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### 9 – 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

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# PROPAK

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• PACKAGING • PROCESSING • PRINTING • PLASTICS

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## How to reach us

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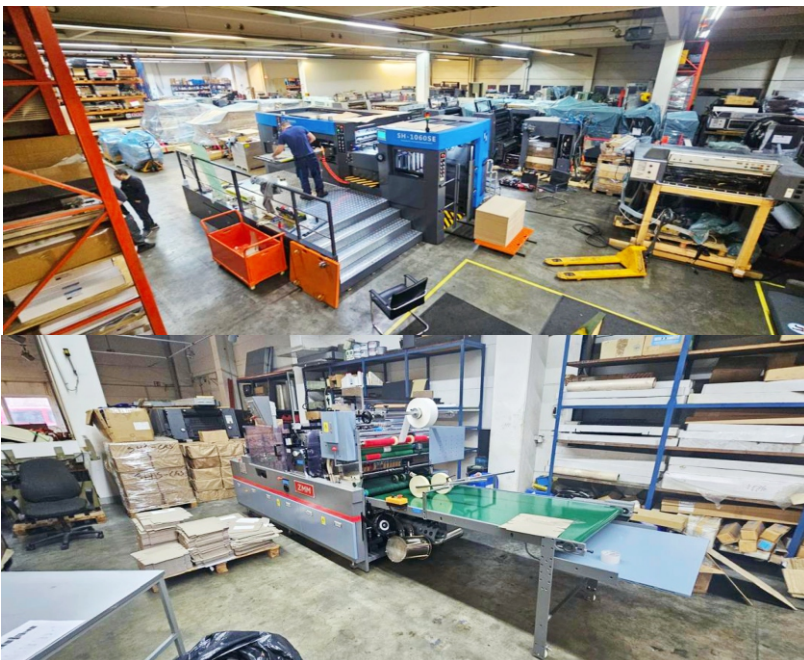
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# To Readers

By Joju Adekanbi | jojuadekanbi@yahoo.com | 0803 862 9114

## APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS

I tactically believe in this British popular phrase used often during the month of April. It typically works for those who passionately and responsibly sow in good soils to expect bountiful harvests. So, for us at **WHERE To Print magazine**, the last two months have been quite eventful and exhilarating with series of leading international print and allied exhibitions and conferences expected to grow our industries that took place across Africa and the Anglo-America specifically **PROPAK Africa** in Johannesburg, South Africa (11 to 14 March); **agrofood & plastprintpack Nigeria** in Lagos, Nigeria (25 to 27 March); **Graphics Canada Expo 2025** (April 9 to 11) in Toronto, Canada; and **ISA International Sign Expo** in Las Vegas, Nevada USA (April 23 to 25).

Characteristically, all these were exclusively covered by **WHERE To Print magazine** in order to bring you latest developments from these dedicated events to grow your businesses. While official post-show press releases were yet to be out for the last two, this edition's **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE** starts off with post-show piece of **PROPAK Africa 2025** culled from the official post-show press release by the organiser – **Specialised Exhibitions Montgomery** highlighting the significance of the continent's definitive event for packaging, printing, food processing, plastics and labelling trade ingeniously co-located with **Pro-Plas Expo**, **The GAPP Print Expo**, **FoodPro Expo**, and **Pro-Label Expo** titled: **PROPAK AFRICA 2025 DELIVERS A POWERFUL SHOWCASE OF CUTTING-EDGE PACKAGING**

**INNOVATIONS** (read on from page 14). In Nigeria, exhibitors and trade visitors, panelists and conference participants all agree that the 2025 edition which marks the 10 Anniversary of **agrofood & plastprintpack Nigeria** was a resounding success. Check out why in the **SPECIAL FEATURE post-show ARTICLE** (on pages 20 and 21) culled from the official post-show press release fittingly captioned: **THE 10TH AGROFOOD & PLASTPRINTPACK NIGERIA 2025: A HUGE SUCCESS!**

Talk of success: the region's largest and most influential exhibition for professionals in the packaging, plastics, printing, and food processing sectors - **PROPAK West Africa** is set to return to the Landmark Centre in Lagos Nigeria from September 9 to 11, 2025. The next **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE** on pages 24 and 25 titled: **PREMIER BUSINESS PLATFORM FOR MANUFACTURING, PACKAGING, AND PROCESSING LEADERS RETURNS TO LAGOS NIGERIA** reports this industry's number one trade event's role in shaping our region.

Respectively from our region, **PRINT IMPACT AROUND NIGERIA** (from page 10)



and others - **PRINT IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD** (from page 12) this issue highlights latest developments that happened within the last two months in the print and allied industries in Nigeria and around the world including expo news.

Continued on page 10 >>

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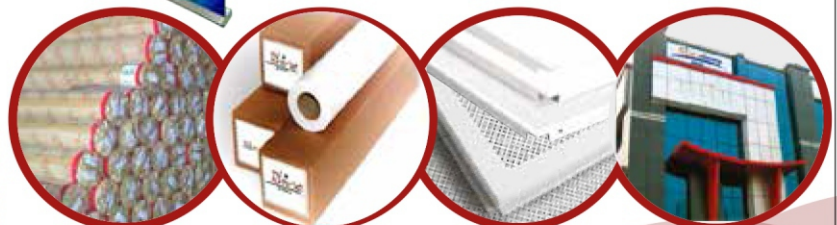
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April Showers Bring May Flowers



And as trade exhibitions continue to stimulate the growth and development of our industry, the degree of innovation driven by these rapid advancements especially in technology and evolving market cannot be overemphasised especially in the most dynamic and fastest growing segment of the worldwide print market - **digital printing** thereby making it the one of the most sought-after sectors in the industry. That is why the next **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE** by the intelligence and market research firm – **MarketsandMarkets**, uncovers invaluable statistics that makes digital printing the darling of the sector. Turn to pages Pages 28 and 29 to know why in the piece captioned: **DIGITAL PRINTING MARKET**.

Without doubt, many printing companies are struggling to find profitable work but there is a growing number of companies (involved in artisan

works) where print is an integral part of their businesses - that they can market to. Print Sales Veteran - **Matthew Parker** exposes this in the following **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE** termed: **ARTISAN PRINT: A PROFITABLE MARKET OPPORTUNITY** (Pages 36 and 37) as we urge you to discover how to take advantage of this important segment of the economy and why selling prints to artisans can make all the difference not only to the perceived goods and services you are selling but also to your bottom-line. The last **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE** in this edition is culled from **Sushil Enterprises** on why paper is gaining momentum over other packaging media within the Food Industry value-chain. Turn to pages 40 and 41 to read: **THE ROLE AND FUTURE OF PAPER IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY**. It surely brought sustainability to the fore in print production process where accurate colour registration and cost-effectiveness are critical.

The question now is: how can Colour Management play a crucial role in making printing process more sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective? The

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answer to this question which is expertly answered forms the crux of our **COVER STORY** in this edition aptly captioned: **COLOUR. SUSTAIN. PROFIT** written by Colour guru - **Dr. Kiran Deshpande** and adapted from **PRINTINGUnited Alliance Resource** ([www.printing.org](http://www.printing.org)). Flip over to Pages 30, 31 and 32 to discover how colour helps sustains profit.

To wrap up; as we continue this year - I will urge you to continue to position yourself in the scheme of things that continually add value.

More than ever, I – on behalf of **WHERE To Print magazine** – remain grateful for your patronage and readership. Until next edition, please continue to be grateful; keep pressing on; building meaningful relationships; and creating lasting and invaluable impact as we expect 'April showers bring May flowers'.

Take care and continue to do good!

# Print impact around Nigeria Stories by Precious Ajuonuma & Joju Adekanbi

## VICE PRESIDENT COMMENDS SECUREID'S GLOBAL IMPACT ON SMARTCARD TECHNOLOGY



In an historic visit to the leading manufacturer of smart cards and digital solutions – **SecureID Limited** state-of-the-art manufacturing plant, His Excellency, Vice President of Nigeria - **Alhaji Kashim Shettima** has commended and celebrated the company's remarkable contributions to the nation's manufacturing and digital solutions sectors.

The Vice President, who was accompanied by the Managing Director/CEO of Bank of Industry (BoI) - **Dr. Olasupo Olusi** and Deputy Governor of Lagos State - **Dr. Obafemi Hamzat** during the exclusive tour to mark SecureID's 20 years of operation, while toasting to the

company's success over the years also commended SecureID for its foresight and resilience noting that the company exemplifies the kind of homegrown businesses that can transform Nigeria's economy given the right support to compete globally and for that; "The Government is committed to fostering an enabling environment for businesses like SecureID to thrive," he assured while promising further that; "Through targeted policies and interventions, we are repositioning Nigeria's economy to support local innovation, boost foreign exchange earnings, and create employment opportunities."

In her remarks, the founder of SecureID, **Mrs. Kofo Akinkugbo** expressed gratitude for the Vice President's visit and reaffirmed the company's commitment to expanding its operations, creating jobs and putting Africa on



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# Print impact around Nigeria

Stories by Precious Ajuonuma &amp; Joju Adekanbi

the global stage. "We are proud of what we have achieved so far, but this is just the beginning. With the support of the Government, we are ready to scale our operations, increase our export potential and contribute even more to Nigeria's economic growth."

Since inception, SecureID Limited has been at the forefront of Nigeria's push for self-reliance in the technology and manufacturing space. For the past 20 years, the company continues to demonstrate exceptional growth with capacity to produce over 200 million cards and personalise over 160 million smart cards annually, serving clients in 21 countries across Africa.



## LCCI PRINTING, PUBLISHING AND ALLIED GROUP CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES



The Chairman of **Printing, Publishing and Allied Group of Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI)** – **Mr. Gabriel Okonkwo** has called on players and operators in the paper, pulp, printing, and publishing sector of the Nigerian economy to support localized industries such as the **NIXIN PaperMill Nigeria Limited** reduce Nigeria's dependence on imports.

He made this clarion call along with other members of the Group while on a familiarisation tour of NIXIN Paper Mill LTD in Lagos. According to Mr. Okonkwo, Nigeria's large population, especially its student demographic, offers a massive market for paper products thus calling on support for local paper manufacturers to produce at scale and at competitive prices. While highlighting policy inconsistencies that have continued to undermine local manufacturers, he condemned the current tariff regime, which imposes duties on plain paper imports but allows for the importation of printed materials duty-free. According to him, this unfair policy has created a lopsided competitive environment that favours foreign manufacturers over local producers.

"This has led to a situation where it's cheaper to print books and other materials abroad and import them, rather than produce them locally. As a result, a significant number of printing jobs are being outsourced to other countries,

depriving our local industry of business opportunities. If local manufacturers can provide high-quality paper at competitive prices, it would reduce our reliance on imports, conserve foreign exchange, create jobs, and contribute significantly to the economy," he said.

Reinforcing his call for increased confidence in local capacity, Mr. Okonkwo pointed to recent developments with the electoral body as a case in point. "INEC (Nigeria's Independent Electoral Commission) didn't even believe we could produce ballot papers locally until recently. It's time we began to believe in and invest in our own," he stressed.

On his part while thanking the august visitors, Managing Director of NIXIN Paper Mill LTD – **Mr. Eric Wang** highlighted the potential of Nigeria's paper industry, comparing it with that of his native village in China with a population of just 300,000 supporting a paper factory that consumes over 20,000 tons monthly. In contrast, Nigeria, with a population exceeding 200 million, recorded only 70,000 to 75,000 tonnes per month, a figure he believes should be much higher given the country's

educational and commercial demands. "We see that over 80 per cent of Nigeria's educational and printing materials are imported from Asia," Wang stated while stressing his company's commitment to Nigeria's self-sustenance as NIXIN Paper Mill plans to increase production capacity, improve product quality, and expanding its product line to meet the growing demands of the Nigerian market, thereby reducing the country's dependence on foreign paper products and contributing to the growth of the local economy. He thereafter assured local users that his company is capable of meeting Nigeria's paper demand without relying on imports, emphasising that the paper mill is capable of producing up to 8,000 tons of paper monthly depending on the grammage.

Agreeing, NIXIN Paper Mill Business Manager – **Mr. Williams Sun** emphasised the significant investment of over \$60 million that NIXIN has made in Nigeria but expressed frustration over lack of returns, noting that one year into operations, the expected market response has yet to materialise. Sun therefore urged the Government to support

investors and take steps that will attract more players into the publishing and paper production space critical to building a self-sufficient industry. He further suggested a total ban on importation of writing papers such as 50 grammes exercise book paper, which NIXIN can produce in sufficient quantity. Not only that, he urged the Federal Government for support explaining that; "We mix 30 per cent imported pulp with 70 per cent local material to achieve the right quality. But if the Government could support us by waiving some import duties, we could reduce our prices and meet more of the market demand,".





# Print Impact Around the World

## ROTOCON AND HS MACHINERY JOIN FORCES



Marco Aengenvoort (ROTOCON), Michael Aengenvoort (ROTOCON), Ruan Jinshu (HS Machinery), and Mark Zheng (HS Machinery)

Marco Aengenvoort, Michael Aengenvoort, Ruan Jinshu, Dasong (Charles) Cao, translator, and Mark Zheng

By combining German engineering excellence with advanced, cost-effective production state-of-the-art facility in China, **ROTOCON** and **HS Machinery** have entered into an agreement to drive innovation in the label flexo printing and finishing industry.

Under the partnership, **ROTOCON** will lead product development and market expansion, sales and service, key account management with international label groups, exhibitions and event organisation outside of Asia, implementing cutting-edge online support technologies, and establishing a customer-driven Board of Excellence. With initial collaboration that began in 2019, both companies have created an extensive portfolio of printing and finishing machines offering high customisation, top-tier quality, and international compliance - all at competitive price.

"From the beginning, **ROTOCON** played a crucial role in shaping the design, engineering, and production of HS's advanced flexo printing presses," said Michael Aengenvoort, **ROTOCON** Group CEO. "We didn't just distribute the machines; we helped design them. Our expertise has been deeply integrated into the process, ensuring that every flexo printing machine meets the highest safety and quality standards, including CE compliance, German TÜV, and DIN ISO 9001 certifications. Today, more than 200 of the latest high-end version flexo machines have been sold worldwide, with multiple customers investing in their second and third machine - a testament to strong customer satisfaction and trust in our high-performance flexo printing technology."

Agreeing, Mark Zheng, Sales Manager of **HS Machinery** highlighted the impact of the collaboration, stating: "**ROTOCON** has earned worldwide recognition as a leading brand of finishing machines in the narrow web industry. Their expertise in engineering high-quality, customisable solutions aligns perfectly with our sales philosophy. Our strong collaboration will continue to bring advanced technology and engineering excellence to printers worldwide, offering flexo printing and finishing solutions that focus on quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction."

**ROTOCON** is exhibiting at China Print, Print4All, and Labelexpo Europe, where its flexo printing press, a pharmaceutical inspection machine, and a digital finishing machine will be demonstrated.

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## SCREEN EARNS IDEALLIANCE DIGITAL PRESS SYSTEM CERTIFICATION FOR TRUEPRESS LABEL 350UV SAI S WITH EQUIOS 2.7

**Idealliance** and **PRINTING United Alliance** have announced that **SCREEN** has officially earned **Digital Press System Certification** for its **Truepress Label 350UV SAI S** digital label press, in combination with the **EQUIOS Version 2.7 Digital Front End (DFE)**.

This certification is an industry milestone as the first UV inkjet press system to be certified, and serves as recognition of **SCREEN**'s commitment to colour accuracy, consistency, and cutting-edge technology in the world of digital label production.

### What is Digital Press System Certification?

Idealliance's Digital Press System Certification is a globally respected program that evaluates digital printing systems based on strict performance benchmarks. It looks at everything from colourimetric accuracy and repeatability to substrate versatility and alignment with international printing standards like G7® and ISO 12647. **SCREEN**'s press passed all of this with flying colours—literally. But what really makes this certification stand out is **SCREEN**'s successful alignment to CRPC7, the largest standardized reference print condition, also built on G7®, along with the 7 full CRPCs defined by ISO 15339.



### The Significance of CRPC7

For print providers who want to go beyond standardized commercial print conditions to truly maximize the capabilities of inkjet, CRPC7 represents a significant benchmark, while also leveraging a colour space built on G7® for visual consistency and achievable print alignment across multiple print platforms. Achieving CRPC7 alignment means **SCREEN**'s Truepress Label 350UV SAI S can hit more colours, more consistently, right out of the box. That is a huge win for converters, label manufacturers, and brands who need fast turnaround times, accurate brand colour reproduction, and reduced waste, especially on short runs.

### Why It Matters to You

If you are a printer or brand working in the label space, this certification gives you confidence that the **SCREEN** Truepress Label 350UV SAI S delivers predictable, repeatable results that align with global industry standards. That means fewer colour surprises, smoother production workflows, and more satisfied customers.

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## KYOCERA EXPANDS TASKALFA RANGE WITH LAUNCH OF MZ7001 SRA3 SERIES



**Kyocera Document Solutions** has launched the **MZ7001 SRA3 Series** of six colour and three monochrome Medium Format Printers (MFPs), representing a complete refresh of their core TASKalfa portfolio.

The new range is designed to support hybrid working, emphasising ease of use from any location, alongside top-tier security and advanced scanning capabilities as customers increase their digital workflows. The devices feature rapid print speeds of up to 70 pages per minute and are fully adapted for printing and scanning to and from the cloud, offering cloud storage compatibility to enable documents to be accessed from anywhere. Combined with advanced security features, flexible finishing options and integrated AI capabilities, the new series offers a future-ready device to suit every hybrid office environment.

While the **TASKalfa MZ7001 SRA3 Series** (TASKalfa MZ2501ci, TASKalfa MZ3501ci, TASKalfa MZ4001ci, TASKalfa MZ5001ci, TASKalfa MZ6001ci, and TASKalfa MZ7001ci) includes six colour MFPs, ranging from 25ppm to 70ppm, the three high-speed **SRA3 monochrome MFPs** (TASKalfa MZ5001i, TASKalfa MZ6001i, and TASKalfa MZ7001i) ranges from 50ppm to 70ppm. Cloud applications that come pre-installed on all devices include the award-winning Kyocera Cloud Print and Scan (KCPS), Kyocera Cloud Capture (KCC) and Kyocera Cloud Information Manager (KCIM). These apps streamline workflows enabling seamless capture, storage and printing of documents via the cloud. When activated, these solutions help ease users' transition to the cloud and make the very most of its benefits.

The **MZ7001 SRA3 Series** is packed with top-tier security capabilities including a Data Security kit – which enables both data encryption and data sanitation – a Trusted Platform Module, which protects sensitive information such as image data and certificates, plus Allowlisting, SEIM and S/MIME encryption to improve email security from the device. This builds on the success of the predecessor TASKalfa 3554ci Series known for its industry leading K-Level security. AI-powered features include Confidential Document Guard, which detects stamps, watermarks or sensitive text on documents, and informs the user that reproduction is not allowed. The series is compliant with the FIPS140-3 standard for both storage and network communication.

As with all Kyocera devices, the MZ7001 SRA3 series is designed with sustainability at its core. The entire range is delivered carbon neutral as standard: all emissions are offset through the company's partnership with myclimate, covering all elements of production, packaging, transport and Kyocera genuine consumables for the lifetime of the product. Kyocera closes

Continued on page 13 >>

# Print Impact Around the World

this loop with its toner and device recycling programmes. Like all Kyocera devices, the MZ7001 SRA3 Series is built to be energy-efficient in operation and use long-life consumables to reduce the carbon footprint. A new sustainability display is available on the touchscreen control panel providing a real-time graphical view of CO2 and energy usage during operation. This ensures transparency and raises awareness of environmental impact of device usage, helping businesses to plan, regulate and reduce their overall CO2 emissions.

## BARCELONA TO HOST FESPA GLOBAL PRINT EXPO 2026

FESPA has announced that its flagship annual **FESPA Global Print Expo** and co-located events (**European Sign Expo** and **Personalisation Experience**), will take place at the **Fira de Barcelona, Spain, from Tuesday 19 – Friday 22 May** next year.

According to Head of FESPA Global Print Expo - **Michael Ryan**, the decision for the City of Barcelona is to build on the relations with Southern Europe especially with the Spanish

and Portuguese speciality print markets; "After the cancellation of the 2020 events in Madrid, we're delighted to be able to return to Southern Europe after 13 years, building on our relations with the Spanish and Portuguese speciality print markets even further. It gives me great pleasure to share that we have chosen Barcelona as the host city for our 2026 flagship events. As a **peripatetic** event, it's important to us that we are able to connect with our different associations and the regional markets as a whole. We're excited to see what the city has in store for us and are confident that our visitors will have the opportunity to unveil a wealth of business potential across print, signage, personalisation and sportswear."

It would be recalled that FESPA Global Print Expo was last hosted at the Fira de Barcelona in 2012. The venue, which is a leading trade fair organisation in Spain, is easily accessible via transport links and is recognised for its previous success as a host platform for FESPA events. Meanwhile, the 2026 show will also welcome back **Sportswear Pro** for its second edition in addition to other confirmed features like **World Wrap Masters** and **Club FESPA**.

## ROLAND DGA RELEASES NEW V-BOND INK FOR VERSAOBJECT MO SERIES BENCHTOP UV FLATBED PRINTERS

**Roland DGA Corporation**, a leading provider of large-format inkjet printers, printer/cutters, vinyl cutters, and other advanced digital imaging devices, has announced the launch of new **V-BOND UV ink** specially formulated for use with **Roland DG VersaOBJECT MO Series UV flatbed printers**. V-BOND continues to be a popular and widely used ink for Roland DG's VersaOBJECT CO-i Series large-format UV flatbeds, however, the

availability of this ink for the MO Series opens up new creative opportunities for users of benchtop UV printers like the MO-240 and new MO-180.

V-BOND ink has proven to be versatile, durable, and cost-effective ink for creating everything from indoor and outdoor signage to customized and personalized products. Its outstanding durability and compatibility with a range of materials also makes V-BOND perfect for printing popular applications such as coroplast yard signs on MO Series or CO-i Series flatbeds. V-BOND ink cures instantly under UV light and produces vibrant, scratch-resistant graphics that adhere well when direct-printed on a vast array of substrates and three-dimensional objects. In addition, V-BOND is nickel-free, CPSIA certified and compliant with California Proposition 65, making it safe for use on children's toys, lunch boxes, and school supplies as well as pet products, food packaging, and more. It's also ideal for enhancing electronics, promotional items, awards, giftware, and many other offerings with detailed designs, images, and text.



Available in CMYK, Gloss, and White, V-BOND ink is made to bring out the best in VersaOBJECT UV flatbed printers. The CMYK inks combine with the True Rich Colour profiles in Roland DG's VersaWorks® RIP software to produce more vibrant reds, natural skin tones, and smooth grayscale, while the Gloss and White specialty inks allow users

to incorporate stunning dimensional and textural effects into their prints.

VersaOBJECT MO Series models include the MO-240, a highly productive benchtop UV flatbed with a 24" x 18" print area that direct-prints on substrates up to eight inches (203 mm) thick, and the new MO-180, which has an 18" x 12" print area and offers the same great features and capabilities as the MO-240 in a more compact package. VersaOBJECT CO-i Series large-format UV flatbeds include the 30-inch CO-300i-F2 and the 64-inch CO-640i, both of which can print directly on objects up to 9.5 inches (242 mm) thick. V-BOND inks for VersaOBJECT MO Series UV flatbed printers (available in 750 ml pouches) and VersaOBJECT CO-i Series UV flatbeds (available in 250 ml or 500 ml cartridges) can be purchased through authorized Roland DGA dealers.

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## CANON ENHANCES COLORADO M-SERIES AND ARIZONA PLATFORMS WITH INCREASED HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE CAPABILITIES



Leader in digital imaging solutions – **Canon U.S.A., Inc.**, in an effort to build on the success of large-format graphic platforms has announced new developments for the **Colorado M-series** 1.6m roll-to-roll printer with Canon's UVgel ink expanding its application range with increased support for soft signage and thicker media.

Complementing the hardware updates are the latest releases of the Colorado M-series V4.5, along with the PRISMAguide XL 3.5 and PRISMAelevate XL 2.2 solutions, which are both part of the PRISMA XL Suite and can help further enhance the productivity and creative versatility of the platforms. This new software guides operators through the media loading process, so that textiles can be flat and properly positioned, helping to limit damage to either the printer or the media and designed to help improve the quality of the final output.

The two new print modes for the Colorado M-series – matte density (two layers) and backlit high density (three layers) – are specifically designed for soft signage applications and enable printing in multiple ink layers. This can assist in delivering strong results for backlit applications, such as silicon edge graphics widely used in retail environments. These new print modes also help provide precise light control and blocking, designed to help users create higher density images while minimizing unsightly light bleed, adding to the already significant benefits of UVgel: high-quality, stretchable, scratch-resistant, and odourless output, with a matte appearance. Consequently, Colorado M-series customers will now have the ability to print on roll-to-roll media up to 1.6mm thick, expanding the range of materials that can be used for interior décor and wallcovering applications, as it doubles the thickness of previously printable media. Not only that, the new service connectivity improvements can help boost uptime and reduce maintenance with key operator maintenance part validation, improved curing diagnostics, new print area billing counters, and wake-up temperature settings.

Already installed by more than 55% of Colorado customers worldwide, PRISMAguide XL software (also available for Arizona printers) is designed to provide first-time-right output for even complex applications, excels at handling complex, multi-layer printing, and helps to reduce waste by limiting additional prints. The new PRISMAguide XL 3.5 software introduces more support for Mac OS environments. With a purchase rate for the past year exceeding 50% among Arizona printer customers worldwide, PRISMAelevate XL software has become an integral part of the Arizona printer ecosystem, enabling users to differentiate their offerings with unique elevated applications that may command premium pricing in the market.

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## PROPAK AFRICA 2025 DELIVERS A POWERFUL SHOWCASE OF CUTTING-EDGE PACKAGING INNOVATIONS



The 2025 edition of Africa's ultimate Packaging Industry trade show **PROPAK Africa** brought together more than **500 local and international exhibitors**, presenting thousands of cutting-edge products, technologies, and services across the packaging, plastics, printing, food processing, and labelling sectors. Over four dynamic days, the event served as a powerful platform for innovation, industry connection, and commercial opportunity, drawing strong engagement from professionals across the value chain. In this **SPECIAL FEATURE post-show ARTICLE** culled from the official post-show press release, **WHERE To Print magazine** reports the significance of the continent's definitive event for packaging, printing, food processing, plastics and labelling trade ingeniously co-located with **Pro-Plas Expo, The GAPP Print Expo, FoodPro Expo, and Pro-Label Expo.**



Adding significant value to the overall event experience, over **60 expert speakers** delivered compelling, informative sessions at the two seminar theatres and at the Institute of Packaging SA (IPSA) half-day conferences.

Taking place from 11 to 14 March at the Expo Centre in Johannesburg, over **12,500 visitors** attended **PROPAK Africa** – a **28% increase** from the 2022 edition of the event.

Managing Director of **Specialised Exhibitions Montgomery, Gary Corin**, described the show as having “a really positive vibe” and that the trade that has taken place has been exceptional. “We’ve had a high number of good quality visitors, and our numbers are up from 3 years ago – substantially so. It’s really encouraging, not just for the show, but also for the economy and for the industries the show represents.”

As organisers, Specialised Exhibitions Montgomery recognises the significant investment all the exhibitors bring to the show floor - not only in state-of-the-art machinery and product displays, but also in the presence and time of their senior executives actively engaging with quality visitors. “It’s impressive to see the industry coming together and the investment made,” says Portfolio

Director **Mark Anderson**. “The entire spectrum of the packaging sector is represented at PROPAK Africa - packaging, plastics, processing, labelling, and printing for packaging - truly bringing the full supply chain under one roof for four days.”

“Exhibitors have been selling machinery from their exhibition stands – we’ve seen a number of SOLD signs on the big machinery displayed at PROPAK Africa,” says Anderson. “The show has surpassed expectations. Our onsite rebooking programme for the next **PROPAK Africa in 2028** has already secured just under **70%** of the exhibitors. This is a really good testament to the excellent show that our exhibitors have had at this year’s PROPAK Africa”.

### EXHIBITORS RESPOND POSITIVELY

**Filmatic Packaging Systems** have been exhibitors at PROPAK Africa for 40 years, with the primary objective being to display their latest machines. The company's Managing Director, **Riaan van Zyl**, says the 2025 edition is the best PROPAK they have participated in with excellent visitor quality and numbers.



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## SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE - PROPAK AFRICA 2025 POST SHOW REPORT



Another long-term exhibitor, **Techniques** Group Director - **Kevin Baitz** says, "We've exhibited at PROPAK since the very first PROPAK and we come because we always secure new customers. PROPAK is good exposure for us in terms of existing clients and potential clients. It enables us to reconnect with existing customers. The advantage of the meeting face to face in this environment cannot be found anywhere else." The company has already signed up for **PROPAK Africa 2028**."

Regulars to PROPAK Africa, **Ulma Packaging's** Managing Director, **Eddie Rademan** says this year the quality of the visitors impressed him. "We do not come to sell from the stand but to meet our existing customers, make new contacts and to network and that has worked well for us. We will be back for the next PROPAK."

**Polyoak Packaging** is another long-term exhibitor at PROPAK with **Michelle Penlington**, National Executive: Marketing, explaining that they exhibit to show support for the industry and to collaborate up and down the value chain. "What we also love about PROPAK is that it gives the company the opportunity to spoil its customers not only on our stand but with some of the services Specialised Exhibitions offers such as VIP parking and the hospitality lounge". They also cultivate new potential customers at the show. "We have seen many SMEs this show and we have products and services to assist them to grow from little fish to big fish."

**Konica Minolta's** Product Manager - **Edmund Jacobs** described PROPAK Africa 2025 as being phenomenal. "This





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## SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE - PROPAK AFRICA 2025 POST SHOW REPORT



PROPAK Africa has been by far the best show for us based on the quality of the visitors this year - I'm talking about **65% positive feedback** and a list of clients that we will be following up after the show. We will definitely do this again."

PROPAK Africa first timers, **Techplas Services** came to the show with the objective of getting more exposure. Services Director, **Jason Smith**, says they have been very impressed with the visitor turnout for the show. "We secured good leads and using Specialised's scanning system makes the collecting of leads so easy. We also sold products off the stand which is a good bonus to our show success. We will be at the next PROPAK Africa in 2028."

### TEAMWORK AND PLANNING ENSURES SUCCESS

"It's an entire team that plays its part in putting a show like this together," explains Anderson. "We have a strong core team of sales, marketing, operations and accounts, and have a fabulous partnership and network with suppliers and contractors that provide logistical and other support services. This ensures that every exhibitor and every visitor can enjoy a positive experience at the show."

"We look forward to hosting our exhibitors and visitors again at the next PROPAK Africa from **7 to 10 March 2028** at the same purpose-built **Expo Centre** in Johannesburg," says Anderson. "There is also a big demand for packaging in the

WHERE TO PRINT Publisher - Joju Adekanbi with the duo of Dr. Michael Akintola and Mr. Oluwaseun Osasona - Chairman and Production Manager respectively of one of West Africa's biggest commercial, security and publishing print houses - Marvelous Mills Press LTD at the entrance to Johannesburg Expo Centre, venue of Africa's ultimate packaging industry trade show - PROPAK Africa.

Joju Adekanbi with PROPAK Africa Media Coordinator - Caroline Tointon of PR PARTNERSHIP LTD at Media Centre of Johannesburg Expo Centre after Media Registration.

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## SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE - PROPAK AFRICA 2025 POST SHOW REPORT

Western Cape, so we run **PROPAK Cape** around 18 months after each PROPAK Africa, both rotating on a 3-year cycle. We're looking forward to seeing many of our exhibitors and a lot of our visitors down in the Western Cape in October 2026". Characteristically, **WHERE To Print** covered the event and met with industry professionals across manufacturing value-chain herewith presented in the following memorable pictorial news:



...with Natasha Jayna Heiberg - Senior Marketing Manager at Specialised Exhibition Montgomery, organisers of PROPAK Africa and other international trade shows.

...with Samantha Moore - Junior Publisher at Packaging & Print Media (PPM) and Gary Corin - Managing Director at Specialised Exhibition Montgomery and organisers of PROPAK Africa and other international trade shows.

...with Jamie Pearson - Director at Afroset Montgomery, organisers of PROPAK West Africa and other international trade shows.

...with the duo of Packaging & Print Media (PPM) Publisher - Suel Moore and Editor - Anton Pretorius.



...with The GAPP's Sharvina Roopchand.

...with Konica Minolta South Africa - Technical Specialist - Ashvir Ramell.

...with KYOCERA Global Product Marketing Team Lead - Greg Griffith.

...with FUJIFILM South Africa Grant Potgieter and Zaheer Shaik.



...with Canon EMEA Pieter Gouws.

...with Amy Chen of Chaozhou Yumeng Packaging Industries who showed me a sample of flexible package her firm produced for a Nigerian company.

...with ROTOCON trio Michael Aengenvoort, Pascal Aengenvoort and Patrick Aengenvoort.



...with George Pearson - Director at Afroset Montgomery, organisers of PROPAK West Africa and other international trade shows.

...with Mark Anderson - Portfolio Director at Specialised Exhibition Montgomery, organisers of PROPAK Africa and other international trade shows.

...with Angela Kinyua - Managing Director at Montgomery East Africa, organisers of PROPAK East Africa and other international trade shows.

...with Managing Director of Afrique International - Mervyn Moodley.



...with Lebone Litho Printers and Marvelous Mike Press Team.

...with Marvelous Mike Press LTD - Dr. Michael Akhola and Mr. Oluwaseun Osoona and Olyis Prints Abdulrahman Akseem Olayiwola.

...with Thazy Prints Taiwo Giwa and Olyis Prints Abdulrahman Akseem Olayiwola.



...with Abdulrahman Akseem Olayiwola of Olyis Prints, Lagos.

...with Packaging & Print Media (PPM) duo - Suel Moore and Samantha Moore.

...with WELTEC Injection Moulding Machines Team.

...with Tom Anderson and Nilpeter Team.



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# Print Impact Around the World

PRISMAelevate XL 2.2 software introduces new functionality, including innovative ink-only applications that allow for the creation of unique, media-free printed items, for applications such as distinctive business cards, keychains and other customized promotional items. The release also enhances elevation printing with the addition of a braille-effect feature. Allowing transparent ink to be printed on top of layers of coloured ink, braille dots up to 1 millimeter in height can be created for braille as well as for materials for the visually impaired, combining both tactile elements and visual information in the same print.

PRISMAelevate XL 2.2 software also incorporates advanced quality features that are designed to help further reduce tension in multi-layer prints, helping when users create flat output even when creating high elevation structures. This is designed to help limit bending or warping often associated with thick ink applications, helping users create more consistent and professional finished products.

For more information, please go to:

<https://www.usa.canon.com/business/products/large-format-printing-scanning>

## AGFA LAUNCHES NEW AWARD WINNING HYBRID AND FLATBED PRINTERS



Top graphics solutions manufacturer – **Agfa** has introduced the all-new **Jeti Tauro H3300 XUHS hybrid press** and **Onset Panthera FB3216 flatbed press** to the market. Both presses were simultaneously introduced to the American and European markets through the **ISA International Sign Exhibition** (23 – 25 April 2025) in Las Vegas, USA and the **FESPA Global Print Expo** (6 – 9 May 2025) in Berlin, Germany.

Purpose-built to tackle any print job, the **Jeti Tauro H3300 XUHS** is Agfa's fastest hybrid press to date churning out award-winning quality at incredible speed of up to 1,280 m<sup>2</sup>/h. It thus leads the pack with raw power, intelligent automation, and unmatched versatility. Whether you are printing banners, posters, exhibit graphics, or POP, the Tauro XUHS is always hungry for more because its robust engineering thrives in continuous, multi-shift operation, maintaining impressive productivity with minimal maintenance. Not only that, with Agfa's signature UV LED-curable inks and advanced colour management, the Tauro XUHS delivers a wide colour gamut, deep solid colours, and a perfectly neutral grey balance of offset-like print quality, with fine details and smooth gradations – even at the fastest speeds.

The all-new Agfa Jeti Tauro H3300 XUHS hybrid press comes in 4 or 7 colour configurations, including options for extra redundancy in dark colours and enhanced light/mid-tones for razor-sharp image quality, varnish option for prints for enhanced brilliance and impact, and a primer option for difficult media. The Tauro H3300 XUHS is also equipped with cutting-edge automation to keep production running at full sprint. From automatic board feeders to fully automated loading and unloading systems – alongside robotic media handling through its MAX Flex RTR and MAX Bots - this impressive machine can be optimized for rigid, sheet, or roll media – to meet the demands of print service providers that handle multiple substrates and applications. Little wonder it won a trio of EDP (European Digital Press Association) Product Awards for its engine, automation and ink categories, underlining its game-changing potential in high-volume wide-format inkjet printing.

With the speed and power of its namesake, the **Onset Panthera FB3216 flatbed press** prowls through high-volume print jobs with fierce precision, adapting seamlessly to the demands of both graphics and packaging applications at breathtaking speeds, reaching up to 1,514 m<sup>2</sup>/h (16,297 ft<sup>2</sup>/h) or 296 beds per hour. This is due to its heavy-duty construction that ensures non-stop operation, while the advanced print carriage delivers flawless, banding-free prints. Like a panther's leap, each print is executed with smooth, fluid motion, eliminating bi-directional artifacts and boosting image quality through multiple bed movements. The Panthera adapts to existing



workflow with a range of automation options, including manual, ¾ automation (laytable + unload robot), autoloader + unload robot, dual robots (loading & unloading), and dual-flex (laytable + dual robots).

The Panthera's advanced LED curing system is its secret weapon. With a unique, staged curing approach – two LED units at the front, one at the rear – each layer is dried with predatory precision, ensuring strong adhesion, a wider colour gamut, and dazzling high-gloss finishes. LED curing brings additional gains for energy efficiency. Instantaneous activation and deactivation means LED lamps consume no energy during returning passes, load/unload cycles, or while waiting for the next job. By using up to 60% less power than previous Onset printers with bulb curing during printing – and up to 80% less in standby mode - the Panthera significantly lowers operational costs while reducing your carbon footprint. Existing Onset printers can be upgraded with this functionality, ensuring its benefits are accessible to everyone. So, whether you are tackling striking retail graphics, fast-turnaround POS materials, or corrugated POP displays and packaging, the Panthera adapts effortlessly to any task as its robust platform handles media from delicate 200 g/m<sup>2</sup> coated paper up to 46 mm thick board, and sizes up to 3.22 x 1.6 m (126.8 x 63") thus the right flatbed for high-volume graphics and packaging.

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## EUROPE EDITION OF GIRLS WHO PRINT INAUGURATED AT FESPA 2025



Print industry's largest and longest-running network for women devoted to elevation of women in print and graphic communications through mentorship, education, and career-building opportunities - **Girls Who Print** made a powerful impact at **FESPA Global Print Expo 2025** (6 – 9 May) with the official launch of **Girls Who Print Europe**.



As an exclusive networking experience where meaningful conversations met actionable insights, the global non-profit brought its signature energy, insights, and inspiration to the global FESPA stage where attendees engaged with leaders shaping the future of print in specialised sessions thus gaining new perspectives on how to navigate industry challenges aside discovering how Girls Who Print's programmes and resources could empower and strengthen businesses.

The event was hosted by FESPA in partnership with the global Girls Who Print led by Executive Director Deborah Corn, VP & Programme Director Kelly Mallozzi, and Managing Director Pat McGrew. "We're incredibly grateful to FESPA for supporting Girls Who Print and giving us a global platform to expand our mission," said Deborah Corn while noting further that; "Launching Girls Who Print Europe at FESPA 2025 is a major milestone, and we're proud to align with the FESPA Foundation and its Print For Good initiative. Together, we're working to empower people and create lasting, positive change for the industry."

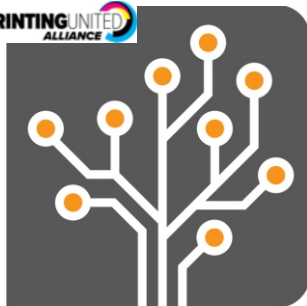


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# Print Impact Around the World

## PRINTING UNITED ALLIANCE RELEASES UNIFIED PRINTING TAXONOMY FOR GLOBAL INDUSTRY ADOPTION



### UNIFIED PRINTING TAXONOMY

**PRINTING United Alliance**, the most comprehensive member-based printing and graphic arts association in North America has announced that the **Unified Printing Taxonomy**, a robust, standardized classification system for products and services across the printing and graphic arts industry, is now available for free download by leading suppliers and partners worldwide. More details about the global taxonomy initiative and further details to download can be accessed at: <https://taxonomy.printing.org/>

#### Adopting Essential Global Buy-In for Printing Nomenclature

Developed in partnership with I.T. Strategies and Zwang & Co. and guided by a distinguished advisory board of industry leaders, the Unified Printing Taxonomy addresses long standing challenges around inconsistent nomenclature and under representation of print in government and market data. Since its initial launch in 2021, the framework has been refined through extensive collaboration across equipment manufacturers, finishing suppliers, packaging converters, and trade associations on every continent.

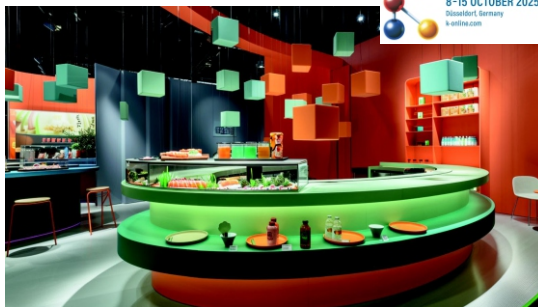
Members of the original Taxonomy Advisory Board - including representatives from PRINTING United Alliance, Epson America, FESPA, Fortis Solutions Group, Fujifilm Dimatix, HP Inc., Hunkeler, Intergraf, Koenig & Bauer, M&R, and Ricoh Americas - have contributed to and endorsed this release. Their input ensures the taxonomy remains flexible enough to accommodate emerging technologies, service models, and market segments.

#### Real-World Applications

The Alliance is currently utilizing the Unified Printing Taxonomy in key areas, including its new Membership Directory, within PRINTING United Expo platforms, and is additionally being rolled out across Alliance media brands, to make critical assets and content instantly discoverable. By applying consistent nomenclature to company, equipment, and service listings in the directory, exhibitors' products and services at the Expo, and content assets and recommendations on Alliance media sites; OEMs, suppliers, printers and print buyers can find exactly what they need faster and more intuitively.

As more organizations adopt the taxonomy industry-wide, it will unlock powerful machine-learning and automation opportunities - accelerating search, driving new partnerships and collaborations, and fueling innovation throughout the global print community.

## K 2025: FOCUSING ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY



© Special show *Plastics Shape the Future* - Credit: *Plastics Europe*

At **K 2025** from 8 to 15 October in Düsseldorf, Germany the official Special, **Plastics shape the Future**, will discuss and reveal how the plastics industry shapes the transition to more sustainability, digitalisation and social responsibility. Organised jointly by Plastics Europe Deutschland and Messe Düsseldorf the special show will provide insights into the current state and perspectives of transformation: featuring different focal topics every day, discussions with high-ranking representatives from political and scientific spheres and NGOs, innovative start-ups and industry experts – accompanied by interactive expert talks, round tables, guided tours of the trade fair and networking opportunities at the **Startup Pitch, Science and Poetry Slam** and the **"Women in Plastics"** event.



#### Overview of the Seven Theme Days

##### 1) Kick-off Wednesday – The Power of Plastics (8 October)

Wednesday is all about competitiveness and sustainability and will be kicked off by the opening with representatives from political spheres, business and international associations. Two sessions chaired by Virginia Janssens (Managing Director of Plastics Europe) and Dr. Christine Bunte (Plastics Europe Deutschland) will highlight how innovations and investment drive the industry.

##### 2) Circular Thursday (9 October)

On Thursday everything will revolve around circularity: moderated by Prof. Manfred Renner (Fraunhofer UMSICHT/CCPE) experts will shed light on circular-ready product design, regulatory challenges and circular business models in packaging, textiles, electronics, construction and automotive. The day will be rounded off by a panel discussion on chemical and mechanical recycling.

##### 3) Climate Friday (10 October)

Friday will focus on climate protection and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction: topics span from avoiding pellet losses (OCS) to additive use to lifecycle analyses and the monetisation of sustainable products. A political panel will discuss the competitiveness of the European plastics industry as a driver for a sustainable economy.

##### 4) Smart Saturday (11 October)

On Saturday digitalisation and artificial intelligence will be centrestage: PolyMaterials, INEOS, Covestro, Netzsch, the nova Institute, rCycle and representatives from science, to name but a few, will flag up how AI optimises processes from material development to improved collection and sorting for recycling to the drawing up of sustainability reports.

##### 5) Career Sunday (12 October)

Career Sunday will focus on people. Be it in recruiting through new channels via gaming or diversity, at two book presentations or the Science and Poetry Slam; not forgetting the networking



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## MENTORSHIP PARTICIPANTS' BENEFITS

1. Academy - free & highly subsidized print & allied training.
2. Tool - free access to resource Material online.
3. 24/7 access to mentor subject to mentors - subject to availability.
4. Industry events - free entry to industry exhibitions, workshops, seminars etc
5. Participation in Business, Setup, Design etc competition with funding.
6. Evening Dinner with Investor/Mentor.
8. Booth Camp/ Boat Cruise exclusivity .

## MENTORS'/ INVESTORS' BENEFITS

1. Pool of talents to choose from/employ.
2. Great companies to invest in.
3. Free - Reseach/ feasibility studies/ statistics of industry to aid print business purchase decisions.





## THE 10TH AGROFOOD & PLASTPRINTPACK NIGERIA 2025: A HUGE SUCCESS!



Exhibitors and trade visitors, panelists and conference participants all agree: the 2025 edition of 10 years **agrofood & plastprintpack Nigeria** was a resounding success, many even say it was the best ever. **WHERE To Print magazine** reports in this **SPECIAL FEATURE post-show ARTICLE** culled from the official post-show press release:



In celebration the 10-year Jubilee, organisers - **Fairtrade Messe** introduced special topic on **Banking & Finance** to the conference session to enhance and enrich the event. Featuring prominent figures from the banking and finance sectors, the session explored economic trends, investment opportunities, financing solutions, access to finance, venture capital and crowdfunding tailored for businesses in the agrofood and plastprintpack industries.

Not only that, a dedicated space for financial institutions, investment firms, fintech companies and service providers was specially provided to showcase products and services specifically designed for the agrofood and plastprintpack sectors. There was also investment pitch competitions that offered startups and SMEs

With **2,354** buyers and industry professionals from Nigeria and across West & Central Africa in attendance, Nigeria **agrofood & plastprintpack** exhibition and conference took a very successful course drawing **115 exhibitors** from **12 countries** over the course of the three-day show from **25-27 March 2025** at Landmark Centre, Lagos.

Colocated with the 7th edition of **West African Cold Chain Summit & Exhibition (WACCSE)**, the show witnessed **95%** of the trade visitors coming from Nigeria and **6%** from other countries. Their main reasons for attending was to get information about new products and innovations (**48%**) and to establish and expand business contacts (**44%**) consequently indicating the quality of business contacts at the show.



Continued on page 21 >>





the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to potential investors and financiers, thereby promoting growth and sustainability within these industries.

The event ended on highnote with the announcement of 2026 dates planned for **March 24 to 26** at the same Landmark Centre in Lagos, Nigeria

Check out [www.agrofood-nigeria.com](http://www.agrofood-nigeria.com) and [www.ppp-nigeria.com](http://www.ppp-nigeria.com) for more information.



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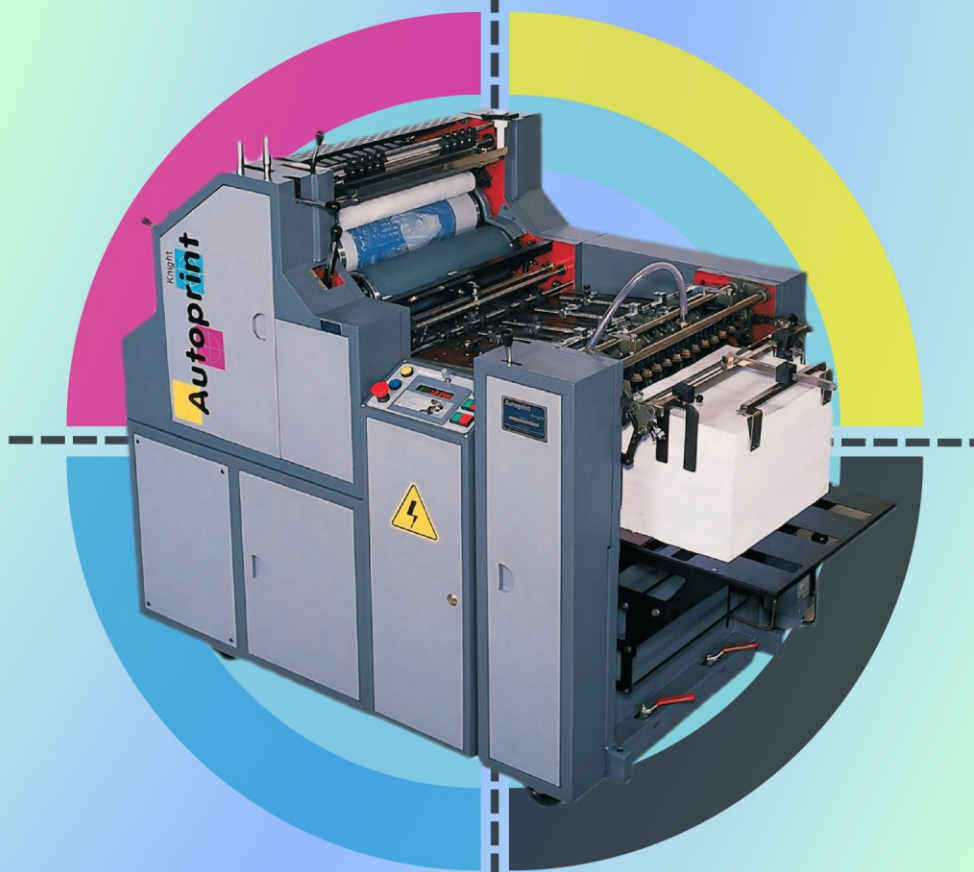
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## PREMIER BUSINESS PLATFORM FOR MANUFACTURING, PACKAGING, AND PROCESSING LEADERS RETURNS TO LAGOS NIGERIA



**PROPAK West Africa**, the region's largest and most influential exhibition for professionals in the packaging, plastics, printing, and food processing sectors, is set to return to the Landmark Centre in Lagos Nigeria from **September 9 to 11, 2025**. In this SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE, **WHERE To Print** reports the industry's number one trade event role in shaping the region.

With over **5,500 attendees** and more than **250 exhibitors** from over **30 countries**, the premier business platform for manufacturing, packaging, and processing leaders provides an unparalleled opportunity for businesses to engage with key decision-makers, discover the latest industry innovations, and build lasting partnerships.

### A Gateway to Growth in West Africa's Expanding Market

West Africa, and particularly Nigeria, represents one of the fastest-growing consumer markets in the world, with a population approaching 250 million people. As demand for high-quality solutions surges, PROPAK West Africa serves as the premier business hub for companies looking to capitalize on this expanding market.

Thousands of industry professionals—including owners and C-Suite executives, procurement specialists, engineers and production managers - attend **PROPAK West Africa** to source cutting-edge solutions and explore new technological advancements that drive business efficiency and sustainability. This is a must-attend event for any company looking to position itself at the forefront of West Africa's industrial evolution.

### Why Exhibit at PROPAK West Africa 2025?

PROPAK West Africa is more than just an exhibition - it's a platform for business growth, industry networking, and competitive benchmarking. Companies showcasing their products and services at the event will benefit from:

- **Direct access to thousands of qualified buyers** from across the region, all in one place.
- **Opportunities to benchmark against competitors**, ensuring your company stays ahead in an evolving market.
- **Unrivalled networking opportunities** with leading decision-makers in the packaging and processing



Continued on page 25 >>



industries.

- **Participation in the Propak Innovation Summit**, an exclusive forum where top executives discuss industry trends, challenges, and opportunities.

### Expanded Exhibition Space and New Features

To accommodate growing demand, Hall 5 will feature additional exhibition space, the **PROPAK Innovation Summit**, and a dedicated **Buyers' Lounge** catering to delegations from across West Africa. This expansion ensures that attendees can maximize their experience, whether they are exhibitors looking to showcase their latest innovations or buyers seeking the most advanced solutions in the market.



### A Global Showcase of Industry Leaders

Exhibitors at PROPAK West Africa 2025 include some of the most recognized names in the industry, such as SBA Group, BBM, Vinmar, Snetor, HP, Krones, Filmatic, E-One Machinery, Bole Machinery, Pentagon Plastics, VR Print, Monia Group, and many more. Their presence underscores the event's status as a leading hub for industry advancements and commercial opportunities.

### Secure Your Place at PROPAK West Africa 2025

PROPAK West Africa is the definitive event for industry professionals looking to enhance their operations, forge new partnerships, and stay ahead of market trends. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of West Africa's most important gathering for the manufacturing, packaging, and processing industries.

For more information on exhibiting or attending, visit [www.propakwestafrica.com](http://www.propakwestafrica.com) or contact our team at [afrocet@montgomerygroup.com](mailto:afrocet@montgomerygroup.com)

### Media Contact:

Jamie Pearson  
[jamie.pearson@montgomerygroup.com](mailto:jamie.pearson@montgomerygroup.com)  
+44 207 886 3046



# Print Impact Around the World

event "Women in Plastics"

## 6) Innovation Monday (13 October)

Monday is reserved for start-ups and science: in two pitch sessions emerging companies will introduce themselves with solutions for recycling, digitalisation, material development and organic plastics. In addition, the WAK Prize will be presented by Prof. Moritzer (University of Paderborn). The concluding scientific panel will discuss the innovative power of plastics as an enabler for various key industries in Europe.

## 7) Visionary Tuesday (14 October)

The last but one day of K 2025 looks ahead of time – Plastics 2050: circular design, bio-based raw materials, CCU and the avoidance of micro plastics will be crucial topics. The keynote by Prof. Michael Braungart (Cradle to Cradle) as well as panels with leading representatives from industry and science show that the future of the industry is transforming – with high ambitions and concrete steps. The programme will be predominantly in English.

For more information on the special show and the complete programme go to:  
[www.k-online.com/plastics\\_shape\\_the\\_future](http://www.k-online.com/plastics_shape_the_future)

## KONICA MINOLTA RECONFIRMS MARKET LEADERSHIP AT GRAPHICS CANADA EXPO 2025



Basking in the euphoria of its recent 20 years celebration of being at the forefront of innovation in print production, **Konica Minolta** with the theme: "Possibilities Inspired by You", showcased its commitment to pushing the boundaries of what's possible in the print industry at **Graphics Canada Expo** from 9 to 11 April 2025.

During the 3-day exhibition that took place in Hall 5 of the International Centre Mississauga, Ontario, visitors at its **Booth No. 5200** experienced for the first time, latest advancements in high-volume printing, precision finishing and intelligent workflow automation of Konica Minolta new devices such as AccurioPress C14010S, AccurioLabel 400, AccurioShine 3600 with iFoil One option, and AccurioPress C4080 digital press.

According to Konica Minolta Business Solutions (Canada) LTD duo of **Gordon Wright** and **Anke Weddig** while taking **WHERE To Print** through their stand, the brand new **AccurioPress C14010S** (or **C12010S**) for those that desire lesser print per minute – 120ppm) series indeed push the boundaries



of what's possible in digital print production.

These presses not only build on the already ultra-efficient, and super-reliable reputation of Konica Minolta presses that drive innovation and maximize production deliverables, but with their novel IQ-601 Intelligent Quality Optimizer Unit which features a new inline spectrophotometer for precision in colour profile creation, they also deliver unparalleled colour control, consistency, and full colour profiling, all at the touch of a button. Additionally, the presses employ Intelligent Media Sensors (IM-104 and IM-105) for consistent, high-quality outputs, minimising user intervention. The IM-105 sensor measures substrate sizes and detects slight variations in paper cutting, working with the IQ-601 to automatically adjust image positioning. Not only that, the systems offer automatic print quality adjustments through Automated Quality Adjustments (AQA) and Automatic Inspection Technology (AIT), aiming to maximise press uptime and efficiency.

**WHERE To Print** gathered that the highpoint of AccurioPress C14010S and C12010S is the introduction of an expanded five-colour toner configuration including a high-opacity white toner which leads to greater creativity that empowers users to rethink opportunities, identify and expand their services into new, profitable revenue streams. Not only that, the systems are engineered to support various media types, from 52 gsm to 450 gsm, including envelopes, embossed paper, polyester, and cut-sheet labels. In addition to media versatility, the systems support long sheet printing, accommodating sheets up to 1,300 mm in simplex and 900 mm in duplex. Such capabilities offer flexibility for diverse applications such as banners, book covers, and specialty printed items. That is why graphic arts customers such as Print Service Providers (PSPs), offset printers, digital printers and direct mail will greatly benefit from these unique features of the AccurioPress C14010S and C12010S. The presses will also be advantageous for enterprise document printers such as central reprographic departments and in-plants operations within enterprises.



The **AccurioLabel 400** is one of the newest dry-toner digital label presses in the market that allow users expand their businesses in the rapid growing digital label production and packaging markets. Incorporating all Konica Minolta's unique technologies such as the Intelligent Quality Optimizer (IQ-520) colour management functionality for real-time colour stability and registration control, Flux Label Impose, to combine and impose label jobs using inbuilt templates (ideal for changing print layouts with similar die plates), and a fifth station for white toner to expand creative label applications, the all-new AccurioLabel 400 print resolution is equivalent to 3,600 x 2,400 dots per inch aside many automated control features for enhanced print quality and highly productive label output.

Investigation by **WHERE To Print** reveals that though AccurioLabel 400 is available in 4- and 5-colour options, the maximum print speed is 39.9 metres per minute when printing in CMYK mode and can go down to 20 meters per minute when printing CMYK+W. Meaning that, the print speed may vary depending on selected media

types (39.9, 34.2, 30, 20 or 15 metres per minute) but with its larger toner hopper (reservoir) for uninterrupted production, variable data printing (VDP) functionalities with just a few mouse clicks, and even more durable parts life, AccurioLabel 400 is the perfect fit for label converters, commercial printers and brand owners in the mid- and high-end businesses to expand their trades in the ever-growing label, packaging and embellishment markets.



Crowd puller, **AccurioShine 3600** is the ground-breaking technology for adding 2D and 3D gloss effects at a reasonable cost without the complicated steps of conventional systems. Powered by the innovative MGI Varnish Technology along with Konica Minolta reliability, AccurioShine 3600 with iFoil One option allows printers meet the ever-demanding needs of today's never seen before printing requirements for high-impact finishing effects and digital embellishments such as personalized embossed foil, spot UV varnishing, from prototyping to full production, without the need for screens, plates or dies thereby helping printouts stand out from the crowd while raising profit margins.

The fully digital AccurioShine 3600 features industry-leading artificial intelligence (AI) registration technology and an eco-friendly LED curing system, all at an impressively compact size. With the combination of the new iFoil One inline hot foil stamping module and the VDP Barcode Camera System, the AccurioShine 3600 also supports Embossed Variable Data Foiling (VDF), adding more impact to tickets, personalized packages and labels, invitations and one-to-one marketing. And with a maximum supported paper size of 14.3" x 29.5", the machine is also perfect for enhancing commonly used printouts such as business cards, greeting cards, photo book covers and even packaging, creating an impactful and unique print experience for print buyers.



Reputed as 'a single engine does it all', **AccurioPress C4080** series is a fully configured press designed to expand print business as the owner deems fit. The versatile AccurioPress C4080 is undeniably an all-in-one print manufacturing powerhouse, providing exclusive features that streamline workflow and print output to exceed market expectations. These include; IQ-501, the Intelligent Quality Optimizer that delivers real-time advanced colour control and registration for unmatched consistency and accuracy, increasing on-time performance; and Intelligent Media Sensor that automatically detects paper types, weights, and paper profile suggestions thereby allowing print businesses to excel at delivering a variety of print applications. With media versatility up to 360 gsm that provides a wide portfolio of paper choices and print applications, AccurioPress C4080 also offers the flexibility of 2-sided printing up to 34 inches long with outstanding image quality. Thus, it is much more than a digital press – it is an opportunity to grow your business.

Continued on page 27 >>



# Print Impact Around the World



Konica Minolta Business Solutions (Canada) LTD Team at Graphics Canada Expo 2025

For more information, visit Konica Minolta Business Solutions (Canada) LTD at [www.konicaminolta.ca](http://www.konicaminolta.ca)

## CP OFFICE SOLUTION DEBUTS FUJIFILM GAME-CHANGERS AT GRAPHICS CANADA EXPO 2025



For the first time in Canada, **Fujifilm** Authorised Distributor - **CP Office Solution**, with mission to empower its customers with tools and support they need to excel in the marketplace, has introduced Fujifilm's state-of-the-art Revoria Press™ such as PC1120, EC2100S, and SC285S live on show floor at **Graphics Canada Expo 2025** that took place from April 9 to 11.

Right from its **Booth No. 5534** in Hall 5 of the International Centre Mississauga, venue of the 3-day show, CP Office Solution Team led by **Mr. Peter Zhao** while taking **WHERE To Print** magazine through the workings of Fujifilm's ultramodern presses on display disclosed that the newly introduced cutting-edge print solutions are expected to drive radical shift in the print industry thereby empowering businesses to streamline operations, elevate print quality, increase profitability, and meet evolving clients' extreme demands.

Specifically, **Fujifilm Revoria Press™ PC1120** is designed to meet the demands of modern print environments as it is engineered for high-volume jobs while maintaining exceptional print quality. As a game-changer for businesses seeking quality, versatility, and efficiency, the heart of Revoria Press™ PC1120 is in its advanced imaging technology, which ensures vibrant, true-to-life colours and sharp details thanks to the inbuilt advanced colour management technology.

A revolutionary press featuring an extended 10-colour capability for limitless creative potential, Revoria Press™ PC1120 delivers superior productivity with high-speed printing of 120 pages per minute (ppm) even when printing in 6 colours of high-definition expression with high-output resolution at 2,400 x 2,400 dpi. And due to its versatile media handling advantage, Revoria Press™ PC1120 supports a wide variety of media - paper types and sizes including glossy and textured stocks from 52 gsm lightweight paper, to 400 gsm heavyweight paper, or minimum 98 x



148 mm and up to 330 x 1,200 mm in sizes, thus allowing for diverse applications from high-impact marketing materials to specialty prints.

**Fujifilm Revoria Press™ EC2100S** is the latest addition to Fujifilm's Revoria Press™ series designed to redefine professional printing. As a single-pass five-colour print engine, **WHERE To Print** gathers that Revoria Press™ EC2100S versatility stems from its capacity to use special toner like gold, silver, and pink to complement CMYK toners thereby enhancing creativity and increasing revenue streams. And as a high-performance digital press that prints 100 page per minute, the fabulous press exceptional print quality of 1,200 x 1,200 dpi resolution is backed by an advanced LED printhead hence confirmed its eco-friendly and sustainability advantages.

With diverse media weights capability from 52gsm to 400gsm, Revoria Press™ EC2100S supports a wide range of paper sizes, from a minimum of 90x146 mm up to 330 x 660 mm, with optional banner sheet printing (single-sided) up to 330 x 1,300 mm. This makes the

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



WHERE To Print Joju ADEKANBI with CP Office Solution Mr. Peter Zhao

printers, in a compact size.

amazing machine the ideal unit for flexible and wide applications such as commercial printing and quick printing applications in the flourishing packaging market.

Then comes the small but mighty digital production printer - **Fujifilm Revoria Press™ SC285S**. Delivering exceptional quality, efficiency, and productivity with advanced toner technology, Revoria Press™ SC285S is also equipped with a single-pass five-colour print engine with capacity for special toner to complement CMYK toners thus offering advanced print capabilities, typically found on high-end production

Other distinctions of Revoria Press™ SC285S are in its exceptional quality image reproduction - a staggering 2,400 x 2,400 dpi resolution with an advanced LED printhead, diverse media weights capability from 52gsm to 400gsm, and paper sizes from 90 x 146 mm to 330 x 1,300 mm, thereby differentiating businesses with value-added prints that provide exceptional value to investors in the quick printing and in-house printing environments.

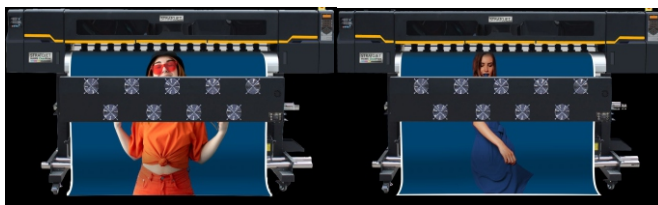
## STRATOJET PRESENTS AWARD-WINNING WIDE FORMAT PRINTERS AT GRAPHICS CANADA EXPO 2025

At the biannual **Graphics Canada Expo 2025** was held at the International Centre, Mississauga from April 9 to 11, 2025 US-based and world-class large format boutique manufacturing brand - **Strategic Printing Solution Inc. (StratoJet USA)** presented some of its award-winning wide format printers to excited visitors at the triduum show.

With industry recognitions such as RTR/ Hybrid/ Flatbed New Technology Product of The Year Award, Energy Star Award, PRINTINGUnited Alliance

Sustainable Business Recognition Award, Readers' Choice Top 50 Award, and Pinnacle Product Award, some of the purpose-built StratoJet brands on demonstration live at its **Booth 5260** include the Roll-to-Roll Printer - **Hawk CleanPrint**, the perfect Dye Sublimation Printer - **Piranha XT 500**, and the legendary **Shark 2512 UV 8'X4'** Flatbed Printer that prints like no others.

According to StratoJet USA Vice President of Business Development - **Sohil Singh**, all StratoJet brands are built to provide the very best solutions for years making and saving money to investors; "We invest our resources into building rock-solid hardware and continually developing cutting-edge automation. StratoJet is a boutique manufacturing brand, creating hand-built super structures using the world's most reliable components and loaded with automated features; not plastic printers on an assembly line. Our inks, materials, research and development and build process are all done with the environment in mind" he enthused.



On enquiry, **WHERE To Print** gathered that the **Hawk CleanPrint** with CleanInk (water base ink system that is environmentally friendly), is a Roll-to-Roll Printer that uses synthetic water-based ink, rated at 3-year outdoor durability and suited perfectly for printing on all types of roll media. Its much cooler 40° Celsius drying is actually an evaporation process; not a degassing process, nor emit Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Inks dry instantly for handling, laminating or cutting thus no smell, no degassing but a durable and low cost application for billboard, banner, Self Adhesive Vinyl (SAV), Polypropylene, vehicle wraps, Polyester flags, wall covering, canvas, film and much more.

With high definition output of 2,840dpi, Hawk CleanPrint uses Adjusted Dot Placement Technology (ADPT) to ensure prints have vibrant colours along with smooth gradations in skin tones and sharp text. The Printheads provide flawless printing results throughout production and is available in a single (2x CMYK) or dual (4x CMYK) printhead setup.

**Piranha XT 500** (66") CleanInk is the perfect, high-speed Dye Sublimation Printer that uses 3 pL (picolitre) size ink droplets to give sharp text, vivid, saturated, and solid colours printing up to over 800 ft2 per hour hence allowing users to give their customers quick turnaround time for instant job delivery. Built from the ground up, Piranha XT is truly the perfect dye sublimation solution that prints directly on transfer paper or direct to fabric with the optional ink collector and tensioning bar kit. This ensures it prints accurate, photo-realistic and vibrant colours at high-quality 2,400 dpi - ideal for cut-and-sew applications (as it prints directly on fabric) thereby speeding up turnaround job delivery time as well as reducing production cost. Operators in the cut-and-sew, home décor and soft signage markets are thus assured that Piranha XT 500 is the fastest and most competitively priced solution in its class.

With over 18 years in the large and grand format industry, **Shark 2512 UV 8'X4'** Flatbed Printer is built like no other in its category. This is because the versatile and high-performance Flatbed Printer prints up to 4" (10cm) thick using UV curable inks that adhere to nearly anything at high quality 2,400 dpi output.

Continued on page 29 >>





# DIGITAL PRINTING MARKET



Characterized by high degree of innovation that is driven by rapid advancements in technology and evolving market needs, digital printing presents the most dynamic and fastest growing segment of a worldwide print market undergoing fundamental change. In this SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE by the intelligence and market research firm – **MarketsandMarkets**, discover other invaluable statistics that makes digital printing the darling of the sector.

**Digital printing** generally refers to different methods and formats that directly produce a digital-based image. It usually refers to specialized printing where small-run jobs from desktop publishing as well as other digital sources are printed using large printing formats, high-volume laser printers, and inkjet printers. A significant change has been observed in the printing packaging industry after the introduction of digital printing to packaging, which has reduced time and cost compared to conventional printing methods. The more reason digital printing methods offer the benefits of high quality, increased efficiency, and better finishing output for the packaging industry.

According to **MarketsandMarkets**, the global market for digital printing recorded a value of **USD 25,521.3 million in 2022** and is projected to reach **USD 46,212.9 million by 2029**, at a Compound

Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of **8.92%** from **2024 to 2029**. This segment has been growing due to its capacity to produce short print runs economically. Printing on demand helps reduce waste, which ensures that changes in new packaging and graphic designs do not result in unused stock. Significant technological developments in inkjet and electrophotography printing technologies indicate that digital printing is emerging as one of the most cost-effective and easily accessible methods for printing.

## WHAT INFLUENCES THE GROWTH IN THE MARKET?

The growth of the printing packaging industry, demand for aesthetic appeal, product differentiation, and technological advancements are some drivers of the digital printing packaging market. Another reason is the increasing demand for variable data printing which is an opportunity for the digital printing to show its strength in the packaging market. There is also the rise in demand for economical, sustainable, and innovative printing technologies.

Summarily, the growth of the digital printing packaging market is primarily driven by the following factors:

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Increasing disposable income (GDP)

Rapid growth of the packaging industry, globally

Increasing acceptance of digital printing packaging due to cost-efficiency

## The digital printing packaging market

is dominated by the solvent-based ink segment, which accounted for **49.3%** in **2023**. This segment is projected to witness the second-highest CAGR of **9.34%** to reach **USD 23,330.3 million by 2029**. Solvent-based inks are suitable for banners, vinyl, wall graphics, trade show graphics, and some fabrics with an inkjet-receptive coating. UV-based inks are also gaining market share as they possess durability, abrasion resistance, and extreme flexibility.

Thermal transfer printing technology is well established and dominates the overall digital printing packaging market. However, the inkjet and

electrophotography segments are projected to grow significantly in the next five years. The inkjet printing segment is projected to reach **USD 11,577.9 million by 2029**, registering the highest CAGR of **11.47%** from **2024 to 2029**. Electrophotography and inkjet printing technologies provide both quality and speed improvement. These methods are increasingly replacing traditional offset, flexography, and gravure printing methods. Converters have also started using a colour digital press, along with analogue printing techniques, whereas some converters use electrophotography and inkjet technology.

Variable data printing accounted for the largest share of the digital printing packaging market in **2024**. Variable data printing allows elements such as text, graphics, and images to be changed from one printed piece to the next without stopping or slowing down the printing process. Variable data printing helps consumer brands take an innovative and unique approach to their packaging, both with design and consumer engagement.

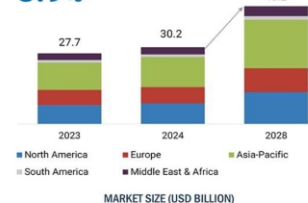
**Continued on page 29 >>**

## DIGITAL PRINTING PACKAGING MARKET

Market Size, Market Dynamics & Ecosystem

CAGR of 2024–2028

**8.9%**



## MARKET DYNAMICS (DRIVERS AND RESTRAINTS)

### DRIVERS

- Pressing need for customized and personalized packaging solutions
- Rapid prototyping and time-to-market advantage
- Sustainability concerns

### RESTRAINTS

- Limited application scope of digital printing
- Volatile raw material cost



## KEY PLAYERS IN DIGITAL PRINTING PACKAGING MARKET ECOSYSTEM

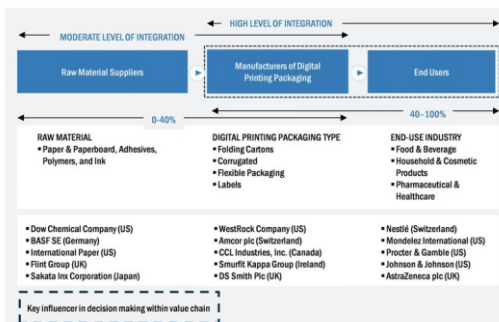
The digital printing packaging market is projected to be led by the **labels segment**. The segment is also projected to witness the highest CAGR of **10.04%** to reach a market size of **USD 33,073.5 billion** by **2029** due to stringent labelling requirements driving the use of end-stage modification to print



the final details of a package, a common trend in the pharmaceutical industry. Also, factors such as increasing demand for variable data printed labels from the food & beverage sector and growth of other end-use sectors will support the digital printing packaging market over the next five years.

## SUPPLY CHAIN ANALYSIS

The **food & beverage industry** also dominates the digital printing packaging market. This segment is projected to witness the second-highest CAGR



(**9.02%**), in terms of value during the forecast period. This growth can be attributed to the rapid expansion of this sector worldwide and the need to provide customers with product-related information such as ingredients, shelf life, dosage, and pricing details. The information provided on the packaging plays a significant role in judging a product before a consumer makes a purchase decision.

In **2023**, Asia Pacific was the largest market for digital printing packaging, accounting for **38.66%** of the global market. Since the region has a

growing middle-class population, rising online shopping, increasing manufacturing production, and improved standard of living, there is an increase in demand for convenient packaging, which in turn is propelling the demand for digital printing packaging in this region.

China was the leading market for digital printing packaging in Asia Pacific, accounting for a share of **45.35%** in terms of value in **2023**. The US accounted for the largest share of **82.28%** of the North American digital

printing packaging market in **2021**; it is projected to register a CAGR of **9.67%**, in terms of value, between **2024** and **2029**.

The European market is projected to register a CAGR of **7.83%** between **2024** and **2029** in terms of value. Digital printing is quickly outpacing analog however, it's not totally replacing it.



Analog printing is expected to have a growth rate of **0.8%** by **2027**. Forbes reported that over **60%** of survey respondents gravitate towards businesses that are committed to reducing plastics and improving the environment. The print industry generates billions of tons of paper each year and manufacturers that can prove they are committed to limiting their environmental footprint are predicted to win more market share.

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## Print Impact Around the World

With its complete print control with one ink system that can output up to 13 colours, Shark 2512 UV applications are a variety of durable specialty printed materials on corrugated, plastic, foam board, ceramic tiles, glass, metal, wood, paper, fabrics, novelties, Point of Purchase (POP) display, proofs, mock-ups, packaging, aluminum, composite and much more.

If you miss StratoJet at Graphics Canada Expo 2025, then plan to attend and meet Sohil Singh and his Team to discuss your wide format or textile printers' requirements at the

following upcoming shows;  
**Graphics Pro Expo** at Indiana Convention Centre, Indianapolis from 19th to 21st, June 2025; **Graphics Pro Expo** at Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Centre, California from 21st to 23rd, August 2025; and then - at the biggest, the the most dynamic and comprehensive printing event in the world - **PRINTINGUnited Expo 2025** to be held at the Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida from 22nd to 24th, October 2025.

To see more of StratoJet inventory and contact information, visit:  
[www.stratojetusa.com](http://www.stratojetusa.com)



WHERE To Print Joju ADEKANBI with StratoJet Sohil Singh

## HOW RICOH DRIVES DIGITAL PRINT TRANSFORMATION

Ricoh Company, LTD. (RICOH) under the banner of its two-fold communication initiative of 'co-creation' and 'co-innovation' highlighted some of the best digital printers in its inventory expected to aid digital transformation of the printing industry at the just



concluded April 9 to 11 **Graphics Canada Expo 2025** in Toronto.

While value 'co-creation' was the main focus of RICOH's initiative at the 3-day show, the 'co-innovation' concept in which customers, partners, and RICOH work together to share strategies and tactics, and then think of ways to achieve growth while transforming business conditions was underscored with live demonstration of some its most spectacular machines driving digital print revolution such as the cost-effective, 5" Colour Station Digital Press - **RICOH Pro C7500** and the top-of-the-line system built for today's realities - **RICOH Pro C9500**.

According to RICOH Canada, INC. Senior Production Solutions Analyst - **Begum Walji** who presented these digital machines to **WHERE To Print** at RICOH **Booth 5300**, the powerfully robust and creatively engineered RICOH Pro C7500 5" Colour Station Digital Press does it all. Coming to the market with enhanced performance, upgraded media handling and built-in automation for enhanced performance such as colour calibration, front-to-back registration and auto duplexing up to 13" x 38" thus streamlining workflows, minimizing downtime and faster job completion, the stunning Pro C7500 no doubt creates newer possibilities for users to differentiate their prints with vivid colours comparable to offset, from brighter oranges to deeper purples and luscious greens. "I will enjoin print users to do more with Pro C7500 to deliver true-to-life colour production level performance for premium gold and silver that elevate print applications; neon pink and yellow that add high-impact to messaging; invisible red that offers affordable security for tickets and more; and then, white and clear to enhance graphics and enable luxury effects" Begum implored.

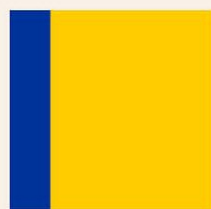
She also disclosed that the exquisite Pro C7500 allows more media usage to enable more opportunities. This is because with the enhancements to its Media Identification Unit and

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# COLOUR. SUSTAIN. PROFIT



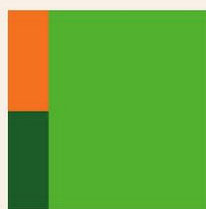
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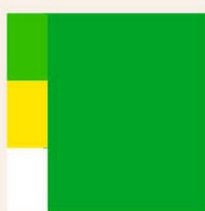
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Sustainability is becoming increasingly important in the printing industry, including packaging printing. Print buyers, brand owners, converters, and suppliers are all seeking ways to meet their sustainability objectives. Achieving these goals requires collaboration across the entire value chain. Colour management can play a crucial role in making the printing process more sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective writes **Dr. Kiran Deshpande** in this **COVER STORY** adapted from **PRINTINGUnited Alliance Resource (www.printing.org)**. Discover how colour helps sustains profit in excerpt below:

## UNDERSTANDING COLOUR MANAGEMENT

First of all, we need to understand what do we mean by colour management. I remember many conversations where people misunderstood colour management as just measuring colours or applying colour profiles in the prepress. In fact, the scope of colour management is much wider than that. It can optimize the entire colour process workflow and printing conditions across the supply chain. Simply put, colour management ensures consistent, accurate, and predictable colours throughout the workflow, from design through prepress, print production to the final product on supermarket shelves, where consumers connect with printed products.

Here are some of the ways in which you can leverage colour management to achieve your sustainability goals, improve your operational efficiency and business benefits.

## COLOUR WORKFLOW OPTIMIZATION ACROSS THE SUPPLY CHAIN

Colour process optimization across the workflow provides plenty of opportunities for boosting productivity and sustainability. Take an example of the substrates used in your workflow. Whether you are a brand owner or a print converter, you can streamline the portfolio of your substrates. This will result in the optimization of inks based on their compatibility with the substrates and the final products. The same goes for press conditions such as plates and blankets for offset printing, anilox

rollers for flexographic printing and doctor blades for gravure printing. In the prepress, you can review your workflow to find out any gaps and opportunities for standardization such as screening methods, screen angles, RIP settings etc.

Consistent colour, faster press setup, and reduced material waste are achievable by using standardized printing conditions. Organizations like Idealliance and FOGRA offer characterization data sets that define these conditions for different printing processes and substrates. These data sets and associated ICC (International Colour Consortium) profiles are available through the ICC website (see reference 1,2,3). Choosing appropriate standard printing conditions, combined with an effective press calibration method, such as G7, will significantly enhance print quality and efficiency. Colour management also offers some techniques which result in ink savings. For example, in CMYK printing, traditionally Gray Component Replacement (GCR) is used to replace the neutral CMY component with black ink in neutral and chromatic regions.

Similarly, there are 'ink optimization tools' available in different colour management software applications to minimize ink consumption.

## COLOUR AUTOMATION TOOLS

Colour automation is another area which could provide significant efficiency. This

includes in-press scanning spectrophotometer and quality monitoring systems, cloud-based colour QC (Quality Control) tools, prepress automation software applications etc. These tools help maintain



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# COLOUR. SUSTAIN. PROFIT

colour consistency and reduce manual intervention, leading to fewer errors and less waste. You can reduce the number of approvals, including on-press approvals, throughout the supply chain. Consider using remote proofing tools and online (web-based) colour approval systems.

## MANAGING SPOT COLOURS



Brand owners and designers can influence a lot of parameters in the printing supply chain. Think about the number of brand colours or spot colours in your palette across the design portfolio. By analyzing the spot colours in CIELAB colour space (a device-independent, 3D colour space for precisely measuring and comparing all perceptible colours utilizing three colour values) we can eliminate the redundant colours, and then rationalize the spot colour database. Some brands have even restricted the use of specific pigments to improve colour consistency and sustainability.

In one project, we managed to reduce the number of spot colours in the portfolio by **32%** using colourimetric analysis. Depending on your current scenario, this number could be more or less. It will simplify the process by reducing the number of inks, colour matching time and waste material. Designers can also contribute to sustainability by selecting colours (for a new artwork or product) that facilitate recyclability. For instance, lighter shades of colours with higher lightness values ( $L^*$ ) have better de-inking potential, making them more eco-friendly.

## SENSIBLE TOLERANCES

Printing involves mechanical, chemical, electronic and digital processes. There are inherent process limitations which should be mitigated with sensible tolerances. Note that 'sensible' is a key word here.

One of the fundamental metrics that we use for colour quality monitoring is  $\Delta E$  or colour difference between the target colour and the printed colour. There are different mathematical formulas to calculate the colour difference, such as  $\Delta E_{76}$  and  $\Delta E_{2000}$ . There are other metrics used for print quality assessment such as tone values, gray balance, tonality, metamerism index etc. It's imperative to keep these tolerances realistic according to the process limitation of your printing conditions. Overly tight tolerances can lead to increased material waste, longer production times, and a higher carbon footprint. Because

quality comes with a price. For instance, reducing default colour tolerances by **0.5  $\Delta E_{2000}$**  could translate into hundreds of extra press hours, increased material usage and higher carbon footprint of your production and supply chain. It's like a butterfly effect from chaos theory where tiny actions can have significant consequences.

On the other hand, you can't just loosen the  $\Delta E$  tolerance without optimizing the process first. Make sure that the variables are optimized and the process is stable before adjusting tolerances. There are several tools for colour quality control like spectrophotometric

devices and quality monitoring software applications. Final printed product and market expectations also play a role. Luxury product packaging, like a premium cognac, would require stricter tolerances than FMCG (Fast-Moving Consumer Goods) packaging, like a soft drink bottle. Metrics like the E-Factor can help correlate the colour difference with your personal expectation for an acceptable colour match (see reference 4).

## EXPANDED COLOUR GAMUT PRINTING

Traditionally, packaging printing relies on spot colours with dedicated inks for brand colours. However, with shorter print runs and more product variations, this approach increases wash-ups, waste, and costs. Expanded Colour Gamut (ECG) printing replaces spot colours with a fixed ink set, typically using CMYK plus Orange, Green, and Violet (CMYKOGV). This method boosts productivity by enabling multiple designs and Stock Keeping Units (SKUs) to be printed in a single job, reducing press wash-ups, setup time, ink waste, and overall carbon footprint. The graph shows potential improvements in various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) based on one study (see reference 5). In addition, ECG printing can enhance the vividness of your images so that the final printed product stands out on the shelf. It uses n-colour printing where 'n' is a number of fixed process inks. The number of fixed inks used can vary depending on the press (number of printing units), products, and spot colour portfolio. One option to consider is 4-colour ECG printing, such as the XCMYK process (see reference 6), which can significantly improve efficiency.



For a wide-web flexographic process with assumption of 50 million meters annual production (3,333 print-jobs), material width of 100 cm

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# COLOUR. SUSTAIN. PROFIT

While ECG printing offers significant benefits, it requires precise process control and stability particularly registration control. It's a complex implementation with a special ECG colour separation software as well as careful calibration, profiling and validation. There are several strategies for transition and production of ECG printing (see reference 7). You need to collaborate with knowledgeable suppliers. Despite these hurdles, significant tangible benefits still outweigh the efforts of implementing ECG printing. There is a recently published international standard providing guidelines and recommendations for ECG printing: ISO/TS 21328 (see reference 8). Industry organizations like Idealliance, FOGRA, FTA have done a lot of work and published guidelines on ECG printing (see reference 9,10,11).

## CONCLUSION



In essence, the integration of strategic colour management practices throughout the printing value chain offers a powerful pathway towards achieving sustainability goals. By optimizing workflows, leveraging automation, and making informed design and tolerance decisions, the industry can significantly reduce waste, enhance efficiency, and minimize its environmental footprint, ultimately ensuring a more responsible and prosperous future for print. The tactics mentioned above may not be suitable for every stakeholder or scenario in printing. However, they can be selectively used to address the challenges in meeting sustainability targets and business

performance objectives.

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## About DR. KIRAN DESHPANDE



As Global Senior Expert in Colour Management at Siegwirk, Dr. Deshpande is with over two decades of experience developing impactful colour solutions across the printing and packaging industry. He has a proven track record of spearheading strategic initiatives covering several printing plants worldwide, managing colour workflows and quality across diverse printing technologies (Offset, Flexo, Gravure, Digital), successfully delivering significant business value.

With his deep expertise in process optimization of CMYK, spot (brand) colours, and Expanded Colour Gamut (ECG) printing, backed by a strong academic foundation (MSc in Digital Colour Imaging, PhD in Colour Science), Dr. Deshpande extensive industry experience with leading companies like Xerox, Esko, Burgopak and Multi Packaging Solutions (Smurfit WestRock) are all proofs of his expertise. Currently leading a global colour management programme at Siegwirk that drives innovation and best practices across all business units, he also provides comprehensive guidance to the packaging printing supply chain: brand owners, designers, pre-press, print converters and ink-room.

As a recognized authority in the field of colour science, Dr. Deshpande strong publication record (scientific papers, articles and patents) is actively shaping international standards through contributing to ISO, CIE, ICC, Idealliance, FOGRA and more. And as a certified G7 and BrandQ Expert that is passionate about pushing the boundaries of colour science, Dr. Deshpande has consistently contributed to inventive technologies and digitalization in colour management that are dedicated to delivering innovative colour solutions to enhance efficiency, accuracy, and sustainability.



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# Print Impact Around the World

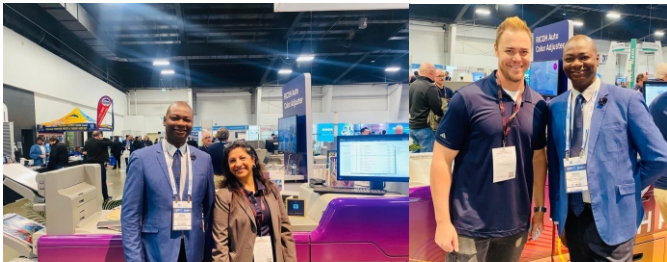
Media Library, the unique features enable print users achieve best-in-class and repeatable results as they can confidently run specialty stocks, synthetics, oversized sheets and magnetic media on assorted paper weights from 40 to 470 gsm. Therefore, RICOH Pro C7500 can be used for such business applications as highly-targeted direct mailers, decorative liners,



short-run packaging, instruction pamphlets/ catalogues/ welcome kits and more - even with printing that aligns variable data with variable imagery. And with the automated workflow solutions from one of its reseller partner and joint exhibitor at the show - **OnPrintShop** (the Web-to-Print Storefront), print users can indeed eliminate manual steps throughout the production process thereby meeting even the tightest deadline.

Scalable and affordable RICOH Pro C9500 Colour Sheet-Fed Printer is a top-of-the-line system built for today's realities hence driving digital print revolution. With performance capability of producing one million impressions per month, this extraordinary digital press is noted for its efficiency, capacity, power, and control as it gets it done with blazing speed up to 135 prints per minute (ppm). And with its powerful Fiery® controller and a robust paper capacity of 18,100 sheets backed by the all-new, full-view 21" colour touchscreen operation panel that simplifies user experience and faster job execution, the Pro C9500 oscillates from offset to digital without compromise to take on high-margin variable jobs and light packaging especially for clients in need of shorter runs with tight deadlines.

Producing photo-quality images with 2400 x 4800 dpi resolution, its groundbreaking technologies such as Auto Colour Diagnosis and Image Quality Monitor automatically detect imperfections and instantly adjust to maintain consistency throughout production even when printing high-value, duplexed jobs. And with RICOH Pro C9500 great media flexibility that allow users to print on variety of media from thin, synthetic and specialty substrates up to 173 lb. cover (470 gsm), those who want to pursue their next stage of growth in print business, via sustainable new markets can do so with RICOH Pro C9500 veritable and economically scalable application offerings from direct mail to catalogue, photo book to customized covers, point of sale (POP) to light signage, book wraps and more.



WHERE To Print Joju ADEKANBI with Ricoh Begum Walji

For more information, visit Ricoh Canada Inc. at [www.ricoh.ca](http://www.ricoh.ca)

## HP PRIORITISES HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT WITH THE LAUNCH OF LATEX 730 AND 830 PRINTER SERIES AT INTERNATIONAL SIGN EXPO 2025

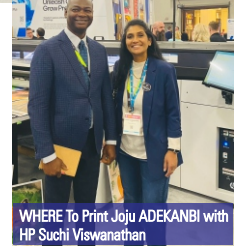
Raising the bar in health and environmental concerns across the entire life cycle of print from production to point-of-display, consumerism and recycling of consumables, global technology leader - **Hewlett-Packard Company (HP)** has once again up the ante with the launch of **HP Latex 730** and **830 Printer Series**.



Unveiled at its **Booth 1422** on day one of the **ISA International Sign Expo** (23 to 25 April) 2025 in Las Vegas Nevada, the all-new HP Latex 730 and 830 Large Format Printer Series use inks that are water-based and are designed to avoid health and environmental hazards associated with eco-solvent and ultra violet (UV) inks. According to Oscar Vidal - HP Global Director, Product Portfolio and Strategy for Large Format Printing assisted by Oriol Gasch - Head of Large Format Printing, North America, the launch of the two latest evolution in HP water-based Latex portfolio builds on the momentum HP ignited in March this year with the all-in-one HP Latex R530 and the HP Print OS Production Hub. To Oscar, "Together, they form a groundbreaking ecosystem of hardware, software, and services that's set to transform our industry."



Built for sustainability as both are certified by the premier global ecolabel for electronics and technology products - **EPEAT Climate+** ensuring registered products meet rigorous criteria that assure purchasers that the products have limited impact on climate change, HP Latex 730 and 830 Printer Series not only use water-based, odourless inks that are compatible with recyclable, fibre-based media, they also feature the unique HP Sustainability Amplifier software that helps print businesses meet growing client demand for environmentally responsible printing



WHERE To Print Joju ADEKANBI with HP Suchi Viswanathan

particularly odourless prints for indoor display in sensitive environments such as hospitality and healthcare.

Dubbed 'One Printer - Endless Possibilities', **WHERE To Print** also gathered that the brand-new HP Latex 730 and HP Latex 830 are with the new colour pipeline, HP Pixel Control - the latest generation of inks and printhead architecture that help deliver premium print quality with maximum consistency. This is as a result of the embedded HP Spectrophotometer that enables Print Service Providers (PSPs) to deliver a more robust colour profiles and consistent image quality hence allowing PSPs to confidently repeat print jobs across various media types without compromising quality. And with the recently introduced HP PrintOS Production Hub software, PSPs can further enhance their operations by simplifying print workflows, order management, and remote production from a centralized, real-time platform consequently optimizing productivity and reducing waste.

Not only that, PSPs can also optimize inventory management with the new universal printheads and a new long-life maintenance cartridge with an extended lifespan by at least 50%. The HP Latex 830 is enhanced to further reduce running costs, featuring 3-liter HP ink cartridges that can be replaced without halting operations. In all, each enhancement delivers a smoother, more efficient workflow that enables faster job turnaround and lower total cost of production - ideal for smaller teams when managing multiple jobs in high-mix, fast-paced large format print production.

Available worldwide from May 5, 2025 the newly released HP Latex 730 and HP Latex 830 thus deliver breakthrough consistency, production efficiency, and sustainability like never before. Built specifically for small to medium-sized PSPs, they are both trusted choice for premium and high-value everyday applications such as branded campaigns, décor, vehicle graphics, window graphics, wallcoverings, retail decorations, and white and colour stickers.

## MIMAKI ANNOUNCES NEW REVOLUTIONARY PRINTERS AT ISA SIGN EXPO 2025 ... ITS ECO-SOLVENT INK APPROVED FOR THE 3M™ MCS™ WARRANTY PROGRAMME

Leading manufacturer of wide-format inkjet printers, cutting plotters and 3D printers - **Mimaki**, has announced series of new printers such as **JV200 Series** of eco-solvent, roll-to-roll printers, **UV3300DTF-75** UV-DTF (direct-to-film) printer, and **Tx330-1800 series** created for the textile and apparel markets



The announcement was made in presence of top Mimaki top-level management including **Kazuaki Ikeda** - President/ CEO, Mimaki Engineering; **Yasuhiro Haba** - Global Sales Executive, Mimaki Engineering; **Yugi Ikeda** - Deputy Executive Director Marketing, Mimaki Engineering; **Naoya Kawagoshi** - President, Mimaki USA; and **Ken VanHorn** - Sr. Vice President, Mimaki USA who made the presentation at the recent **ISA International Sign Expo**, April 23-25, in Las Vegas Nevada while announcing the 25th and 50th Anniversary Celebrations of Mimaki USA and Mimaki Engineering respectively.

The Mimaki **JV200 Series** of eco-solvent, roll-to-toll printers can easily produce indoor and outdoor display graphics and vehicle wraps. These entry-level models, available in 54- and 64-inch widths, include the industry's best outdoor colour durability, the latest software, and up to 8 colour inks to provide the best entry-level value on the market. The JV200 Series also includes a three-year warranty for peace of mind. This series meets the needs of print service providers requiring an entry-level printer that can fit into a relatively tight space and

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# BEE Printing Mechanical Company



HEIDELBERG SM102 -4



BINDING MACHINE



HEIDELBERG MOZ



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## ARTISAN PRINT: A PROFITABLE MARKET OPPORTUNITY



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Many printing companies are struggling to find profitable work but there is a growing number of companies (involved in artisan works) where print is an integral part of their businesses, whether they know it or not. In this SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE by Print Sales Veteran - **Matthew Parker**, you will discover how to take advantage of this important segment of the economy and why selling prints to artisans can make all the difference not only to the perceived goods and services that they are selling but also to your bottom-line.



Imagine two bottles of hand lotion. One is in a plain plastic bottle. The other has a beautiful label and is shown off in an attractive presentation box. Which one will many people choose? Which one will many people pay substantially more for? Print can make a huge difference to the perceived value of a product or service. I call this type of work artisan print.

### What is Artisan Print?

Artisan print is high-end print that allows companies to sell goods or services at a higher price. It usually involves excellent design and unusual substrates. It also often involves extra colours or extra finishes.



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Typically, this sort of print is associated with artisan makers of craft items and food and drink. Traditionally printers haven't looked at these prospects closely because they are often one person businesses with small print runs. However, one independent chocolate maker I know spends in the region of \$12,500 per year on print and packaging. Having a few of these accounts would certainly make a difference to many print companies.





© The Newton Print

Many larger companies are now also aiming to tap into this market. This applies particularly in the e-commerce sector where companies are keen to differentiate themselves from the competition.

### Why sell Artisan Print?

The key reason is that the profit margins are much higher in this segment. You also typically win a much more loyal customer. Artisan print is not for everyone: If you are focused purely on high efficiency output, it is probably not a good fit. This is because artisan print deserves more attention; which is why more print companies should target this sector because artisan print can make a big difference to profit levels. If you are still unsure, here are seven reasons to sell artisan print:

#### 1. Artisan print has good profit margins

Artisan print customers have several advantages. First, they don't know much about print. Next, they are not typically shopping around for the lowest price. They are more interested in creating the right value proposition and pricing for their products than in buying the cheapest print and packaging. This means that you have a much better chance of adding a good profit margin on work you produce for them.

#### 2. Artisan print prospects like to be approached by printers

This is not a sector that is looked at by many printing companies. So often prospects are pleasantly surprised when someone approaches them. This means it is much easier to secure a good conversation or even a meeting.

#### 3. Artisan print means upselling is easy

Most prospects are very open to learning how to make their products look better. You have a good opportunity to put forward ideas for unusual substrates and finishes.

#### 4. Artisan print attracts more loyal customers

Many customers rely on their printers for advice. They trust suppliers who help them navigate print and grow their business. They are less likely to move for the sake of a small saving.

#### 5. Artisan print encourages account growth

You may win small customers, but some will grow to become much bigger customers. You should see several accounts grow to become much more worthwhile.

#### 6. Artisan print lets you be creative

You can be as inventive as you like for artisan print customers. They like good print and packaging ideas. Accounts like this can be great fun to work on!

#### 7. Artisan print looks good in your portfolio

Creative, artisan print always stands out. The right pieces are often good door openers to other clients.

© Stanpac



### What do you do if you want to expand into Artisan Print?

- Look out for my next three articles where I explain more
- Start looking for products that use artisan print
- Start looking for companies that do not use artisan print but could benefit from it

### Don't struggle with the search for profitable print

Review the potential of artisan print today.

#### About Matthew Parker



Many printing companies are frustrated how hard it is to engage buyers in today's world. That's where Matthew Parker can help. He is a gamekeeper turned poacher. Parker has bought print for more than 20 years and received over 1,400 print sales pitches. He now uses his buyer's point of view to give practical advice to printers. He helps them engage with prospects and

customers to create profitable relationships.

Download his free e-book, *"Ten Common Print Selling Errors And What To Do About Them"* and check out his recently launched book, *"How To Succeed At Print Sales: Setting targets, planning the right activities and making sure goals are met"* from his website: [www.profitableprintrelationships.com](http://www.profitableprintrelationships.com) You will also receive his regular "Views From The Print Buyer" bulletin, full of ideas on how to sell print effectively. It's free and you can unsubscribe at any time.





## PRINT & ALLIED EXHIBITIONS FOR 2025

S/N	EXHIBITION	LOCATION	DATE	SHOW LOGO
1	PSI 2025	Messe Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf - Germany	7 – 9 January 2025	
2	GULF PRINT & PACK 2025	Riyadh Front Exhibition Conference Centre (RFECC), Riyadh Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	14 – 16 January 2025	
3	FESPA MIDDLE EAST 2025	Dubai Exhibition Centre (Expo City), Dubai - United Arab Emirates	20 – 22 January 2025	
4	LED CHINA SHENZHEN 2025	Shenzhen Convention Centre, Shenzhen, P.R. China	17 – 19 February 2025	
5	PRINT PACK ALGER 2025	Palais des Expositions d'Alger – SAFEX, Algiers – Algeria	24 – 26 February 2025	
6	SIGN & DIGITAL UK 2025	NEC, Birmingham - United Kingdom	23 – 25 February 2025	
7	PRINTING SOUTH CHINA/ SINO LABEL 2025	China Import and Export Fair Complex, Guangzhou, P.R. China	4 – 6 March 2025	
8	PACK EXPO SOUTH EAST 2025	Georgia World Congress Centre, Atlanta - Georgia, United States of America	10 – 12 March 2025	
9	PROPAK AFRICA 2025	Expo Centre, NASREC Johannesburg - South Africa	11 – 14 March 2025	
10	NIGERIA PLASTPRINTPACK 2025	Landmark Centre, Lagos – Nigeria	25 – 27 March 2025	
11	GRAPHICS CANADA EXPO 2025	International Centre, Toronto - Canada	9 – 11 April 2025	
12	ISA SIGN EXPO 2025	Las Vegas Convention Centre, Las Vegas – Nevada, United States of America	23 – 25 April 2025	
13	FESPA 2025	Messe Berlin, Berlin - Germany	6 – 9 May 2025	
14	PROPAK EAST AFRICA 2025	Sarit Expo Centre, Nairobi – Kenya	20 – 22 May 2025	
15	IPACK-IMA EXPO 2025	Fiera Milano, Italy	27 – 30 May 2025	
16	PROPAK GHANA 2025	The Grand Arena, Accra International Convention Centre, Accra - Ghana	17 – 19 June 2025	
17	SPE – SURABAYA PRINTING EXPO 2025	Grand City, Surabaya - Indonesia	9 – 12 July 2025	
18	FESPA/ AFRICA PRINT 2025	Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg - South Africa	9 – 11 September 2025	
19	PROPAK WEST AFRICA 2025	Landmark Centre, Lagos - Nigeria	9 – 11 September 2025	
20	LABEL EXPO EUROPE 2025	Fira Barcelona Gran Via, Barcelona - Spain	16 – 19 September 2025	
21	LED CHINA SHANGHAI 2025	Shanghai New International Expo Centre, Shanghai, P.R. China	17 – 19 September 2025	
22	PACK PRINT INTERNATIONAL 2025	BITEC, Bangkok - Thailand	17 – 20 September 2025	
23	THE PRINT/ SIGN SHOW UK 2025	NEC, Birmingham - United Kingdom	23 – 25 September 2025	
24	PACK EXPO LAS VEGAS 2025	Las Vegas Convention Centre, Las Vegas, Nevada - United States of America	September 29 – October 1 2025	
25	ALLPRINT EXPO 2025	JIEXPO, Kemayoran, Jakarta – Indonesia	8 – 11 October 2025	
26	K WORLD 2025	Messe Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf – Germany	8 – 15 October 2025	
27	PROPAPER DUBAI 2025	Festival Arena, Dubai Festival City, Dubai - United Arab Emirates	13 – 15 October 2025	
28	PRINTINGUNITED 2025	Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida - United States of America	22 – 24 October 2025	
29	PAPEREX 2025	Yashobhoomi, Dwarka India International Convention & Expo Centre (IICC), New Delhi - India	3 – 6 December 2025	

### NOTE:

- Contact **NUMBERS CMYK LTD**, publishers of **WHERE To Print magazines** (Ghana & Nigeria editions) including **PROPAK East Africa DAILY**, **PROPAK Ghana DAILY**, and **PROPAK West Africa DAILY** for advert/ editorial slots in any of the publication responsibly packaged and distributed free-of-charge to visitors at each of the highlighted shows to improve overall exhibition experience. Visit [www.wheretoprintmagazine.com](http://www.wheretoprintmagazine.com) for details on how to get in touch. Also contact **FLOURISH COLOUR VENTURES** ([www.flourishcolour.com](http://www.flourishcolour.com)) to join the professionally packaged and value-driven **PEP Delegation** to any of the international shows.
- Exhibition date and venue may change at Organiser's discretion.





# THE Print Show

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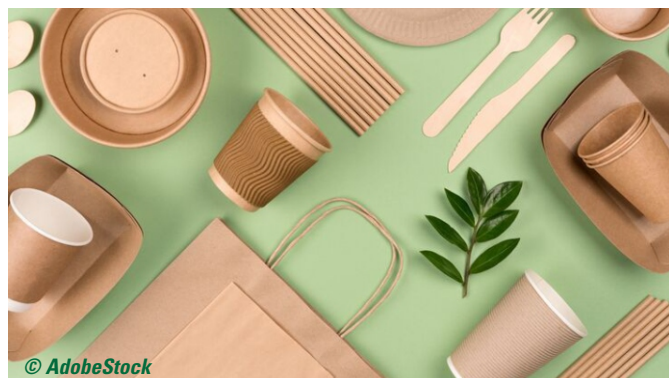
## THE ROLE AND FUTURE OF PAPER IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY



Today, paper food packaging has become an integral part of everyday lifestyle. From supermarkets to fast food restaurants, street stalls and cinemas, the significance of paper usage cannot be overemphasised. In this **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE** culled from **Sushil Enterprises**, find out why paper is gaining momentum over other packaging media within the Food Industry value-chain.

The Food Industry has long relied on various packaging materials, including plastic, aluminum, and styrofoam. However, with increasing concerns about environmental sustainability, paper has emerged as a preferred alternative. From food packaging to serving essentials, paper is playing a crucial role in reducing waste and promoting eco-friendly practices.

### WHY PAPER?



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The following are the benefits of using Paper in the Food Industry:

#### 1. Eco-Friendly and Biodegradable

Unlike plastic, which can take hundreds of years to decompose, paper is biodegradable and breaks down quickly. Many paper products are also recyclable or compostable, reducing landfill waste and pollution.

#### 2. Renewable and Sustainable

Paper is derived from trees, a renewable resource when harvested responsibly. Many manufacturers source paper from sustainable forests certified by organizations like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), ensuring responsible tree planting and harvesting.

#### 3. Safe for Food Contact

Paper-based food packaging is often free from harmful chemicals



© Ubuy Nigeria

like bisphenol A (BPA), which are found in some plastics. It is considered a safer alternative for direct food contact, making it a preferred choice for food safety-conscious consumers.

#### 4. Customizable and Brand-Friendly

Paper packaging is easy to print on, making it ideal for branding. Food businesses can print logos, product details, and sustainability messages directly on paper packaging, enhancing their marketing efforts while maintaining an eco-friendly image.

#### 5. Lightweight and Cost-Effective

Paper products are generally lightweight, reducing transportation costs and carbon emissions. Additionally, paper packaging solutions can be cost-effective compared to other sustainable alternatives like glass or metal.

Continued on page 41 >>





## COMMON USES OF PAPER IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY



© Importance of Food Paper Packaging Material Safety

### 1. Paper-Based Food Packaging

- **Paper bags:** Widely used for takeout, bakery items, and groceries, these are a sustainable replacement for plastic bags.
- **Paper food boxes:** Used for packaging fast food, salads, and meals, these are often lined with biodegradable coatings to prevent leaks.
- **Sandwich and burger wraps:** Grease-resistant paper is commonly used to wrap sandwiches, burgers, and wraps, replacing plastic or aluminum foil.

### 2. Paper Cups and Containers

- **Paper coffee cups:** While traditional paper cups have a plastic lining, newer versions use biodegradable coatings like PLA (corn-based bioplastic) or water-based coatings.
- **Soup and ice cream containers:** Sturdy paper-based bowls with protective linings allow for hot and cold food storage without plastic.

### 3. Paper Straws and Cutlery

- **Paper straws:** A widely accepted alternative to plastic straws, now commonly used in restaurants, cafes, and fast-food chains.
- **Wooden or bamboo cutlery:** Though not paper, these are often packaged in paper sleeves as a sustainable option for disposable utensils.

### 4. Greaseproof and Baking Paper

- **Parchment paper:** Used for baking, grilling, and cooking, offering a non-stick, biodegradable alternative to aluminum foil.
- **Butter paper:** Common in bakeries for wrapping pastries, cookies, and chocolates.

### 5. Paper-Based Labels and Stickers

- Many food products now use biodegradable paper labels instead of plastic-based stickers to align with sustainable packaging goals.

## CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS IN PAPER-BASED FOOD PACKAGING



www.wheretoprintmagazine.com

## CHALLENGES:

- **Durability and Moisture Resistance:** Traditional paper absorbs moisture and grease, making it unsuitable for all food types. To counter this, many paper products are lined with coatings - though some may still contain plastic.
- **Recycling Complexity:** Some paper-based packaging includes plastic or wax linings, making them harder to recycle. However, advancements in biodegradable coatings are addressing this issue.
- **Cost Considerations:** While paper packaging is often affordable, fully biodegradable and high-quality alternatives can sometimes be more expensive than plastic.

## INNOVATIONS:

- **PLA (Polylactic Acid) Coatings:** Derived from plants like corn and sugarcane, PLA is used as a biodegradable lining for paper cups and food containers.
- **Water-Based Barrier Coatings:** These coatings enhance the grease and moisture resistance of paper packaging while remaining fully recyclable.
- **Edible and Plantable Packaging:** Some companies are developing edible paper-based packaging or seed-infused wrappers that can be planted instead of discarded.

## THE FUTURE OF PAPER IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY



© MTED

With increasing bans on single-use plastics and rising consumer demand for sustainable solutions, the role of paper in the Food Industry is expected to grow. Governments and businesses are investing in research to make paper-based packaging more durable, cost-effective, and fully compostable.

As technology advances, we can expect even more innovative paper-based solutions that enhance food safety, reduce waste, and support a circular economy. The shift toward paper is not just a trend but a necessary step toward a more sustainable Food Industry. By choosing paper-based alternatives, businesses and consumers can contribute to a cleaner planet - one meal at a time.

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# Print Impact

## Around the World

act as their universal printing device. While JV200 Series gives vehicle wrap shops an extended gamut printer at an affordable price along with best-in-class quality, these models can print indoor and outdoor graphics with ease and generate all types of decals and stickers, wraps, banners, and posters. Thus is ideal for smaller shops if planning to use an external cutter or a lamination workflow.

Purposely built for UV-DTF applications, the **UVJ300DTF-75** is a direct-to-film printer which uses a specialized film system that enables easy transfer onto large or unusually shaped surfaces, which is difficult with traditional methods.

UV-DTF is a transfer printing method that uses a dedicated film in a four-step process: (1) print a design on specialized film, (2) press the transfer sheet onto the printed surface; (3) transfer the design to the object along with the transfer sheet; and (4) peel off the transfer sheet. The finished product is ready for delivery without the need for set-up or extensive manual intervention. With the fusion of Mimaki's long-cultivated UV printing technology, its newly developed film transport system, and next-generation inks will greatly expand the possibilities of the made-to-order goods business. This is because Mimaki original UV curable ink that combines hard and flexible inks to achieve both printing strength and flexibility, without compromising durability. It is Greenguard Gold certified, making it an environmentally and health-conscious product.

Meant for the textile and apparel markets, the **Tx330-1800** and **Tx330-1800B** are hybrid models that can print both direct-to-fabric and to paper. Meaning these digital textile inkjet printers equipped with a dual ink set capability to seamlessly switch between textile pigment inks and dye sublimation inks for a more diverse range of applications in one machine. They offer versatility for producing bespoke and on-demand custom textile printing on a wide variety of fabrics for a variety of

applications, including signs, décor, and wearables. In addition, they can also print on wallpaper and poster paper for a completely coordinated appearance in retail or event settings.

While the Tx330-1800 printer offers the customer the option of running both pigment and dye-based inks, loaded into the printer at the same time, for maximum application versatility, the Tx330-1800B printer uses a space-saving belt conveyor system to securely print directly to stretchy, thick, and thin fabrics commonly used for both apparel and décor, supporting short-run and multi-variety apparel production in limited spaces such as design offices, schools, and fabric retail stores. The belt also includes a sophisticated cleaning and maintenance system built in to the printer. Textile pigment inks can be used for textile printing on a wide variety of natural fibers, as well as recycled and synthetic fibers. Sublimation dye inks can be used to dye polyester fabrics, and are used for fabric signage, fashion, and sports apparel. The new Tx330-1800B printer offers the widest possible range of textile printing in a single printer.

### Near-waterless printing

The Tx330-1800 and Tx330-1800B models are both direct textile inkjet printers that can be used with dedicated textile pigment inks and dye sublimation inks, and they use almost no water in the textile printing process. Compared to the traditional and complicated textile printing process that requires a large amount of water for conventional dye inks and multiple steps requiring both time and expense, the Mimaki inks complete the textile printing process with a simple print and heat treatment procedure. This eliminates the water supply and drainage requirements, water purification facilities, and dyeing expertise to customers. In addition, the Mimaki 330 engine used in Mimaki flagship printers along with the enables customers to create expressive on-demand ever before.

In a related development, Mimaki also announced that its 330 series of our flagship printers (JV330 and CJV330) and the Eco-Solvent SS21 and BS4 inks used with them have now been approved for the 3M™ MCS™ Warranty programme, giving customers using these products even greater peace of mind. This is because 3M™ MCS™ Warranty is the most comprehensive finished graphics warranty in the industry. The 3M™ MCS™ Warranty provides non-prorated warranty coverage for the graphic's intended lifespan, including protection against fading, cracking, peeling, blistering, discoloration, and other aspects of graphic performance, thereby providing print service companies and their customers with the peace of mind and confidence that their graphics will perform as expected for the intended lifetime of the printed graphic.

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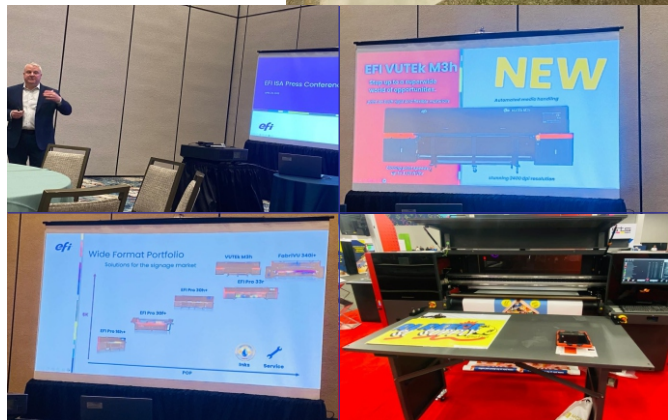
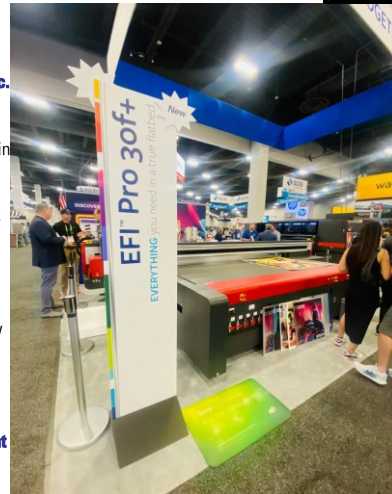
## EFI SHOWCASES LATEST SOLUTIONS EXPANDING THE POSSIBILITIES OF DIGITAL PRINTING AT THE ISA INTERNATIONAL SIGN EXPO

SIGN EXPO 2025

From its **Booth 1645** and that of its partners, **Electronics For Imaging, Inc. (EFI™)** has showcased its newest hybrid and flatbed LED inkjet printers at the **ISA International Sign Expo®** in Las Vegas (April 23 to 25).

Marking the worldwide debut of EFI's new **EFI Pro 30h+ hybrid flatbed/roll-to-roll printer**, EFI also demonstrated **EFI VUTEk® M3h hybrid** and **EFI Pro 30f+ flatbed LED printers** designed to help sign and display producers grow their business with new capabilities and revenue streams.

At an exclusive Media Parley during the show attended by **WHERE To Print magazine**, EFI VP, Worldwide



Marketing – **Kon Hanulec** while announcing the wide-range of the company's wide-format solutions for the signage market disclosed that the new **EFI Pro 30h+ hybrid printer** is designed for business growth.

Premiered at EFI partner - Nazdar SourceOne stand, the 126-inch-wide hybrid printer is a versatile, production-level printer that enables direct-to-board and roll-to-roll printing in one footprint, allowing print service providers to produce a wider variety of high-margin applications faster and at a lower cost. With production speeds up to 2,530 ft² per hour, native 5pL printheads, CMYK plus four channels of white, and resolutions up to 1200 dpi, the Pro 30h+ printer delivers outstanding image quality, saturated colours, and smooth gradients. Standard features like Continuous Board and dual-roll printing capabilities maximize throughput, while EFI's energy-efficient LED curing and ProGraphics+ Series UV LED Inks with excellent adhesion and elongation offer more sustainable production.

**EFI VUTEk M3h** offers step up to higher-volume printing. The 126-inch wide EFI VUTEk M3h hybrid flatbed/roll-fed UV LED printer is designed for print providers looking to make the move to higher-volume, production-level printing to reduce costs, take on more jobs, and turn them faster. The versatile VUTEk M3h printer handles board, sheet, or rolled media up to two inches thick, giving sign businesses the opportunity to explore new materials and/or applications and differentiate their offering without compromising on print quality or productivity. Four colours plus white, multilayer printing up to five layers in a single pass, and its optional clear ink, give print providers the ability to produce higher-value applications, helping them to gain new customers, increase volume from existing ones, and improve profitability.

Another highlight at EFI's booth is the new **EFI Pro 30f+ flatbed printer**, which builds on the legacy of its predecessor by offering even greater versatility and efficiency. This true flatbed printer features a large 120x80-inch printable area with bleed printing and can handle media up to four inches thick. The Pro 30f+ printer is equipped with EFI's industry-leading white ink, up to five-layer printing in a single pass, optional clear ink, and new high-performance ProGraphics™+ Series UV LED inks. The result is more capabilities to print a broader range of applications at a lower cost per print for users.

To learn more about the ways sign shops can profitably build their business with EFI digital inkjet printing technologies, visit: [www.efi.com](http://www.efi.com)



WHERE To Print Joju ADEKANBI with EFI Corporate Communication Director – Holly Hokrein-O'Rourke



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### RECORDS BROKEN IN 2024!

The doors have closed on another hugely successful Propak West Africa event. From the 10th - 12th September, the 11th edition brought together a record number of visitors, exhibitors and industry stakeholders across the three days in Lagos and provided the platform for the manufacturing sectors it serves to congregate at the leading annual event.

This year saw more than 5,000 attendees visit the Landmark Centre and witness over 250 brands from 174 exhibiting companies. For the first time all four halls at the event centre were filled with the latest technologies available in the global market place for the packaging, printing, processing and plastics industries. Following the success of the event more than 82% of the exhibition centres four halls have already been booked for the 2025 event!

### 2024 IN NUMBERS



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## CONTACT US TODAY

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