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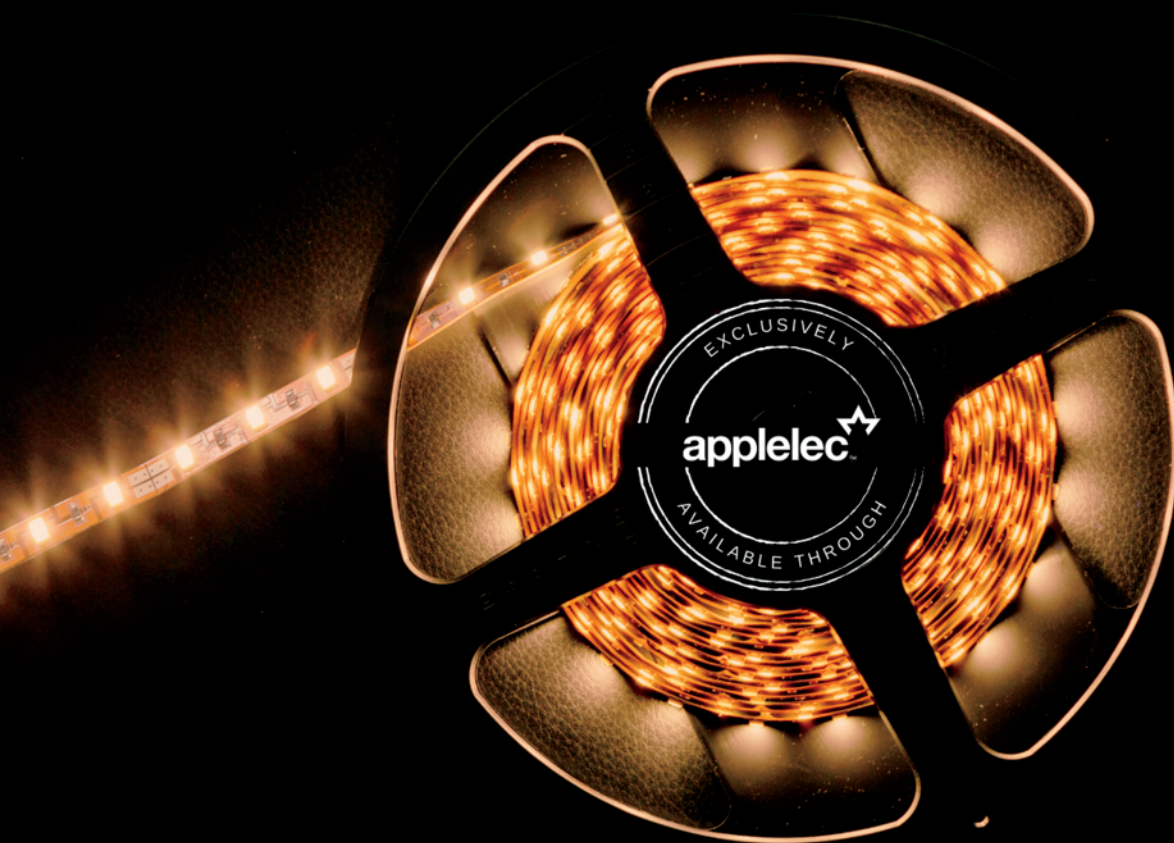
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WELCOME Page

Sign Update Ltd has been sold

As I sit here with a tired smile on my face and reflect back on one of the most turbulent years of my life, I can with some certainty say that I have probably had some of the biggest highs and lows ever. One of the big changes in my life that is also relevant to the sign industry is that I sold Sign Update Ltd to Datateam who earlier this year bought UK Sign & Digital exhibition and also more recently bought Image Reports Magazine.

Datateam are in a really good position to turn UK Sign & Digital exhibition into something even more impressive. I think co-locating with their Printwear & Promotion LIVE exhibition is a really smart move that should bring increased visitors. I think it'll also bring in new visitors that have thought that both exhibitions are relevant, but not worth the hassle, time and expense of visiting, but if they can do both for the same effort, then it's certainly going to incentivise a few that otherwise wouldn't have attended. As with any takeover, there will be a busy handover period, and I expect to move onto a new venture in February.

I am intending to attend UK Sign & Digital and stay on the Sign Update stand for the majority of the time. It will be the time to say an emotional goodbye to many of my advertising customers during this time. During my 16 years of owning Sign Update, which I took over from my dad, I have seen huge changes. My dad was struggling to have an online presence, and I remember he paid a lot of money to have a really basic website made, but didn't really understand what he was getting. I thought I was the perfect man to take over with a background in IT. I thought I'd be developing a website with an integrated forum using coding skills, but you don't really need to be a developer to do this anymore and so much of the online stuff is really about social media. Once I am finished at Sign Update I'll probably not look at Facebook, twitter and LinkedIn anymore. Like so many of you, I go on Social Media for one reason and get quickly distracted by an amusing video which adds no value to me life.

Happy new year, from the expanded Sign Update Team

Martin Hinchliffe



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Epson selects UFabrik Wallcover Canvas ECO Greyback for swatch book

UFabrik Wallcover Canvas ECO Greyback has been selected by Epson Europe for use in its latest swatch book, demonstrating the quality and range of materials supported when printing with the Epson SureColor R5000 series of resin printers.

UFabrik Wallcover Canvas ECO Greyback is a textile manufactured from 80% minimum recycled post-consumer plastic waste. Compatible with resin, UV, latex and UV gel inks, it is exceptionally versatile for a variety of applications including roll-up banners, front-lit displays, wall-coverings, tension frame systems, wall-coverings, art reproductions, and more.

The Epson team felt the material was a perfect addition to the sustainable products it wished to feature in its A5 swatch book.

"We wanted to include UFabrik Wallcover Canvas ECO Greyback because not only is it made of 80% PET bottle waste but it's 100% recyclable and extended the range of media in the book," commented Yvonne Roach, Product Manager for Commercial and Industrial Print, Epson Europe.

In addition to its environmental credentials, the print team at Epson gave UFabrik Wallcover Canvas ECO Greyback a five-star rating for its quality and colour reproduction, matched by its ease of use, handling, finishing, and profiling.

Paul Restarick, Pre-sales Technical Specialist at Epson said, "With its easy handling and its good ink receptive properties, UFabrik Eco Greyback has proven to be a good performer on the SureColor R5000 Series range of printers.

As many users have discovered, UFabrik Wallcover Canvas ECO Greyback has a number of benefits:

- PVC-free
- REACH compliant
- Matt surface
- Woven
- Opaque
- Fire rated
- Cold Cut textile, so it doesn't fray when cut



Precision Dot Technology in SureColor range of devices is able to achieve a depth of colour and density

- Available in 1550mm and 3100mm widths

The swatch book was printed in-house on an Epson SureColor R5000L water-based resin ink printer and finished externally.

Epson has been so impressed with UFabrik Canvas Eco that it is now the material of choice for displays at exhibitions

Epson's SureColor R5000 Series resin printers offer accurate, colour consistent, quick-drying and scratch-resistant prints on a wide range of substrates such as vinyl, banner, textile, canvas, wallpaper, and film. Epson's water-based and odourless inks can be used on coated and uncoated media for sensitive internal environments such as schools, hospitals, and hospitality, in addition to outdoor applications.



Printed in-house on an Epson SureColor R5000L, water-based resin ink printer and finished externally

Epson have been so impressed with UFabrik Wallcover Canvas ECO Greyback that it has now become the material of choice for display systems, which is frequently used at smaller events and exhibitions such as tension frame systems, to great acclaim.

UFabrik textile is output on-site using the SureColor R5000 printer with water-based inks for a more sustainable option. Prints are then installed in 6 x 2250mm x 1000mm lightboxes that slot together for ultimate flexibility.

Paul concluded with, "By utilising Epson Precision Dot Technology found in our SureColor range of devices, we are able to achieve a depth of colour and density normally only achievable by double or triple striking the prints.

Using the UFabrik backlit textile range of media in conjunction with our SureColor R5000 series has helped us produce stunningly vibrant, environmentally friendly backlit displays for our showroom and external events."

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Dufaylite launch new 2D boards

Recycled paper honeycomb manufacturer, Dufaylite, has once again added to its portfolio of products by introducing Ultra Board 2D and 2D white.

The new boards are a thinner version of traditional Ultra Board and available in 6mm thickness with a traditional brown honeycomb centre or white core, making it the ideal solution for retail displays, boards, and signs. Perfect for wall mounted, hanging, directional signage, they are the ideal sustainable replacement for rigid plastic, PVC or Foam Board.

Available in standard industry sheet sizes measuring 2440 x 1220, its thickness enables more sheets to be delivered per pallet making it an even more sustainable choice.

"Ultra Board 2D and 2D White are a great addition to our portfolio. We are proud to be responsive to market needs and we are always looking for ways to provide sustainable alternatives. Our eco credentials are at the heart of everything that we do, and this could be a real game changer for everyday use in the print



The new boards are a thinner version of traditional Ultra Board, available in 6mm

and signage industry. It is both easy to print on and to use on cutting tables at a competitive price" commented Ashley Moscrop, Managing Director of Dufaylite.

Manufactured in the UK at the company's Headquarters in St Neots, it is available to buy through Dufaylite's exclusive distribution partners Premier who stock, sell and deliver the recycled paper honeycomb board across the country from its 16 UK wide sites.

Brad West, Director of Wide Format

Media and Business Development at Premier, said; "The introduction of the 2D Ultra Board is another breakthrough development for our partnership with Dufaylite. With all the benefits of the traditional Ultra Board but at 6mm thickness, this exciting new product opens up even more creative and sustainable opportunities. Available for next day delivery throughout the UK, we are committed to offering customers more sustainable solutions and 2D Ultra Board is just that!"

Dufaylite is Carbon Neutral and FSC-certified business and is the only honeycomb provider in the world to have secured the AA BRCGS Global Food Safety Standard for its packaging product Envirolite. It also 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.

www.dufaylite.com

Antalis announces enhanced Coala interior film range



Available at 122cm wide, the Coala range reinvigorates doors, walls and furniture with seven different finishes available

Antalis' Coala Interior Film range offers new and innovative architectural solutions to further widen the possibilities for spatial designers and interior fit-out professionals. It is an easy, speedy and low-cost option for natural-looking interior decoration.

The updated Coala Interior Film range offers over 480 finishes across seven categories: Wood, Stone, Steel, Textile, Concrete, Colour and Glitter. Additional finishes including Cork, Holographic Metal

and several new colours have recently been added to the range to further enhance the collection.

Available at 122cm wide, from five metres in length, Coala Interior Film gives a new lease of life to doors, walls and furniture. It enables the refurbishment of all types of interiors – from restaurants and hotels to private homes – with minimal disruption.

Product Manager for Visual Communications at Antalis, Mike Collins,

comments: "Why throw away when you can renovate? The developments we've made to the Coala Interior Film range provide professionals with even more choice when it comes to offering their clients highly effective, highly sustainable but low-cost interior updates. We've seen some remarkable transformations using Coala Interior Film, which have enabled businesses to avoid costly renovations."

www.antalis.co.uk

ColGraphix UK becomes Graphtec GB certified reseller for Mutoh



The XpertJet 1641SR-Pro, known as The Wrapper's Choice, delivers superior print quality and outstanding speeds at an affordable price

Graphtec is a leading manufacturer of powerful yet easy-to-use imaging products for a wide variety of applications. Graphtec plotting instruments are used across a wide spectrum of industries, from CAD applications to sign-making. Best known for delivering a wide range of cutting, routing and other finishing solutions, the company recently became the UK distributor for Mutoh Europe's wide-format sign and display and flatbed direct-to-object printer ranges.

Graphtec GB has announced that ColGraphix UK has been appointed as a Certified Reseller for Mutoh sign and display and flatbed UV direct-to-object printers.

Lawrence Hebron, UK Product Manager (Mutoh) for Graphtec GB, says, "We are delighted to welcome ColGraphix as a new Graphtec GB reseller to sell our Mutoh printer range in the UK. While the company itself was only formed earlier this year, the owners have many years of experience selling Mutoh and have previously installed a large number of systems throughout the UK. Colgraphix specialises in providing customers with complete printing solutions, including software, consumables, installation and



Lawrence Hebron, UK Product Manager (Mutoh) for Graphtec GB

support, and they are a fantastic addition to our reseller network."

Dragan Gardasevic, Director of ColGraphix, explains, "Before Graphtec was appointed as the UK distributor, we were previously dealing directly with Mutoh Europe. We are very happy that Mutoh has appointed a company with the reputation and pedigree of Graphtec as its new UK distributor. It will be a huge advantage for us to take potential customers to their substantial demonstration facility.

Graphtec GB has been appointed by Mutoh Europe to distribute a range of printers and consumables from entry level to high-production printing

In addition, they will be able to hold printers and consumables in stock in the UK, which will ensure fast, accurate and seamless delivery."

The owners of ColGraphix UK have a long history and an excellent reputation for providing comprehensive wide-format printing solutions to the UK market. Globally, ColGraphix is known primarily for digital dye sublimation printing for the textile industry. As part of the group, ColGraphix UK will be delivering textile solutions as part of its overall comprehensive offering that also includes Mutoh's wide-format and direct-to-object printing products.

In July 2023, Graphtec GB was appointed by Mutoh Europe in the UK to distribute a range of printers and consumables. This includes the entry-level ValueJet machines, the XpertJet Pro printers with the new MS51 eco-friendly inks, and the industrial UV-LED flatbed PerformanceJet for high-production printing. They are also distributing the award-winning series of direct-to-object UV LED machines in a range of sizes, including the brand-new XpertJet 1462UF A1+ flatbed printer.

Dragan concludes, "We are very much looking forward to working with Graphtec. They are a company I have known for a long time, and they have a great name and reputation in the business. Although ColGraphix is relatively new to the UK, we already have a large customer base of wide-format printing solutions, so we have the experience and know-how to promote and deliver Mutoh products to the market successfully. We are happy to be aboard and are looking forward to enjoying an excellent relationship."

www.graphtecgb.co.uk

Soyang Europe expands display solutions portfolio

Soyang Europe, the leading manufacturer and distributor of digitally printable wide-format and superwide-format media and surface coverings, and, through its acquisition of Josero, a supplier of leading edge wide and superwide-format print production hardware, is delighted to announce the launch of ST-2163 Nightstar Onyx polyester blockout display fabric.

A 100% warp-knitted blockout fabric, ST-2163 Nightstar Onyx is a flexible hybrid material. It has been developed for use in UV, Latex and dye sublimation printers and is available in widths of up to 5.05m. The new material features a black back that offers users full opacity, opening up its use in a range of projects.

Customers will benefit from brilliant colours and high ink fastness, while the material's high stability and soft feel make it the ideal

solution for use in high-impact applications such as retail backdrops, exhibitions graphics and pop-up display systems.

ST-2163 Nightstar Onyx also offers users a more sustainable option than other materials available on the market as it is both PVC and phthalate-free.

"Soyang Europe is committed to developing new and exciting products that not only guarantee high-quality output to our customers, but also offer them a competitive edge in what is a busy market," says Mark Mashiter, Managing Director of Soyang Europe.

"Given the incredible flexibility, high print quality and stand-out environmental credentials of ST-2163 Nightstar Onyx, our latest solution fits these criteria to a tee."

www.soyang.co.uk



ST-2163 Nightstar Onyx is a polyester blockout display fabric ideally suited for high-impact applications

Antalis announces a sustainable rigid paper board

Antalis, is thrilled to introduce Xanita aspect, an innovative paper-based board designed exclusively for the wide format printing industry. Xanita aspect sets a new standard for eco-friendly signage solutions, offering a superior alternative to conventional honeycomb boards.

Xanita aspect represents a step forward in sustainable signage solutions and is engineered to cater to the evolving needs of businesses while minimising their environmental footprint.

"We believe that sustainability and performance should go hand in hand," said Paul Neale, Product Manager at Antalis. "With Xanita aspect, we have a product that not only meets the demands of the printing industry but also aligns with our customers' commitment to ESG goals."

Xanita aspect comes in two types; aspect Print, with a white liner made from over 90% post-consumer paper and aspect Kraft, with a brown liner, is made from 100% post-consumer paper. Xanita aspect contains no harmful

Xanita is an environmentally friendly 100% repulpable, engineered, closed-cell fibre-board, manufactured with a part-recycled Kraft core.

chemicals or VOCs, making it a safe an environmentally friendly choice for businesses and is awarded the maximum rating of five stars on the Antalis Green Star System™.

While Xanita aspect is designed for signage applications, it is far from a typical honeycomb board. Leveraging the same 'closed cell' core design as Xanita's premium board products, it delivers unmatched strength, durability, and rigidity. Its ability to withstand the



Xanita is lightweight and strong, making it the ideal solution for a wide range of decorative and structural applications

rigours of wide format printing and everyday handling ensures exceptional print results.

Xanita aspect is an economical choice, allowing companies to benefit from the sustainability and durability of Xanita aspect without compromise and increased material costs. Stocked in 1220 x 2440 mm and 1220 x 3050mm sizes in 10 mm thickness.

www.antalis.com

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William Smith announces the new VION VP8000 wall film series



The new VION cutting-edge range consists of; Leather, Canvas, Woodgrain and Stone, to complement your design needs

William Smith is thrilled to unveil VION VP8000 Wall Film Series, an exciting addition to their line-up of cutting-edge surface solutions. This new collection includes four captivating patterns that can truly transform living and workspaces. Say hello to Canvas (VP8100-01), Leather (VP8100-02), Woodgrain (VP8100-03), and Stone (VP8100-04).

VION VP8000 Wall Films are 160-micron polymeric matt textured PVC films with up to 5 years durability, meaning you get long-lasting graphics that are both stunning and cost-effective.

When it comes to customisation, the VP8000 series offers a world of possibilities. Specially developed for solvent, latex, and UV large format printing, these films can be tailored to meet your unique design preferences.

In addition to their stunning visual appeal, these printable wall films also offer a remarkable tactile element. VION VP8000 Wall Film Series is textured to replicate the feel and appearance of real materials, adding an extra dimension of authenticity to interior spaces. It enables individuals to not only see but also touch and feel the intricate details, making

for a more immersive and sensory experience.

It's important to note that these films are best suited for flat surfaces, making installation a breeze for professionals.

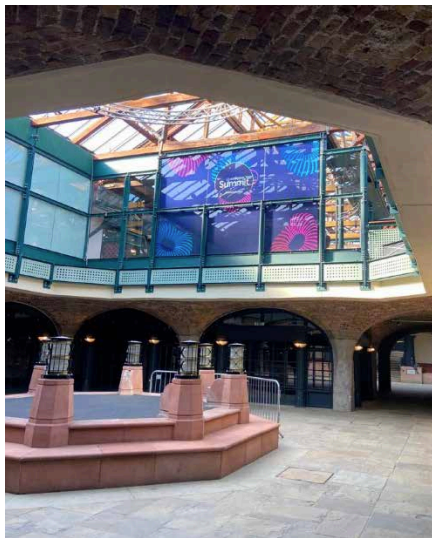
With VION VP8000 Wall Film Series, you have the power to transform your interior spaces into works of art. Whether you're aiming for the rustic charm of woodgrain, the luxury of leather, or the timeless elegance of stone, these films will help you achieve your design dreams.

www.williamsmith.co.uk

MacroArt becomes sustainable graphics supplier to iconic London venue

MacroArt is a leading wide-format print, graphics and branding specialist based in the UK. Established in 1992, the Art of MacroArt delivers innovative and sustainable print solutions to clients across live events, retail, sport, heritage, property and visitor attractions.

Leading branded environment specialist MacroArt has partnered with Tobacco Dock to become its exclusive supplier of sustainable graphics, marking an important step towards enhancing sustainability practices at London's most creative venue.



With sustainability in mind, MacroArt is committed to reducing its carbon footprint by 50% by 2030

With a site spanning over 16,000 square meters and comprising 57 versatile spaces, Tobacco Dock's partnership with MacroArt promises to bring forth innovative branding and graphics solutions tailored to the venue's intricate Grade 1 listed architecture.

MacroArt's vision aligns seamlessly with Tobacco Dock's ethos. The core focus of the collaboration is to introduce sustainability on a grand scale within events held at the venue, aiming to significantly reduce waste and environmental impact.

As part of its partnership, Tobacco Dock is utilising MacroArt's full turn-key recycling scheme, the only UK events space offering



The company's in-house print, production and finishing facility combines the latest materials, colour management and print technologies to provide visually impactful branded solutions for its extensive client base

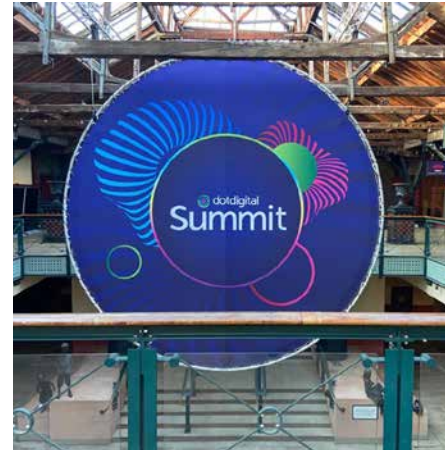
this initiative on a year-round basis. In addition, the venue is taking advantage of MacroArt's extensive stock of rental frames for exhibitions and events, with its comprehensive 'reuse and recycle' offering, avoiding unnecessary waste and cost.

To date, MacroArt has already successfully undertaken branding for a number of notable events at Tobacco Dock, including Google taking over the entire venue for a networking event in October this year. Providing 1,336m² of material, the extensive project comprised of window vinyl graphics, freestanding re-board, lamppost flags and fabric in hanging frames. The MacroArt team completed the install across four days with all materials recycled after the event.

MacroArt's Sales Director Matthew Guise said: "At the heart of our collaboration with Tobacco Dock is a shared vision for sustainability within the events industry. We are proud to be the exclusive supplier of sustainable branding at this iconic venue, working hand-in-hand with Tobacco Dock to drive impactful changes in the way all events are executed."

The Grade I listed site presents challenges in delivering branding modifications, demanding a meticulous approach to design to ensure its historic integrity.

For example, nothing must be attached to the walls of the venue, meaning the MacroArt team must be incredibly creative with its graphic solutions.



MacroArt's transparent and consultative process with Tobacco Dock is critical to the partnership. Every step, from design conceptualisation to execution, is subject to the venue's approval, ensuring a harmonious blend of creativity and architectural preservation.

The collaboration with MacroArt is about partnering with a company deeply invested in sustainable practices and creative excellence

Jonathan Read, Joint CEO of Tobacco Dock, said: "The collaboration with MacroArt is not just about introducing a supplier but collaborating and partnering with a company deeply invested in sustainable practices and creative excellence. Our relationship is set to redefine the standards for event branding, offering clients not just visual impact but a commitment to a sustainable, environmentally-conscious future."

www.macroart.co.uk

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Event Technology Group invests in UV LED Mimaki technology from CMYUK

Event Technology Group has invested in a Mimaki UJV55-320 UV LED dedicated 3.2m roll-to-roll printer and a Mimaki UCJV300-160 UV LED 1.6m integrated printer and cutter from CMYUK. The installation ensures that the business will no longer have to outsource any of its soft signage / textile printed work, saving both time and money.

The new equipment has been installed at the group's scenic production company, **Set.Build.Create**, which provides a wide selection of set design and graphic capabilities including exhibition stands, large format print, experiential services set for theatres and stages. Additionally, the business supports all other companies within the Berkshire-based group with signage mostly for the events and exhibitions sector. However, with this new investment the group intends to further its reach to a far wider market.

Super-wide capabilities

The key driver for installing the Mimaki UJV55-320 UV LED printer in-house was to establish greater control and efficiency.

"We print soft signage/textile left, right, and centre, and were keen to increase efficiencies that the tight deadlines of live events dictate. We were spending thousands outsourcing. We were finding that clients' artwork at times required really short timelines that meant they had to be printed last minute. We could then be faced with rush charges, you can find you're paying out up to £5 per square metre, which when you're printing at volume really adds up. By bringing a 3.2m printer in-house, we can work up to the wire, not be beholden to anyone else's time agendas, and importantly for the client, stay within an acceptable budget," says Chris Norman, Founder and CEO, Event Technology Group.

"Post COVID, we've noticed that brands are moving away from Foamex and moving towards textile printing and complete wraps. We were finding that we were having real trouble securing printing slots for our outsourced work," adds Sarah Hamilton, Operations Director.

The Mimaki UJV55-320 delivers super-wide UV LED high quality print at volume. This 3.2m wide dedicated roll-to-roll printer is suitable for multiple applications

including banners, retail displays, exhibitions, events, window graphics, and more. The addition of twin-roll simultaneous printing ensures enhanced throughput speeds and increased productivity. It offers a resolution of up to 1200dpi and incorporates Mimaki's Advance Pass System core technology that utilises an algorithm pattern to reduce banding, for superior output, even at higher speeds.

Mimaki integrated print and cut

The installation of the Mimaki UCJV300-160 UV LED printer cutter replaces a 1.6m wide HP Latex printer and an old Mimaki cutter. "We were in the process of decommissioning the HP Latex when we saw the offers on the Mimaki equipment from CMYUK. With the UCJV300-160 being a printer and cutter in one, we've been able to slim down, and now we can produce white and spot varnish on banners and other smaller print jobs," says Chris.

The Mimaki UCJV300-160 can be used on an extensive range of materials.

The Mimaki Clear ink capability has already demonstrated its worth. Originally a campaign for a well-known soft drink required print to be laminated to board and covered with Perspex so that the final image looked like a fridge. Instead, the clear ink was applied to create the effect, negating the need for lamination and Perspex.

"When we ordered the Mimaki, I wasn't aware at the time how much the clear ink would be used, but I knew it was unique," says Chris.

Due to the high temperature required in the printing process, Latex printers can only output to a limited range of media. In addition, the heat required utilises more energy and therefore increases running costs.



L-R: Chris Norman, Founder and CEO; Sarah Hamilton, Operations Director; Nick Hamilton, Scenic Manager; Dan Knott, Head of Print.

The Mimaki UCJV300-160 can be used on an extended range of materials such as banner, self-adhesive PVC, transparent PET film, paper, backlit media, polyester fabrics, and more. It has high scratch resistance, low running costs, offers up to eight colours including White and Clear inks, and uses Mimaki Core Technologies for high image quality and stable production.

House of Mimaki

Sarah and Chris rate Mimaki technology for its build quality, reliability, running efficiency, colour performance, and the fact that it comes with Rasterlink software.

"Running two Mimakis will ensure uniform consistent colour across all our output, but importantly, we have CMYUK as our single supplier, a reliable point of reference for equipment support and maintenance needs," says Chris.

The new equipment will run alongside an existing Mimaki flatbed printer. Additional staff including a new Head of Print will be joining, and for the first time the group will be offering its print production services to the wider trade.

Says Chris, "We didn't just buy the new equipment for internal purposes, not everyone has got a 3.2m printer sitting about. We're also in a unique position where we're not just a printing company, however, we want to keep the printer busy and selling to the trade was a big driver. Having white and clear ink on the smaller printer/cutter was an active decision too, allowing us to offer a real differentiator."

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Seymour Sign & Print cuts turnaround times with new HP Latex 335

Manchester-based signage company Seymour Sign & Print has praised the impact its new HP Latex 335 printer has had on the business, revealing the machine has helped reduce turnaround times significantly and bolster production efficiency in just a matter of weeks.

Located close to the famous Salford Quays, Seymour Sign & Print began life in 2010 and has quickly established itself as one of the leading vehicle signage specialists in the Manchester area. The business previously focused on both small- and large-format print but has changed direction over the past few years to become a more specialised signage company.

Print very much remains a large part of the business, along with commercial vehicle branding, window graphics and internal branding among its services. As such, Seymour Sign & Print needs to work with printing machines that can produce applications across this varied offering.

The company was running a print-and-cut machine from another manufacturer but had encountered issues that meant it had not been able to produce work as efficiently and confidently as it would have liked. This ultimately led to delays in getting work to customers.

After speaking with Mick Hartley, Sales Manager at approved HP dealer Pyramid Display, Seymour Sign & Print soon identified the HP Latex 335 as the ideal replacement. The company pushed ahead with the purchase from Pyramid Display and installed the machine at its Manchester site in August 2023.

David Hammond, Director at Seymour Sign & Print and co-founder of the business alongside his father Paul, said despite the printer having only been in place a matter of weeks, the company has already experienced a significant improvement and renewed confidence in production.

"The HP Latex 335 has facilitated shorter lead times for our customers," David said. "We're now confident in being able to consistently print, laminate and cut a job ahead of the installation. If for any reason we need to perform a reprint, we're no longer waiting in excess of 24 hours to finish it."



The HP Latex 335 has helped reduce turnaround times significantly and bolster production efficiency in just a matter of weeks

"We've also been able to fill some days with installations thanks to the ability to print and finish without the waiting for outgassing.

"Another hidden benefit we didn't anticipate is the front loading of the machine. Within 24 hours of the machine being installed, we'd rearranged the workshop, giving us more useable floorspace in the installation area. This means no more squeezing between the machinery and vehicles."

David also spoke about the environmental benefits of switching to an HP Latex printer. All machines in the HP Latex range use water-based HP Latex Inks, which are much kinder to the environment than their solvent, eco-solvent and UV counterparts.

"We have spoken to a number of customers to explain more about these environmental credentials, and several have expressed an interest in more sustainable print, which we can now deliver with the HP Latex 335," David said.

Such has been the impact of the new HP Latex 335 that David said morale at Seymour Sign & Print is incredibly high.



"We're now confident in being able to consistently print, laminate and cut a job ahead of the installation."

"We're back in love with our work; the passion is back and despite some reservations about making the move to Latex, I'm absolutely blown away with it," David said. "The support from other HP Latex users is brilliant, almost like a family, and the assistance and support from Pyramid Display has been second to none."

www.largeformat.hp.com

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Poppy Signs with trailblazing investment in Liyu Platinum Q3 Hybrid

For nearly twenty years, Poppy Signs has served the North West of England with a complete and comprehensive sign design, build and installation service.

"We try to do things a bit differently," says Dave McDonald, Managing Director of Poppy Signs, "We sell design, aesthetics and quality in a full wrap-around service that handles all our customers' signage requirements and challenges. We regularly invest in the professional development of our people, as well as in new equipment, and this has contributed to regular and sustainable growth of the business over many years."

A key part of Poppy Signs' success is a focus on delivering the best local solutions. "We have never tried to be a signage company looking to deliver national rollouts. We focus on delivering a comprehensive and customer-focused service to the Northwest, covering Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria. We are also developing a range of e-commerce sites on the back of our recent investments, and these will be rolled out over the next 12 months."

Liyu Hybrid investment

During 2022, and following a period where the company had offered significant help and support to customers during the pandemic, Poppy Signs began looking at making an important investment in new printing technology. "We had an Arizona flatbed, which was a great workhorse, but it had a few years under its belt, and its relatively slow speed was causing a major bottleneck in our workflow. It was time to go to the market for our next printing solution, which we knew would be critical to our business development and what we could deliver for our customers," says Dave.

With such an important investment, Dave wasn't leaving anything to chance. "We looked at just about every solution out there and put several machines through their paces. We were looking at 3.2m printing and decided we wanted a hybrid machine to give us the versatility of both flatbed and roll-to-roll for better space management and more flexible working. After several demos and extensive research, we decided to purchase a Liyu Platinum Q3 Hybrid."



Dave McDonald (Poppy Signs) and Eddie Tucker (Liyu UK) catch up at The Print Show to celebrate one year since the installation of the Liyu Platinum Q3 Hybrid

This was a decision not made lightly, as Dave explains, "I've known Eddie and the team at Liyu UK for many years as they have previously provided technical support for the Arizona and other machines we have. They gave a great demonstration, but I know that a good demo is never the full story. This was going to be the first of this model sold in the UK, so we needed to put a lot of due diligence into the product and also the brand itself."

Dave looked to other countries, such as Italy and France, where Liyu is well-established as a major brand in UV printing. "In those countries, Liyu is as big a brand name as anyone! I looked further across other territories, and I quickly saw that even though Liyu didn't have as familiar a name in the UK, it was clearly a company of real substance, with a huge installed base around the world. I felt it was a matter of time before Liyu established its name in the UK. Over the last year, Eddie and the team have done a great job of getting the name and the products out there, and I don't think it will be long until Liyu is on most people's shortlist when looking at UV printing."

Poppy Signs also had the assurance of Liyu UK's support and technical pedigree that the company had enjoyed for many years. "Another important element that helped us to mitigate the risk was that we had already dealt with the company for a long time, and what has always stood out is their total commitment to supporting our needs. It doesn't matter what we asked; they have always done their best to sort us out and help where they can, and I saw no reason why this wouldn't continue were we to invest in the Liyu printer. As it turned out, we were absolutely right about that. Their support has been brilliant."

He adds, "It also helped that I took a highly detailed look under the bonnet of the printer and what I found was exceptional build quality. The individual components were excellent, and the whole construction was very solid. The Platinum Q3 is a machine of real substance."

Working with the new printer

Installation was very straightforward, as the Liyu team spent lots of time with Poppy Signs to make sure everything

went smoothly. "It was an easy transition to the Platinum, and Liyu were very helpful throughout. With any new machine, you need to build up a library of standard profiles, so in those first few weeks, we established some standardised settings. The machine has so much flexibility it can be fine-tuned to deliver exactly the right balance of speed and quality. These settings can be preserved for use with specific media and applications, and once we had done these for our most common uses, we were flying."

In the year since the Liyu Platinum Q3 Hybrid was installed, Poppy Signs has been able to put in place some major changes to its business. Dave explains, "Some applications have really taken off thanks to the Liyu. Wallpaper, in particular, has been transformed. We previously provided narrow-format wallpaper, but now we can offer full-width output that can be installed more easily with fewer drops and far fewer joins. We marketed this very heavily across our customer base, and it has been hugely successful for us. In this area, speed and quality are vitally important, and that is what the Liyu gives us in spades."

He continues, "We have also increased the amount of print we are providing

for promotional events. Our workflow bottleneck has been removed, and we can produce hundreds of square metres of great-quality print quickly and accurately. We rarely use our latex machine now because the Platinum is faster, wider and considerably cheaper to run – both in terms of energy and ink costs."



"We rarely use our latex machine now because the Platinum is faster, wider and considerably cheaper to run,"

On the back of the additional capabilities of the Liyu, Poppy Signs is in the process of launching dedicated e-commerce websites. "Selling online is something we have been working towards for some time, and the Liyu has enabled us to do this. It provides the capacity, production speeds and versatility to allow us to offer a broad range of products that we can sell directly from the websites. Because it is cold LED-cured printing, the Liyu will print to virtually any media with no issues, and this flexibility is what you need for successful online sales. We have been through a discovery process of looking at all sorts of media from many different suppliers to see what we can print on successfully, and the Q3 can handle pretty much all of them," says Dave.

In conclusion, Dave predicts great things for Poppy Signs and Liyu UK. "This has been such a good investment for us. The Liyu has transformed our business and allowed us to increase markets, revenues and margins. In terms of quality and value, there is nothing that comes near the Liyu printers. I have no doubt that they will soon be one of the mainstream suppliers of UV and digital cutting machines in the UK, just as they are in other countries."

www.liyu-uk.com

Drytac Polar Grip is used to stunning effect

Barnsley-based family-run signage business Turner Signs recently used Drytac Polar Grip white gloss vinyl with matching Drytac Weathershield Matte UV laminate to produce a range of colourful and inspiring wall coverings for a nearby school.

Founded in 1990, Turner Signs specialises in all types of signage, ranging from shop fascia and illuminated signs through to vehicle graphics and all manner of print jobs such as wall wraps and banners.

Turner Signs works with a wide range of clients across Barnsley and the surrounding areas, including a number of schools. This diversified network of customers led the company to its latest project for Wingfield Academy in Rotherham, with Turner Signs having been recommended by another school it worked with in the past.

The project required Turner Signs to produce a series of 21 educational wall wraps ranging in sizes from 3m (9ft. 10 ins) to 7m (24ft) in length. These were to be applied to painted breeze blocks, with the aim of offering inspiration, useful

information and words of wisdom to students passing through the corridors of Wingfield Academy.



Applied to breeze blocks, Drytac Polar Grip reinvestigates a school hallway

Having worked with Drytac's materials on similar applications for other schools, Turner Signs once again turned to Drytac for this project. The company opted to use Drytac Polar Grip white polymeric self-adhesive vinyl with matching matte laminate.

Turner Signs printed all graphics in house on its Mimaki CJV150-130, with the design featuring images of and quotes from famous faces including sports stars Usain Bolt and Michael Jordan, as well as a host of other influential people. The coverings also included a range of other educational material such as maps, examples of artwork and key maths skills.

"We chose Drytac Polar Grip with matching matte laminate as we have used this product before in previous jobs and were confident that it would perform well on the surface that we were sticking to," Turner Signs Director Curt Turner said. "The whole project featured roughly 270m (more than 885 ft.) of Drytac's vinyl and laminate.

"Their head teacher was blown away with the end result and couldn't believe the difference it made to the school. He is already planning on using us again for more wall prints and other schools in their Academy."

www.drytac.com

Simply Beautiful Print expands operations with Agfa equipment

Having seen their sales in Dye Sublimation grow substantially over the past few years, Simply Beautiful Print decided to invest in Agfa equipment to satisfy their growing demand in-house. At the end of September, they installed both an Agfa Avinci CX3200 wide-format printer and a Klieverik Calender unit, launching the business into Dye Sublimation production and finishing.

It's been a £300k+ investment for the company, which has included a 2000 sq ft mezzanine floor being built to extend their East Sussex facility to 6500 sq ft. The first floor now houses the stitching and finishing equipment which has made space for the new 3.2m print engine and calendar unit on the ground floor.

Simply Beautiful Print was established by Michael Tyrrell in 2011 following a career in print which started as a graphic designer in a screen-printing business after leaving college. The business is now based at Golden Cross, north of Eastbourne, has 6 full time staff and supplies exhibition contractors, advertising agencies and retailers with high quality graphics, point of sale and signage.

Michael explains: "I started Simply Beautiful Print from my home office in 2011, outsourcing all the production and we now reside in a facility that houses an Agfa Anapurna H3200i LED UV Printer, an Agfa Avinci CX3200 Dye Sublimation Printer, an HP 800W Latex Printer and a Canon iGAF Printer. To support these engines, we also have a Kongsberg C64 Edge, Klieverik Calender, Neschen Coldlam Laminator, CWT Application Table plus Sewing Machine with Conveyor Line.

This growth hasn't come overnight, and we have worked in a few smaller units over the years, including one we shared with an ambulance for a while. But we have grown steady and consistently, monitored the market and outsourced till we had the volume to bring it in house. We now have a loyal customer base that trust in us and we have a lot of capacity and are self-contained which is important as it means that we control both the timing and quality for our customers."

Michael was introduced to Agfa through a 'Red Carpet Event' that they held back in 2016. He visited the Agfa Head Quarters



Michael Tyrrell from Simply Beautiful Print with James Argent from Agfa by their new Agfa Avinci Dye Sublimation printer

site in Mortsel, Belgium and was blown away by the size, scale, support and quality of machinery.

Amidst growing dye-sublimation print demand, Simply Beautiful Print has brought all its work in-house with the purchase of the AGFA Avinci

"It gave me the confidence to invest in the Agfa Anapurna H3200i LED UV 3.2m Hybrid machine, which we installed in 2017 and it has been a workhorse for us ever since. It is so reliable and the support that we have been given by the knowledgeable Agfa team has been impressive. Whilst I did look at other manufacturers when deciding to invest in Dye Sublimation, it's this experience that made Agfa the choice for the new Avinci machine. James Argent at Agfa has been very helpful throughout the process, he

also assisted with the deal for the new Klieverik Dye Sublimation Calender unit too as Agfa has a partnership with this brand across Europe. So, the installation of both pieces of equipment has been done together making it a very smooth process. We also took advantage of the Agfa finance, which is a strong support tool and a great deal."

The Agfa Avinci CX3200 Dye Sublimation roll-to-roll machine reliably prints on a wide range of polyester-based media, creating vibrant colours on fabrics up to 3.2m wide. Perfect for both indoor and outdoor soft signage applications as well as interior decoration, it can print directly to fabrics, as well as onto transfer paper and uses an offline calender unit to ensure perfect fixation.

Michael is excited that this new investment into the Dye Sublimation market will not only satisfy his current requirement for textile and fabric printing in house but give him access to new customers and markets to grow his business to the next level. Whilst already a busy printer he is already talking about the extra capacity an evening shift could bring to the business.

www.agfa.com

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Saica Pack installs a Mimaki JFX200-2513 EX UV LED flatbed printer from CMYUK

Saica Pack, the corrugated packaging arm of the Saica Group has installed a Mimaki JFX200-2513 EX UV LED flatbed from CMYUK. The new printer has been installed at its newly built flagship packaging manufacturing facility at Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland.

This marks the third Mimaki JFX200-2513 EX that CMYUK has supplied to Saica Pack in the UK. The first model was installed at the business' central design facility at its UK HQ operation PM11 in Manchester five years ago. A second model was sited in Wigan for use by the Northwest office technical team in 2018.

All three flatbeds are specifically used for prototyping across a diverse client base such as FMCG, e-commerce, and large brands.

"We utilise the Mimaki JFX200-2513EX primarily for product development. We use it to print directly onto corrugated board to help customers visualise packaging concepts and this can be anything from a single sample up to 100 prototypes. It's fantastic in the sense that it allows clients to improve their speed to market," said Matthew Pomorski, Creative Marketing Manager, Saica Pack, UK and Ireland.

A crucial addition installed at the Group's newly built flagship packaging site in Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland

Livingston facility

The Livingston site is set to become Saica Pack's flagship packaging facility in the UK. Providing increased capacity and capabilities for customers using the latest technologies, it will also introduce sustainable packaging solutions to Scotland in line with the Group's environmental commitments.

The new facility includes an impressive new Customer Experience Room and Technical Office in which the Mimaki

JFX200-2513 EX UV flatbed alongside Kongsberg digital cutting table and CAD equipment that will play a central role. Here customers will spend time with designers and project managers to visualise concepts in 3D. This service will enhance the company's ability to provide complete end-to-end packaging solutions and greatly enrich the customer experience.



The Saica Pack team gather around their new installation of the Mimaki JFX200-2513 EX UV LED flatbed printer

"The set-up in Livingston was developed so we could create a real customer experience within the business. We'll be able to run innovation days with the idea that the customer will spend a whole day with us, develop packaging solutions and leave with fully printed samples of the concepts we create on the same day. We also have customers that require really small runs for one-off launches that are below our minimum order requirements for production. Having the Mimaki gives us the added flexibility to provide small one-off runs for these types of requests, adding to the level of service we can provide our customers," said Louise Morgan, Scotland Region Technical Office Manager. In Scotland, Saica Pack's Technical Office staff will be trained to use the Mimaki flatbed.

"The addition of this new technology to our business not only improves the service we can offer our customers but it has also been key in helping develop our designers. We have a lot of multi skilled talent within the team and this has allowed them all to branch into new areas of training and development that wasn't possible before. With support and training from CMYUK we will be able to build our teams knowledge to get the best out of the machine and quality we can give to our customers," added Louise.

Mimaki: The power of 3

Buying the same piece of kit from the same supplier three times over a five-year period says a lot about Mimaki technology and CMYUK customer service.

"The printed samples that we produce are able to feature white ink, spot varnish and embossed areas. Accurate colour reproduction, impressive speeds and ease of printing onto our corrugated substrate have added a new dimension to our digital mock-up service. We have also found the Mimaki very useful for producing bespoke Marketing and Display Material. The range of finishes and ability to print onto a diverse range of substrates enables our teams to unleash their creativity.

"We have been pleased with the excellent level of customer service, support and training provided by CMYUK and would recommend it as a supplier," said Matt.

The Mimaki JFX 200-2513 EX is the industry's best-selling UV-LED curing flatbed printer that combines high-value-printing with high productivity. Features include embossed printing that creates a raised textured surface due to its ability to lay down multiple layers of ink. It features an 8ft x 4ft bed and delivers high quality output thanks to an automatic ability to detect missing print nozzles and when it does, it is able to perform self-recovery. In addition, the Mimaki utilises an advanced algorithm to print optimum gradation patterns on each pass, significantly eliminating any banding on the print.

Saica Group is one of the largest European players in the development and production of recycled paper for corrugated board that has a production capacity of 3.5 million short tons of paper. It has more than 10,000 employees across Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, United Kingdom, Ireland, Turkey, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the USA. It is comprised of four business areas: production of recycled paper for corrugated board (Saica Paper), waste management and environmental services (Saica Natur), production of corrugated packaging (Saica Pack) and flexible packaging (Saica Flex).

www.cmyuk.com

ESP Smile installs third Canon Colorado 1650 from CMYUK

CMYUK has installed a Canon Colorado 1650 UVgel printer at ESP Smile, part of the ESP Group of companies. This brings the business' Colorado count to three, which together form the production engine of its print-on-demand canvas gifting service.

The purchase of a third Colorado was to ensure the continued smooth 24/7 delivery of canvases in the light of increasing output volumes.

The business launched its on-demand service in 2017 with the purchase of a Canon Colorado 1640 that output up to 50,000 canvases per year. Increased volumes led to the purchase of a Colorado 1650 in 2020, which saw output rise to 250,000 canvases per annum, the new system allows ESP to output 350,000 canvases per annum.

"We bought the Canon Colorado rather than any other printer out there because we've found something that really works for us," says Simon Smogur, CEO, ESP Group.

"There's nothing like it out there in the market. It scores top marks for everything: capital costs, running costs, reliability, quality, and speed. People have asked why we haven't invested in a larger faster industrial printer, but then I'd have a single point of failure, and also if I ever needed it, I know Canon's service is second to none. So, no thank you."

The new Colorado has seamlessly slipped into the existing production workflow, and operated by existing staff, no further training or recruitment has been necessary. "It's minimal effort for maximum gains," says Simon.

The Colorado 1650 is a 4-colour 1.6m printer that features a revolutionary UVgel inkset. It can automatically switch between matt and gloss inks, and thanks to the new FLXfinish can print both of these finishes on the same print in a single pass. Even the most stringent deadlines can be achieved thanks to blistering output speeds for ultra-fast job turnarounds. Two media rolls with online switching, and ink refilling on-the-fly ensure uninterrupted printing for peerless productivity.



The Colorado 1650 is a 4-colour 1.6m printer that features a revolutionary UVgel inkset

The Colorado family of printers has been engineered from the ground up, designed for unattended printing with continual nozzle monitoring, automatic printhead maintenance, automated media feed, and a roll winding option. Its low ink and energy consumption drive down running costs, while inbuilt printhead reliability and low maintenance optimise printer uptime.

"The gifting market is very competitive, and so the Colorados run 24/7 in peak periods. We leave them printing unattended overnight when no one is here. With some machines, you can't trust that you'd get breakdowns and issues, but the opposite is true for the Canon Colorado, which makes the running of these machines very cost effective," says Simon.

UFabrik, the perfect media partner

ESP Group regards CMYUK as a trusted partner for the purchase of its equipment and materials. It is also the exclusive distributor in the UK and Ireland of UFabrik, a curated range of products that accounts for 95% of all wide-and super-wide format applications. ESP Smile uses

UFabrik Canvas Textile exclusively for the output of all its canvas print work. Made from 100% polyester, it has a bright white print surface that is compatible with UV and Latex inks. It features a unique, dual coating – a top layer for ink reception and a bottom coating for durability – both of which ensure superior colour results.

Says Simon, "We've looked at lots of canvas materials and took it upon ourselves to compare UFabrik to several other products. We found that UFabrik's colour reproduction was noticeably more vibrant than the others. Also, when you stretch printed canvas onto a frame, the stretcher bars have the ability to poke through on the corners, and where the print wraps over, a white line can appear, but not with UFabrik. We currently buy about 800 to 1000 rolls a year and rate its quality and consistency."

"We have a great relationship with CMYUK and if we continue to grow in large format, we will probably buy another Colorado. I have never ever had any issues with this printer, which is something you can never underestimate."

www.cmyuk.com

Lasting Impressions install printer/cutter

Lasting Impressions (Signs) Ltd of Bridport, Dorset has just installed a Gibson GTF-2512R flatbed printer and Almeida B8-2513 digital cutter, both supplied by SOS. Owner Terry Gall says that his new printer/cutter combination brings a new level of productivity to the full range of the company's output, but especially for its key market in health and safety signage, produced on a range of materials such as plastic, vinyl, foamex, corex, PVC and acrylics.

The Gibson GTF-2513 prints direct to substrate and dries instantly, which reduces lead time for customers and produces no mess or waste

"Prior to installing these machines we would usually screen print, which meant taking the time to set up multiple screens, and then printing as many as 50 to make

it cost effective. With the Gibson machine we can instantly print bespoke one-offs if required," he says.

"Our other method was roll printing on our Roland wide format machine, which meant leaving prints for 24 hours, laminating and then mounting, which was a time consuming two man job. The Gibson prints direct to substrate and dries instantly. Plus there's no mess and no waste."

Making the investment was a bold step for the small but growing company, so the economic case had to be made. "We hadn't heard of Gibson before but were very impressed at the demo site we visited," says Terry. "Compared to the alternatives it's cheaper to buy, but what's surprised us is how cheap it is to run. The inks cost less than screen printing or solvent inks, and we've calculated the power consumption is way less than expected at about £6 a day!"

The company's Almeida cutter is an important part of the package. "We used to buy materials cut to size, but now we can print multiple signs in one pass and the cutter does the rest. It's also versatile, we can change the blades, cut all kinds of shapes, sheets of stickers, and more."



Terry Gall with his new Gibson GTF-2612R flatbed printer and Almeida B8-2513 digital cutter.

Terry and his team are always looking for new sign markets. As much as half of their work comes from web orders which give a real-time indication of what is popular and a design-a-sign feature helps identify new trends. A feature of the Gibson machine gave Terry an idea which has huge potential. "We can layer the white ink which gives a raised surface and is ideal for producing braille signs," he says. "All together we're expecting this machine to contribute to a big rise in turnover in the coming year."

www.serviceoffsetsupplies.co.uk

Allen Signs is first to invest in Fujifilm's Acuity Prime Hybrid

UK-based signage and vehicle livery specialist Allen Signs has become the first company to invest in Fujifilm's new Acuity Prime Hybrid printer. The ground-breaking machine, which was released earlier this year, is highly versatile due to its ability to handle both rigid and flexible media.

The family-run wide format business was established in 1965, and since then, has been producing a variety of different signage applications for its consumers. David Allen, the company's Managing Director, says his interest in the Acuity Prime Hybrid stemmed from its versatility and economical ink consumption.

Allen comments: "Due to our familiarity with hybrid platforms, we sought the Acuity Prime Hybrid as an opportunity to explore the Fujifilm brand further. The printer has now allowed us to carry out our normal production with minimal issues and excellent quality and ink performance."

The Acuity Prime Hybrid's versatility has enabled his business to print on a wider variety of substrates more efficiently and cost-effectively. The machine is already being used to print on wall coverings, direct to board and even metallic surfaces.

Impressed by the printer's ease of use, Matt Ryder, Print Specialist at Allen Signs,



Allen Signs has seen significant increases in quality, and ink performance

says: "We tried a job on the new Fujifilm machine, and instantly, it tracked. It was perfect. As for materials, we are yet to come across a substrate that doesn't work."

Allen adds: "Fujifilm has been an absolute breeze to deal with. The installation and the training were extremely quick and efficient. I'm looking forward to seeing how the Acuity Prime Hybrid printer will allow us to expand our business in the future."

Andy Kent, Division Manager, Fujifilm Graphic Communications UK, states: "We are delighted to hear that our wide range of customers are more than satisfied with our printing technologies. As a result of Allen Signs investing in our Acuity Prime Hybrid, they have seen significant increases in print quality and a reduction in costs, whilst expanding their substrate selection. It's fantastic to see them exploring new business opportunities."

www.fujifilm.com/uk

Linney chooses Kudu to drive print innovations

Creative marketing agency Linney has added the state-of-the-art Kudu flatbed printer from swissQprint to its portfolio to enhance customer offerings in high-resolution and sustainable printing.

Established in 1851 as a bookstore, family-owned business Linney has evolved into a renowned multifaceted creative marketing group. With expertise in print, logistics, and high-end creative, the agency has been giving brands the edge for decades.

Continuous investment

Linney's long-standing approach to investment, often referred to within the business as "patient capital", underscores its long-term commitment to delivering innovation for customers, employees, and suppliers. Over the past decade, the company has invested approximately £30 million. The addition of the large format printer Kudu highlights its dedication to pushing client boundaries.

Linney's leadership team first encountered the Kudu at this year's FESPA exhibition, and it quickly became evident that the machine's capabilities would be an indispensable addition to their printing. Charles Linney, Executive Director at Linney, is delighted with the new investment: "The Kudu is more than just a printer; it offers an exceptional level of quality for us, particularly with its range of colours. It not only complements our existing printers but also offers our customers special features that are now essential in a highly competitive market."

A cutting-edge addition

With its roll to roll and dual roll capabilities, 304m² per hour output, and 10 colour channels, the Kudu represents a cutting-edge addition to Linney's large-format printing arsenal. It enables striking, high-quality print, and attention-grabbing visual materials. Vibrant backlit images with neon colours coupled with the Kudu's creative print effects, including 2pt text, 3D effects, haptic (tactile) printing, white and spot varnish, will usher in new possibilities for the business.

Furthermore, its vacuum system firmly secures substrates, enabling the Kudu to print on a wide range of rigid materials. Wood, fluted boards, aluminium composite panels and acrylics can all be effectively



The addition of the Kudu highlights Linney's dedication to pushing the boundaries of printing capabilities

printed, eliminating the need for priming, while maximising quality results.

With its roll to roll and dual roll capabilities and 10 colour channels, the Kudu represents a cutting-edge addition to Linney's printing arsenal

Sustainable collaboration

Linney's dedication to sustainability earned a prestigious gold award in the POPAI (Point of Purchase Advertising Institute) awards last year, further solidifying its reputation as a leading light in sustainable business practices. With sustainability a cornerstone of operations, swissQprint's values and the Kudu's efficient running costs and small ecological footprint were a fundamental part of its decision making.

Certified to consume only 2.2 kilowatt-hours of electricity, equal to an average kettle, energy use is minimised. Furthermore, the Kudu's design and

LED technology ensures low emissions. Allied with swissQprint's Greenguard Gold certified inks, the Kudu creates the opportunity for the sustainable print Linney's customers expect.

A partnership approach

Ian Maxfield, Regional Sales Manager at swissQprint said: "We're delighted to partner with Linney and supporting their continued focus on delivering for their clients. The Kudu provides the quality and innovation Linney demands, and we look forward to seeing how it will help expand the already broad customer offerings."

www.swissqprint.com



Efficient running costs and small ecological footprint was the deciding factor for Linney

ColorJet Verve Mini boosts production at Inspire CNC Manufacturing

Hinckley-based Inspire CNC Manufacturing has revealed how its purchase of two new ColorJet Verve Mini LED UV printers from Quality Print Services (QPS) has allowed it to increase its output and take on more work.

Family-run Inspire CNC offers a range of services but specialises in novelty vintage street signs for both the trade and public. Inspire CNC already has in place CNC routers, laser cutters and framing equipment but recently made the move into UV printing to expand its offering.

The company initially purchased a small machine to test the waters in this market, with QPS supplying the inks for the device. However, Inspire CNC soon found the size of the printer restricted it in terms of the type of applications it could produce.

After speaking with QPS Director Chris Bailey, Inspire CNC was recommended the ColorJet Verve Mini. The machine was new to the UK market at the time and, according to Inspire CNC Director Andrew Whotton, offered an ideal and cost-effective solution.



Despite the printers having only been in place a matter of months, Inspire CNC has already seen a marked improvement in production



The ColorJet Verve Mini machines can print on a range of materials in thicknesses from 3mm to 22mm

Inspire CNC opted to purchase two ColorJet Verve Mini LED UV printers, with both machines being installed at its Hinckley facility in July this year.

"We did some research into ColorJet and compared them to other machines; it seemed that the ColorJet overall was good value for money," Andrew Whotton said. "We chose to have two of the printers installed and they have been a great asset to our company.

"Having these machines has made it possible to approach other distributors to supply them with our product."

"They are a nice size – taking up very little room – and the printing beds meet our needs. They are also very easy to work on and easy to maintain."

Despite the printers having only been in place a matter of months, Inspire CNC has already seen a marked improvement in production. The double installation means Inspire CNC can now produce work at a higher volume, allowing it to take on a larger number of jobs as a result.

Such is the flexibility of the ColorJet Verve Mini that the machines can print on a range of materials in thicknesses from 3mm to 22mm, including glass, alupanel, MDF and plywood. Work currently being produced on the printers includes small

gifts and plaques.

"The ColorJet machines have helped us to get a higher volume of product out, so have been able to take on extra work that we wouldn't have ordinarily been able to do," Andrew Whotton said.

"Having these machines has made it possible to approach other distributors to supply them with our products, knowing that we can fulfil any order amount.

"We have never had any ColorJet machinery before, but we have been most impressed with what these machines have had to offer, and working with QPS has been a fantastic experience.

We have always had good advice and information from them, even when we were just buying the inks; the service that we have received from QPS has been second to none.

"As time goes on, I would be more than happy to get additional ColorJet Verve Mini machines in to keep up with demand."

www.qualityprintservices.com

Marsden Direct Group hails growth with HP Latex R2000

Loughborough based Marsden Direct Group has praised the impact its HP Latex R2000 Plus printer has had on the company, revealing the machine has allowed it to achieve a number of key business and sustainability goals.

A hugely diverse business, Marsden owns and operates the Expo Service print division, as well as the Marsden Exhibitions events arm and retail marketing provider Luga Baruga. The group operates across the UK, Europe, the US and Asia.

Marsden uses print to deliver products and applications across each of its businesses including exhibition and event stand installations, retail experience installations, signage and other large-format printing – working with a diverse range of clients in the process.

With many of these customers making more environmentally friendly demands of Marsden and the print it produces, the company made the decision to move to a sustainable products and services model. This included replacing all in-house production with a sustainable alternative to traditional methods that result in waste going to landfill or high carbon footprints.

As such, the company went in search of a device that would deliver both sustainable and high-quality printed output to its clients.

After speaking to approved HP distributor and large-format print specialist Papergraphics, Marsden identified the HP Latex R2000 Plus as the ideal solution. Papergraphics installed the machine in July 2022 and Marsden has spent the last year reaping the benefits.

Vinnie White, Head of Creative for Marsden Exhibitions, said investing in the HP Latex R2000 Plus was an easy decision for the company as the machine offered a host of sustainable and operational benefits.

"The feature that stood out the most for us was the machine's use of HP Latex inks, which are water-based and much better for the environment," Vinnie said. "We also like how it can operate as both a flatbed and roll-to-roll, as well as print direct to substrate.

"Crucially for us, the machine is also capable of handling a wide range of



Investing in the HP Latex R2000 Plus was an easy decision for the company as the machine offered a host of sustainable and operational benefits

materials, thus allowing us to produce all manner of pieces for clients. Just to name a few, we have been running roll-to-roll media for vinyl wallpaper and banners, rigid media such as foamboard, card and Dibond, glass prints and acrylic prints."

take on more jobs," Vinnie said. "It also operates at a lower cost, including inks and consumables, while the six-colour ink set-up allows us to produce more vibrant colours, thus opening up even more options for customers."

Focusing on specific improvements for the business, Vinnie highlighted how the HP Latex R2000 Plus has helped Marsden take its modular exhibition stands to the next level and become more sustainable, resulting in the launch of its first completely sustainable exhibition solution.

"The reason we attribute the new printer to allowing us to close the gap is that previously we used UV solvent inks in conjunction with foamboard for our main product," Vinnie said. "Thanks to HP Latex Ink, we are now able to provide fully recyclable graphics printed onto card, meaning all parts of the modular exhibition stand can be reused or recycled from flooring, frame, and graphics, eliminating single use materials.

"We believe that the move to HP will allow us to continue to grow and meet our sustainability goals for the future.

www.hp.com

The HP Latex R2000 Plus printer has also helped to reduce costs since it was installed in July 2022

Vinnie said such are the sustainable and operational advantages of the HP Latex R2000 Plus that the machine has already helped the business to reach core environmental goals, as well as improve production times for customers and reduce overall costs.

"The HP Latex R2000 Plus is much more efficient than our previous machines, allowing for more work to pass through production, which in turn means we can

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HP Latex supports former HP manager in Atlantic Challenge

HP is proud to sponsor Nick Hollis, linking him up with long-time HP technology user PressOn and the most environmentally certified technology HP Latex R2000 and HP Latex 3600 printers, to create graphics for an intense endurance challenge that will see him row solo across the Atlantic Ocean to raise awareness of climate change.

Nick worked at HP as both Sales and Business Manager between 2003 and 2012 before leaving the company to follow his passion for exploration and adventure. In 2013, Nick established Fitways Adventures, a specialist company that runs expeditions, adventures and team building events. By doing so, Nick has been able to fulfil his dreams of exploration, while at the same time campaigning to tackle climate change.

As part of this journey, Nick has embarked on the 721 Challenge, a gruelling test of endurance that features a series of extreme trials. Participants must scale the seven largest peaks in the world, ski to both the North and South Poles, and row more than 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean to complete the full challenge.

Nick began the challenge several years ago and now has just two stages left – reaching the North Pole and completing the Atlantic Challenge. The latter of these is next on his list, with Nick set to begin the crossing from the Canary Islands to Antigua this Christmas.

Championing sustainability with HP Latex

To publicise the sponsors, PressOn used HP Latex R2000 and HP Latex 3600 printers to produce specialist decals to cover the boat Nick will row in with the logos and names of the various supporters. The graphics were printed onto HEXIS THE190EUO vinyl and laminated with HEXIS PCI90G2. Importantly, PressOn will recover these materials for recycling after the challenge is complete to save them from landfill.

The choice of HP Latex technology and recyclable materials matches perfectly with Nick's strong passion for the environment and the sustainable aims of the challenge. Both printers run HP Latex inks which are the most environmentally certified technology and contain no hazardous air pollutants or odours.



HP has linked up with PressOn to create recyclable graphics for Nick Hollis' intense endurance challenge

In addition, HP Latex ink cartridges are also carton-based and produced using 100% recycled cardboard, while all HP printers and supplies contain UL validated ocean bound plastic and recycled plastics, further reducing impact on the planet.

HP's commitment to sustainability stretches beyond print and across its entire business, with the manufacturer having rolled out a series of focused initiatives in other areas to further enhance its environmental credentials. HP Chief Executive Officer Enrique Lores is himself a strong advocate of sustainability and has spoken openly about HP's long-term commitment to protecting the planet.

Regarding sustainability, he has previously stated: "It's not always been easy, and we don't always get it right. No company does. But we are making steady progress, knowing that the long-term success of our business depends upon the wellbeing of the people and communities we serve.

"This mindset was instilled in the culture of HP by our founders and today, it has never been more important. Because when you think about the sheer scale of the challenges we face – from the growing threats of climate change to persistent inequality – it's clear we have a lot more work ahead."

Olivia Kelleher, HP Large Format Sustainability Lead, adds: "As Nick will be spending so long on the water, it's

important for him to work with suppliers and partners that keep up to date on the latest innovations and reduce the impact on the environment. Working with suppliers and manufacturers that have adopted closed loop systems to recycle waste materials back into the printing process is one way of doing so as it reduces waste and increases resource efficiency."

The Atlantic Challenge

With the graphics having now been applied to the boat, aptly named Kraken, ready for the challenge, Nick is already testing out the boat as part of his training program.

"I'll start the Atlantic crossing around 10th December, and I expect the row to take between 55 and 80 days. I'm rowing solo and plan to row for around 15 hours per day," Nick said. "I'll be consuming around 6,500 calories each day of the crossing, but I still expect to lose about 15kg.

"I'm attempting the 721 Challenge to support the international conservation charity World Land Trust, of which Sir David Attenborough is a patron. I'm also proud to be an ambassador for the organisation.

"I am absolutely delighted with the final outcome of the printed decals and cannot wait to take on the Atlantic Challenge!"

www.hp.com

Queen B's Calendar Girls Project surpasses fundraising milestone

With Premier Paper's support, Queen B's Calendar Girls project has raised over £31,000 for the Primrose Hospice & Family Support Centre.

The Premier Paper Group is a leading supplier of paper, packaging and materials to the UK market. In turn, Premier is part of OVOL Japan Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd., a global company that operates in 22 countries.

The Queen B's Calendar Girls project, supported by Premier, is celebrating a remarkable achievement, having raised over £31,000 for the Primrose Hospice & Family Support Centre. The initiative, spearheaded by the dynamic Queen B's group and founded by Bev Nibbs, has gained tremendous community support, selling approximately 1900 calendars to date.

The success of the project can also be attributed to the outstanding photography skills of Bromsgrove-based photographer Natalie Clarke. The photoshoot took place in 12 different locations, capturing the essence and spirit of the Queen B's group.

Bev Nibbs shared her experience, saying, "None of us had ever done anything like this before. At first, we all felt quite nervous, but thanks to Natalie Clarke and the clever use of props - we all relaxed."

Premier's Group Marketing Director, Dave Jones, expressed enthusiasm about their involvement, stating, "Calendars continue to be a very popular gift and the

number of calendars sold so far has not surprised me. The design, printing and the packaging of the calendar are all first class but above all the calendar conveys a sense of positivity and fun. We are thrilled to be part of this incredible initiative and to have worked with Bev and the Queen Bees. Supporting causes that foster community spirit, empowerment, and compassion aligns perfectly with our company's values."

Premier, a key supplier of paper and materials, has supported the fundraising endeavour. The company's commitment to community projects has shone through as it not only provided Essential Silk for the calendar but also covered all of the production costs.

While celebrating the success achieved so far, the Queen B's group have their eyes set on an ambitious goal—they aim to raise £32,000 by Christmas. The Queen B's group is encouraging the community to continue their support by purchasing

the remaining 100 calendars to reach their target of 2000.

The Queen B's group is a Bromsgrove, Worcestershire-based community, and those interested in joining their vibrant and supportive Facebook group can visit Queen B's Facebook Group. New members are always welcome, eager to have fun, make friends, and contribute to meaningful causes.

The Calendar Girls initiative exemplifies how a community can unite to support a worthy cause while enjoying shared experiences. Calendars are available for purchase through sponsors of the calendar, and all proceeds go directly to the Primrose Hospice & Family Support Centre.

For more information about Premier's ongoing commitment to supporting community projects, visit:

www.paper.co.uk



The initiative, supported by Premier Paper Group was spearheaded by the dynamic Queen B's group and founded by Bev Nibbs



Premier's Carbon Capture program creates 3 million square metres of woodland



Premier's dedication to addressing the balance of climate change with their Carbon Capture® Program

Premier Paper Group is one of the UK's leading suppliers of paper and materials, and through its business divisions and nationwide branch network, offers a great choice of products and services.

Premier, a front-runner in environmental responsibility within the UK print industry, marked a significant milestone in its commitment to combat climate change, in collaboration with the Woodland Trust. On 15 November 2023, the picturesque former Frodsham golf course in north Cheshire blossomed into a haven for sustainability as 100 of Premier's enthusiastic customers and staff came together to plant around 3000 native saplings; which will one day grow into a thriving forest.

Native trees hold the key to addressing the urgent challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Premier's tree planting initiative, Carbon Capture®, exemplifies the company's dedication to providing sustainable solutions for excess CO₂ emissions within the industry.

Hussein Ismail, Sustainable Business Director at Premier, commented on the day, "Carbon Capture isn't just a logo on print, it's helping people connect with, and give back to nature through the Woodland Trust. These tree-planting events are

always well attended and a time for like-minded people in the industry to get together and enjoy the fresh air."

The Frodsham site is set to be transformed into native broadleaf woodland, contributing to the growth of The Mersey Forest and the larger Northern Forest. With tree cover

in Merseyside and Cheshire below the national average, this initiative serves as a beacon for environmental conservation and climate change mitigation.

The objectives at the site align with nature recovery, climate change mitigation, and community involvement. The new woodland will provide habitats for wildlife, offer public recreation spaces, and contribute to long-term carbon storage.

Premier's Carbon Capture® program, in partnership with the Woodland Trust, not only offers a reduced carbon solution but also provides organisations with the opportunity to participate in tree planting days. These hands-on experiences allow staff and customers to engage directly in the creation and maintenance of native woodlands.

Premier is proud to contribute to the UK's 'net zero by 2050' target through its Carbon Capture® program, ensuring that 100% of all charges go directly to the Woodland Trust's work, without any deductions. To date, Premier's environmental initiative has created over 3 million square meters of new native woodland in the UK, which equates to 107,571 tonnes of CO₂ to be mitigated.

www.paper.co.uk



Change starts small as the planting of trees in Frodsham contributes to the larger Northern Forest

LKH

Precision CNC machine tools

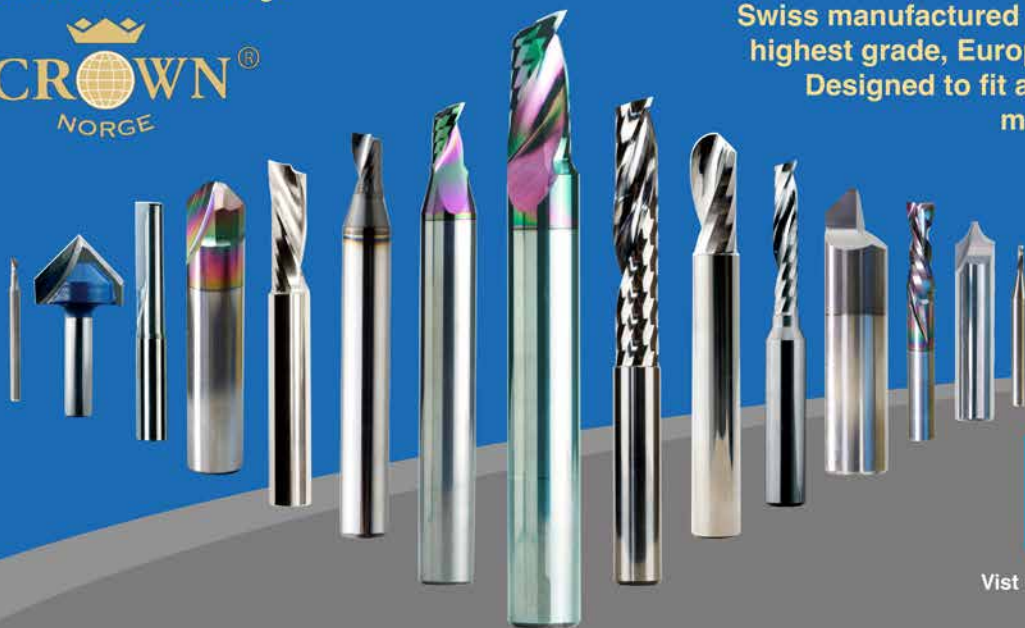
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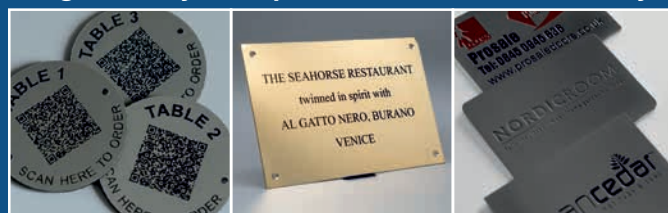
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Routers and Engravers

Rona machines versatile DE-3 desktop engraver offers unbeatable durability

Rona Machines, was formed in 1982 and is a family owned business, operating from a purpose-designed building based in Nazeing, Essex. Graham Field who owns and runs Rona Machines, has nearly 40 years' experience in supplying new and second hand engraving machines which he refurbishes to an exceptionally high standard. Graham's reputation in the industry is second to none. He is a trusted supplier of equipment both in the UK and internationally and has a technical knowledge that is the envy of many.

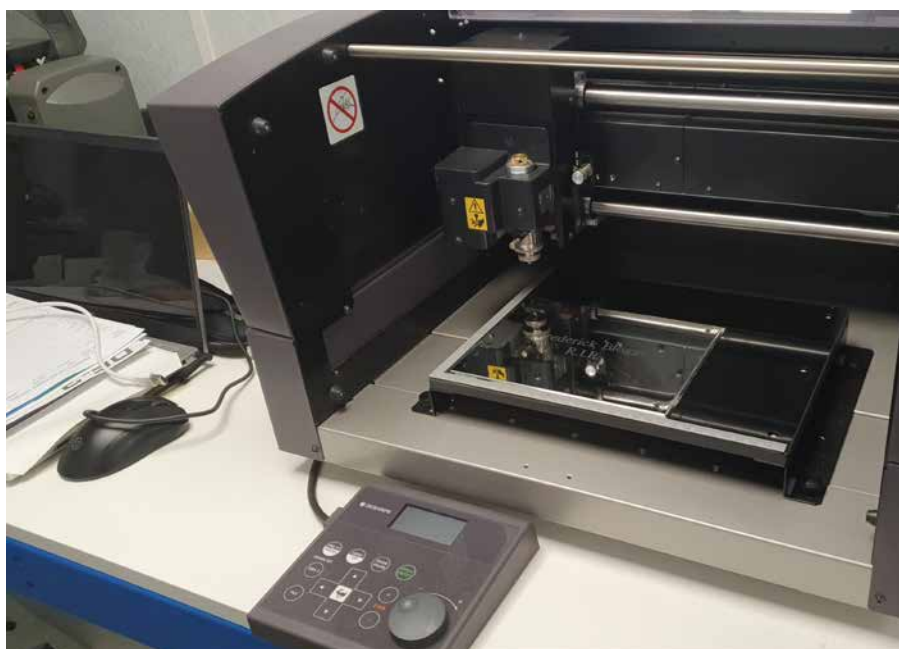
Speaking with Graham Field, he tells us, "Rona Machines supply both computerised and manual engraving machines and have a large stock of machines available to choose from. Graham offers a complete technical back up for all machines sold along with advice on how to achieve the most out of the machine. He also offers a refurbishment service to customers for specific machine models, who may have a machine that is not in working order. Graham carries a large stock of parts for all brands and most models of machines."

The DE-3 desktop engraver can engrave onto a huge range of giftware, signage, trophies, tools and industrial products

Since 2021 Rona Machines has also been part of the Roland DG portfolio of distributors and focuses on the supply of new engraving machines, to the sign and engraving industry.

Graham elaborates by telling us "The Roland DG flagship engraving machine is the ever versatile DE-3 desktop engraver, the result of over 30 years of innovation in engraving technology, delivering impressive versatility and fast, user-friendly automated production.

With laser-pointing technology, USB connectivity, automatic depth regulation and other intelligent features, the DE-3 is the ideal turnkey engraving solution for producing precise text and graphics onto a huge range of materials and objects."



Intuitive and Intelligent the DE-3 desktop engraver is the result of over 30 years of engraving technology, delivering impressive versatility and user-friendly automation

Graham continues, "The Roland range of engraving machines fits perfectly into a sign maker's portfolio with its ability to engrave small identification plates up to medium size signs in different materials: brass, anodised aluminium, stainless steel, plastic / acrylic and wood offers great flexibility.

The variety of industries that utilise engraved signage is huge. From retail point of purchase display (POP) creating eye catching creations in metal, acrylic, wood and many other materials to ornate house signs in similar substrates. The DE-3's powerful spindle motor of up to 20000rpm can engrave a material thickness of a maximum of 40mm or

38mm with the nose cone at a speed 60mm per second on the X&Y axis and 30mm on the Z axis.

The industrial use of small to medium signage offers yet more profitable areas for sign makers to tap into and is easily serviced by the Roland DE-3."

Graham concludes with "Engraved signs offer unbeatable durability in even the toughest environments. Sign makers can also utilise a wide range of materials and create impressive 3D results with V-carved engraving and profile cutting."

www.ronamachines.co.uk



The DE-3 can engrave all manner of substrates to create ornate house signs



Easily-applied nose cones for precise depth-regulation

XYZ have offered tailored router solutions for over 30 years

XYZ, aren't just in the business of cutting solutions; they're in the business of revolutionising automation for companies of all sizes. Standing as a beacon of innovation and precision for CNC router systems, they redefine the essence of precision cutting.

Infinite Series CNC Routers

Speaking with Abdullah Umair, Product Manager of CNC Routers, XYZ, he tells us "The Infinite Series CNC routers, the epitome of versatility and customisation. As a CNC enthusiast, you'll appreciate the wide range of standard and custom sizes, offering process areas of up to 3270mm wide by 15240mm long and beyond. This adaptability ensures a solution tailored to precise application requirements and budgets.

The Infinite Series takes versatility to the next level with a myriad of head and tooling options, capable of handling materials from aluminium to HDPE. From prototyping shops to sign and graphics businesses, educational institutions, and woodworking shops, this series eliminates the guesswork from your projects, delivering power and speed where it matters most."

Abdullah continues, "Designed for the toughest jobs, the Infinite Series showcases its prowess in processing 2D/3D signs in woods, metals, and plastics.

"The Infinite Series boasts features that set it apart from the crowd, such as an industry-leading automatic tool changer, a high-pressure aluminium zoned vacuum bed, a variety of router spindle options, a solid machine base, and a smart console for full machine control at your fingertips."

Trident Series CNC Routers:

Moving on to a different range that XYZ offer, Abdullah expands on the Trident Series, "The Trident CNC Router is a masterpiece engineered for high-volume productivity. As a CNC enthusiast myself, I'm particularly excited about the 4-position tangential knife tool changer, complementing the standard automatic tool changer, ensuring continuous operation without operator intervention.



What sets XYZ apart is the adaptability and precision embedded in their routers

The Trident's ability to fit a variety of knife tools broadens the range of materials that can be processed, providing flexibility to cater to diverse cutting needs. Whether it's a creasing wheel, 45° blade, saber blade, box cutter, or a pizza wheel blade, the Trident has you covered."

Routers are never just about the cutting capabilities, there are other factors involved when considering a CNC router. Abdullah tells us, "We understand the importance of software compatibility, and that's why the Trident CNC Router seamlessly integrates with the most trusted applications in the industry, ensuring a familiar and powerful interface for users.

At the heart of the Trident CNC Router is the A2MC Controller, a critical component for successful machine implementation. Combine it with the A2MC Enterprise and XYZ Smart Console, and you have a complete system that enhances operational control, efficiency, and precision.

The Trident CNC Router is not just about high-volume productivity; it boasts a range of features, including a quick-release spindle, oscillating knife, tangential knife, auto-locating pins, and vision registration (AVS) for precise alignment and cutting."

Wanting to know what industries the XYZ CNC routers cater for, Abdullah says, "Numerous companies across various industries have witnessed the benefits of our cutting-edge solutions. From sign companies streamlining projects to educational institutions finding new avenues for CNC training, the impact is evident. Take SJG International Ltd, for example – increased productivity and precision, all thanks to XYZ's tailored router solutions.

Our vision for the future extends beyond the present. We envision routers and cutters becoming even more integrated, intelligent, and efficient. Automation, precision, and adaptability are key elements influencing the future of cutting solutions, and XYZ is at the forefront, anticipating technological advancements and leading the way."

Abdullah concludes, "XYZ Tailored Router Solutions isn't just meeting industry standards; we're setting them. The Infinite Series CNC routers represent a paradigm shift in precision cutting, and as AAG looks to the future, we're poised to continue redefining the landscape of routers and cutters with innovation and a steadfast commitment to excellence."

www.xyz.com



Routers and Engravers

LKH Tools is the premium choice for routing tools

Based in Nottingham, LKH Tools is a UK distributor for Crown Norge router tooling. The high quality, Swiss manufactured tooling for all types of routing machines, is renowned for exceptional cut quality, longevity and performance in a variety of materials. LKH Tools also provides technical assistance on the correct choice and use of the tooling along with training, software and application support to customers in a variety of applications and industries.

Speaking with Liam Hodson, Tooling and machine consultant, we asked him what make LKH the ideal choice for router tools. Liam tells us "LKH Tools slogan 'Taking the guesswork out of CNC routing' is backed up with over 25 years of experience in the industry while Crown Norge defines "Innovative cutting tools" as its company Moto. This has certainly been the case as a number of industries first's came from Crown Norge. Unique coatings, considered dimensions and balanced tooling (for high speed spindles) to name but a few."

With such a range, Sign Update wanted to know more about the tools. Liam elaborates "The Crown Norge tools are manufactured to an incredibly high standard using highest grade European carbide. In addition to this, the machines used to manufacture them are regularly inspected, tested and updated to ensure these consistent standards are met for each tool produced. The grinding wheel is assessed at regular intervals and adjusted accordingly by experienced and highly skilled operators. The tools are individually inspected prior to approval, ensuring these high standards are met consistently. "



MP Balanced tools for high speed spins



The acrylic GEN2 range of tools is a new alternative to achieve polished results in clear acrylic

"The additional care and attention given to each tool is reflected in the final result. The disciplined approach to manufacturing of the tool, ensures the operator has the confidence to use the same settings from the first tool to the last. Removing the need to adjust the machining parameters due to tooling differences."

Liam extols the virtues of the cutters by their cost saving ability. He says, "With higher than ever sheet material costs, it is critical to get it right first time, every time. Any slight variances in the routing tool could mean re-cutting of the job and scrapping a sheet of expensive material. The higher cut quality, tool longevity and performance of these tools is highlighted

even further when comparing the overall total economy. The Crown Norge tools from LKH Tools, are the best value for money. "

Liam expands on diamond polishing tools, listing the acronyms for the range;

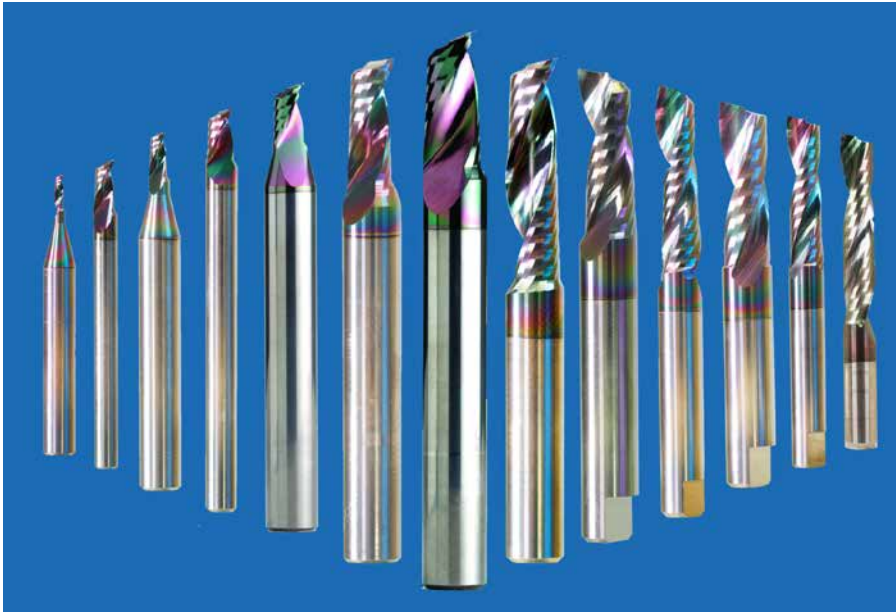
- (PCD = Polycrystalline Diamond)
- (MCD = MonoCrystalline Diamond)
- (MCVD = Chemical Vapour Deposition Diamond)
- MCD & MCVD Diamond polishing

Liam says, "Meeting the demand for highly polished clear acrylic, the PCD, MCD and MCVD diamond polishing tools are also available in addition to the standard carbide and coated carbide tools.



MCD & MCVD Diamond polishing tools

Available in a variety of diameters and length's, these are to be used as a secondary pass to remove 0.05-0.1mm of material leaving a polished and clear edge for up to 30mm thick material. This will produce vertical edges and with no heat to distort the material, they are ideal for applications where curves, intricate shapes, joints and stepped profiles are also required to be polished. In conjunction with the straight polishing tools, a bevelling polishing tool allows for polished countersunk holes or to chamfer the edge of the material to remove sharpness for handling.



MP Superior tooling range with its unique coating was first introduced in 2018 to great acclaim

The polishing tools perform at their best on a rigid machine, with a good vacuum hold down. Any vibrations from the material moving or machine flex will be shown in the edge of the material."

The acrylic GEN2 (Generation2) range of tools are a relatively new alternative to achieve polished results in clear acrylic. Available in 3mm, 4mm and 6mm diameters, they are ideal for applications such as a smaller production run or where the slightly higher degree of polished edge from a diamond polishing tool is not warranted. These carbide tools are ground specifically to provide the best edge possible in clear acrylic. Additional grinding time during the manufacturing process and specific cutting angles on the helix of the tool, produce a polished edge in a single cut and without the need for a secondary clean up pass. The GEN2 tool can also be used in other clear materials such as polycarbonates, a material very difficult to normally produce a polished edge on.

The unique coating on the MP Superior range of tools was first introduced in 2018 and is still the best option for high speed, dry routing of aluminium and other non-ferrous metals today.

The available sizes in the range have been increased from the initial launch in 2018. Sizes are now available from 2mm to 10mm diameters and also with greater

options for up to 50mm thick materials. The MP Superior tools run faster, last longer and produce an exceptional quality of cut without the need for coolant or oil.

LKH Tools provide the customer with the correct machine cutting parameters to accompany the correct tool choice

Acrylic GEN2 range

Getting more in depth with the Acrylic Gen 2 range, we asked Liam about the benefits of this range. Liam replies "MP Superior tooling range 3mm aluminium routed and grooved with MP Superior tools Customers who have the option for higher rotation speeds (such as 30,000-60,000 RPM) benefit from the specific range of tools available for these higher spindle speeds. Additional balancing in the tool design produces a improved cut surface finish and smoother rotation of the tool. At high rotation speeds, any imperfection in the balancing of the tool can lead to excessive vibration, poor quality of cut, tool wear and in extreme cases, premature spindle failure."

With different machine type, tool and material combinations available, getting the best results first time can be a challenge. LKH Tools provides the customer with the correct machine cutting parameters to accompany the correct tool choice. This can also be optimised based on the customers requirements, machine and material specifics. This reduces any costly mistakes potentially made by the end user and the trial and error process often machine operators have to go through."

Utilising the onsite CNC routing machine at LKH Tools allows for testing of new materials, tool designs and optimisation for the customer. Difficult to cut and new materials can be sent to LKH Tools for testing. The correct tool and machine parameters are then provided back to the customer. Machine operators and customers which are new to CNC routing also get a big leap forward on the learning curve with assistance and advice available, provided by telephone, online or onsite. When using the correct tool and settings, the cut quality and production time dramatically improves. In addition, it will also reduce or eliminate any labour intensive hand finishing afterwards.

Liam concludes, "With all the common sizes and dimensions of router tooling stocked at the UK office in Nottingham, LKH Tools offers next working day delivery. This is invaluable for meeting tight deadlines when production has come to stand still due to unforeseen circumstances. Customers also have the option to collect in person. This also allows them to visit the showroom for advice, inspiration and to fine tuning and expand their CNC routing knowledge.

www.lkhtools.co.uk



3mm aluminium routed and grooved with MP Superior tools

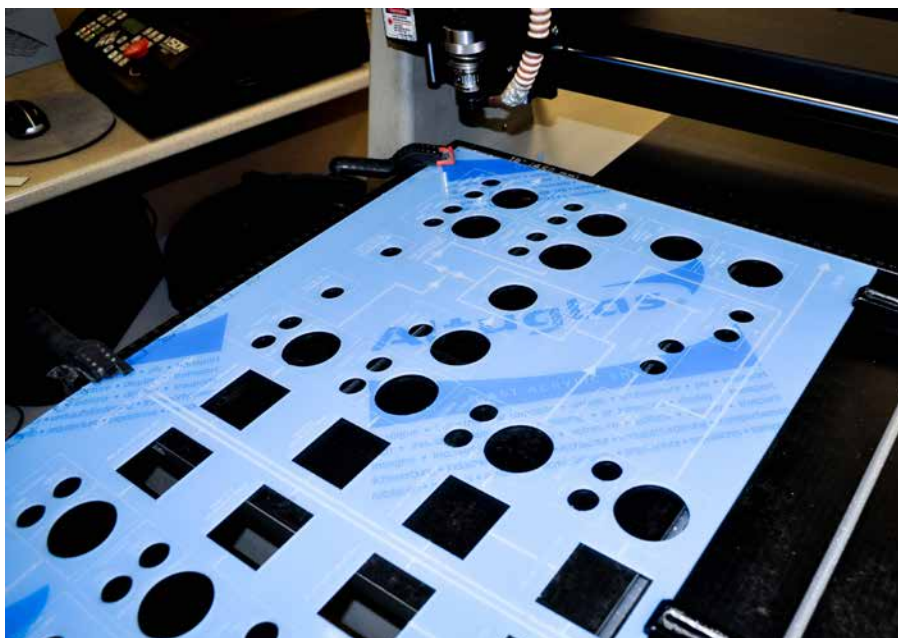


Routers and Engravers

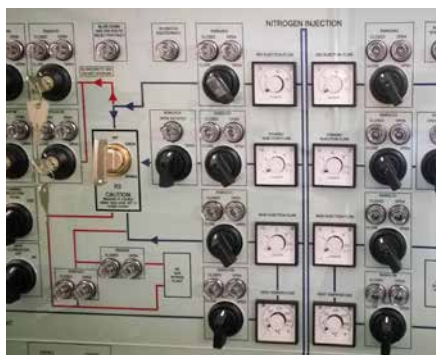
Brunel Engraving has been delivering on excellence for 30 years

Brunel Engraving has been established for over 30 years. As one of the UK's most successful specialist engraving businesses it boasts a highly skilled workforce trained to take on any challenge. Their continued investment in our people and technology puts us at the forefront of precision engraving.

Speaking with Phil Wright, Technical Director, we asked what makes Brunel Engraving stand out. Phil replies "Brunel Engraving is the best in the business. We are one of the most successful and experienced specialist engraving businesses in the UK with a national and international client list. When you deal with Brunel you can be assured of a fast response, a quality product and a competitive price. Established in 1989, we have the resources and the technical expertise to provide bespoke engraving services to a wide spectrum of customers, supplying products to suit your every engraving requirement."



Brunel has two cylindrical CNC engraving machines and Nine Vision computer controlled two dimensional flatbed machines



Highly skilled engravers use the latest technologically advanced machinery with stunning results

Asking about their speciality within the engraving industry, Phil tells us, "From simple, basic engravings to complicated control panels and machine plates, Brunel provides a tailored service to suit every different need. Flexible and dependable, we can advise you on the best material to use for your application or we can engrave materials you supply to us."

Phil continues, "Our team of highly skilled engravers use the very latest technologically advanced machinery to undertake sophisticated print processes and to tackle the most intricate engraving

"Customer satisfaction is priority. When you deal with Brunel you know you're working with professionals who deliver their promises."

procedures with a fast turn around and guaranteed quality.

However large or small, complex or simple, your engraving requirement, you can be assured that with Brunel Engraving you will get the best price for a fast professional service and a top quality product every time you order."

We asked Phil about Brunel's level of excellence in engraving, Phil says, "Brunel has always maintained a commitment of excellence to its customers, and believes this is one of the main factors supporting its continued growth. From the first customer contact to the dispatching of goods, and even any after care contact needed, we ensure our staff are fully trained to understand the high quality that our customer's expect. Our ISO9001 accreditation means that every job, no matter how large or small goes through

the workshops with this expectation level, and the continuous amount of 5 stars we receive on Trust pilot, highlights this commitment."

With a commitment to excellence, we were interested to learn about the machinery they use. Phil says "Brunel Engraving has two cylindrical CNC engraving machines and nine Vision computer controlled two dimensional flat bed machines which are the most reliable machines on the market today. We also have CNC CO₂, Fibre, UV and Galvo laser engravers, 1.5kw Fibre laser cutting, direct to surface anodic printing, sublimation ink printing, chemical etching and digital print all housed in our 6500sqft premises."

Phil concludes by telling us about Brunel's plans for future expansion, "Brunel Engraving is currently finalising plans for an expansion to its premises, as the companies continued success over recent years, has meant that the current 6500sqft premises, is no longer big enough to accommodate the increasing workload. This will also allow the company to streamline some of its operations at the same time."

www.brunelengraving.co.uk

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Routers and Engravers

Under the Bonnet of a Tekcel EXR from Complete CNC Solutions

Typically, when companies are looking to invest in a new flatbed CNC Router for the first time or maybe in addition to other cutting machinery, there's a perception that they are all pretty much the same. They either cut woods, metals or plastics etc. However, not all flatbed CNC routers are the same, so let's get under the bonnet of the Tekcel EXR CNC Router from Complete CNC Solutions Ltd and find out more.

Since making its first appearance in the UK back in 2003, the Tekcel CNC Router brand has gained a growing reputation as one of the most well respected, versatile and reliable 3 axis CNC routers on the market today.



Tekcel manufacturing facility continues to deliver outstanding performance CNC machines

With hundreds of Tekcel CNC Routers installed in the UK & worldwide, these world class CNC systems continue to deliver very high quality output & outstanding performance. They also return excellent profits in some of the most demanding and diverse market sectors such as Sign, Graphic & Display, Point of Sale, Exhibition, Print Finishing, Woodworking & Joinery, Décor & Interior Design, Plastics & Metal fabrication, Packaging, Shopfitting, Architectural & Cladding, 3D Model Making, TV & Film prop design.

However, the Tekcel EXR 2m x 3m format has proven to be the most popular size and No. 1 choice for many Sign, Graphic & Display, Point of Sale and Exhibition companies over the last 20 years. Customer feedback tells us its due to the user friendly operator interface, material sheet size capability, its abundance of



Tekcel EXR routers are fully capable of running at high speeds and dealing with the most demanding material

innovative features, but above all, its ability to machine so many different types of materials, all from the one machine. Many other CNC suppliers & manufacturers seem to now offer a "single type material machine", which is restricted to perhaps a single material type, such as metal or wood or plastics for example.

Julian Sage, MD of Complete CNC Solutions Ltd, the exclusive UK & European distributor for all Tekcel CNC Router products goes on to say "The Australian based Tekcel manufacturing facility continues to design, build and deliver outstanding performance CNC machines, that are so material versatile and with their easily upgradable add ons & options, simply allow customers a non-restrictive solution to open up and diversify into new and lucrative opportunities at any time."

Tekcel EXR routers are fully capable of running at high speeds and dealing with the most demanding materials too including:- MDF, MFC, Chipboard, HPL, OSB, Plywood's, Soft & Hardwoods, Industrial Plastics, Cast & Extruded Acrylics, Polycarbonates, ABS, Rigid PVC, HD Foams & Model Boards, Aluminium Composite Material, Aluminium, Brass, Copper & even Stainless steel.

In order to deal with these demanding materials, Tekcel CNC routing system are fitted as standard with the latest genuine Italian manufactured 9kW HSD high

performance spindles. Couple this with the unique front mounted "Hide Away" pop-up / down Auto Tool change system, Micro switch Tool length sensor for pin point Z depth control, you have accuracy and performance by the bucket load.

Material hold down is not compromised



The Tekcel 2m x 3m format has proven to be the most popular in the range

either and with options of auto on/off single or twin 10HP vacuum hold down pumps, pulling through the ever reliable "Hole & Pocket" vacuum table surface format, you're safe in the knowledge your material is securely held in place every time.

Tekcel CNC routers only use the very best re-circulating ball screw drive systems and brushless digitally encoded servo motors on every axis. These drive systems give the machine incredible cutting and positional accuracy at speed with outstanding strength, longevity and very low maintenance.

Tekcel just won't compromise on lower specification drive systems such as stepper motors and rack & pinion formats used by many other CNC manufacturers these days. Tekcel EXR CNC Routers all come with state-of-the-art podium mounted 15" touch screen controller interface technology as standard, conforming to the latest health and safety controller regulations, as well as the added

HSE requirement for safety light guarding, which interacts seamlessly with the "machine pause & restart" feature on every machine.

Julian continues by telling us, "Tekcel systems can easily be upgraded at any stage with various options and add ons including Mist Coolant systems for metal cutting, Pop Up Material Location Pins,

Heavy Duty Wet & Dry Dust extraction systems or how about the ever popular Opticam "Cut to Print" camera registration system, for seamless registration cutting around direct to sheet printed rigid sheet or printed laminated to sheet graphics."

"There's also the very latest Tekcel Opticut knife cutting system, turning your CNC Router into a versatile Digital cutter, producing clean, sharp cuts on many types of flexible or semi-rigid materials using either oscillating or fixed blade processes."

Julian concludes "With the ongoing innovations, development and support we've received from the Tekcel manufacturer over the last 20 years, we're proud to continue to lead the way in supplying & supporting one of the best CNC Routers available on the market today. The future looks very bright for Complete CNC Solutions and we look forward to working very closely with Tekcel for many years to come."



The Tekcel Opticut system turns the CNC router into a versatile digital cutter

www.completecnc.co.uk



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Rigid and flexible media substrates

Drytac's mission to create the highest quality range for their customers

Drytac is an international manufacturer of high-quality adhesive-coated products including graphic films, window films, double-sided tapes, self-adhesive print media, label stock, industrial adhesives, and heat-activated and pressure-sensitive laminates and mounting adhesives.

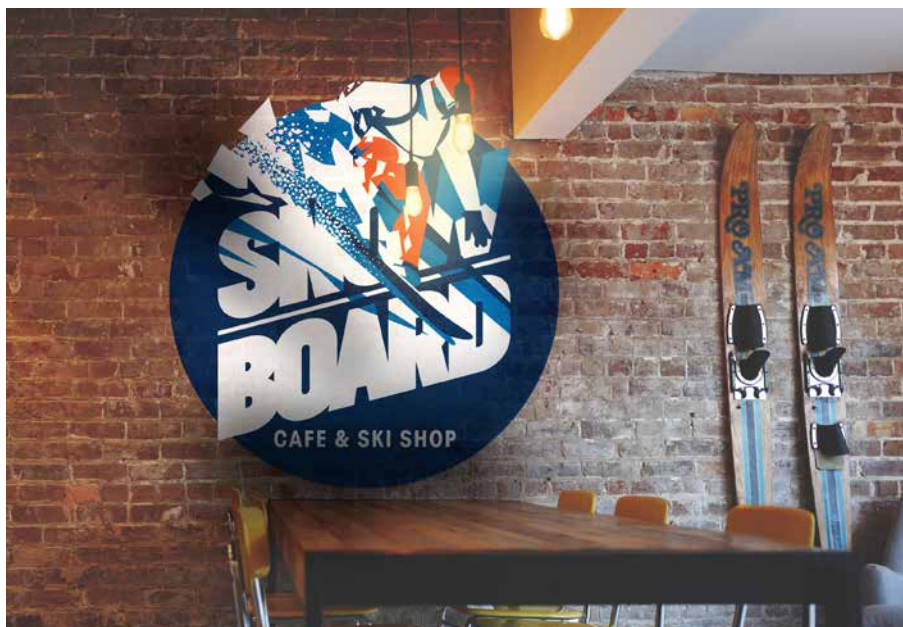
Speaking with Amanda Lowe, Global Marketing Director, she tells us "Drytac is equipped to provide solutions across laminating films and mounting adhesives; window, wall and floor graphic media; product development services; custom and pattern coating; high-performance tapes; industrial adhesives; and durable labels. The company also develops unique customised adhesive products to meet customers' specific requirements."

We asked Amanda what makes Drytac range of films unique. Amanda replies "What makes Drytac products stand out above other solutions is the unique adhesive science. This creates print media, protective films and bonding tapes that deliver outstanding results across all manner of applications, from eye-catching window graphics to colourful floor graphics.

All Drytac products are manufactured in the UK, and the company has also recently announced an exclusive wide-format graphics distribution deal with Premier Paper Group. This ensures Drytac can constantly deliver the products and solutions that customers across the UK and Ireland require."

"The Drytac collection of products is far-reaching, offering solutions for a whole host of projects. One of the most popular product ranges is Drytac SpotOn, a set of vinyl films designed to produce high-quality, easy-to-apply graphics for short-term applications such as POP and retail signage, trade show and exhibition graphics, and office interiors.

Drytac also offers the Drytac ReTac range of polymeric ultra-removable and repositionable vinyl. These products allow users to create displays that can be moved around to target specific products and areas. Example applications include posters that can be moved from one area of a mall to another to ensure maximum exposure.



Drytac Polar Grip paired with matching laminate can have an outdoor durability of seven years.

Another popular product is Drytac Polar Grip. This polymeric self-adhesive PVC film is ideal for digitally printed signs or graphics that need to stay in place, whatever the conditions. When paired with a matching laminate, graphics printed on Polar Grip have an outdoor durability of up to seven years.



SpotOn vinyls are high quality, easy to apply vinyls for short-term applications

For examples of some of these products in use, Drytac has worked with many talented customers around the world. One such customer is Barnsley-based family-run signage business Turner Signs, which used Polar Grip white gloss vinyl with matching Weathershield Matte UV laminate to produce a range of colourful wall coverings for local school, Wingfield Academy. Turner Signs created 21

educational wall wraps ranging in sizes from 3m to 7m in length. These were applied to painted breeze blocks, offering inspiration, information and words of wisdom to students passing through the corridors of the school.

Another example is Bristol-based graphics and display company N3 Display Graphics, which used Drytac's ReTac Textures embossed film to create a series of eye-catching wallpapers to transform the interior of the premises of client, The Bart Ingredients Company. N3 partnered with Starke Creative to produce more than 200sq.m of digitally printed wallpaper, working with ReTac Textures embossed film in a canvas finish.

Amanda concludes, "Drytac is constantly looking for ways it can further support its customers with their work.

"We will manufacture the product that you require and meets your specifications and is not limited by the technology we have in place," Drytac Chief Executive Officer Hayden Kelley said. "Drytac's mission is to create the highest quality adhesive solutions for our customers, regardless of what the application is."

www.drytac.com

Antalis at the forefront of sustainability and performance

Antalis is one of Europe's leading suppliers of Visual Communication substrates and has an extensive portfolio of sustainable rigid and flexible materials ideal for using across POP/POS, exhibition and events, retail store design, marketing and much more.

Speaking with Claire White, Antalis Specification Consultant, she tells us, "Antalis was thrilled to launch Xanita aspect in October 23 as we wanted to offer a completely new fibreboard to the market. Xanita aspect represents a step forward in sustainable signage, as its construction is far from that of a traditional honeycomb board and is born from Xanita and Antalis' dedication to innovation and sustainability.

Its ability to withstand the rigours of wide format printing and everyday handling also ensures exceptional print results. Xanita aspect contains no harmful chemicals or VOCs, making it a safe and environmentally friendly choice for businesses and is awarded the maximum rating of five stars on the Antalis Green Star System™."

"At Antalis, we believe that sustainability and performance should go hand in hand. Xanita aspect is a great example that meets the demands of the printing industry and aligns with our commitment to ESG goals"

Alongside Xanita, we asked Claire about the other products that Antalis supply. Claire responded with "We have an extensive range of sustainable rigid materials particularly across our fibre and polypropylene categories including Xanita, Katz, Libra and Eska Black display boards. Outdoor solutions include Katz Outdoor and Libra Weatherboard options (fibre) and Exten Prime Ex Opaque, Exten HMPP, Triaprint and Priplak, all manufactured from



Lightweight and strong, Xanita is the ideal solution for a wide range of decorative and structural applications

polypropylene, a widely recyclable plastic that can continue to be recycled time and time again. All our materials are awarded a green star rating to support sustainable customer selection."

With sustainability in mind, we wanted to know how the products they supply are sustainably made, yet can remain rigid. Claire says, "While Xanita aspect is designed for signage applications, it is far from a typical honeycomb board. Leveraging the same 'closed cell' core design as Xanita's premium board products, it delivers unmatched strength, durability, and rigidity.

Xanita aspect comes in two types; aspect Print, with a white liner made from over 90% post-consumer paper and aspect Kraft, with a brown liner, is made from 100% post-consumer paper, reducing the strain on natural resources."

Claire expands on what the launch of Xanita board means for Antalis, "Its launch represents a step forward in sustainable signage solutions as it is engineered to cater to the evolving needs of businesses while minimising their environmental footprint. Xanita aspect has been priced in-line with competing honeycomb boards making it a truly economical choice. By choosing Xanita aspect, companies can also align their sustainable goals alongside high performance solutions."

Finally, we asked Claire what she sees for the future of Antalis and its sustainable mission with the signage industry. Claire concludes, "Antalis will continue to remain dedicated in bringing innovative and sustainable materials to market in turn continuing to support their customers."

www.antalis.co.uk



Designed for signage applications, the 'closed cell' core delivers unmatched strength



Rigid and flexible media substrates

Perspex Distribution focuses on sustainability within their range

Perspex Distribution have just passed twenty years of servicing key industrial sectors including Visual Communications, Signage, Retail Point of Sale, Construction and General Fabrication industries with their range of rigid substrates.

Luke Martyn, Marketing Manager, for PDL tells us, "Most will be familiar with Perspex Distribution (PDL) and our leading range of thermoplastics for signage and print.

PDL recently celebrated its 20 year anniversary and it is the flagship Perspex® cast acrylic range that has been the go to product for thousands of signmakers over those 20 years. It remains the only UK manufactured cast acrylic and PDL offer the largest range of colours and thicknesses on the market."

Asking Luke about their rigid substrates and how they are keeping up with the current market, Luke replies, "Sustainability has been the buzz word in the industry for a number of years and PDL have responded as sign makers and end users sought increased options for materials with significant recycled content and greener credentials. PDL have been working hard with our manufacturing partners to increase availability of recycled products within our range and now offer recycled options within the majority of material types.

Uniquely amongst the rigid media suppliers, PDL boast over 80% of materials being manufactured here in the UK and the only supplier to offer sign & print staples such as Cast Acrylic, PVC Foam, Aluminium Composite and Polycarbonate from UK suppliers under one basket."

With such a range on offer, we wanted to know if there was a particular product in the range that is favoured. Luke replies, "Alupanel aluminium composite, produced in Kent by the UK's only ACM manufacturer, is available in all grades from PDL. Whether you are a signmaker looking for a long-lasting sign tray, or large format printers seeking high volume printed hoarding for a large construction project, there is an Alupanel grade perfect for the job.

For specialist projects, a new fire retardant AlupanelFR grade is now on our shelves. Not only does it meet the stringent Class B



Alupanel aluminium composite is produced in Kent by the UK's only ACM manufacturer

fire rating classifications, but after listening to industry requirements, the double sided substrate is manufactured with a digital matt/matt finish, optimised for vibrant digital printing on the signal white surface."

Palight® Re-Nu PVC foam panel is made using 100% recycled contents from end users and pre-consumer waste. Produced as a co-extruded PVC allows for a quality printing surface

Luke continues by explaining improvements of different substrates that are currently underway. "PVC Foam users can also expect to see improvements in the coming months as our Palight range of PVC Foam sheets are brought together under the Palight Plus banner with users benefiting from a uniform pristine white surface across the Palight Plus, Palight Print Plus and Palight Print Plus LW variants – leaving print service providers with more flexibility in mixing and matching sheets for their ideal applications."

Luke finishes by elaborating on a 100% recycled rigid material that has seen growth over 2023. "Traction has continued to grow in 2023 with Palight® Re-NU, a 100% recycled PVC Foam, offering end users all the application benefits of PVC in a first for the UK print market. Palight® Re-NU is manufactured by Palram in their County Durham.

Palight® Re-NU is produced as a co-extruded PVC providing a constantly reliable white surface allowing print professionals to get the best image quality and colour accuracy from their printers. The 100% recycled content contains a mixture of post-consumer waste recycled from end users, as well as pre-consumer waste processed via Palram's own in-house recycling centre.

Luke concludes, "2023 has been an exciting year for PDL and it has been fantastic to celebrate our 20 year milestone as the year ends and reflect on the successful journey we have been on to date. As we look ahead to 2024 we have more exciting new products coming to market, all in response to feedback and demands coming from our customer base."

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Exhibitions

Visitors can have it all at Sign & Digital UK and Printwear and Promotion Live!

Unique opportunity to visit some big names who are exhibiting in both halls at the co-locating Sign & Digital UK and Printwear and Promotion Live! exhibitions at the NEC from 25th to 27th February 2024

After announcing the co-location of Sign and Digital UK and Printwear and Promotion Live! from 25-27 February 2024 at the NEC, several companies will be exhibiting at both shows. With a large crossover in terms of sign companies moving into textile, garment and personalised product printing and print companies moving into sign-making, several exhibitors have taken the opportunity to be represented in both halls.

We talked to those who will have a presence at both shows to learn more about their expectations and what visitors can expect from their stands.

There is already a prestigious line-up of exhibitors for the joint exhibition of Sign & Digital UK and Printwear and Promotion Live!

Grafityp

Graham Jones, Head of Marketing for Grafityp, says, "Being part of SDUK is essential to showcase our products and services and connect with current and potential customers. It also allows us to demonstrate our commitment to the industry and engage with a diverse audience."

He continues, "The co-location of SDUK with Printwear and Promotion Live! is advantageous for us and our customers. It provides a synergistic platform where diverse segments of the industry converge. This collaboration enhances the overall experience for visitors by offering a broader range of products and services under one roof."

Graham concludes, "Our expectations for the show in February include increased visibility, meaningful interactions with attendees, and the opportunity to



The first co-located event is intended to engage anyone who is wishing to enter the printing profession

showcase our latest offerings. Additionally, we want to generate new leads and strengthen existing partnerships."

InkTec Europe

Joey Kim, Managing Director for InkTec Europe, says, "The main reason InkTec were keen to exhibit at SDUK again in 2024 after a few years away was because we have some very exciting new products coming up that we are looking to launch at the event. This includes a new JETRIX printer that our HQ in South Korea has been researching and developing. This has been designed to fulfil much-needed criteria for the industry that JETRIX have not addressed before."

He continues, "We also now have an even stronger sales team with Julian Mennell heading up our hardware sales and so it is an exciting opportunity for InkTec to showcase to the industry our latest offerings. We are also Looking forward to seeing how the 2024 show fares in this new format, co-locating alongside Printwear and Promotion Live!, which we also exhibited for the first time in 2023. It made perfect sense for us to be there as we launched our complete DTF Solutions range featuring everything from the printer and oven/shaker

to film, inks and powder. It was the perfect audience for this offering."



Printwear and Promotion Live! Gives print companies the opportunity to explore crossing over to textiles



Exhibitions

This year, we are building on our appearance in 2023 and will also be showing our UV-DTF range which uses a combination of UV-curable ink and special film that enables designs to easily transfer directly onto hard, smooth objects or even irregular shapes on promotional merchandise. In addition, we will be using it as an opportunity to showcase our extensive range of compatible inks and media and to broaden awareness of our full consumables range."

Joey adds, "From our perspective, the co-location of the shows means they will attract a mix of PSPs that work across a wider cross-section of the industry. This means there will potentially be those who are interested in exploring how to broaden out into large-format print. Equally large-format printers who are intrigued by DTF and UV-DTF and the additional revenue opportunities this could generate for them will be looking to find out more."

Joey concludes by revealing his expectations for the show, "We are looking forward to it being very busy, and each show is going to offer us exposure to different audiences within the printing industry, some of which we may not have encountered before. We are hoping that by having the shows co-located, they will attract more people who are intrigued to visit an exhibition that they may not have previously considered."

"Sign & Digital is more than a date in the calendar; it is a comprehensive and invaluable experience that reaffirms our commitment to customer-centric growth."

Roland DG

Rob Goleniowski, Head of Sales UK & Ireland at Roland DG EMEA, says, "Sign & Digital has always been an important date on the Roland DG calendar, an event our team eagerly anticipates. The event spans three intense yet rewarding days, offering us a unique platform to showcase our latest products directly to customers and fostering a dynamic environment for live demonstrations and firsthand experiences."

He adds, "Beyond the unveiling of innovations, the event offers precious opportunities for our team to engage with both current and potential customers, facilitating meaningful conversations about their preferences and business



The opportunity to see the latest in signage and printwear is ideal for any company looking to expand their horizons

growth needs. It also provides us with the opportunity to glean insights into what customers appreciate about our products, understand the challenges they face, and determine how we can best support them in overcoming these obstacles."

"In essence, Sign & Digital is more than a date on the calendar; it is a comprehensive and invaluable experience that reaffirms our commitment to innovation and customer-centric growth."

Looking at the benefits of the two shows co-locating, Rob adds, "Printwear & Promotion has always been another highlight on our events calendar, and we're delighted to see the shows taking place simultaneously—something we have been championing for many years. We've observed an overlap between some suppliers and customers, but many are yet to discover the other side of the print world and what this could potentially mean for their business. By merging the events, there is a good chance it will inspire many people to explore what else they could do with the equipment they have or are looking to invest in."

Roland DG is taking a stand in each hall, each featuring a different set of products. "This approach allows us to showcase a broader range of our machines while tailoring the benefits of each to a more specific audience," he explains.

"By February, we usually expect to see people emerging from winter, ready for

the year ahead with a great sense of optimism. Therefore, we anticipate a busy show with significant interest from customers eager to explore ways to grow their businesses," says Rob, adding, "We will be showcasing several new machines, including the VersaOBJECT EU-1000MF, along with other Roland DG products like the DGConnect software app. Our Roland Care team will also be available to discuss our support and warranty packages."

In conclusion, Rob says, "We look forward to welcoming everyone—old friends and new. Let's hope the weather during the setup isn't too cold and we avoid any snow, as we have experienced in the past!"



The variety on offer will be nothing like any visitor to SDUK has seen before



Exhibitions

Epson UK

Phil McMullin, Head of Sales, Commercial & Industrial, at Epson UK, says, "We are in a visual industry, so it's vitally important that graphics professionals can see print results first hand. You really can't get the same objective view online. You need to see it, touch it, smell it! Historically SDUK has always provided us with a great sales pipeline for the year, and we very much hope and expect the same from this event."

2024 will see SDUK co-locating with Printwear & Promotion Live! Phil explains why he sees this as a big benefit, "Epson is focused on signage AND textile so for us, the merger of the two shows is perfect. Historically we have worked with our value-add partner, Xpres, at P&P Live! and we will continue with this arrangement for the 2024 show. This means that for sign and graphics, visitors can come to Epson at SDUK and for the latest and greatest Epson textile printing solutions, they can visit Xpres at P&P Live!"

Detailed announcements of what visitors can expect to see will be announced nearer to the show, and Phil was not about to reveal too much. "Our new product launches for the show are still under NDA,

but rest assured there will be new and exciting print solutions at both SDUK and P&P Live! Our focus for both will be on stimulating ideas around incremental and profitable revenue streams. Just make sure you leave lots of time to visit BOTH halls when you get to the NEC. There will be plenty new to see."

Leading names in the industry are investing the time and effort to have stands in each show, helping visitors better understand the opportunities to increase revenue and profitability in each market

Hybrid Services

Andrew Gregory, Sales Director for Hybrid Services, exclusive UK and Ireland distributor for Mimaki Europe, says, "Sign & Digital UK has been an annual fixture for Hybrid since the company was founded back in the mid-1990s for good reason. It's

important to work with our peers to deliver an event that our industry wants to visit, and we strive to add value by launching new products and ensuring the very latest Mimaki technology plays a big part in our presence."

He continues, "Printwear and Promotion has historically been an important event for Hybrid, and it has been the scene of numerous Mimaki product launches over the years, including the Mimaki UJF MkII and the recent launch of the TxF150-75 DTF printer. We'll have Mimaki's latest, next-generation DTF model at Sign & Digital UK 2024 and plenty more to offer visitors to Printwear & Promotion who visit both shows."

Lots to look forward to

Tony Gardner, Event Director for both exhibitions, concludes, "There is so much to look forward to at the shows in February. It is fantastic that such leading names in the industry are investing the time and effort to have stands in each show, helping visitors better understand the opportunities there are to increase their revenue and profitability in each market."

www.signuk.com





Exhibitions

SDUK Explains Lounge Speaker Schedule

Now in its third year, the ISA UK Explains Lounge will host a series of presentations and panel discussions designed to inform and educate visitors to the show on the latest developments, trends and innovations and how they will impact the large format printing, sign-making and visual communications industry over the coming year.

According to Craig Brown, CEO of ISA-UK, "We are excited to bring back the Explains Lounge, offering an enriched program that reflects our commitment to advancing the signage industry. With insightful presentations, expert-led discussions, and valuable networking opportunities, we aim to create a dynamic and educational experience.

Sunday

11:00 - Andy Rogers, Marketing Director, Stahls UK. How sign-makers can add textile, decoration and personalisation into their existing business.

12:00 - Colin McDermott: The Online Print Coach – Printerview with Craig Brown, CEO ISA UK.

13:00 - Julian Mennell, National Hardware Sales Manager, Inktec Europe: What to consider when looking into diversifying into flatbed printing.

14:00 - Alex Liggett, Founder, The Vinyl Guys: How to increase business and profit by selecting the right vinyl for the right project.



Monday

11:00 - Women in Signs and Graphics: Female leaders in the industry.

- Izabella Ivanovici, Managing Director, INV Recruitment Ltd
- Sarah Fenna – Sales Director, Soyang Europe

12:00 - IPIA – Hosted by Brendan Perring, General Manager, IPIA: Flights of opportunity.

A panel of leading industry lights will discuss how to identify and seize new opportunities in growth markets, how to grow a sustainable business model and the importance of choosing the right technology to support you.

- Rob Goleniowski, Head of Sales, Roland DG UK
- Phil McMullin, Head of Sales, Epson UK
- Lewis Evans, Sales and Product Manager, Vivid Technologies
- Premier Paper

12:45 - Marianne Steel: The Printing Charity – Ways to support mental wellbeing in our industry.

- Sarah Fenna, Sales Director, Soyang Europe

13:15 - The Printer Panel: Latest trends and developments in large format printing.

- Rob Goleniowski, Head of Sales, Roland DG UK
- Phil McMullin, Head of Sales, Epson UK
- Brett Newman, Managing Director, Hybrid Services (Mimaki)

14:00 - Panel discussion: How sign-makers can make the move to garment, textile and personalised product printing: Closing the Circle.

- Andy Rogers, Marketing Director, Stahls UK
- Ellen Wain, Business Development, Graphtec GB
- Simon Warren – Commercial Manager, Ralawise
- James Homan, Business Development, AWDiS

14:45 - Alan Foster, Founder, Print Social: Making social media work to grow business.

15:15 - Colin McDermott, The Online Print Coach: Printerview with Andy Hancock, Director, Mexar Ink.

Tuesday

10:30 - Anthony Rowell, Sales & Customer Success Director Sustainability Lead, Tradeprint's Strategic Expansion: A Case Study on Seizing Opportunities.

11:00 - The recruitment panel: How to fill the key roles and keep the people you love and ensure safe and sustainable recruitment.

- Matt Hanley, Managing Director, M-TWO: Matching Talent With Opportunity
- Antony Rowell, Sales & Customer Success Director Sustainability Lead, Tradeprint
- Craig Brown, CEO, ISA UK
- Jeff Bufton – Head of Operations, Signs Express

11:45 - Recycling Panel: How is the industry coping with the essential need for proper recycling and sourcing.

- Iain Wallace, Strategic Development Manager and Architect of Metastream, Metamark
- Andrew Gregory, Sales Director, Hybrid

12:30 - BPIF panel - tbc.

13:30 - Sam Armstrong, Managing Director, Make it Happen Consultancy. Sign-makers: Use your skills to grow your business.

14:00 - Steve Lister, Sustainability Consultant to Global Brands & Retailers - RETHINK Retail - Top Retail Influencer 2023 - Retail Expert - RTIH Top 100 Retail Technology Influencer 2023.

14:30 - Sustainability panel: How retailers can increase productivity and profitability through more sustainable practices.

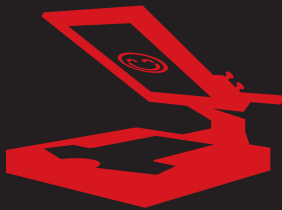
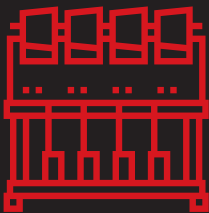
- Host – Steve Lister, Sustainability Consultant
- Anthony Rowell, Sales & Customer Success Director Sustainability Lead, Tradeprint
- Nick Widdowson, Director of Marketing Development, POPAI Retail
- Nathan Swinson-Bullough, Managing Director, Imageco Ltd

www.sduk.com

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CO-LOCATING WITH





Illumination

MAGNWALL illuminating the future of retail displays

In the dynamic world of retail, where visual appeal plays a pivotal role in attracting and engaging customers, MAGNWALL has emerged as a revolutionary innovation, transforming the way products are presented and showcased. With its innovative wireless connectivity and magnetic positioning, it allows you to place electrical accessories onto the face of a tension fabric system and power them wirelessly.

Speaking with Brad Robinson, Sales Administrator at Brownings Ltd, Brad tells us about the innovative MAGNWALL product. "MAGNWALL offers a seamless and versatile display solution that not only enhances product visibility but also the high-street shopping experience, fighting back against online shopping.

MAGNWALL is a German-based company that has pioneered a unique magnetic wall system designed specifically for retail and exhibition displays. This novel solution eliminates the need for screws, grids, or wires, allowing for a clutter-free and aesthetically pleasing presentation. MAGNWALL's products are engineered to the highest standards, ensuring durability and long-lasting performance."



MAGNWALL's magnetic system allows for effortless arrangement of product display

Brad continues, "Brownings Ltd is delighted to announce a new partnership with MAGNWALL, which will see them manufacture and distribute MAGNWALL to the UK market, seamlessly integrated into their ever-popular TexSign – Tension fabric system. In line with Brownings core principles, they will exclusively supply MAGNWALL to trade customers."



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

"MAGNWALL's comprehensive lighting solutions include illuminated shelves and spotlights, seamlessly integrated with the MAGNWALL system to enhance product presentation. The system's versatility allows for placement on walls, ceilings, and floors, enabling spotlights to accentuate products effectively. Placing MAGNWALL on the floor unlocks a treasure trove of additional products, including podiums and cylinders, available in both rotating and static designs. Podiums and cylinders add height and dimension to displays, creating product islands or highlighting specific items. Rotating or static displays introduce movement and interest, enhancing the interactive experience."

With this product being so new to the market, we wanted to know what makes MAGNWALL stand out from the competition, Brad says "MAGNWALL's magnetic system stands out from conventional display solutions in several key ways:

Versatility: MAGNWALL's magnetic system allows for the effortless arrangement and rearrangement of products and display elements. This flexibility enables retailers to adapt their displays to changing product lines and seasonal trends without the need for tools or specialized personnel.

MAGNWALL innovative lighting solution represents a shift in retail illumination with a magnetic wall system for seamless integration

Aesthetics: MAGNWALL's clean and unobtrusive design enhances the visual appeal of product displays, allowing the merchandise to take centre stage. The absence of visible screws, grids, or cables creates a clutter-free and sophisticated presentation.

Ease of Use: MAGNWALL's wireless system is incredibly easy to use, allowing even non-technical staff to quickly and easily set up and modify displays. This user-friendly design saves time and resources, enhancing operational efficiency.

Sustainability: MAGNWALL's innovative design aligns seamlessly with sustainability principles. Its integration into a tension fabric system allows for effortless transformations as promotions and seasons change. Simply replace the recyclable textile graphic and reposition



the versatile accessories to match the new theme. This commitment to reusability positions MAGNWALL as an eco-conscious choice for retailers and brands alike."

Wanting to know what businesses have benefitted from MAGNWALL's products, Brad tells us, "Numerous businesses across various industries have embraced MAGNWALL's innovative display solutions, reaping significant benefits. Breuninger, a leading German department store chain, has utilised MAGNWALL to transform its subway station advertising and sales spaces. Illuminated LED shelves for shoes, strategically placed spotlights, and ceiling lighting have created eye-catching displays that effectively capture the attention of passersby.

Horst Wanschura, a renowned fashion boutique in Stuttgart, Germany, has adopted MAGNWALL to enhance its product presentation. The flexibility of the MAGNWALL system enables the boutique to adapt its displays to the ever-changing fashion trends, keeping its product presentation fresh and engaging.

UNIQUE, a premium perfumery chain, has utilised MAGNWALL to create modern and sophisticated shop window displays that align with its brand identity. The magnetic system enables UNIQUE to seamlessly change its window displays to reflect new product launches and seasonal promotions."



Illuminating the retail industry with their magnetic wall system for seamless integration

Brad expands on how MAGNWALL aids the retail sector, "MAGNWALL's innovative lighting solutions represent a

shift in retail illumination. Unlike traditional lighting fixtures that are often bulky and cumbersome, MAGNWALL's products are designed to integrate seamlessly with the magnetic wall system, creating an aesthetically pleasing presentation.

Brad concludes with his vision of how the MAGNWALL product will shape displays in the retail sector for the future, "MAGNWALL is committed to continuous innovation, constantly exploring new technologies and design concepts to enhance its product offerings. The company is also actively engaged in research and development to integrate digital elements into its displays, creating interactive and engaging experiences for consumers.

MAGNWALL is at the forefront of retail display innovation, transforming the way products are presented and showcased. With its versatile magnetic system, innovative lighting solutions, and commitment to continuous improvement, MAGNWALL is poised to illuminate the future of retail displays for years to come."

www.browningsltd.co.uk



MAGNWALL

THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF SOFT SIGNAGE



Magnetic positioning



Wireless connectivity

MAGNWALL seamlessly merges with a tension fabric system, empowering users to attach electrical accessories directly onto the graphic's surface. These accessories feature the ingenious MAGNWALL connector, enabling wireless power connectivity. High-powered magnets ensure a secure placement of accessories, providing users with the freedom to effortlessly modify the display without the need for specialised personnel or tools. A wide array of accessories is readily available for customisation.

Magnwall.uk

Sales@Texsign.co.uk



Applelec put the spotlight on illumination solutions

Applelec is a trade manufacturing company renowned for the creation of fabricated signage and display systems along with groundbreaking illuminations solutions, including the award winning LED Light Sheet. Alongside in-house manufacturing, Applelec source and adapt innovative products to deliver imaginative project solutions and have manufactured signage, display and lighting for the world's leading brands and small local businesses alike.

Their team have the vision, knowledge and skill to fully understanding the intricacies of your project. Whilst their 6.5 acre West Yorkshire manufacturing facilities allows them to respond quickly to customers' needs without compromising on quality.

Speaking with Rachel Gould, PR & Marketing Manager, we asked her about the rise of sustainable lighting within the industry. Rachel tells us, "There has been an uncompromising shift in the demand for sustainable lighting solutions coming from big brands around the world."

With multiple benefits for the environment, energy consumption is seen as a benchmark indicator for how effective and sustainable an LED light solution is

Rachel continues, "2024 will see brands start to release information regarding the overall energy usage of their stores including concessions and so it is becoming increasingly important to be transparent about the energy usage of your signage, which will be under the microscope like never before. Those savvy amongst us will see this as an opportunity to be first to the table with solutions that anticipate this growing trend, which, if done right will give you an advantage on winning work with global brands."

Rachel elaborates with a case study of a retail store that has adopted the method of reducing its energy consumption. Rachel says, "Boots were early adopters, setting the electrical standards for display, through Design Conformity; specifying that they would only use Energy Rating: Grade C



Grade A LED Ribbon Tape, available in a variety of colour temperatures



LED Ribbon tape is reducing energy consumption for big and small business

LEDs or above within their schemes, with Next and M&S quickly following suite. This pushed, what was a focus on the trifecta of sustainable principles, which ensured designs considered how materials can be reduced, reused or recycled, to include a spotlight on energy consumption."

Interested to know how efficiency of an illuminated sign can be measured to demonstrate efficiency, Rachel tells us, "A lot of positive attributes must go into the design of illumination solutions to achieve lower energy consumption, which has multiple benefits for the environment. Energy consumption, therefore, is seen as a benchmark indicator of how effective

and, in turn, how sustainable a solution is. For example, using an LED with cheap components tends to require more modules/lengths to create the brightness needed for an effective illuminated sign. This drives up the energy consumption and in turn the LEDs tend to fail much sooner than a better-quality LED.

Lens technology is also key in throwing the illumination around the sign. Smaller beam angles mean more direct illumination; however, it means in bigger depths, considerably more modules would be required to ensure there is even illumination and no spotting. Consequently, this results in higher energy usage.

Lumens per watts (lm/w) is another useful indicator of energy efficiency of your LEDs with the higher the lm/w (ideally 100+), the more energy efficient the LEDs are.

These are all factors that build a picture of the overall efficiency of an illuminated sign and brands are looking for these indicators during the buying process, with transparency of energy consumption in mind. Making a conscious decision to choose more energy efficient illumination solutions and presenting this data in your quotes and sales pitches, will anticipate this need and stand you in good stead with your customers."

Lightening the load

As Rachel mentions, serious consideration has to be taken into account when considering cost-saving illuminations. We asked Rachel what Applelec were doing to stay ahead of the curve in this up and coming market. Rachel says, "With these trends in mind, Applelec have been working hard to be first to market with sustainable signage and illumination solutions, to help our trade customers be the first to offer these products to their customers."

Our recent launch of the UK industries first GRADE A, super high efficiency, LED Ribbon Tape (ONLY available through Applelec), was a pinnacle moment for us to be able to provide our customers with a product that goes above and beyond the demands that brands are currently specifying.

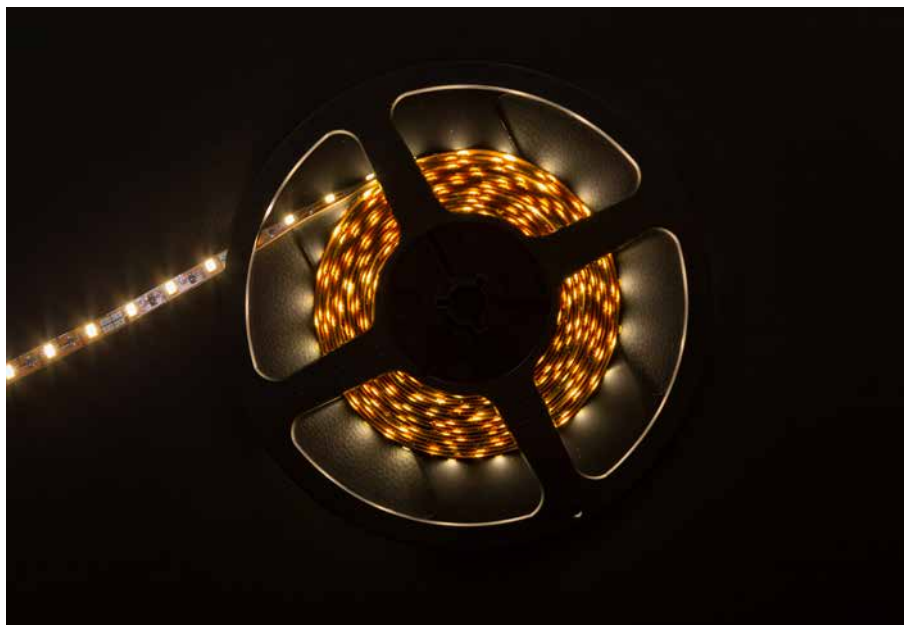
"Our 8mm LED ribbon tape, for example, provides a whopping 50% energy saving over its predecessors, whilst giving you a fantastic 20% increase in brightness. Available in a range of colour temperatures it uses as little as 2 Watts per meters and has an impressive efficiency of 227 lm/W."

So, what does this mean in monetary terms?

Whilst we talk about how energy efficiency and increases in the brightness of a sign, in the end, energy efficiency is ultimately measured by cost savings. We asked Rachel what, ultimately can someone save from switching to an LED sign. Rachel tells us, "We compared our Grade A ribbon tape against Grade B and a generic



End users could save up to £508 per year on running costs



Grade A LED Ribbon Tape available exclusively from Applelec

9.6w/m ribbon tape and the results were staggering!

Grade A was not only cheaper to buy, saving between 46% and 65% on system costs, they reduced CO2 emissions and increased efficiency up to 131% against the 2 competing options. This all contributed to save the end user up to £508 on running costs, over a 5-year period.

The facts really show that choosing the right LED is a win, win for businesses big and small. Being able to tell a small business, during a cost-of-living crisis, that your sign will save them over £500 in running costs, against standard illumination, really shows you have their best interests in mind. Then to be able to pitch solutions to big brands, who are demanding Grade C LEDs and transparency, that you can offer them Grade A LEDs, and its consumption data, really puts you ahead of the curve. What's more, Applelec plant a tree with every order of our sustainable products, on behalf of your customer, what more could you want!?"

Asking Rachel how customers can find out more about cost saving and LED solutions, Rachel says "Get in touch with the team

"If you had asked me in October 2021 when we first launched our Boots Spec, DC approved, Grade B LED's that 2 years later we would already be onto Grade A, I wouldn't have believed you! It's amazing how quick the advancements in sustainability are coming!!" Said Lauren Flint, Head of Applelec Supply

to find out more about our Grade A LEDs and our sustainable illuminations and signage products and increased efficiency up to 131% against the 2 competing options. This all contributed to save the end user up to £508 on running costs, over a 5-year period."

Rachel concluded by telling us, "People can also take advantage of our FREE LED sustainability training session, which will give you the tools and confidence to choose the best solution for your project, as well as pitch the benefits to your customers."

www.applelec.co.uk



Illumination

Spectron's LuminLinear Twilight lights up the way toward a greener future

Spectron LED Ltd is a supplier of commercial grade LED lighting components, illuminated built up letters, logos, trough lights and neon signs. Established in 2010 by a sign maker with over 40 years industry experience, Spectron LED has positioned itself as a market leading innovator of LED sign lighting and trough lights within the UK.

Spectron saw the potential to create bold, unique signage and display solutions soar with the rapid development of LEDs in the early 2000s; and with LED technology lasting longer than ever and being extremely energy efficient, a decision was made to combine this knowledge of sign making and love of inventing with a new found passion for LED technology.

Today, Spectron LED stocks a wide range of high quality lighting components which have been developed and tested by us. The majority of these products have been specifically selected for use within the sign making industry, though can be and often are used in other industries such as interior design, architecture and exhibitions.

Speaking with Ivan, Managing Director, at Spectron, he tells us "With commitment to innovation and sustainability Spectron has developed cutting-edge products that not only redefine industry standards but also contribute to a greener and more efficient future."

Lumenlinear Twilight LED Trough Light

Speaking with Ivan about new products in their range, he tells us about the new addition to the trough light range. "After years of dedicated research and development, Spectron has added the revolutionary Lumenlinear Twilight to their LED Trough Light collection. This innovative design eliminates the need for rugged projection fixing bars that have been a staple for nearly half a century. The Twilight is available as a modular system, offering three sizes (977mm, 655mm, and 335mm) to cater to diverse signage requiring consistent light coverage over large depth, suitable for general signage, billboards or exhibition walls."

Ivan elaborates on the key features of the Lumenlinear Twilight that makes it stand out. "Our modular system comes with three



The innovative design eliminates the need for rugged projection fixing bars and contributes toward a greener and more efficient future

size options, with waterproof connectors integrated into each individual length, which is a necessity for any external lighting system."

Ivan continues, "With each choice of size, we have ingenious fixing methods for ease of installation. Easy customization through vinyl wrapping, eliminates the need for energy-intensive powder coating and a single driver for up to 10m length, reduces the need for multiple drivers. All of this, along with a sustainable design, bespoke and minimised packaging reduces the cost for transportation."

Asking Ivan where has the Lumenlinear Twilight received the most attention, Ivan replies, "Designed for simplicity and sophistication, the Twilight LED Trough Light has already gained popularity in exhibition stands, redefining the landscape of sign illumination."

Upgraded LED Curtain

When we ask what was the driving force to develop this new addition to their range, Ivan says, "Building upon the success of our bestseller, the LED Curtain, Spectron has enhanced the design to reduce manufacturing costs and streamline installation. Produced almost entirely using automation machines, the Curtain now

Suitable for general signage, billboards or exhibition walls, there are several key features which save on cost and increase sustainability

features extra LED diodes to provide an even spread of light for light boxes starting from 5cm. This improvement promises to reduce installation time by over 50%."

Expanding on the key upgrades from their earlier products, Ivan tells us "There is now increased automation in manufacturing for cost efficiency. We have included additional LED diodes for an even spread of light, with each bar being cuttable to every two LED diodes. The cables are also soldered on both ends for easy installation and to avoid any need of soldering. All of this makes the Lumenlinear Twilight suitable for both internal and external light boxes."

Ivan concludes, "As a special offer, Spectron's LED Curtain is currently available at a promotional price, providing an excellent opportunity for you to experience the enhanced efficiency and performance first hand."

www.ledsignsandlighting.co.uk

Perspex Distribution celebrate 20 years of industry leading service

Perspex Distribution is proud to celebrate a significant milestone in its history - 20 years of industry-leading service and innovation. Perspex Distribution opened its first branch in Chelmsford, Essex, in October 2003, since then it has successfully expanded its product range and branch locations, successfully catering to a diverse range of UK industries, from signage and print, to construction and precision fabrication.

This landmark celebrates two decades of unwavering commitment to quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction.

Gaining new customers through a strong reputation for excellent customer service, Perspex Distribution quickly expanded to 3 branches by 2005 offering distribution across large parts of the UK. In subsequent years, 2 further branches have been added to the group, the latest being Perspex Distributions largest branch opening in Leeds in 2016.

A network of 5 branches now covering the majority of the UK has supported the company's impressive growth through expanding into new markets such as wide format print and lighting with a focus on diversifying the material range.

"It's a momentous occasion for our company to reach this 20-year milestone. We owe our success to our dedicated colleagues, loyal customers and industry partners."

Over the years, Perspex Distribution has earned a reputation for excellence in the following areas:

UK Manufactured Products

As the UK's exclusive distributor of Perspex® acrylic, the company name is synonymous with one of the industry's most recognisable UK brands. That said, as their product range has grown, so has their focus on UK manufactured materials; so much so that they can now boast over 80% of their material range is produced in the UK.



With a reputation for excellence, Perspex now look to a sustainable future

Customer Service

The company's success is rooted in its dedication to providing exceptional customer service, industry leading knowledge and a specialist product basket that ensures a focused understanding of what is being sold. Expertise extends across all its branches with each location boasting staff who have been ever present since each branch opened, as well as key local support from their UK manufacturing partners.

to reach this 20-year milestone. We owe our success to our dedicated colleagues, loyal customers, and industry partners. We are deeply grateful for their unwavering support, which has fuelled our growth and innovation.

I'm particularly grateful to those, like myself, who have been with the company since day one and hope this is testament to the positive and successful environment we have established at Perspex Distribution.

Sustainability

The range of sustainable materials has developed over 20 years as Perspex Distribution continues their journey to offering recycled material options across their range. As they look ahead to the next 20 years they maintain their focus on growing this range as they work closely with their manufacturing partners and the wider industry to create a greener, safer world.

Commenting on this significant anniversary, Craig Dodson, MD of Perspex Distribution, stated, "It's a momentous occasion for our company

We are excited about the future and confident Perspex Distribution will continue to strengthen its position and presence within the UK market."

www.perspex.co.uk



ArtSystems gain valuable insight during Vanguard Europe HQ visit

ArtSystems, the Nottingham-based specialist systems distributor and services provider, and a number of its Vanguard Europe reseller partners recently visited Vanguard Europe's headquarters in Brixen, Italy, to gain insight into its latest technologies and developments.

Earlier this year, ArtSystems secured a deal to lead the distribution of Vanguard Europe products across the UK and Ireland and appointed a number of resellers to support the new partnership. Following this appointment, staff from ArtSystems and reseller partners Diatec, NDi, Pyramid Display Materials and SEDO made the trip over to Italy between 17-19 October.

Artsystems serves the design, graphics, sign & display markets with imaging and printing hardware, material and consumable solutions

Vanguard Europe is based at Durst Group's specialist 'Kraftwerk' facility that opened in September 2022. The site is also home to the Durst Academy, one of the largest print training centres in Europe.

The three-day visit included product demonstrations, training, and access to the manufacturing facilities. Among the highlights for those in attendance was a live demonstration of the new VK3220T-HS printer, which was launched at the 2023 FESPA Global Print Expo and offers many of the stand-out industrial design features of other Durst printers.

ArtSystems and its reseller partners will shortly be running a series of special promotions to showcase the benefits of Vanguard Europe solutions to customers in the UK and Ireland. More details will be announced in due course.

"Our partners were able to see the amazing resources that are behind the Vanguard brand, giving them an insight into the depth of innovation and excellence



ArtSystems was joined by Diatec, NDi, Pyramid Display Materials and SEDO on the three-day visit.

that Vanguard Europe benefits from as part of the Durst Group," ArtSystems' Head of Sales Caroline Savage said.

"The partners also got a great deal of information and a comprehensive understanding of the whole philosophy of Vanguard Europe, which will help them to provide their customers with targeted solutions and exclusive offers."

www.artsystems.co.uk

IPIA heartened by investment in UK manufacturing's future

The business and manufacturing support policies announced in the Autumn Statement by the Chancellor are welcomed by the IPIA. They should collectively work to relieve a degree of economic pressure and stimulate investment for the print and paper industries.

Chairman of the IPIA, Charles Rogers comments: "In particular, we are very heartened to see the confirmed announcement of £11bn investment per year in UK manufacturing - through making the 'Full Expensing' scheme permanent. This means that print industry businesses and the supply chain that invest in the UK will reduce their tax by up to 25p for every £1 they spend on plant and machinery.

"The IPIA has focused on advocacy for the extension and expansion of this specific policy since April 2023 - across multiple tiers of Government - and we are very hopeful this will strengthen market confidence and stimulate long-term sector growth."

The IPIA also identified the following policy announcements as being

potentially beneficial for the UK print and paper industries. Each it is hoped will contribute to strengthening the hand of UK manufacturing, and are inline with the calls from the IPIA for such stimulus policies:

- The £4.5bn investment in advanced manufacturing and green energy in the form of subsidies and grants.
- New simplified research and development tax relief - combining the existing expenditure, credit and assembly schemes and a cut in tax by 6 percent for firms that make losses following research and development expenditure.
- £50m in funding to increase support for business taking on apprentices - particularly in an engineering capacity.
- One year extension to the existing 75 percent business rates relief for retail, hospitality and leisure (This will support a key breadbasket print buying sector and hopefully work to uncork marketing investment).
- A freeze on the small business multiplier for business rates.
- A two percent cut to national insurance.



Charles Rogers stands in front of no. 10 Downing Street after talks with government officials

Charles concludes: "Our work to advocate on behalf of the UK print and paper industries will continue. We urge any sector businesses that wish to provide feedback on trading conditions or the impact of Government policies to do so. This information is kept confidential and is passed directly to The Government Department for Business and Trade."

www.ipia.org.uk

Datateam acquires Sign Update Ltd and Image Reports Magazines

Datateam Business Media Limited, owner of Sign & Digital UK, is delighted to announce the acquisition of both Sign Update Limited and Image Reports Magazine, the acquisitions include all related digital products and websites.

The existing teams on Image Reports & Sign Update will transfer to Datateam enabling business to continue unaffected.

Parvez Kayani, Director of Datateam, commented: "Sign Update and Image Reports are respected brands in the visual communications sector and will, along with Sign & Digital UK, allow Datateam to provide complete market access for manufacturers & suppliers. Whether it is in print, in person or online we now have the tools to market, to display and to help sell our advertisers and exhibitors products & services."

Wayne Darroch of SJP Media Limited commented: "We are delighted to pass on the mantle of Image Reports to Datateam Business Media who have bold ambitions in the large format print space, demonstrated in their recent acquisition of Sign UK. Together they will form an excellent partnership and I'm excited to see their development and progress over the coming months".

Martin Hinchliffe of Sign Update Limited commented: "Sign Update was established in 1990 by my father Roger and I took over in 2008. Over that time I've seen big



The acquisition, following the purchase of Sign & Digital UK, allows Datateam to provide complete market access for manufacturers and suppliers

changes in the technology involved in putting the magazine together, the website and social media. I really liked the idea of running Sign & Digital UK and Printware & Promotion exhibitions alongside each other as there is such an overlap between the markets. I was really looking forward to attending the exhibition as an exhibitor with the increased visitors that are likely.

When Datateam approached me regarding me selling the magazine, I thought that Sign Update would be a really good fit for Datateam. I know they have many publications and exhibitions to their name, so I believe they are more than capable of taking Sign Update to the next level."

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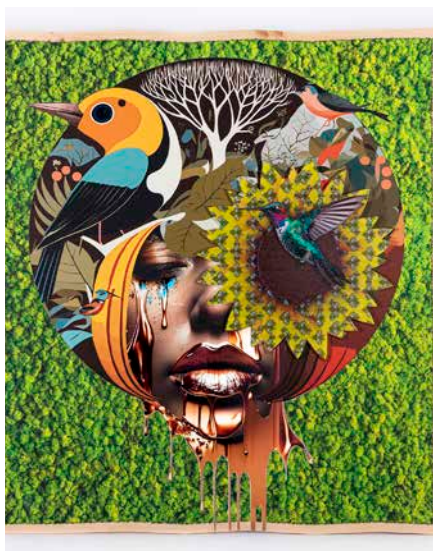
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swissQprint creative challenge winners

swissQprint organised a worldwide competition within the swissQprint user community in spring 2023. Customers from all five continents took up the challenge and submitted 60 works.

Judging was done by an internal swissQprint jury and two external experts: together they were looking for originality, while also including process and print-related considerations. The public, too, had three weeks in which to cast their votes online. Now the winners are known:



1st place:

Haas Werbetchnik of Austria with "Symphony of creation", a unique composition of highly varied materials and printing techniques: metallic effects, droptix, white, UV varnish and 3D relief printing. Having already won the previous swissQprint Creative Challenge in 2019, Haas Werbetchnik successfully defended its pole position.

For the third time, swissQprint invited all users around the globe to join the Creative Challenge.



2nd place:

CMP Ensigne of France with "Woodstar", a truly spectacular work of art. Transparent areas, droptix and lenticular printing, relief and metallic effects, plus clever use of varnish together create a stunning display.



3rd place:

Gcolor Company Ltd. of Taiwan with "Alice Immersiveland". Lenticular printing is the secret to fairytale-like transformation of the image; additional printed relief completes the magic.



4th place:

Signaletik Diffusion of France with «Le couteau swissQprint», a detailed replica of a Swiss Army knife, ornamented with relief elements. Various designs impart a distinctive look to each one of the tools.



5th place:

Take Corporation of Japan with "Funny Moving Poster", a test piece for an engaging shop window display. Rotating patterns draw attention to the product.

The winners

A delegation from Haas Werbetchnik will be travelling to swissQprint's factory in Kriessern, Switzerland. Second to fifth placed winners are being rewarded with generous prizes.

This is the third time swissQprint has held the competition: first in 2016, then in 2019 and now this year. Adriano Gut, Key Account Manager at swissQprint, says about the Challenge: "Again, we marvelled at our customers' ingenuity, creativity and skill; they make the seemingly impossible happen." A gallery displaying all the works is now live.

www.swissqprint.com

JBF Digital's success with Graphtec GB WidLaser C1000

JBF Digital Limited is a dynamic, multi-service sign, print and graphics company, that takes pride in providing a comprehensive range of solutions to meet diverse business needs. With a core focus on retail, hoardings, shop fronts, direct-to-media and more, their journey has been one of evolution and growth. Their commitment to innovation and quality shines through their use of cutting-edge technology, specifically the Graphtec GB WidLaser C1000 which they purchased through the Graphtec GB reseller Perfect Colours. This case study delves into the journey of JBF Digital Limited and how their integration of the WidLaser has elevated their ability to provide top-tier services.

JBF Digital Limited excels in several core market sectors. These include shop front graphics, high-end hoardings and top-quality graphics for big retailers and shops. Their expertise also extends to direct-to-media prints.



Primarily using a laser cutter has enhanced JBF's precision and customisation capabilities

JBF Digital's association with Graphtec GB has transformed their business. It has enabled them to provide more comprehensive and diverse solutions to their clients, enhancing their capabilities and offerings. Their decision to partner with Graphtec GB as their preferred machine supplier came through a reseller's recommendation. This showcases

the power of word-of-mouth and the trust established in the industry. "What sets the WidLaser apart isn't just the machine itself; it's the exceptional support and knowledge provided by the Graphtec team. The partnership goes beyond the product," explained Joe Field (owner).

JBF Digital primarily uses the laser for cutting acrylic into shapes and letters for office and shop wall installations. This has significantly enhanced their precision and customisation capabilities, allowing them to offer unique solutions to their clients. The addition of the laser has opened new revenue streams, particularly in signage for offices, shops and retailers. JBF Digital can now offer end-to-end solutions. They are now able to offer fast paced precision cutting and engraving on multiple substrates as large as 1600x1000mm.

WidLaser C1000 CO2 Laser Cutting, Engraving & Marking System is a customisable and user friendly laser cutting machine from WidInnovations.

Like any technological integration, JBF Digital faced initial challenges, particularly in determining the correct speed and power settings for the perfect cut. However, their collaboration with Ellen Wain (product specialist) and her team at Graphtec GB helped them overcome these hurdles, resulting in optimal performance. "The WidLaser has proven to be intuitive and user-friendly. As with many tools, the more we use it, the easier it becomes to operate, making it an essential asset for our business," said Joe Field

The C1000 uses a 120w CO2 laser tube to cut and engrave a diverse number of materials. WidInnovations employ their Clean Protect design to protect users from dust and smoke via its built-in extraction system and sealed construction. WID's high-quality build features allow the C1000 to achieve cutting speeds of up to 3 times the industry standard.

The WidLaser C1000 is designed to effectively respond to the demanding needs of the laser engraving and cutting



WidLaser C1000 provides more comprehensive and diverse solutions to JBF Digital's client base

market. WidInnovations have developed a compact, fast, robust, reliable and technologically advanced range of laser cutting & engraving equipment to cater for the diverse needs of all users.

The compact dual-chassis design allows you to have all of the necessary elements to properly function with the equipment in a single volume. Wid's Clean Protect design, with special dust-proof and smoke-proof linear modules, allows for speeds and accelerations up to 3 times higher than conventional equipment. This way, Wid can ensure that the C1000 is always operational.

The introduction of the laser has unlocked new revenue streams, particularly in signage for offices, shops and retailers. Now, JBF Digital can offer comprehensive solutions from design to installation. The company is actively exploring international opportunities, including discussions with a major machine manufacturer for signage projects. JBF Digital constantly seeks ways to expand in all areas of their business. They see Graphtec as a vital partner in this journey, especially in integrating new machines.

What truly sets JBF Digital apart is their unwavering commitment to delivering quality, quick turnaround times and a personal touch. They care deeply about their clients and maintain a high level of service quality. JBF Digital Limited's journey serves as a testament to the power of innovation, strong partnerships and unwavering commitment to client satisfaction. Their adaptability and constant drive for excellence position them as leaders in the multi-service industry.

www.graphtecgb.co.uk

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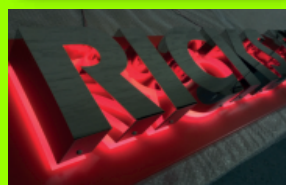


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10 Crystal Drive, Sandwell Business Park, Smethwick B66 1QG
Tel: 0121 556 9900
enquiry@indasol.co.uk
www.indasol.co.uk
SIGNBLOCK is lightweight, hard wearing yet durable material and can be shaped on a CNC router to almost any 3D shape. It can be finished to look like a much heavier or detailed product. For example you can create a 3D image of an iron girder that can be installed by one person. You can also illuminate it once cut as you would a built up letter. For a free sample, email us or visit the website.

LEMON SIGNS LTD

Unit 1 Colemans Yard, Alfreton Road
Derby, DE21 4AL

Tel: 01332 987 617

info@lemonsins.com

www.lemonsins.com

We are a trade supplier of 3D letters, logos, crests & stage props using alternative materials such as XPS Foam & Signblock which is a more cost effective way of creating a 3D effect than traditional acrylic or metal. We can produce almost any shape in numerous finishes, giving the appearance of other materials such as wood, steel or plastic but without the associated limitations.

BUILT UP LETTERS METAL

AES SIGNS LTD (EST. 1972)

The Old Laundry, 15 Barratt Street,
Easton, Bristol BS5 6DE

Tel: 0117 951 0234

sales@aessigns.co.uk

www.aessigns.co.uk

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

APPLELEC

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

Tel: 01274 774477

sales@applelec.co.uk

www.applelec.co.uk

Trusted TRADE suppliers of hand crafted; quality 3D built up metal letters & logos. Lettering starts at just 50mm high in materials such as stainless steel, brass, copper, titanium & aluminium. Finishes include satin, polished or brushed & RAL or British Standard (BS) paint processes. Also available with halo & face lit illumination from our award winning & cost-effective LED range.

FABRICUT

Unit 2 Browells Lane, Feltham,
Middlesex, TW13 7EQ

Tel: 020 8751 7250

mailus@fabricut.co.uk

www.fabricut.co.uk

Offering a trade service for 3D built up lettering and logos with or without LEDs for face or halo illumination. Various styles and finishes available including powder coated, wet sprayed, rimless, rim & return, fairground, aged/ rusted and sand blasted. We're known for our high quality and attention to detail; email your enquiries to receive a prompt quotation or call us to discuss your project.

ICE SIGNS

28 Knowsthorpe Gate, Leeds LS9
0NP

Tel: 01132 242 124

sales@icesigns.co.uk

www.icesigns.co.uk

Manufacturers of high quality built up metal letters, illuminated and non-illuminated, with or without fabricated trays. Aluminium, stainless steel, Rimex coloured stainless steel, powder coat and wet sprayed finishes to RAL and Pantone references.

SIGN HERE

179 Fosse Road North, Leicester,
LE3 5EZ

Tel: 0116 225 9977

sales@sign-here.co.uk

www.sign-here.co.uk

Trade service for 3D built up lettering & logos in a variety of materials. We will give you a professional reliable & efficient service at a competitive price. From a single letter to a fully illuminated sign ready for installation. For a quote or just friendly advice contact us. We are here to help.

SMITH TRADE SIGNAGE

Grove Works, Barnard Castle, Co
Durham, DL12 8JG

Tel: 01833 694700

info@smith-signdisplay.co.uk

www.smith-signdisplay.co.uk

Part of William Smith Group 1832, we are a leading trade-only fabricator of commercial signage products including Built-Up Letters. With over 200 years industry experience we are able to assist with all project types including Face Illuminated Letters, Halo illuminated, Rim and Return, and standard Non-Illuminated Letters.

WATERJET SIGNS LTD

Continental Approach, Westwood
Industrial Estate, Ramsgate Road,
Margate, Kent CT9 4JG

Tel: 01843 225666

waterjetsigns@btconnect.com

www.waterjetsigns.co.uk

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

CABLE DISPLAY SYSTEMS

ISPI TRADE LTD

Unit 3.3 Strathclyde Business Park,
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Tel: 0141 764 1600

sales@ispitrade.com

www.ispitrade.com

Cable display systems are simple yet highly flexible. Available in high quality solid brass with a polished chrome finish or satin finish aluminium. Cable systems can be used for modern retail shelving, displaying signage and LED window displays which are highly effective for shop fronts. We supply all parts individually or as simple to use complete kits. Need help? Use our new online chat.

CAST SIGNS

FALON NAMEPLATES LTD

10-13 Stephenson Court, Barrington
Industrial Estate, Bedlington,
Northumberland NE22 7DN

Tel: 01670 530136

quotes@falon-nameplates.co.uk

www.falon-nameplates.co.uk

Falon Nameplates are a family run business, we have been in the manufacturing business since 1952 and are the largest cast signage company within the UK. We specialize in many areas, these are some we think you would be the most interested in: Finger Poles, Memorial Plaques, Town Trails, Blue Plaques, House signs, Pet memorials and Trophies. We hope we can help with all your casting needs.

PHOTOCAST PRODUCTS LTD

78 Venture Point West, Even Road,
Liverpool, L24 9PB

Tel: 0151 4862 821

kim@photocast.co.uk

www.photocast.co.uk

Photocast Products Ltd is a Liverpool based designer and specialist manufacturer of etched zinc and cast bronze interpretive, decorative, architectural plaques and signage for both internal and external usages, alongside aluminium, bronze and zinc memorial plaques that can include photographs, clip arts and motifs as well as personalised messages and wording.

WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton
Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE

Tel: 0117 955 3385

info@ward-signs.co.uk

www.ward-signs.co.uk

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

CHEMICAL ETCHING

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Tel: 0117 951 0234

sales@aessigns.co.uk

www.aessigns.co.uk

The complete sign service. Engraved/etched screen printed, signs, nameplates, etc in all materials. Very competitive prices, excellent delivery, highest quality. Full design service. Prompt response to all enquiries.

BRUNEL ENGRAVING COMPANY

Britannia Way, Clevedon, North
Somerset, BS21 6QH

Tel: 01275 871720

info@brunelengraving.co.uk

www.brunelengraving.co.uk

Brunel Engraving Company Ltd are pioneering specialists in chemical etching. We can produce chemically etched brass or S/Steel plaques, asset and serial plates, as well as QR / Barcode Labels with no MOQ. Quick response to enquiries with a high quality, fast & efficient service!

DARTFORD ENGRAVING & SCREENPRINTING LTD

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Estate, Slade green Road, Erith, Kent
DA8 2HY

Tel: 01322 340 194

mail@desp.co.uk

www.desp.co.uk

DESP has been trading for over 60 years. Chemical Etching, Screen Printing, CNC engraving, Laser Engraving, Heavy Duty Machine engraving (ALL CARRIED OUT INHOUSE), including artwork. So whether its a 1 off or 1,000s off, we can offer a quick competitive turnaround.

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Mob: 07957 870 756

andy@impactengraving.co.uk

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REAL Trade prices for chemical etching, brass and stainless steel a speciality. ULTRA FAST DELIVERY

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Tel: 01603 66 66 99

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Manufacturers of all types of plates or plaques, chemically etched (large format) or machine engraved using a variety of materials, brass, stainless steel, aluminium, copper and bronze. For high quality and intricate detail with colour infills to your choice.

MULTITECHNIC LTD (EST. 1972)

Coopies Lane, Morpeth,
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Tel: 01670 512 090

sales@multitechnic.co.uk

www.multitechnic.co.uk

We are established specialists in chemical etching. WE ARE THE ONLY TRADE ONLY SIGN ETCHING SPECIALISTS IN THE UK. We can offer effects that nobody else can do such as complex blended colours. All our stainless steel is 316 marine grade, we don't use inferior grades & our brass is the best too. We want your business so will give you a fast turnaround & excellent service.

PHOTOCAST PRODUCTS LTD

78 Venture Point West, Even Road,
Liverpool, L24 9PB

Tel: 0151 4862 821

kim@photocast.co.uk

www.photocast.co.uk

Photocast Products Ltd is a Liverpool based designer and specialist manufacturer of etched zinc and cast bronze interpretive, decorative, architectural plaques and signage for both internal and external usages, alongside aluminium, bronze and zinc memorial plaques that can include photographs, clip arts and motifs as well as personalised messages and wording.

TRADE ETCHING DIRECT LTD

Unit M Edison Courtyard, Brunel
Road, Earlstrees Ind Estate, Corby
NN17 4LS

Tel: 01536 203813

sales@tradeetching.com

www.tradeetching.com

Trade Etching Direct Ltd is a well-established chemical etching company specialising in high quality etched signage. Our work is 100% guaranteed. Our etching machines are specially designed for deep etching. We can offer gradient fills, a range of patina finishes and hand filled complex multi colours, on a wide range of metals. We can produce etched signs up to 4m x 2m in size.

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ATC LTD

Unit 3C Buckley Road Industrial
Estate, 2 Buckley Road, Rochdale
OL12 9EF

Tel: 01706 633 043

sales@apptape.co.uk

www.apptape.co.uk

We supply Chapter 8 chevron kits for the rear of numerous vehicles using the best quality products while offering the most competitive prices. All our kits are fully flooded using air release fluorescent yellow making fitting so much easier. Please contact us for a quotation on the above.

SMITH TRADE SIGNAGE

Grove Works, Barnard Castle, Co
Durham, DL12 8JG

Tel: 01833 694700

info@smith-signdisplay.co.uk

www.smith-signdisplay.co.uk

Part of William Smith Group 1832, we are a leading trade-only manufacturer Chapter 8 Chevron Kits. Our extensive portfolio of templates covers all popular commercial vehicle types, with kits supplied 'ready to apply' straight out of the box. All orders are available with same day despatch if ordered before 12pm.

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sales@signtrade.co.uk

www.signtrade.co.uk

ChromaForm; the NEW generation of Chrome effect letters. We now offer a complete range of ChromaForm Letters for a 7 day turnaround not available anywhere else. We can also supply and fit LED lights to the ChromaForm range of letters for an even better effect. Ring Susan or Lesley for details and samples.

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ATA ENGINEERING PRODUCTS LTD

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Tel: 01442 264411

sales@ataeng.com

www.ataeng.com

The Atacama range of CNC routers and Lasers offers a wide variety of options from 3 axis machines and 4 axis Routers and Metal and Non Metal Cutting CNC Lasers.

COAT OF ARMS

WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton
Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE

Tel: 0117 955 3385

info@ward-signs.co.uk

www.ward-signs.co.uk

Wards of Bristol Specialise in manufacture, restoration and accurate reproduction of historic and modern coats of arms. We are able to produce from originals, information from heraldic associations, or even from a photograph. Check our website for recent projects.

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

BRUNEL ENGRAVING COMPANY

Britannia Way, Clevedon, North
Somerset, BS21 6QH

Tel: 01275 871720

info@brunelengraving.co.uk

www.brunelengraving.co.uk

As one of the largest specialist engravers in the UK. We pride ourselves on service, attention to detail and the quality of our products. Our skilled team have extensive experience creating engraved plaques from a range of materials from aluminium, brass & stainless steel to stone effect Corian for all occasions, purposes and budgets! Prompt response to enquiries & quick production times.

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sales@mercuryphillips.co.uk

www.mercuryphillipssigns.co.uk

Manufacturers of plaques in stainless steel, brass and aluminium, chemically or machine engraved, colour filled to your choice. Logos and text from artwork supplied.

PHOTOCAST PRODUCTS LTD

78 Venture Point West, Even Road,
Liverpool, L24 9PB

Tel: 0151 4862 821

kim@photocast.co.uk

www.photocast.co.uk

Photocast Products Ltd is a Liverpool based designer and specialist manufacturer of etched zinc and cast bronze interpretive, decorative, architectural plaques and signage for both internal and external usages, alongside aluminium, bronze and zinc memorial plaques that can include photographs, clip arts and motifs as well as personalised messages and wording.

WARD SIGNS

Maze House, Maze Street, Barton
Hill, Bristol BS5 9TE

Tel: 0117 955 3385

info@ward-signs.co.uk

www.ward-signs.co.uk

Wards of Bristol have produced countless cast metal commemorative blue plaques, but also specialise in traditional bronze plaques and custom 3D hand crafted plaques, which are hand painted to depict scenes of historical events, places and figures.

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Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park,
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Tel: 01274 774477

sales@applelec.co.uk

www.applelec.co.uk

Trusted TRADE suppliers of flat cut letters, logos and intricate laser work. Cut rapidly in-house on one of four CNC routers to ensure competitive pricing is offered on these sign industry essentials. Available in a variety of materials such as acrylic, foamex, dibond, stainless steel, aluminium and MDF in different finishes, with or without fixings. Talk to our experienced team today.

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Tel: 01603 666699

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

SIGN HERE

179 Fosse Road North, Leicester,
LE3 5EZ

Tel: 0116 225 9977

sales@sign-here.co.uk

www.sign-here.co.uk

Trade service for flat cut lettering & logos in Acrylic Foamex, Dibond, Aluminum, Stainless steel & MDF. We will give you a professional reliable & efficient service at a competitive price. From a single letter to a fully illuminated sign ready for installation. For a quote or just friendly advice contact us. We are here to help.

SIGNTRADE LETTERS LTD

225 Long Lane, London N3 2RL

Tel: 08085 456700

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www.signtrade.co.uk

Plastic is our speciality including Flat Cut lettering in Perspex, foam pvc and aluminium composite. All supplied with locators and template as standard.

We also offer a complete range of Moulded letters in Perspex and ChromaForm, offering over 60 years experience.

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Continental Approach, Westwood

Industrial Estate, Ramsgate Road,

Margate, Kent CT9 4JG

Tel: 01843 225666

www.waterjetsigns.co.uk

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

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CUTTINGMATS XXL

Tel: 020 3936 1106

info@cuttingmatsxxl.com

www.cuttingmatsxxl.co.uk

CuttingmatsXXL specialises in transparent and flexible cutting mats to protect your work table. Nr1 table protection for all signage companies. Your blade will cut smoothly through your foil and with the 'self-healing' characteristic the surface will stay smooth. Our mats are also widely used on top of all brands of flatbed applicators like RollsRoller, Roll-X, Lamidesk, CWT and Rollover.

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sales@rhinocuttingmat.co.uk

www.rhinocuttingmat.co.uk

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DIGITAL POSTERS

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Tel: 01932 769 962

hello@screenspace.live

www.screenspace.live

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

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Custom signs online. Design your own signs, banners, roll ups, stickers, name badges and much more using the Design Tool. Engraved and printed products of high quality. Top service.

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UK&I Trade imaging and print distributor for Epson, HP, Kala, Neschen, Onyx, ShiL and Xativa media. UK's leading print and imaging distributor in the Sign & Display sector. Exclusive UK&I distributor of HP Latex and HP Stitch printers. We are also the exclusive distributor for Summa cutters and ONYX Rips and provide the Authorised warranty service for HP Latex, HP Stitch and Summa Cutters.

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Josero offer a complete portfolio of products from machinery, inks, software solutions and spare parts for wide format and super wide printers as well as technical support, distribution and service contracts. Josero is an authorised partner for Agfa, Mimaki and Ricoh large format printers along with exclusivity for Triangle inks, the Bubblefree applicator tables and Comagrav Digi cutting tables.

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www.mactacgraphics.eu

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

DIGITAL SIGNAGE

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

DOMES & DISHES

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Unit 7 Grange Way Business

Park, Whitehill Industrial Estate,

Colchester, Essex CO2 8HF

Tel: 01206 868 696

sales@projectplastics.co.uk

www.projectplastics.co.uk

Manufacturing and stocking clear acrylic domes and dishes in over 30 sizes and all produced on site at our factory in Colchester. We also stock over 170 different size blowing rings for other shapes and weird and wonderful diameters. Pans, dishes, squares, oblong and ovals are our speciality.

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With 70 years of making Domes & Dishes, our Teedy Domes have set the standard. With our vast range of tooling we can make almost any size – so just ask. We are now the first to offer unbreakable Polycarbonate Domes.

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Slit from master rolls, the INDASOL range of specialist Sign Making Tapes can be made to your requirements. Offering the highest performance in long term and structural bonding. Whether it's a general purpose tape for a light weight internal sign, a double sided foam for something a little more involved or a structural bond for channel fixing, we have a product to meet your needs.

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Sign Trade Supplies has a wide range of double sided tapes and adhesives designed specifically for the sign making industry. The Stykra branded products provide unrivalled performance at an excellent price point. Our range of tapes include Structural bonding tapes, Toffee Tape, Banner Hemming Tape, Single Sided Banner Tape, 1mm Foam Tape, POS tape, Hook & Loop Tape and many more.

ENGRAVING

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The complete sign service Engraved
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Established in 1989, Brunel Engraving
Company Ltd are a Bristol based
specialist engraving business
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We have a highly skilled workforce
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We manufacture and engrave
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Manufacturers of all types of plates
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of materials, brass, stainless steel,
aluminium, plastics and wood. For
high quality and intricate detail with
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APPLELEC

Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park,
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Trusted TRADE suppliers of flat cut
letters, logos and intricate laser work.
Cut rapidly in-house on one of four
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FABRICUT

Unit 2 Browells Lane, Feltham,
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mailus@fabricut.co.uk
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Offering a trade service for flat
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materials such as acrylic, PVC Foam,
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composite and MDF. Custom finishes
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be supplied with fixings of your choice
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Trade service for flat cut lettering
& logos in Acrylic Foamex, Dibond,
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Specialise in manufacturing signs
to the trade with over 40 years'
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3D Built up letters, Flat cut letters,
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enquiry@indasol.co.uk

www.indasol.co.uk

INDASOL offer the complete range of SNAP FIX and SIMPLE FIX locators to compliment our extensive range of Sign Makers Tapes, Adhesives and other products. Available from stock on a next working day delivery, we also offer our Locator Bonding adhesives that are not only compatible with these locators, but also offer low read through on sensitive substrates such as mirrored acrylic, ACM etc.

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIES LTD

Unit D5 Bonham Drive, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3RY

Tel: 01622 689 410

www.signtradesupplies.co.uk

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

SIGN SUPPORT SYSTEMS

ISPI TRADE LTD

Unit 3.3 Strathclyde Business Park, 19 Starling Way, Bellshill ML4 3PU

Tel: 0141 764 1600

sales@ispitrade.com

www.ispitrade.com

I-SPI Trade supplier of sign support systems. Our range includes wall mounts, cable & rod display systems, screw covers, LED lighting and much more all at THE REAL TRADE PRICE. Massive stocks and next day delivery. See our products on our web site or give Stephen or Sean a call for a brochure.

SIGN SURVEYOR

PB WILLIAMS SIGN SURVEYOR

48 Durley Rd, Aintree L9 9AW

Tel: 07885 486 182

We specialise in sign surveying to the trade, with over 35 years of experience as a sign fitter/manufacturer. I was contracted to large companies in the north west, and country wide. I am based in Merseyside and have PASMA, IPAF/PAL & CSCS qualifications and will travel UK and Europe. For further details please contact the above number or email.

SIGN TRADE SUPPLIERS

APPLELEC

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

Tel: 01274 774477

sales@applelec.co.uk

www.applelec.co.uk

As confidential signage TRADE only suppliers, Applelec have the vision, experience & craftsmanship to help bring your project to life. Our in-house manufacturing facilities allow us to offer a vast array of signage & LED lighting options as well as respond to your needs without compromising on quality. Whilst our knowledgeable sales & production teams are there to support you all the way.

DISCOUNT DISPLAYS

31-35 Wortley Road, Croydon CR0 3EB

Tel: 0844 800 1020

sales@discountdisplays.co.uk

www.discountdisplays.co.uk

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

INDASOL

10 Crystal Drive, Sandwell Business Park, Smethwick B66 1QG

Tel: 0121 556 9900

enquiry@indasol.co.uk

www.indasol.co.uk

Located in The Midlands, INDASOL offer a complete range of Technical Tapes, Adhesives, Sealants and other associated products for the Sign Maker. We can assist with on site visits to ensure the right product is specified for each job. With the ever changing materials being used in Sign Making, it's vital to use the right product for each job. Get in touch for a free of charge quote or visit.

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SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ

Tel: 01934 852888

sales@signscape.co.uk

www.sasl.co.uk

We're a leading sign trade manufacturer providing services in signage for Modular signs, Bespoke signs, Noticeboards and Letter boards since 1973. Our products are made to order and are tailored to suit your specific branding and display location requirements. We offer a wide choice of design styles, frames, colours, and branding options, to ensure your message is consistent and engaging.

SMITH TRADE SIGNAGE

Grove Works, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8JG

Tel: 01833 694700

info@smith-signdisplay.co.uk

www.smith-signdisplay.co.uk

Part of William Smith Group 1832, we are a leading trade-only manufacturer of Commercial and CE Marked Traffic Signage, plus Chapter 8 Chevron Kits.

THE SIGN GROUP

Unit 3 Maple Park, Lowfields Avenue, Leeds LS12 6HH

Tel: 0113 25 24 706

sales@thesigngroup.co.uk

www.thesigngroup.co.uk

We are a friendly, professional and experienced trade manufacturer of bespoke signage including (but not limited to), Neonplus®, built up and flat cut letters/logos, neon flex signage, illuminated sign trays and digital print amongst other things. We also offer a laser/cnc cutting service and stock a wide range of LED consumables including modules, fairground lights, power supplies and much more.

SPECIALITY FILMS

ATC LTD

Unit 3C Buckley Road Industrial Estate, 2 Buckley Road, Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 9EF

Tel: 01706 633043

sales@apptape.co.uk

www.apptape.co.uk

Suppliers of various speciality films including Etch glass, Reflective, Fluorescent, Reflexite daybrite, Reflexite prismatic reflective, Hi intensity reflective, Photoluminescent, Cast metallics, 2yr Fluorescent, Gemstone metallics, Multi lens, Transparent colours, Checker plate, Mirror colours, Prismatic colours, Glitter colours, Brushed aluminium silver and gold.

MACTAC UK LTD

Room 232, Victory House, 400 Pavilion Drive, Northampton Business Park, Northampton NN4 7PA

Tel: 01604 644697

www.mactacgraphics.eu

Mactac is a global manufacturer of many different PVC, PET, PP and PE self-adhesive films. Specialities include etched films, fluorescents, phosphorescents, mirror films, rear projection films, erasable films and textured laminates – all designed to complement and enhance your creative talent.

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Tel: 01582 671 444

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www.themagictouch.co.uk

Manufacturers of Transfer Papers and Materials used in conjunction with Laser Printers and Copiers (toner based) for full colour image transfer onto T-Shirts, Caps, Polo's, Mugs, Mousemats etc. Plus Magicut® film for use with Plotter/Cutter for heat transfer.

TRAY SIGNS

APPLELEC

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

Tel: 01274 774477

sales@applelec.co.uk

www.applelec.co.uk

Manufactured inhouse for the TRADE signage industry, Applelec can create all styles of trays & fascia signs according to design specification. Available in metal or Dibond, trays can be flat face, curved or a bespoke shape. Back trays can be accessorised in a variety of ways with the addition of built-up, flat cut or vinyl letters & logos as well as LED illumination.

ILLUMEX

Wigan, WN1 3AB

Tel: 01942 243 341

Hello@illumex.co.uk

www.illumex.co.uk

Producing bespoke tray signs for the trade in both solid aluminium and alupanel composite, trays can be supplied as blanks or complete with an array of lettering and illumination options. We offer national delivery along with project trade services when required such as installation and graphic design. Always ensuring exceptional levels of service along with quality of products to match.

TROUGH LIGHTING

VISION LIGHTING LTD

Unit 1 Wortley Moor Lane, Leeds, LS12 4JD

Tel: 0113 279 9745

sales@vision-lighting.co.uk

www.vision-lighting.co.uk

Vision Lighting is a leading supplier of LED sign lighting products including Nanolight, a slim, modern trough light, unrivalled in brightness and efficiency. Nanolight is the most waterproof trough light available in the UK, rated IP66. We guarantee quality with high quality components, a 5 year parts warranty and our ISO 9001, UKAS accredited certification for Quality Management.

VINYL SUPPLIES

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Tel: 020 8311 4400

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One of Europe's main vinyl manufacturing companies supplying own brand self-adhesive plotter vinyl and Digital Print media. Plotter vinyls from short-term up to 10 years including Truck, Cast, Vehicle Wrapping, Frost-effect, Solar, Reflective and an extensive range of Print material for UV, Solvent and Dye/Pigment inks, all application aids are available.

ATC LTD

Unit 3C Buckley Road Industrial Estate, 2 Buckley Road, Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 9EF

Tel: 01706 633043

sales@apptape.co.uk

www.apptape.co.uk

Distributors of Ritrama UK's full range of signmaking vinyls including their complete portfolio of Digital Films. We also have available a full range of signmaking vinyls manufactured in the UK by KPMF. We stock a range of application tapes from R Tape USA and various Digital Media manufactured by LG Hausys. Discounts available on credit card payments.

VERY DENNISON

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Avery Dennison is a leading manufacturer of high-performance self-adhesive materials, for vehicle and building graphics – including digital, cut and screen applications. We innovate constantly to make graphics exciting and easy to install. Decades of know-how and the latest technologies (e.g. Easy Apply Technology and Supreme Wrapping Film) help you to transform your ideas into impactful messages.

CREATIVE FILMS

3 Acorn Enterprise Centre, Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, Kidderminster DY11 7RA

Tel: 01562 747 000
sales@creativefilms.co.uk
www.creativefilms.co.uk
We stock an unusual range of sign vinyl rolls. Specializing in unusual and striking special effect films, including: Glitter Film, Many textured metal effect films such as coarse brush and diamond plate, Sequins and various holographic effects, Mirror (chrome) film, Mozaic films and more. Available in our standard 20 colours. Ask for samples.

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Grafitack House, 103 Mariner, Tamworth, Staffordshire B79 7UL
Tel: 01827 300500
www.grafityp.co.uk
Grafityp is a leading manufacturer and supplier of self-adhesive sign making vinyl, wrapping/decorating vinyl, digital printing vinyl/films and overlaminates. We manufacture films for a vast array of applications, which include interior decor, signage, etched window, fluorescent to vehicle graphics. Grafityp is leading the way with an excellent range of PVC FREE Films.

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One of the UK's Largest selections of self adhesive vinyl & heat transfer vinyl. Also supplying Graphtec CE7000 plotters, custom printing available on self-adhesive and heat transfer vinyl plus other medias.

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Mactac is a global manufacturer of self-adhesive films designed to bring out your talent. Our highly innovative printing and marking products transform interior decoration, commercial architecture, signage and visual communications – for applications that include buildings, windows, point of sale, vehicles and boats. Mactac solutions are used by some of the world's most prestigious brands.

MDP SUPPLIES

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Distributor to sign makers and garment printers. Stocking Ritrama, KPMF, DeTape and many other leading brands. Order online at www.mdpsupplies.co.uk, by phone or at any of our 9 branches across the UK. No account needed.

PYRAMID DISPLAY MATERIALS LTD

Head Office, Unit 5 Westpoint Enterprise Park, Clarence Avenue, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1QS
Tel: 0161 872 5666
www.pyramid-display.co.uk
We supply a huge array of different sign vinyl products with options suitable for virtually any sign vinyl application you may need. Choose from monomeric vinyl, polymeric vinyl, premium cast vinyl, reflective vinyl translucent vinyl, fluorescent vinyl and etched vinyl, produced by leading manufacturers such as MACTac, Avery Dennison, LG and Aslan.

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SPANDEX UK

1600 Park Avenue, Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol, BS32 4UA
Tel: 0800 77 26 33
info.uk@spandex.com
www.spandex.co.uk
Spandex distributes products from leading material and equipment brands for sign making, graphic production, digital printing, vehicle wrapping, interior décor and textile printing. We offer products from 3M, Avery Dennison, Arlon, ORAFOL, ImagePerfect, STEK, Cover Styl', Canon, Epson, Roland and many others.

WAYFINDING SIGNS

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Unit 1, Wharfedale Business Park, Shetcliffe Lane, Bradford BD4 9RW
Tel: 01274 774477
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TRADE suppliers of curved or flat-faced way-finding and aluminium display systems with directories incorporating wall mounted, projecting and totem signs. Poster display frames with a snap side profile to allow for easy interchange of inserts and an exterior light box series is available. Please contact our friendly team for more information.

SIGNSCAPE AND SIGNCONEX

Pear Tree Works, Bath Road, Upper Langford, Bristol BS40 5DJ
Tel: 01934 852 888
sales@signscape.co.uk
www.sasl.co.uk
We're a leading sign trade manufacturer providing services in wayfinding sign systems since 1973. Our products remain the system of choice for many sign makers and wayfinding specialists; including finger posts, totems, post and panel, flush panel and curved panel signs, office signage, indoor/outdoor wall directories, paper insert, directional, and projecting signs, lectern, and suspended signs.

WIDE FORMAT SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

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31-35 Wortley Road, Croydon CR0 3EB

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