters of today's market.

Sessions include:

- How sign-makers can win more business with textile, garment and promotional printing
- Meaningful guidance and expert advice on the key issues in sustainability and their practical application
- Women in Sign and Graphics return with a new focus and update
- The power of learning hear from the people who are creating apprenticeships and academies aimed at encouraging more young talent into the industry
- We bring the latest technology trends in wide-format printing, cutting, finishing and software directly from the manufacturers and experts that are driving them

All of the sessions are free to attend, and there's no need to book. Check the website at www.signuk.com to see a full schedule and list of speakers.

The Sign Surgery will take place again alongside the Explains Lounge and is an informal environment where visitors can pose questions to ISA-UK directors. Craig Brown, CEO of the ISA UK, says, "Here at the ISA, we love talking about signs. We welcome all visitors to come and speak to us, ask us anything or simply talk about how their business is going. We are an open and friendly trade association that is here to support the success and wellbeing of our members and the industry as a whole. We welcome this opportunity provided by SDUK to meet as many people as possible."

As well as a hall full of great exhibitors, demonstrating and unveiling the very latest in sign-making, large format printing and finishing technology, SDUK 24 will also be hosting some great features.

Tony Gardner concludes, "2024 is going to be a vibrant and exciting event. Change is good, and with SDUK enjoying its Sunday debut and taking place alongside the Printwear & Promotion LIVE! event, there is plenty to look forward to. Registration is open for both events, and visitors can enter both shows from either registration. We have a great schedule of features in place, with lots more to announce over the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you there!"

With plenty of big announcements to come, stay connected to discover further exciting SDUK news being released in the run-up to this year's show.

www.signuk.com

PROJECT News

SwissQprint "museum pieces" in top form

The first flatbed printer that swissQprint delivered in 2008 still operates today, just like hundreds of other machines from the Swiss manufacturer with over a decade of service behind them. Two users talk about their long-running printers.



First generation Oryx printers still in fine fettle

The first swissQprint Oryx ever[®] swissQprint

swissQprint builds its machines robustly as a point of principle. Parts subject to wear are designed for at least ten years of twoshift operation. More than 300 swissQprint flatbed printers over a decade old continue in daily use even now, some of them working triple shifts. Not only does their software still get manufacturer support, spare parts and inks are also available. "Our goal is to supply customers for as long as possible and, if necessary, to seek substitute products," says CTO Marc Baumgartner.

These printers are the backbone of business for many users, as the following two examples illustrate.

> "Our two swissQprint machines are in top condition and utterly reliable."

Nolina applica of Rickenbach, Switzerland, operates two swissQprint flatbed printers. Both are first-generation Oryx models built in 2010 and 2008; the latter is actually the first machine that swissQprint delivered back in the day. Gogo Gärtner, proprietor of Nolina applica, bought it second-hand from the original owner in Germany because she urgently needed more production capacity and the Oryx purchased four years previously was providing immaculate output. "We had just refurbished the studio, so there was only a limited budget for a second machine," she explains. "The investment has paid off umpteen times over."

Nives Alexandra Pally and Muriel Flühmann of Nolina [©] swissQprint

The co-managing directors today, Nives Alexandra Pally and Muriel Flühmann, report: "Early this year we considered buying a new machine but decided to keep our two printers: we are very satisfied with them and know what they are capable of."

"No such word as can't" is the motto of the 12-strong team at Nolina; they will keep on trying things until a solution emerges. This is where the two swissQprint machines play a key role, because they print on every possible material and even some seemingly impossible ones like linoleum, sheet brass, stone veneers, wood and fabric.

Nives Alexandra Pally and Muriel Flühmann of Nolina at work[®] swissQprint

"People occasionally poke fun at our printers as museum pieces," says Nives Pally. She takes it in stride. "Our two swissQprint machines are in top condition and utterly reliable." The company has yet to turn down an order because one of them was out of action. "Unlike with other equipment, service visits by swissQprint are plannable while the costs are clear and reasonable," adds Muriel Flühmann. "We have the printers serviced annually at staggered intervals, so we can produce without a break." The number of technical incidents over the years could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Hence, "What reason is there to replace something that runs so well?" Gogo Gärtner adds: "I consider the two machines linchpins of our operation."

Logo Reklamen gets off the ground with a second-hand Impala

Logo Reklamen of Mollis, Switzerland, took delivery of an eleven-year-old firstgeneration swissQprint Impala in early 2023. Röbi Hefti, aged 60, is owner of the small business: "I plan to launch a novel product and really rev things up again."



The eleven year old first generation swissQprint Impala printer was in immaculate condition and working order

Röbi Hefti of Logo Reklamen[©] swissQprint

After a crisis of purpose before and during the pandemic, his visionary sense has returned and he is aiming for one more rally before retirement in a few years. Just a stone's throw away from his company there is a major national event (ESAF) set to take place in 2025. Röbi Hefti is on good terms with the organizers and expects orders. He is also at work on a new product that he plans to launch at the event. For this, he needs a UV printer. The last one, a hybrid printer from another manufacturer, he eliminated two years ago due to constant breakdowns, problems and high maintenance costs.

Refurbished Impala at Logo Reklamen[©] swissQprint

The offer of a used Impala flatbed printer came at the right moment for him. swissQprint moved the Impala from its previous location to Mollis in spring 2023 and gave it an overhaul. "It's in impeccable condition," says Röbi Hefti, "and makes a good fit for us because I love versatility not just in a printer, but in general."

Logo Reklamen at work at the Impala[®] swissQprint

The operator, Oliver Hüni, trained as a screen printer but has experience with other flatbed printers. He enthuses: "The Impala is so easy to use and very straightforward." He is currently making first attempts at varnish finishes. "The swissQprint technicians gave me good instruction and they are always available if I have questions."

wwww.swissqprint.com

Embrace Building Wraps use Kavalan PVC-free banner for IKEA

The iconic blue IKEA FRAKTA bag is a familiar sight to many of us, but how often do you see one that is 62 feet tall? With help from Kavalan, Embrace Building Wraps has brought that unique concept to life in London's Oxford Circus. Such a colossal project was unsurprisingly months in the making, with every detail meticulously planned and the Kavalan PVC-free banner materials themselves tested rigorously to ensure a flawless advertising application was in the bag.

Embrace Building Wraps has been operational for more than a decade, offering a 360 comprehensive project management service for digitally printed graphics, encapsulating scaffolding, building facades, module building, site welfare facilities, and construction site perimeter holdings.

"This is our ninth and biggest project using Kavalan," explains Greg Forster, Managing Director, Embrace Building Wraps. "We were the first company to use Kavalan, and concluded our own in-house testing on print quality to ensure the material delivers the same visual appearance & manufacturing process with heat and vibration welding."

Kavalan can withstand an average of 774kg, which is suitable for the stresses of outdoor environments

Sustainable advertising with Kavalan

How did the team pull off this project that was crowned 'Ad of the Day' by The Drum? "Seven months in the planning from conception through to delivery, it's 2878 square metres of printed scaffold wraps on Kavalan Sunlight Weldable," says Greg. "That's about the equivalent of 44 double-decker buses across three elevations. We've got five frames carrying a silhouette lined drawing of the building itself created by Embrace, and printed wraps that replicate a giant iconic blue FRAKTA bag with 3D handles. The six wraps in total are about 400 square metres in size, and the handles are 32 metres long and 15 metres long. I'm sure you'll agree the visual outcome is pretty stunning!"



2,878m² of printed scaffold wraps needed a robust material that performed well under tension along with a high quality print. Kavalan was selected as the right material

So, what were Kavalan's banner material benefits that made it the right fit for this extraordinary install? "We carried out numerous on and off-site print tests on solid PVC and mesh PVC but at the end of the day Kavalan Sunlight Weldable won the day," explains Greg. "It performs well under tension, the print is bang on, the tiles and dragon tails weld nicely. To ensure the structural integrity of the material we conduced pull tests to ensure that the material is robust. It's a far lighter material [than traditional PVC] so with a combined weight of 1150kg, so it's about the same weight of a mini car vs 1725 kg. So, the fact that it is 33% lighter helped on the engineers' calculations and with lifting into position.

"Kavalan withstands up to 774 kg on average, suitable for the considerable stresses Mother Nature throws at our bespoke installs over the four seasons." Greg adds: "Also, what is very key these days is fire rating. Now we know the substrate has a TS62, NFP, EN and DIN certifications. We also sent the material away to a UKAS-certificated facility in the UK, and that passed a BS 5867 type B test."

Greg and the team at Embrace Building Wraps are true trailblazers, not just with their cutting-edge large-scale projects, but on the sustainability front too. Greg concludes: "We lead the field when it comes to finding new products to work with. We were the first to test, offer to our clients and regularly utilise an ecoresponsible material PVC-free Kavalan Sunlight Weldable polyester-based textile that has the same look, feel, and strength of traditional PVC banners, but with none of its eco-malignance. We are continuing our ongoing quest to move away from traditional PVC products wherever possible, minimising and offsetting any negative environmental impact when doing business."

Kavalan Eco Calculator

To pull something of this size off, you have to know your numbers. As well as the figures involved in a feat of engineering like this, users of eco-friendly Kavalan banners also have a wealth of sustainability data at their fingertips with the Kavalan Eco Calculator. Verified by Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) data, this 2,878m² of Kavalan PVC-free Sunlight Weldable used in this project saved:

- 23% less CO2
- 38% less freshwater
- 30% less PM2.5
- · 21% reduction in fossil fuels

www.cmyuk.com

N3 Display Graphics produce eye catching interior graphics for CRUK

Bristol-based signage and exhibition company N3 Display Graphics used Drytac Polar Grip white polymeric self-adhesive vinyl and Drytac ReTac Textures embossed film in a canvas finish to produce a series of eye-catching interior graphics for Cancer Research UK's (CRUK) new distribution facility in Warrington.

The world's largest independent cancer research organisation, CRUK raises muchneeded funds to help scientists, doctors and nurses beat cancer. The charity has been working to generate funding for more than 40 years, leading the fight against over 200 types of cancer.

> "We stand proud of our contribution to strengthening CRUK's identity"

CRUK is one of the best-known charitable brands in the UK, with its iconic logo and colours a regular feature in major fund-raising events such as the London Marathon and the Great North Run. The brand is also reflected across its various facilities around the UK, including the new Warrington Regional Distribution Centre.



CRUK is one of the best known charitable brands in the UK.



Drytac installed CRUK's time-line for an engaging and informative graphic

Ahead of opening the facility earlier this year, CRUK approached N3 Display Graphics to decorate the interior of the centre. The project required graphics for various interior surfaces, as well as exterior signage.

For the graphics part of the project, N3 Display Graphics chose to work with Drytac vinyl's and films. The company is a long-term user of Drytac materials and has worked with its products on a wide range of applications.

N3 Display Graphics used Drytac ReTac Textures Canvas embossed film for graphics in the reception area of the facility. The digitally printed wallpaper featured CRUK's iconic blue colouring and was designed to offer visitors a warm welcome to the centre.

Graphics were also applied to the main warehouse brick wall, transforming the previously blank space into a canvas of inspiration. N3 Display Graphics selected Drytac Polar Grip to create four full-height graphics that featured striking



The iconic blue colouring from CRUK is printed onto Drytac Retac Textures Canvas embossed film



Drytac Polar Grip features striking photography of CRUK's mission

photography and merged seamlessly with the brickwork, creating a powerful visual impact.

Other parts of the project included a time-line of CRUK's history, with this vinyl installation running down one of the corridors inside the centre.

"Our work with CRUK for the Warrington Regional Distribution Centre was a journey of purpose and dedication," N3 Display Graphics Sales Director Dave Dixon said. "By integrating CRUK's core values, vision and history throughout the space, we have created an environment that radiates inspiration and hope.

"From the moment staff and visitors approach the facility and step into the reception, to their journey through the corridors and the mesmerising warehouse wall, they are greeted by the spirit of CRUK's relentless pursuit of a cancer-free future.

"We believe that the power of sharing values, vision and history lies not only in honouring the past but also in lighting the way forward. As we reflect on this project, we stand proud of our contribution to strengthening CRUK's identity and mission, leaving a lasting legacy in the fight against cancer."

www.drytac.com



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Retail Displays

FK Moore are the premium supplier of sign fixings for the signage industry

Based in Kent, FK Moore manufactures and distributes a broad range of coverhead screws and fittings to the shop fitting, glass, sign manufacturer and maintenance industries. "Since 1890 our name has been synonymous with providing high quality products at a competitive price. We combine the traditional values of quality engineering and craftsmanship with the latest technologies," says Paul Farrant, Director of FK Moore.

A fitting for all seasons

FK Moore stocks an incredible range of quality, durable products that are designed to stay hidden and last for the duration. Their multi-functional Cable Display System and Shop-fit display fittings allow you to hang any panel display in a discreet and smart looking solution. Manufactured from brass material for durability, the flawless satin chrome plate finish suggests a sleek and contemporary finish. These are suitable for use internally and externally in most environments. All parts are machined to be complimentary in design to offer complete flexibility. Designed for use with our 1.5mm 19 thread galvanised steel cable.

Time-savers

"Nylon locators are a popular choice for adhering on internal applications," says Paul, adding, "These fixings are cost and time-effective and can be easily installed. This fixing is suitable for internal use only and when purchasing it is integral to use the same brand (always speak with us so that we can advise on this)."



Superb budget range anodised aluminium material is ideal for interior use

He continues, "Sign hangers for suspending signs from heights are mostly used in a retail setting or for safety signs. Available in a wide variety of options such as a cable hanger with a choice of bullet or snap hook ceiling fixing, or traditional strap hanger and wire hangers. We also offer Cable display systems that are used for hanging panelled displays floor to ceiling. This is a multi-functioning display system with a choice of both single or double vertical fixings, single horizontal fixing and even a face fixing to compliment the look in a very sleek satin chrome finish. These are manufactured from brass material for durability."

Spacers and wall fixing stand-offs

"Wall fixing stand offs are for projecting signs from masonry, these two-part fixings are extremely popular for both internal and external use.

Assorted sizes, styles and finishes are available and can be used on both large and smaller work with matching caps to complete a streamlined look. These are both contemporary and elegant in style when used with signage. The increasingly popular three-part fixing that is also available in satin chrome on brass. These are applied in a comparable way to the wall fixing, but have an additional brass



Discrete sign fixings for any application are the gold standard in quality



The complete range of strap, wire, or contemporary cable fitting



A range of assorted sizes and styles to match a customer's request

part that affixes to the wall first. These are an excellent choice for smaller applications as they have a finer thread, whilst the collar allows for the location to be set to the wall before applying the barrel. We also have the Panel clamp for the vertical or horizontal installation of panels."

Coverheads

"Externally and internally threaded cover heads are the ideal flush fitting to be used on wayfinding signs, smaller signs, or poster signs. These fixings are very versatile with lots of styles, sizes and finishes available to compliment any sign. The internally threaded range compliments our stand offs for a contemporary and streamlined look.

These can be used with our range of brass spacers for the projection of smaller panels that mimic the look of a wall fixing stand off. The internally threaded coverhead is a two-part fixing ideally used with pozi-drive stainless steel screws which have become increasingly popular with fitters as they are extremely time effective."

Drilled and tapped screws

When used with our externally threaded coverheads, drilled and tapped countersunk screws offer an economical way of affixing any mirror, sign panel etc with a decorative finish - the choices of which are almost limitless!

They are available in 6 gauge (approx 3.5mm), 8 gauge (approx 4.2mm) or 10 gauge (approx 5mm) woodscrew and are offered in brass material or zinc plated mild steel. They come in lengths from ½" (12mm) to 4" (100mm), so suit just about any application.



The brass collar is surface mounted with a 4mm countersunk screw with the decorative cap applied to the collar.

Finishes

Products come in a range of finishes each with their own style and nuance to fit into your solution. Note that some finishes, such as bronze or copper include processes hand finished to order, and therefore each batch colour can vary slightly from the last. This may also mean that lead times may be longer for some finishes. A powder coated finish is available in any colour from the RAL classic colour chart.

"We aim to always offer our customers value, whilst refusing to compromise on quality."

Look for value and quality

"We find when the quality of the fixings are shown to the end user, using the correct material and paying attention to the quality of finish, even if that means at a small increased outlay, it is appreciated," says Paul. "In our experience, clients will choose having the job done right the first time over the cost every time."

Paul Farrant continues, "FK Moore is one of the longest operating UK based hardware fitting companies offering complete staff dedication to all customers. Our products offer flawless finishes and longevity paired with durability and excellent value. With everchanging trends, many of our products can be customised or colour matched to the RAL colour chart."

He concludes with, "We aim to always offer our customers value, whilst refusing to compromise on quality. Whilst many companies look at how to reduce product prices by altering the product itself, we have been very successful in the past at looking for efficiency savings, which gives us the flexibility to keep prices down. We are also committed to excellent customer service. It is our expectation that our representatives will adhere to the highest standards of customer care. From design concept to project delivery, you can rest assured that with us you are in good hands."

www.fkmoore.com



Superior quality brass material designed for durability and longevity. Suitable for both interior and exterior locations with a wide variety of sizes and styles to suit any application

Retail Displays

Perspex increase their range on offer for environmentally friendly retail displays

Manufactured in Lancashire, Perspex[®] acrylic has been a leading brand in plastic since 1934 and is still produced within the same group company as Perspex Distribution to this day.

We asked Luke Martyn, Marketing Manager about the advances Perspex[®] have been making within the retail sector. Luke tells us, "Over the past year, Perspex Distribution Ltd has been increasing our range of environmentally friendly products. We now offer recycled options in the majority of our substrate ranges in response to the growing demand from key markets, including our retail customers.

These materials are used by retail fabricators to produce the many in-store displays, POS items and shopfitting finishes we all enjoy."

Luke continues "Perspex® acrylic's unique attributes make it essential for many POS display and shopfitting applications. For instance, Perspex® Fluorescent is ideal for visual merchandising window displays, as it sports a vivid, fluorescent edge which appears to glow under ambient light as though having its own light source.

The chemical resistance and impact strength of Perspex[®] acrylic make it suitable for retail applications ranging from perfume displays to stand-up POS units, where alternative materials may struggle."

When asked, what makes their products so popular, Luke explains "Two of the main reasons Perspex[®] acrylic is so widely used within retail POS has been the fact it is produced in a huge range of colours, and also the fact it's a great material for retail fabricators to engrave, cut, bend and shape so it is the perfect choice for creative designs to be brought to life.



Perspex acrylic is produced in hundreds of different colours and effects

A third reason to choose Perspex® acrylic is the recent introduction of PERSPEX®re, our first range of 100% recycled PERSPEX® cast acrylic sheets. PERSPEX®re is manufactured using 100% recycled methyl methacrylate (rMMA) derived from PERSPEX® acrylic sheet and production waste. Through various techniques, including distillation, the waste is depolymerised and transformed back into its original raw material 'monomer' – to be used to produce new PERSPEX®re sheets."

However, is the product still as good? When faced with this question, Luke tells us, "while the demand for recycled products increases, particularly in retail, the performance of the substrates remains crucial – inferior substrates requiring regular replacement could be more detrimental than long term virgin products. Luckily PERSPEX®re is produced to the same high standards as virgin Perspex® acrylic and comes with a 10-year external warranty. This means that the material is 100% recycled, but offers durability, reducing the need for frequent replacements.

Whilst the new range, PERSPEX®re, is stocked in 4 standard colours, it can also be manufactured in any colour meaning retailers and designers can choose the 100% recycled colour of their choice which can be made very small production batches."

Luke continues by explaining Perspex®'s dedication to maintaining an environmentally friendly status. "Over 80% of our material range is manufactured in the UK, including Alupanel Aluminium Composite, Palight PVC Foam, Palsun Polycarbonate and Marpet PETg. Our manufacturing partners are working hard to develop greener solutions and we have exciting products moving through development including sheets made using household waste that would otherwise be destined for landfill! The sustainability drive throughout our supply chain is leading to truly exciting new developments coming to market in the near future.

Luke concludes, "Another recently launched material is 100% recycled PVC Foam, Palight Re-NU, a first for the UK print market. Regularly used for interior retail signage, the production processes has been adapted to utilise a combination of waste collected from customers and end users as well as reusing production scraps.

www.perspex.co.uk



Perspex Acrylic concept display by Floreeda

Hybrid Services extol Mimaki's prowess within the retail sector

Mimaki's pair of recently announced LED UV models, the UJV100-160Plus printer and the UCJV330-160 integrated printer/cutter offer powerful solutions for signmakers looking to expand into high end retail graphics.

Speaking with Andrew Gregory, Sales Director at Hybrid Services, he tells us about Mimaki's status role as premium supplier of retail displays. "With a 1.6m print width, the two machines allow signmakers to use a raft of widely available media, and thanks to their cold cure UV ink, almost any material can be printed to. This enables the same printer to be used to create window graphics, backlit textiles, posters, wall-art, floor graphics and many more retail applications."

"With brands keen to create experiences that tempt customers into retail spaces, consideration of the visual is paramount"

Andrew continues by explaining the trusted range that Signmaker's use to bring designs to life. "Mimaki's latest roll-to-roll UV printer cutters are powerful, creative tools and afford signmakers a myriad of opportunities to deliver a wide range of interesting, engaging and profitable end products for use in retail environments," states Andrew Gregory, Sales Director at Hybrid Services, Mimaki's UK and Ireland distributor.

"With brands keen to create experiences that tempt consumers into retail spaces, consideration of the décor and visual communication is paramount, and with a Mimaki UV printer, there really are very few constraints as to what can be delivered."





The new Mimaki UCJV300-160 and UJV100-160Plus are available soon

Asking about what makes Mimaki the ideal purchase for a signmaker looking to print for the retail sector. Andrew states "Both new models sport an arsenal of creative capabilities, allowing designers to stretch their leas with features such as clear ink and even 2.5D printing, adding texture and visual effects to the print. "Using the clear ink to highlight areas of the print, or even to add some tactile element such as Braille is a powerful capability, and we see it used extensively as a decorative element as well," Gregory continues. "Mimaki's multilayer printing also enables 3, 4 and even 5-layer printing, making the printers ideal for creating window and door graphics, with a different message featured on each side of the print."

The production of window graphics is further enhanced by a feature shared by both new printers – Mimaki's bright, opaque white ink, which lends itself perfectly to printing onto clear and coloured substrates, resulting in vibrant, impactful graphics.



Spot UV or "clear ink" is used to highlight specific areas of the printed sheet

All this creativity is delivered with an ultra-low running cost – a further benefit of Mimaki's LED UV technology. UV printing requires considerably less energy



Matte finish on transparent film gives the appearance of frosted glass

than other technologies, with the inks curing instantly, which both improves the printer's environmental impact and saves on production costs and delivery times. "Signmakers will benefit from both the high print speeds of the new UCJV330-160 and the ability to finish and pack jobs immediately after print, saving time and pressure when they're up against the clock," Gregory notes.

"The new Mimaki UCJV330-160 offers an unprecedented level of creativity and capability, making it the ideal solution for delivering wide ranging retail graphics and signage."

Andrew concludes. "Sign companies looking to step into UV printing for the first time are perfectly served by the UJV100-160Plus with its simple operation and productive output, and the new UCJV330-160 sits perfectly for companies wanting to increase their capacity. "The new Mimaki UCJV330-160 offers an unprecedented level of creativity and capability, making it the ideal solution for delivering wide ranging retail graphics and signage," Gregory concludes. "To be able to use the same machine to produce display graphics and self-adhesive promotional stickers as well as creating the very highest quality textile lightboxes, non-slip floor graphics and clear window graphics should ensure a very strong return on investment."

www.hybridservices.co.uk

Retail Displays

Magnwall lights up the retail sector

Brownings Ltd, a leading provider of tension fabric systems, has partnered with MagnWall, a German start-up with a revolutionary technology that allows for the magnetic positioning and wireless electrical connectivity of lights, monitors, shelving, and more. The partnership will see the two companies develop a new line of tension fabric systems that incorporate MagnWall's technology into Browning's popular TexSign system.

The new systems from Brownings and MagnWall are expected to be in high demand, and they have the potential to set a new standard for the industry.

Unique Selling Point

Speaking with Brad Brownings, we ask what Magnwall offers to the retail industry. Brad replies, "what makes MagnWall's technology so unique is that it allows for the wireless and gridless attachment and operation of lights, monitors, shelving, and other accessories to the face of tension fabric systems. This means that users can create dynamic and engaging displays without having to worry about unsightly wires or grids. Magnwall enables stores to be more creative in less time, they can alter displays on a daily basis without the constraints of waiting for any contractors to attend the site."

Unique Examples of Work

Since Magnwall could offer a sense of mobility to retail display signage,



Lighting in window designs no longer has to involve complex systems for visual acclaim

we wanted to know if Magnwall could show us any samples of their unique technology. Brad was more than happy to share samples of his work and tells us, "MagnWall technology has been used to create a dynamic and innovative display for a perfumery. The display features a variety of magnetic accessories, including illuminated shelves and a monitor that displays videos and music. The clever part is the monitor was integrated with a camera for digital recognition. The monitor will play different videos and music depending on who is viewing the stand, taking into account the viewer's gender and age group.

"Magnwall is expanding into new markets, and the partnership with Brownings Ltd will help to further establish the company in the UK market."

This is a unique and engaging way to showcase products and attract customers. The interactive display allows customers to learn more about the products in a fun and engaging way. Additionally, the use of digital recognition technology allows the display to be tailored to each individual customer, providing a more personalised experience.

Overall, the MagnWall display at the perfumery is a great example of how MagnWall technology can be used to create unique and innovative displays that are both engaging and effective.

Sustainability

Sustainability is an important factor for both Brownings Ltd and MagnWall. The new tension fabric systems with Magnwall technology are designed to be durable and reusable. This means that users can reduce their environmental impact by using the same system for multiple promotions or events. Additionally, the Magnwall technology allows users to easily change the accessories on their displays without having to replace the



The gridless system of lights means the retail sector have mobility for their retail displays

entire system. This further reduces waste and helps to protect the environment.

The Run Up to Christmas

The tension fabric systems industry is typically very busy in the run-up to Christmas. Many businesses use tension fabric systems to create festive displays for their stores and offices. The new tension fabric systems with Magnwall technology are expected to be in high demand this Christmas, as they will allow businesses to create truly unique and eyecatching displays.

The Future of MagnWall

Asking Brad about what he sees for the future of Magnwall, Brad concludes, "MagnWall is a rapidly growing company with a bright future ahead of it. The company is constantly innovating and developing new products and applications for its technology. MagnWall is also expanding into new markets, and the partnership with Brownings Ltd will help to further establish the company in the U.K. market.



The new tension fabric systems with Magnwall technology are a significant innovation in the industry. They offer a number of advantages over traditional tension fabric systems.

The new systems are expected to be in high demand in the run-up to Christmas, and they have the potential to revolutionise the tension fabric systems industry.

www.magnwall.com



Industry View

FESPA reveal census of sustainability demands and customer requirements

FESPA has published the headline findings of its 2023 Print Census, highlighting the impact of rising sustainability demands and evolving customer requirements on business models and investment plans.

Conducted in partnership with InfoTrends, a division of Keypoint Intelligence, this year's Census further explored the long-term trends that emerged from the analysis of the 2018 Print Census, including revenue and industry outlook, the rise of environmental pressures, changing customer demands, future investment and purchasing plans, and business models and strategies.

1,778 printers and signmakers from over 120 countries participated in the survey, representing a 26.5% increase from the last Print Census published in May 2018. Respondents defined their business focus as graphics (61%), signage (26%), textile (24%) and industrial (14%).

Key 2023 Print Census findings: Revenue increase and industry outlook

The market outlook remains positive in line with the results from 2018, with 71% of respondents stating that they are optimistic about the future of their business, despite the considerable economic challenges of the past five years.

The industry is being shaped by changing customer requirements, including: quicker turnaround times, personalisation, versioning options and shorter print runs

The survey further highlighted that the industry is adapting to the changing landscape and finding new opportunities for growth. In accordance with this, respondents reported a 7% average revenue increase since the 2018 Census. In 2018, the mean annual revenue was reported as \notin 4.4m, compared with a mean annual revenue of \notin 4.7m in 2023, showing a \notin 330k increase.

Growing demand for sustainability

The Census reaffirmed that the pressure on printers and signmakers to be more sustainable continues to rise, with 72% of print buyers requesting environmentally friendly products and practices. 25% of respondents shared that their customers cared most about sustainable products and 12% identified a focus on sustainable manufacturing, however, the majority of printers (36%) disclosed that their customers cared about both. The perceived cost increases are often a barrier to sustainable production, but 70% of the respondents shared that they can address sustainability demands without raising their prices and a further 22% advised that they already raised pricing without impact on sales.



Whether it's traditional strap, wire hanger, or a more contemporary cable fitting, FK Moore have the complete range

Customer demand continues to change the market

The industry is being shaped by changing customer requirements, including: quicker turnaround times, more personalisation and versioning options, and shorter print runs. 67% of responses showed an increase in the demand for faster turnaround, 58% noted a rise in requests for shorter runs and 56% highlighted the upsurge in interest for more versioning and personalisation, while only 38% noted an increase in the demand for more complex logistic requirements.

"It's a really positive result to see our community so optimistic, not only about our future but also the growth potential of their businesses."

Wide format purchasing plans

The survey highlighted that print service providers are interested in investing in technology that can streamline production and provide greater application flexibility. For the 201 respondents who own screen printing and wide format equipment*, UVcurable Inkjet (27%), eco-solvent Inkjet (18%) and CNC finishing (17%) are the highest priority for their purchasing plans.

Business expansion drives technology investment

When asked about the rationale behind planned technological investments, 55% of respondents want to enter new markets and expand their service and application offerings, 53% are focused on enhancing print quality and 52% are looking to reduce the unit cost.**

FESPA Head Of Associations & Technical Lead, Graeme Richardson-Locke, comments, "It's a really positive result to see our community so optimistic not only about the future of our industry, but also about the growth potential of their businesses. The survey once again cemented that one of the key challenges printers and signmakers are currently facing are the ever-changing customer demands and the growing need for sustainable solutions. Thanks to the responses from our community, we can now develop and evolve our offering to tailor it, but above all, we hope that the Census findings will help our community to benchmark themselves against similar businesses globally, and to make informed choices for their future."

The full 2023 Print Census report is available free of charge to members of FESPA national Associations. The results will also be presented at select FESPA events, such as FESPA Middle East 2024.

www.fespa.com

Dufaylite increase their environmental commitment with new electric forklift fleet

To further cement its environmental commitment, sustainable manufacturer Dufaylite has embraced electric energy, and has introduced a new fleet of electric forklifts and support vehicles to replace its five gas-powered counterparts.

The new reduced fleet includes three new electric forklifts and one electric stacking pump truck. The reduction is a result of the company improving its workflows to reduce movement in the factory and a switch to sustainable power sources.

This move marks the first step in the manufacturer's journey to switching to all electrical vehicles across the business, ahead of installing renewable energy sources in the form of solar panels at its factory in St Neots by the end of 2024.

Managing Director of Dufaylite, Ashley Moscrop explains; "After achieving carbon neutral status earlier this year, in partnership with Carbon Neutral Britain, we created a strategic plan to significantly reduce our carbon emissions across the business. This new fleet is a great addition to our warehouse and will help us to reduce our footprint even further.



Electric forklifts are part of Dufaylite's strategic plan to reduce carbon emissions

"Whilst some may still be sceptical about replacing their machinery with eco-friendly alternatives, it was an easy decision for us to make as they come with so many benefits. Operationally they will reduce our maintenance and servicing costs, and will also help us to provide a cleaner, safer environment for our employees, improving welfare, reducing noise and emissions."

Dufaylite believes in being a force for change in the industry, by providing 100% recyclable solutions that make a measurable difference to its clients' businesses. It proudly holds the ISO 14001 accreditation for environmental management, with a corporate social responsibility to help its clients become more environmentally aware, whilst offering them the opportunity to generate additional income from the standard cardboard recycling scheme. The business holds FSC status, is Carbon Neutral and is the only honeycomb provider in the world to hold the BRCGS AA Global Food Safety Standard.

www.dufaylite.com

Pros and cons of MS Polymer adhesives

MS Polymers, also known as modified silane polymers or hybrid polymers, are a type of adhesive and sealant very similar to silicones however contain no solvents or isocyanates. They offer excellent adhesion to a wide range of substrates commonly used in sign making such as metals, plastics glass and painted surfaces. Ensuring that signs stay securely in place!

Typically, MS Polymers offer excellent weather and UV resistance, making them suitable for outdoor sign applications and can withstand exposure to sunlight, rain, and temperature fluctuations without degrading.

In the case of an environmentally sensitive application, MS75 RapidFix would be a great option to consider as it can be applied externally in any weather conditions. Even if the wall is wet due to rainfall, the adhesive shouldn't have any issues bonding. Cure time can be a drawback with this chemistry, generally MS polymers need 24 hours for a full cure however MS75 has a much quicker cure time in comparison to most MS Polymers, curing in just 4 hours. Furthermore, it's black colour means than it can be used on dark signage and offers no read-through.

MS polymers are versatile, they can be painted once cured and are sandable, allowing for complete customisation of the signs appearance and enable a smooth and polished finish to be achieved. Known for their flexibility and elasticity, bonds made with MS Polymers allows for



The low VOC content in MS Polymers is an important factor for internal use

movements & vibrations to the sign without cracking or losing adhesion.

This flexibility however is not always considered a positive; sometimes more of a structural bond is required. Eurobond offer a MS Polymer grade which can deliver more of a rigid bond, Eurobond QuickFix. This is a 2-part chemical cure adhesive, unusual for an MS Polymer as they are normally moisture cure. This curing method works in its favour when large surface area's need to be bonded and a moisture cure isn't an option.

Many MS Polymers have low volatile organic compound (VOC) content, which is important for indoor sign applications where air quality and emissions are a concern. They exhibit good resistance to various chemicals, including water, oils, and common cleaning agents, making them suitable for environments where chemical exposure may occur. MS Polymers can be applied using standard caulking guns or adhesive dispensing equipment on and off site, on the go as needed.

www.eurobond.co.uk

Personalising Gifts

Photocast unleash their creativity with a new gift product range

In the world of custom signage and plaques, one name has consistently stood out for over three decades: Photocast Products Ltd. Established in Liverpool in 1988, this family-oriented business has carved a niche for itself by producing exceptional signage.

Now, in an exciting new chapter, Photocast is venturing into the realm of handmade gifts. With an unwavering commitment to quality craftsmanship, innovative techniques, and a dedication to serving a wide range of industries, Photocast has become synonymous with excellence.

Unleashing Creativity from Paper to Product

Speaking with Sarah Hogan, Business Development Manager, at Photocast Products, we ask her what makes their products unique for the customer. Sarah replies, "At the heart of Photocast's success is a unique selling point: the ability to turn concepts into reality using a range of materials and in-house processes, tailored to meet the specific needs and budgets of their clients. As part of a familyrun group of companies, which includes the sister company Charles H. Coward in Sheffield, Photocast ensures that every



Zinc, cast bronze, and cast aluminium lend themselves to personalised gifts



Thriving on unique requests and commissioned gifts, Photocast's mastery of zinc etching sees images immortalised

project, whether a single bespoke plaque or a large-scale order, receives meticulous attention and is crafted by hand."

Sarah expands on this by telling us Photocast's method of manufacturing, "The company specialises in the design and manufacture of interpretive, decorative, and architectural plaques and signage. These exquisite pieces are fashioned from etched zinc, cast bronze, and cast aluminium, lending themselves to personalisation with photographs, motifs, and heartfelt messages.

> Photocast's team of inhouse designers and artists employ cutting-edge image manipulation to bring our client's visions to life

Photocast's team of in-house designers and artists employ cutting-edge image manipulation technologies to bring our clients' visions to life. Our arsenal of processes includes specialised techniques such as deep and shallow zinc chemical etching, CNC cutting, and traditional sandcasting methods."

"Photocast's influence extends globally. We have made significant contributions to prestigious initiatives such as the Blue Plaque Scheme in the UK, to commissions in the Middle East."

We asked Sarah about the range of gift signage that Photocast can achieve. Sarah tells us "Photocast's portfolio spans a diverse range of applications, from memorial plaques that tell stories to high-street signage that extends a warm welcome to customers. With an impressive client list that includes esteemed organizations like The National Trust, English Heritage, Scottish Highlands Trust, UNESCO, and many more, Photocast's



From imagination to reality, Photocast can craft the customer their perfect design

influence extends globally. We have made significant contributions to prestigious initiatives such as the Blue Plaque Scheme in the UK, Bronze Plaque casting for the Commonwealth Walkway, and commissions in the Middle East."

Craftsmanship Beyond Signage: 'Handmade by Photocast on Etsy

Photocast is now embarking on an exciting new venture by launching 'Handmade by Photocast' on Etsy this month. This move allows them to extend their expertise into the world of gift items, catering to the public domain. Their offerings include custom personalised plaques, coasters, door signs, plant labels, tree decorations, place names, and tealights. Each piece is meticulously crafted with the same dedication to quality that defines Photocast.

Unique Requests and Commissions

Photocast thrives on unique requests and commissioned gifts. From crafting bespoke cast aluminium furniture pieces using manufacturing waste to creating sundial statues that are genuine works of art, they've proven that no challenge is too great. Their mastery of zinc etching and sand-casting processes enables them



While the Christmas season typically marks a slowdown, Photocast take advantage of the seasonal gift business



Custom personalised plaques will be launched on Etsy to cater for the gift market

to transform even the most imaginative dreams into tangible creations.

Embracing the Spirit of the Season and Beyond:

While the Christmas season typically marks a slowdown in business for many, Photocast is charting a different course. They're shifting their focus towards seasonal gifts to keep their team engaged and proactive during quieter periods. The company values experimentation and welcomes fresh ideas from their team, fostering a culture of creativity, innovation, and thinking outside the box. They're boldly exploring the vast potential of traditional techniques and remain steadfast in their commitment to pushing the boundaries of their craft.

The Future of Photocast Products Ltd

As we peer into the future, Photocast Products Ltd is brimming with enthusiasm for the possibilities ahead. With a diverse client base, enduring partnerships, and a passion for creativity, they continue to evolve and push the boundaries of their craft. They're on a quest to discover new finishes, innovative concepts, and fresh ideas that complement their traditional projects. The horizon is limitless, and they stand ready to embark on this exciting journey.

Sarah concludes, "Photocast Products Ltd transcends being a mere sign manufacturer; it's a testament to the power of creativity, craftsmanship, and adaptability.

www.photocast.co.uk



Photocast is brimming with enthusiasm for their new seasonal gift range

InkTec find a niche with their compact UV DTF printer

InkTec is a leading manufacturer of ink, printers and media for the indoor and outdoor advertisement market. Unlike other manufacturers, who may outsource inks and related parts, InkTec's South Korean production plant is self-developed, using their own technology. Using their 30 years' experience of researching, developing and manufacturing inks and media.

Adding to their more compact range of affordable printers, InkTec launched a UV DTF Printer. Designed to broaden printing opportunities for printers operating in the printwear and promotion arena.

We spoke to Sarah Hall, sales executive at InkTec about their new compact range. Sarah says, "The printer's compact size, with the option for a 60cm or 30cm print width, makes it an accessible piece of kit."

Sarah continues "Using ultraviolet curing technology, this printing approach enables designs to be easily transferred directly onto hard, smooth objects, even onto irregular shapes. A combination of UVcurable ink and a special film creates designs that can be added to a variety of substrates including plastics, metal, board and more. With no need for weeding the image, users can simply press firmly and peel off the film. Ideal for adding designs to a myriad of promotional items."

InkTec launched a UV DTF printing range. This compact offering for the promotional merchandise sector, was building on the success of the introduction of the DTF Printer and solutions launched earlier in the year.



The UV DTF range comes in a 30cm or 60cm compact range for bespoke signage

Due to the compact size, we asked Sarah if there had been interest from the buyers market. Sarah replies, "InkTec had been planning for a while to take their DTF Solutions range, including their printer, oven / shaker, ink, film and powder to The Print Show. However, just weeks out we felt it was also a great opportunity to also explore the potential interest in our new UV DTF printer. Particularly, as we were keen to look at ways to enable print service providers to broaden their offering and open up avenues for generating revenue that they may not have traditionally considered."

Sarah continues, "We knew the UV DTF printer was good and would spark some interest but were overwhelmed with the number of discussions we had about it. This was partly down to its price point, its smaller size, the ease of using the kit and that the resulting graphics can be used on a myriad of different hard, smooth surfaces. Many recognised its potential and were intrigued to explore how the different ways they could use it. Conversations extended from traditional promotional merchandise, such as to more intriguing environments such as bespoke graphics for musical instruments."



With ultraviolet curing, designs can be transferred directly to hard, smooth objects

We asked whether she feels that the UV DTF printer has found a niche within the market. Sarah says, "There was in fact a definite interest in both the DTF and the UV DTF, because of their compact size. While the UV DTF Printer on the stand was for 30cm width media, there is also available one for 60cm width film and there were probably an equal number "It is an exciting time at InkTec, we have been having conversations with a variety of people who can see the potential of what this printer can bring"

of conversations about both sizes. The advantage is that either can easily fit into an environment as they don't take up a significant floor space. Which is probably why smaller businesses were approaching us to find out more, as they could see how it could easily fit into their workflows without disrupting their existing operations. Plus, give them a new service they could offer to their customers, within an affordable price bracket."

Sarah concludes, "the combination of UV-curable ink, varnish and the special films easily creates graphics that can be added to a variety of substrates including glass, plastics, metal, board and more. We are seeing it being used on phone cases, metal drinking bottles and glass products. In fact practically, the graphics produced can be stuck to any hard, smooth surface. So, the limit is on what people are prepared to try."

www.inktec-uk.co.uk



The UV DTF can be used for intriguing and bespoke gift ideas, such as instruments

SIGN News

Soyang Europe and Josero resellers for Vivid's VeloBlade range

Soyang Europe, the leading manufacturer and distributor of digitally printable wideformat and superwide-format media and surface coverings, and – through its acquisition of Josero – a supplier of leading edge wide and superwideformat print production hardware, are delighted to announce that they have been appointed as approved resellers of the VeloBlade range of digital die cutters from leading print finishing manufacturer Vivid Laminating Technologies.

Customers will be able to access the full range of market leading digital cutting solutions through Soyang Europe and Josero.

Soyang Europe and Josero will offer customers access to the entire VeloBlade collection but will primarily focus on the highly popular Nexus range which includes the VeloBlade Nexus 2516, a wide-format digital die cutter with a bed size of 2,500mm x 1,600mm. User-friendly features on the machine include an automatic cut depth setting, while when combined with a CNC router, the system enables users to work with stocks up to 25mm thick including materials such as Dibond, MDF and acrylic.

To showcase the leading quality of VeloBlade cutting to customers, Soyang Europe and Josero have purchased a VeloBlade Nexus 2516 for live demonstrations at their showroom in Accrington.

"We have done our due diligence on other solutions and are really excited to be partnering with Vivid on this product," Soyang Europe and Josero Group Sales Director Sarah Winterbottom said. "We have worked with Vivid for many years selling their laminator range and we already have a trading relationship. We were flattered when Vivid approached us to discuss expanding this arrangement.

> Vivid is able to offer high-quality support with their expert customer service in the UK



The Veloblade Nexus is a range of wide-format digital-die cutting systems that operate seamlessly withsubstrates up to 25mm in thickness

"The fact that VeloBlade machines are manufactured and assembled in the UK is key for us; they are very well built and offer tremendous value for money to users. Our technical team is looking forward to working with customers to help them identify the best solution for their business."

"The people that work at Soyang Europe and Josero was one of the main drivers behind the deal."

Lewis Evans, Managing Director of Vivid, adds: "We are delighted to strengthen our relationship with a great company. We have worked with Soyang Europe and Josero previously on our Easymount machines and it was a really sensible move to partner with them on our VeloBlade range.

"They have a space in their portfolio for a top-quality digital cutter and router. We fit the bill mainly because of the aftercare service we offer at Vivid. If they were to buy in kit from abroad, customers would not get the support that they require and Soyang Europe and Josero pride themselves on. Vivid is able to offer highquality support with our expert customer service team in the UK.

"It's not just the quality of the product but how well their customers will be looked after when the sale completes."

Lewis also spoke about the potential to expand the relationship with Soyang Europe and Josero further, saying that like Vivid, the company is committed to ongoing R&D to bring more solutions to market.

"The people that work at Soyang Europe and Josero was one of the main drivers behind the new deal," Lewis said. "Like us, they are very forward-thinking and committed to developing new and innovative products. They know there will be new products coming soon from us that they can add to their portfolio and offer to their customers."

Vivid will also be launching its brand new VeloBlade Board Runner. This solution will auto-feed the substrate onto all models in the VeloBlade range, removing the need for manual hand loading by operators.

www.soyang.co.uk

SIGN News

EFKA acquires **DPI** UK Itd

EFKA was originally founded in 1888 as a wholesaler in wooden frames and has been operating very successfully with the production of aluminium textile frames since 2009. Both illuminated and non-illuminated, and in any shape and size.

EFKA is a supplier for the sign, exhibition and (retail) interior market and supplies exclusively to partners within this industry, such as large format printers, interior designers for retail and offices, sign makers, and stand builders. The company distributes to 27 different countries.

Ids Boersma, CEO of EFKA: "We are delighted to welcome the team from DPI into our organisation. This acquisition marks an important chapter in our strategy to further strengthen EFKA's position as the European market leader."



The acquisition of DPI is expected to enhance it value proposition in the UK

EFKA expects this acquisition to greatly enhance its value proposition in the UK. Differentiating factors are an extensive product range, local production, large stock quantities and subsequently shorter delivery times. This all enhanced by high service levels.

Paul Tomlinson and Sandra Wiggins, the former owners of DPI, comment: "This is a great opportunity for DPI and EFKA to further develop the UK market. We are confident that our customers will benefit from the combined expertise and increased capacity that this acquisition will provide."

Service and supply to DPI's current customer base will remain unchanged.
 During the course of 2024, the integration of the two organisations will take place, and the EFKA brand name will become gradually more visible across the UK market.

www.efka.co.uk

Entries open for the Sign and Wrap Awards

Event expanded to cover signage, vehicle wrapping and architectural film installation.

The Sign & Wrap Awards have opened entries for the 2024 contest, after a prelaunch campaign that saw more than 70 companies register in advance to submit their entries.

The event will return to Birmingham for the 2024 gala dinner, which will take place on 26th February, during Sign & Digital.

Entry is open to companies from the UK & Ireland.

Building on the success of the inaugural event which took place in March, the organisers have expanded the contest to



include signage manufacturers, vehicle wrappers and architectural film installers, with prizes up for grabs across 15 categories.

The Sign and Wrap Awards expands its range of awards to incorporate a multitude of signage industries

Signage projects across Architectural and Illuminated signs, Interior Decor, Roll-outs, Traditional Signs and Wayfinding Schemes



will be recognised, with a special category for Sustainability focussed projects.

Vehicle wraps will be judged across individual and fleet wraps, covering printed jobs, full colour changes and more, and a special category will cover the growing architectural film space.

Individuals and companies will also be recognised in the Young Signmaker, Industry Champion and Signage Company of the Year categories.

Entry to the awards is free, and judging is carried out by an independent panel of experienced industry professionals.

www.thesignawards.com



The Sign and Wrap Awards open entries for the 2024 contest, which includes signage manufacturers, vehicle wrappers and film installers

Lawrence Hebron joins Graphtec GB to manage the distribution of Mutoh printers

Following the announcement earlier this year that Graphtec GB had become the UK distribution partner for Mutoh Europe's sign and display and direct-to-object UV LED printer ranges, the company has now announced the appointment of Lawrence Hebron as UK Product Manager.

In addition, Graphtec has appointed a technical team to handle installations, support and engineering requirements. James Allshorn, Steve Dabrowski and Jaydon Clarke are the new technical engineers, and Brian Pickup will handle software support and service callout management.

Lawrence joins Graphtec with a wealth of experience in large-format printing, having worked previously with Spandex, Signmaster and Roland DG. "Lawrence has a proven track record in sales and business development. His deep knowledge of the market, coupled with his passion for innovation, makes him the ideal candidate to lead Graphtec GB's efforts in promoting Mutoh printers to our reseller channel," says Tom Kneale, Graphtec GB's Managing Director.

He continues, "Distributing Mutoh products is a huge development for Graphtec. While we are already widely recognised across the UK as a top supplier of most products to the wide format graphics production and signmaking industry, until now, we have not offered printers. The decision to distribute Mutoh has been made after extensive research, and this includes the ability to appoint the best people to lead this for us. Having someone of Lawrence's experience and calibre is critical to helping us develop a robust and vibrant reseller channel for these products."



Lawrence joins Graphtec with a wealth of experience in large-format printing

Graphtec distributes Mutoh Europe's extensive range of sign and display printers that include entry-level ValueJet machines, a range of XpertJet Pro printers with the new MS51 eco-friendly inks, and the industrial UV-LED flatbed PerformanceJet for high-production printing. They also have an award-winning series of direct-to-object UV LED machines in a range of sizes, including the brand-new XpertJet 1462UF A1+ flatbed printer.

Lawrence adds, "Over the last 15 years, I have worked with many of the leading printer brands, and I am delighted to have this opportunity to help Graphtec develop its reseller channel for the Mutoh range. Mutoh has an excellent heritage and pedigree for quality, reliability and performance, which aligns with Graphtec's values and commitment to the highest standards of customer support."

A dedicated showroom and demonstration facility for Mutoh printers has been established at Graphtec GB's Wrexham offices. Customers and resellers are invited to visit the showroom to see the printers in action, test them on specific applications and media and speak to the team to answer specific questions.

Tom concludes, "We are well set up to provide customers with all they need to specify, select, install and run Mutoh printers alongside our other leading cutting and finishing products. Our focus is always on ensuring our customers have the best possible solutions to help them build and develop their own businesses with reliable and high-performance products. This is a fantastic range of printers, and we have established a solid team led by Lawrence to help customers through the process of specifying, selecting, installing and running their wide format printing solutions efficiently, productively and profitably."

Sign Update 51

www.graphtecgb.co.uk



Sign & Digital UK to co-locate with Printwear & Promotion LIVE!

Datateam Business Media Ltd, the new owners of Sign & Digital UK and the organisers of Printwear & Promotion LIVE! (the annual exhibition for the UK garment decoration industry) are pleased to confirm that the two shows will run alongside each other at the NEC, Birmingham, from Sunday, February 25th February until Tuesday 27th February, 2024. The shows will be in adjoining halls, with SDUK in Hall 2 and P&P LIVE! in Hall 1.

Event Director, Tony Gardner, commented, "Following the acquisition of Sign & Digital UK, positive discussions have taken place with Exhibitors. The co-location will be a first for the UK's sign, display and garment decoration markets, and many exhibitors have identified that there is an exciting opportunity to enhance and energise both shows with a co-location."

He continues, "There are many areas of crossover between these industries, which we believe will provide a real synergy between the two shows. Several exhibitors have traditionally exhibited at both events, and around 10% of total visitors already attend both shows. Co-location presents a ready-made and convenient opportunity for each audience to explore the other market. Visitors will have even more compelling reasons to attend, with the added benefits that a two-show experience will bring. With all this in mind, we are anticipating a combined audience in excess of 9,000."



Sign & Digital gives attendees the ability for hands on demonstrations of printing capabilities

How will the co-location work?

The two shows will maintain their identities with separate promotions, online registrations and entrances. However, visitors to each will be encouraged both before and during the show to attend the other event. There will be a seamless link



Datateam Business Media, new owners of Sign & Digital UK are combining the annual exhibitions with Printwear & Promotion LIVE for an all out annual event

between the two halls to allow for easy access from one into the other, without the need to exit and re-enter through the two main entrances.

Date Change

As a result of co-locating, there is a change of open days for Sign & Digital UK, from the usual Tuesday to Thursday. This will see Sign & Digital UK open on a Sunday for the first time, which has consistently been viewed as a positive step by other shows that have made a similar change, including P&P Live! itself. Smaller sign-makers, in particular, are increasingly busy during the traditional working week and often need help to spare people and time to attend shows.

By opening on a Sunday, buyers have a chance to take in the show in a more relaxed and informal manner and enjoy the opportunity to see the latest

"There are many areas of crossover between these industries, which we believe will provide a real synergy between the two shows." technology, learn more about industry trends and developments at the seminar zone and spend quality time with partners, suppliers and peers.

This is backed up by statistics from P&P Live!, Which says that Sunday is always the busiest day, with well over 2,000 visitors regularly in attendance.

Visitor Registration Online visitor registration for SDUK will open at the start of November.

Keep an eye on the website for further updates and news on the 2024 exhibition.

www.signuk.com



Xplains Lounge will host a variety of conferences in a relaxed fashion

Ultraflex Celebrates 10 years supplying JCT Developments

JCT Developments has been in business since 2005. It was formed by Julian Turner, who started his career as a Precision Engineer and machinist working on F1 and motorsports car parts in the Automotive industry. He left that industry, as he wanted to move from a factory environment, and he started to do building and shop fitting work. This ultimately led to the supply and fitting of printed graphics and his business grew from there. The first print machine they purchased was in 2011, a 1600 UV printer which Julian mastered using his machinist skills and experience and they now have an arsenal of printing and cutting equipment to support their customer base.

Julian Turner

"I suppose we started the business in reverse to others who specialised initially in print and did the installation off the back of it. We had a customer base from installations first." Said Julian Turner, Director at JCT Developments.

The company, that now employees 15 people and 30 external contractors, was the first in Europe to take delivery of the EFI HS Fast4 125 Vutek machine in 2019, a 3.2m wide UV high speed printer. They also have a Jetrix 3.2m roll to roll, a Screen Truepress Jet W3200UV flatbed printer, various Mimaki 1600 size eco solvent printers and 2 cutting tables on their Ringwood site.

"Having a background as a Precision Engineer and starting out in installation has made us very particular about the media we use. There is nothing worse than being on site, usually out of office hours, to install some graphics and find it doesn't go to plan. So, we rigorously test the media we use through our printing machines and have found some great solutions with Ultraflex Europe."

Julian initially met Jim Fox, current Sales Director at Ultraflex Europe in 2013 when he was approached by him about a print machine he was selling. They have built a strong relationship over the years and

Julian now seeks advice from Jim on any new and unique ideas he has for the business. In fact, each print machine purchased since this time has been with the assistance of Jim Fox. Ultraflex Europe now supply JCT Developments with ink,



"The drive to find the right eco-friendly board is a great example of how the relationship with Ultraflex benefits us."

banners including front lit options, and 100% recyclable Komaprint boards in both 3mm and 5mm thicknesses.

"The drive to find the right eco-friendly board is a great example of how the relationship with Ultraflex Europe benefits us. We were approached last year by Jim with some samples of a brand new eco board and it now benefits us in so many ways. It's a pure brilliant white that saves us on ink usage, and we get really bold and vibrant colours by printing on it. It's a dense board too so it cuts well, and it comes with a document that confirms it can be chipped down and recycled so it doesn't go into landfill. It is helping with our drive to be more environmentally friendly and to reduce our carbon footprint."

JCT has a variety of customers from print management business, agencies, and several direct clients like M&S. They supply customers across the UK and into Europe with window vinyls, recyclable foam PVC prints and some large-scale office wallpaper graphics too. Many of these customers are now driving a carbon neutral agenda, so as part of the supply chain JCT have it high on the agenda of their business.

"Ultraflex Europe has given us the solutions to many of our business ideas and problems over the years.

"Having a background as a Precision Engineer and starting out an installation has made us very particular about the media we use.... We rigorously test the media through our printing machines."

They have been a good supplier to JCT Developments and I think that once you have a good supplier it is worth sticking with them. The people at Ultraflex understand our business, our equipment and the media that works well with our machines. So, if a new media is launched that will benefit our business, they will approach us to test it and that is really positive, especially if it helps us to reduce our carbon footprint and business waste. Overall, the service from Ultraflex has been good, their team are knowledgeable and if we order before 2pm we always get it the next day. I see the relationship growing providing that they continue to be proactive and to react quickly."

www.ultraflexeurope.com

SIGN News

Artsystems announces that it has become a member of FESPA UK

ArtSystems, the Nottingham-based specialist systems distributor and services provider, is delighted to announce that it has become a member of the FESPA UK Association.

One of 36 regional associations within FESPA's global network, FESPA UK brings together companies from across the graphics, signage, and specialist print sectors in the UK, allowing them to share industry-specific knowledge and support other businesses in the wider community.

ArtSystems will offer specialist support and advice on a range of issues related to wide-format print, as well as promote FESPA UK campaigns. The company will also run a series of its own 'Open Print Forums' for FESPA UK members to expand and enhance their knowledge of wide-format print.

"We are delighted to join FESPA UK; it will be a big help in our planned engagement activities. We will support FESPA UK's campaigns and will offer members access to our unique knowledge through our Open Print Forums," ArtSystems' Marketing Manager John Draycott said.

"As we do not sell to users, we can offer access to information without any of the sales pressure of a traditional show or open day. We are looking forward to getting the feedback from wide-format print users that can help us to influence both manufacturers and resellers to make their offerings more relevant." FESPA UK Managing Director Suzi Ward added: "We look forward to working with our newest partner member ArtSystems and we welcome their expertise and passion for all things wide-format. Our members are a great support to both the association and its print and signage members, helping to drive our events and initiatives forward and support businesses throughout the industry."

www.artsystems.co.uk



Creative Retail Awards Honour 2023's Design and Display Trailblazers and Innovators

The prestigious Awards Ceremony dazzled industry professionals who gathered to recognise and celebrate the pinnacle of retail, leisure and hospitality design and innovation from around the world at Proud Embankment, London, on September 21st.

The twenty Award categories spanned a spectrum from the sectors - from popup stores to bar and restaurant design, innovative store design to sustainability, omni-channel and digital experiences.

The Judging Panel of 2023, who embraced the Creative Retail Awards' principles of complete neutrality and independence, included Senior Leaders from the likes of Hammerson plc, Landsec, Save The High Street, design agencies, and trade publications. In a night filled with glamour, excitement, and of course fierce competition, the Highly Commended and Winners were announced as leaders in the industry. Awards Judge, Nathan Hicks, Commercial Director at B_RD and multiple Creative Retail Award Winner in previous roles, commented: "As usual this year's Creative Retail Awards were on fire! What an amazing night honouring the very best in all things Creative Retail. It was real celebration, showcasing the amazing talent we have in this industry."



The winners and highly commended entries has been revealed at a sell-out event in London.

The event was a testament to the industry's resilience and adaptability, showcasing how design and display continues to evolve and captivate consumers in an ever-changing landscape. Each winner demonstrated a dedication to pushing boundaries, creating immersive spaces, and enhancing the customer journey.

The evening brought together a diverse group of professionals from across the globe to celebrate the industry's most outstanding achievements. The event's success reaffirms London's status as a global hub for retail design and innovation.

This year's Winners included projects and designs from: Bloomingdales, IKEA, LK Bennett, The Ivy Asia, Goucho and Mars - with FLANNELS Liverpool Flagship winning the coveted Store Design of the Year.

For a visual journey through the event, including images and video, and to discover the complete list of Winners, Highly Commended, and Shortlisted entries, visit

www.creativeretailawards.com

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www.signupdate.co	uk/fs

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info@gravityinstallations.com www.gravityinstallations.com We are installations professionals. We have over 15 years experience installing all types of signage and graphics. From flex face banners to totems, frosted windows to full car wraps. We are a fully accredited electrical company and can install all types of lighting, internal and external. Our insurance covers both signage installation and electrical work for a complete professional installation.

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South Strand, Lawford, Manningtree, Essex CO11 1UP

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sales@teleganpressedproducts.com www.teleganpressedproducts.com Leading manufacturer of plate pressed PVC sheet offering equivalents to Darvic, Pacton and Cobex under our trade name TELBEX. We also manufacture VYNALAST™ engraving laminate. A comprehensive range of photoluminescent boards and self adhesive vinyl is available in PSPA class B and Class C to order.

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sales@teleganpressedproducts.com www.teleganpressedproducts.com Leading manufacturer of plate pressed PVC sheet offering equivalents to Darvic, Pacton and Cobex under our trade name TELBEX. We also manufacture VYNALAST™ engraving laminate. A comprehensive range of photoluminescent boards and self adhesive vinyl is available in PSPA class B and Class C to order.

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