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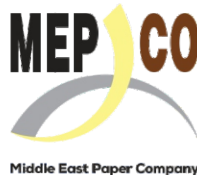
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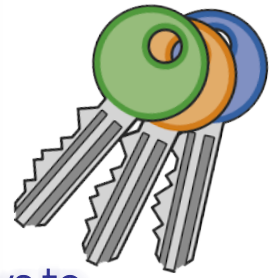
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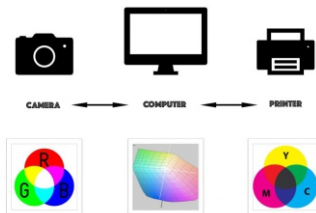
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This practical-oriented training will show how print machinery works, and the role of the maintenance in ensuring proper operation and print profitability. Emphasis will be on Stress is laid on operator's skill development as well as machine diagnosis and troubleshooting for practical expertise in maintenance procedures.

At the end, participants will be able to perform basic maintenance functions such as machinery mounting; balancing; lubrication; bearings; power transmission; shaft alignment; seals; condition monitoring; troubleshooting; safety etc



PRINthead REPAIR

The printhead is a very sensitive, delicate and no doubt costly component of every printer that must be treated with the necessary care especially noting the fact that printhead is subject to wear and tear. This is why this hands-on training will show you recommended, yet practical steps to clean your print head; choosing the right media; how environmental conditions affect printheads; and OEM's endorsed printhead maintenance and repair procedures.

After the training, participants will be able to expertly maintain, repair, and prolong the service life of their printers' printheads. The aim of this skill acquisition is not only to improve operator's knowledge on printheads but most importantly empower them for added skills that would no doubt add value to our industry.



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MAGAZINE

VOL. 17 | NO.98 | SEP/OCT 2025 | ISSN: 2006-7402

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How to reach us

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To Readers

By Joju Adekanbi | publisher@wheretoprintmagazine.com | 0803 862 9114

YOU'RE ALL APPRECIATED!

In the last **97th edition**, just as the 'ember' months started, I urged everyone to start planning, executing, and engaging with relevant stakeholders on 2026. If you observe, this last quarter of 2025 is practically 'running faster than ever'. Again, I will encourage you to begin your 2026 strategic plans, forecast, and budget now if your long-term goal is sustainable growth that births positive impacts. **Now is the time to define what you are meant for with clarity of purpose.** Discover your area of impact and take time to purposely plan ahead and realistically execute them with deep focus, empathy, and patience.

What's in the 98th edition?

While both **PRINT IMPACT AROUND NIGERIA** (from page 10) and **PRINT IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD** (from page 12) characteristically cover news around Nigeria and across the globe, highlighting the latest developments that took place within the last two months in the print and allied industries, our **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLES** begin with the **POST-SHOW REPORT** of West Africa's number one trade event for the packaging, plastics, printing, and food processing industries - **PROPAK West Africa**. The show, which took place from **9 to 11 September 2025**, brought together manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors from across Africa and the world under one roof to explore cutting-edge solutions, strengthen partnerships, and shape the future of the industry. That is why the **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE**, adapted from organiser's (**Montgomery Group Africa**) **POST-SHOW PRESS RELEASE**, is aptly titled: **PROPAK WEST AFRICA 2025 WELCOMES OVER 3,100 INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS AND DECISION-MAKERS**. Turn to page 11 to find out more.

For the first time after 38 years in Brussels, the culturally diverse City of Barcelona played host to **Labelexpo Europe** (now **LOUPE**) from **16 to 19 September 2025**. As the world's largest congregation of label and packaging players, check out the **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE** culled from organiser's (**Informa Markets**) **POST-SHOW STATEMENT**, which highlights why the 4-

DAY event was truly **THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH** in terms of measurable impacts. The piece captioned: **LABELEXPO EUROPE 2025 ATTRACTS RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS** starts from page 16 and shows you the areas.

The last **POST-SHOW REPORT** in this edition, which coincidentally forms the last **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE**, is an extraction of the **POST-SHOW STATEMENT** from the organiser of **The Print Show 2025** (colocated for the first time with **The Sign Show 2025**). According to **Link Exhibitions (UK) LTD**, the 3-DAY show welcomed **over 5,300 attendees** from **23rd September to 25th September**, thus the apt title: **THE PRINT SHOW AND THE SIGN SHOW WELCOME OVER 5,300 ATTENDEES TO 2025 EVENTS** of the **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE** starts from page 38 and ends on page 41.

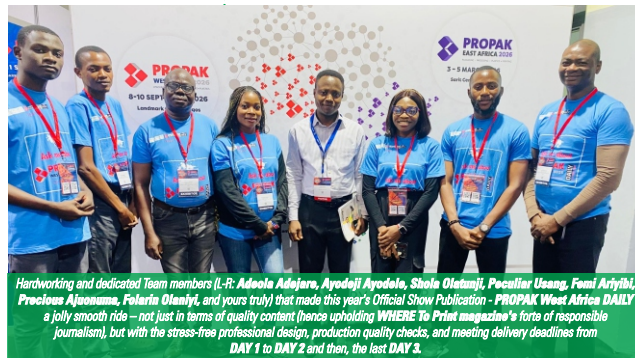
America's largest annual trade show, **PRINTING United Expo**, is set to take place at the popular and award-winning East Coast destination - **Orange County Convention Centre** in Orlando, Florida, from **Wednesday 22 to Friday 24 October 2025**. **WHERE To Print** sought to



know what's going to be new at this year's edition and what the global printing industry should look forward to from the organiser, **PRINTING United Alliance**. The responses from Group President, Media and Events - **Mr. Christopher Curran**, form the first **SPECIAL FEATURE INTERVIEW** in this edition on pages 24 and 25, captioned: **"PRINTING UNITED EXPO 2025 WILL BE A VALUE-DRIVEN, TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE"**

And basking in the euphoria of the successful

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Hardworking and dedicated Team members (L-R: Adedola Adesola, Ayodeji Ayedele, Shale Olanmilati, Peculiar Usang, Femi Ariyibi, Precious Ajinomade, Folanmi Olanmilati, and yours truly) that made this year's Official Show Publication - **PROPAK West Africa DAILY** a jolly smooth ride - not just in terms of quality content (hence upholding **WHERE To Print** magazine's forte of responsible journalism), but with the stress-free professional design, production quality checks, and meeting delivery deadlines from **DAY 1 to DAY 2** and then, the last **DAY 3**.

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live display of one of its brands, the **Autoprint One-Colour Press**, which not only stole the show at the just concluded and hitherto mentioned West Africa's biggest packaging, plastics, printing, and food processing exhibition - **PROPAK West Africa 2025**, but also recorded unprecedented sales right from the show floor from domestic and international visitors around Africa. **WHERE To Print** also caught up with **Autoprint Machinery Mfrs Pvt. LTD** Manager for International Business, **Mr. Harsha Ashok**, at its **Ankan Graphics LTD** partner stand during the show to find out, amongst others, how the Coimbatore, India-based printing machines manufacturer intends to support the African market as it continues to alter global perception of Indian-made printing equipment. The summary of his response is excerpted below in the second exclusive **SPECIAL FEATURE INTERVIEW** on pages 26, 27, and 28 titled: **"WE GUARANTEE TIMELY SERVICE, QUICK RESPONSE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES, AND AVAILABILITY OF PARTS"**.

But as we know that it's people who drive machines, and with the end-of-year crush of open enrollment, performance evaluations, bonuses, and compensation adjustments, etc., which makes Human Resource (HR) processes and procedures cumbersome at this time of the year, how can HR practitioners in the industry navigate HR processes and procedures smoothly? The answer to this question forms the crux of this edition's **COVER STORY**, aptly captioned: **13 TIPS FROM AN HR EXPERT**, written by **Adriane Harrison**,

Vice President of Human Relations Consulting at **PRINTING United Alliance**, and adapted from **Printing Impressions**, please flip over to Pages 30, 31, and 32 to discover how HR practitioners in the industry can navigate HR processes and procedures efficiently.

To wrap up this edition, just as we aim to finish this year with impactful deliverables, I sincerely thank ALL those who stopped, engaged, and shared ideas with me on how to take our industry to greater heights during **The Print Show UK**, **Labelexpo Europe**, and **PROPAK West Africa**. And most especially this year's PROPAK West Africa DAILY advertisers/partners: **Afropack Engineering**, **Ankan Graphics LTD**, **Heidelberg Nigeria LTD**, **Print Box Nigeria LTD**, **Nilpeter**, **SHS-CAS**, **Graphische Maschinen GmbH**, and **Sid Print Services**. You're ALL appreciated even as I also thank my hardworking and dedicated Team members for making this year's Official Show Publication - PROPAK West Africa DAILY a jolly smooth ride - not just in terms of quality content (hence upholding **WHERE To Print** magazine's forte of responsible journalism), but with the stress-free professional design, production quality checks, and meeting delivery deadlines from **DAY 1** to **DAY 2** and then, the last **DAY 3**. From those seen and those who worked behind the scenes, their commitment truly fulfilled the DAILY's mission of improving the overall exhibition experience of all stakeholders. Thank you, **Precious Ajuonuma**, **Peculiar Usang**, **Folarin Olaniyi**, **Shola Olatunji**, **Adeola Adejare**, **Ayodeji Ayodele**, and **Femi Ariyibi**. You ALL did a wonderful job - thank you ALL for your unalloyed commitment and support - you're the BEST!

Take care and continue to do good!

WHERE TO PRINT BY-LINE

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YALIAM PRESS APPOINTS KYARI ABUBAKAR YAHAYA AS MANAGING DIRECTOR



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Top choice for anyone looking for quality printing services in Nigeria, **Yaliam Press LTD** has elevated the appointment of its former Executive Director, Business Development - **Mr. Kyari Abubakar Yahaya**, as the new Managing Director with effect from September 2025.

With exceptional leadership skills, dedication, and international expertise in general printing, the University of Hamburg-trained Economist is expected to drive the security and commercial printing company to the next level of growth and success.

Founded by **Alhaji Yahaya Amfani**, who remains Chairman, Yaliam Press LTD, which metamorphosed from Yaliam Enterprises, is reputed for offering high-quality but low-cost printed products to all categories of its esteemed customers. Today, Yaliam Press LTD is among the six printing companies accredited by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) as Cheque Printers and Personalisers in the country, aside from being the Printer of choice for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) among several other blue-chip businesses, private enterprises, government, and non-governmental institutions.

Congratulations from ALL of us at **WHERE To Print magazine!**



Continued on page 11 >>

PROPAK WEST AFRICA 2025 WELCOMES OVER 3,100 INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS AND DECISION-MAKERS



PROPAK West Africa concluded another successful edition, reaffirming its position as the region's leading exhibition for the packaging, plastics, printing, and processing industries. From the buzzing energy observed across the show floors, this year's event brought together more than **3,100 industry professionals**, with a strong concentration of senior decision-makers and influential buyers, thereby establishing the fair as the essential platform for innovation and business growth in West Africa's manufacturing sector. This **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE** culled from the organiser's (**Montgomery Group Africa**) **POST-SHOW PRESS RELEASE** examines how West Africa's number one exhibition and conference continues to grow its influence in shaping the future of manufacturing in Africa's fastest-growing region.



As the region's largest and most influential event for the packaging, plastics, printing, and processing industries, **PROPAK West Africa 2025** brought together manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors from across Africa and the world under one roof to explore cutting-edge solutions, strengthen partnerships, and shape the future of the industry.

High-Level Buyers and Strategic Engagement

An impressive **87%** of attendees held purchasing authority, with **51%** acting as direct decision-makers and **36%** influencing procurement decisions. This ensured that exhibitors engaged directly with senior executives, operations leads, and procurement heads, actively shaping investment and purchasing decisions across the region.

The leadership mix at PROPAK West Africa 2025 included Owners, CEOs, and Managing Directors (**22%**), alongside Production Managers (**13%**), Marketing Professionals (**13%**), and General Management Executives (**13%**). These high-level interactions contributed to valuable strategic conversations and meaningful business outcomes for exhibitors and attendees alike.

Industry Sectors Represented

Visitors' interests spanned the full value chain of the manufacturing ecosystem, which includes, among others:

- Packaging - **42%**
- Plastics - **23%**
- Printing - **14%**
- Food Processing - **14%**

Beverage Processing - **7%**

Strong Regional and International Reach

PROPAK West Africa continues to attract an increasingly global audience. While **92%** of visitors were based in Nigeria, the show also welcomed **240 international attendees** from **35+ countries**, including Ghana, Benin, Niger, Côte d'Ivoire, India, China, and the United Arab Emirates. This expanding reach underscores PROPAK's growing international appeal and its role as the gateway to West Africa's fast-evolving industrial landscape. Lagos, hosting **75%** of local visitors, further cemented its status as the commercial capital of the region.

Visitor Objectives and Insights

Overall, while attendees came to PROPAK West Africa with a clear focus on sourcing, learning, and networking, statistics from Montgomery Group Africa also reveal the following visitors' insights:

- Source new products and technologies - **24%**
- Gather market information - **25%**
- Training and education - **14%**
- Networking with industry peers - **24%**
- Evaluate for future participation - **13%**

Core Industries Represented

- Food - **25%**
- Beverage - **13%**
- Pharmaceutical - **6%**
- Cosmetics - **6%**

Continued on page 14 >>

Print Impact Around the World

PRINTING UNITED ALLIANCE LAUNCHES NEW PRINTING AI CONSULTING SERVICES, NAMES AI EXPERT AMY SERVI- BONNER TO LEAD NEW DIVISION

PRINTING United Alliance, the most comprehensive member-based printing and graphic arts association in North America, has appointed **Amy Servi-Bonner** as Vice President, Consulting - **Applied AI & Printing Technology**.

In this role, Servi-Bonner will lead the newly launched PRINTING AI Consulting Services, a cornerstone of the Alliance's expanded portfolio of resources and solutions designed to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) across



the printing and packaging industry. Learn more at the newly launched PRINTING AI website: <https://ai.printing.org>

Renowned AI Expert to Lead and Grow the Alliance's Latest Initiatives for the Industry

With over 25 years of experience in technology leadership and consulting, Servi-Bonner brings deep expertise in ERP systems, digital transformation, and AI strategy. She holds an Executive Degree in AI Strategy and Governance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as an MBA in Finance from Webster University. Her combination of technical acumen, consulting background, and knowledge of the printing and packaging sector uniquely positions her to guide companies through the next era of transformation.

"PRINTING United Alliance continues to lead the charge in equipping our members and the industry with the tools they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving business environment," said Mark J. Subers, Chief Innovation Officer, PRINTING United Alliance. "The launch of PRINTING AI Consulting Services, under Amy's leadership, ensures that our community can strategically adopt AI solutions that deliver measurable value and growth."

The new PRINTING AI Consulting Services provides industry-specific expertise to address business challenges and help organizations define, implement, and scale AI-driven solutions. Service offerings include:

- AI Readiness and Strategy
- ERP / MIS Transformation Advisory
- Copilot and Productivity Workshops
- AI Proof of Concept and Pilots
- Cybersecurity and Compliance
- Fractional Leadership
- OEM and Vendor Programs



The consulting team will be on hand at the most dynamic and comprehensive printing event in the world - **PRINTING United Expo 2025** (October 22-24, Orlando, Fla.), where attendees can meet Servi-Bonner and the team at the new PRINTING AI Pavilion. The Pavilion will feature hands-on demonstrations, micro-sessions, and resources designed to showcase how AI is transforming every segment of the industry.

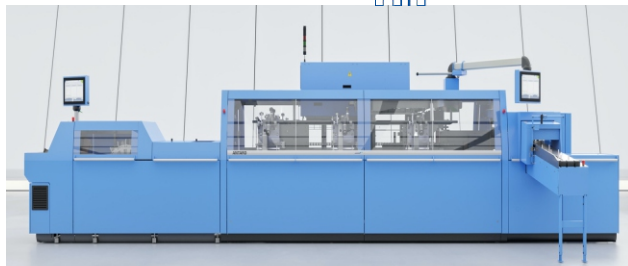
"PRINTING United Alliance has already established itself as the leader in AI education, resources, and research for printing," said Servi-Bonner. "I'm excited to join the team at this pivotal time and to work directly with companies to address their pain points, identify scalable AI strategies, and unlock opportunities for innovation and efficiency."

The launch of PRINTING AI Consulting Services builds on the Alliance's broader mission to deliver workforce development, advocacy, research, and community support under one roof. PRINTING AI further strengthens this vision, ensuring members and the global printing industry remain competitive in an AI-driven future.

New "Ink to AI" Blog

A dedicated PRINTING AI Blog entitled, "Ink to AI" has also launched, where Servi-Bonner will help readers stay up to date with the latest in AI updates, tips and tricks, and more at: <https://www.piworld.com/blogs/ink-to-ai/>

MULLER MARTINI AND HUNKELER PREMIER ANTARO DIGITAL AND GEN8 EVO PRINTING UNITED EXPO 2025



Antaro Digital perfect binder and **GEN8 EVO** roll-to-stack solution will make their North American debut at **PRINTINGUnited Expo 2025**.

At its **Booth No. 3234** during **PRINTING United Expo 2025** from October 22 to 24 in Orlando, Florida, **Müller Martini** will present the North American debut of two groundbreaking technologies: the **Antaro Digital** perfect binder and the **GEN8 EVO** roll-to-stack solution. These innovations are set to redefine digital print finishing and underscore Müller Martini's commitment to delivering future-ready, market-driven solutions.

Antaro Digital: Automation and Versatility for Modern Print Businesses

Müller Martini's Antaro Digital perfect binder exemplifies advanced automation and operational flexibility. Its newly integrated endsheet tipper enables seamless transitions between softcover and hardcover book production within the same machine. Paired with the InfiniTrim "Robotic" trimming system and the Solema Mini-Sol stacker with Omega693 cobot palletizer, this solution delivers unmatched efficiency for short-run digital book manufacturing - requiring minimal labour and zero make-ready. The Antaro Digital can be used for perfect binding of digitally and conventionally printed products as well as for hybrid production. The Motion Control technology plays to its strengths here, allowing the various units to be precisely adjusted to the product parameters from book to book.

MÜLLER MARTINI

GEN8 EVO: Raising the Bar in Production Efficiency

The Hunkeler GEN8 EVO roll-to-stack solution is designed for maximum efficiency. The intuitive, future-proof platform allows for easy adaptation to evolving customer requirements, placing it at the forefront of print finishing technology. That is why GEN8 EVO sets new standards in production efficiency. Thanks to its robust design and high speed, it maximises availability and ensures consistently high quality of the end products. More importantly, its waste-reducing features ensure high-quality output at lower operating costs.

MIMAKI DEBUTS NEW ENTRY-LEVEL SUBLIMATION PRINTER - TSTS200-1600 AT THE PRINT SHOW UK 2025

At the UK's most important, dedicated, and best-attended industry event, **The Print Show UK 2025**, industry leader in providing the broadest array of wide format printing and cutting solutions - **Mimaki** unveiled its global debut, the new entry-level Sublimation Printer - **TS200-1600** to the market.



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SHS-CAS

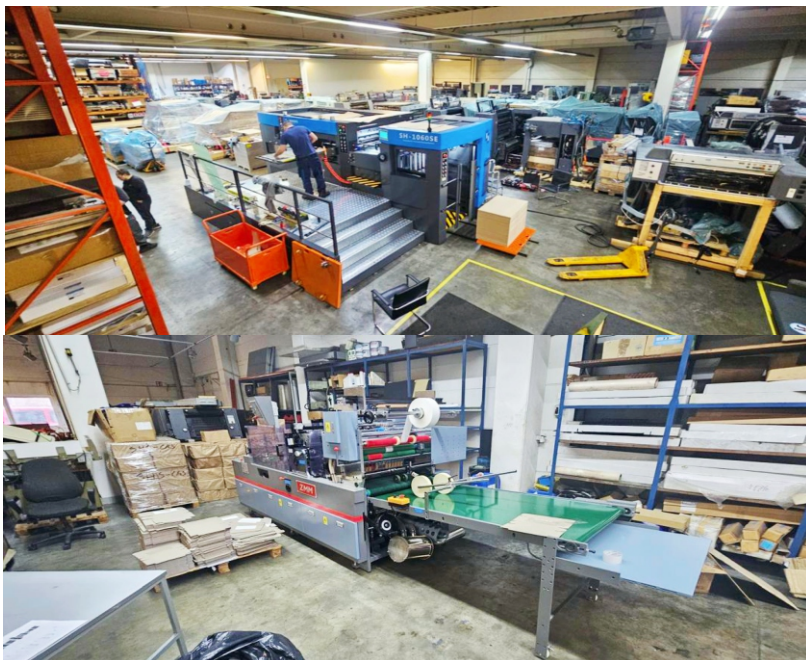
Graphische Maschinen GmbH



Dear Colleagues, we like to offer you these machines subject to prior sale.

Ref.-No.: 9293
Model: SM 52-4 H+LX
Manufacturer: Heidelberg
Year of manufacture: 2000
Serial No.: 204293
Imps.(mio.) ca.: 92 Mio.
Delivery: Installed in our warehouse
Equipment: Alcolor with MGE cooling, CP2000, Autoplate, Preset,
all washers, coating unit, extended delivery X1, IR dryer, Eltex
antistatic, Grafix alphantronic 200 powder sprayer

Ref.-No.: 9498
Model: 304 P HOB
Manufacturer: Roland
Year of manufacture: 2000
Serial No.: 28764 B
Imps.(mio.): 121 Mio
Delivery: In stock
Equipment: Rolandmatic dampening, CPL, RCI, Perfecting 4/0; 2/2,
Multi CCI, WEKO T77, IR dryer Eltosch



Other current offers:

Sheet-fed Press | 1-colour Offset | 2-colour Offset
4-colour offset | 5-colour Offset | 6-colour Offset
8-colour Offset | 10-colour Offset
12-colour Offset | 1-colour Letterpress
Finishing | Converting | Paper processing
Pre-Press | Cutting Machines | Cutter machine-accessories
Wrapping machines & others | Spare parts

We are dealers for used printing machines, post-press and pre-press. Main brands: Heidelberg, MAN Roland, Polar, KBA Stahl, Wohlenberg, Schneider Senator, MBO and all the other brands around. If you are searching for anything or you have any questions, please don't hesitate to

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SHS-CAS Graphische Maschinen GmbH
Oststraße 87, 22844 Norderstedt Germany

Tel.: +49 (0) 40 52 10 20 60

+234 901 239 9805

Email: africa@shsgm.com

Website: www.shsgm.com



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SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE - PROPAK WEST AFRICA 2025

Printing – **19%**
Non-Food Consumer Goods – **19%**
Administrative Services – **11%**

Capital Expenditure and Buyer Potential

While Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) formed a significant portion of the audience - as expected for a developing market - PROPAK West Africa also attracted a high number of buyers with million-dollar budgets, reaffirming its value for exhibitors seeking to connect with both emerging and established companies. This is shown in the analysis of visitors' spending capabilities below, thus reflecting a strong mix of SMEs and large-scale industrial buyers:

USD \$50,000 and below – **39%**
USD \$50,001 – \$250,000 – **23%**
USD \$250,001 – \$500,000 – **16%**
USD \$500,001 – \$999,999 – **9%**
USD \$1,000,000 and above – **13%**

Exhibitor Success and Market Growth

With **170 exhibitors** showcasing innovations across packaging, plastics, printing, and processing, the event provided a vital meeting point for regional suppliers, distributors, and global brands. The exhibition floor buzzed with live demonstrations, networking sessions, and cross-sector collaboration, setting a new benchmark for quality engagement and deal-making.

Not only that, PROPAK West Africa 2025 was not just about exhibits; **WHERE To Print magazine** gathered that stakeholders across the manufacturing industry value-chain also converged over the three-

day event for a high-impact conference tagged: **The PROPAK Summit**. Held simultaneously alongside the show with the theme: **Shaping the Future of Packaging in West Africa**, the dedicated forum focused on innovation, efficiency, and sustainability in manufacturing and packaging operations. It brought together top-level industry professionals, decision-makers, and technical leads from West African manufacturing sectors with a dynamic mix of keynote presentations, expert panels, and industry case studies on transformative packaging and processing technologies, market trends, and sustainability practices shaping the region's industrial growth. Characteristically, PROPAK West Africa's long-standing **Strategic Conference Partner – KPMG** also coordinated a **Conference** with an apt theme: **Lifecycle Data Management for Sustainable Packaging Systems** to further add value to participants.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Building on the success of this year's edition, PROPAK West Africa continues to strengthen its position as the most important gathering place for the region's manufacturing and processing sectors. The next edition of PROPAK West Africa will take place from **8 to 10 September 2026** at the same purpose-built Landmark Centre, Lagos, Nigeria, and will once again unite key stakeholders driving industrial innovation across Africa and beyond.

For more information, visit:
www.propakwestafrica.com

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www.propakwestafrica.com



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You
want a
MENTOR
dedicated
to
help
GROW
your
DREAM?



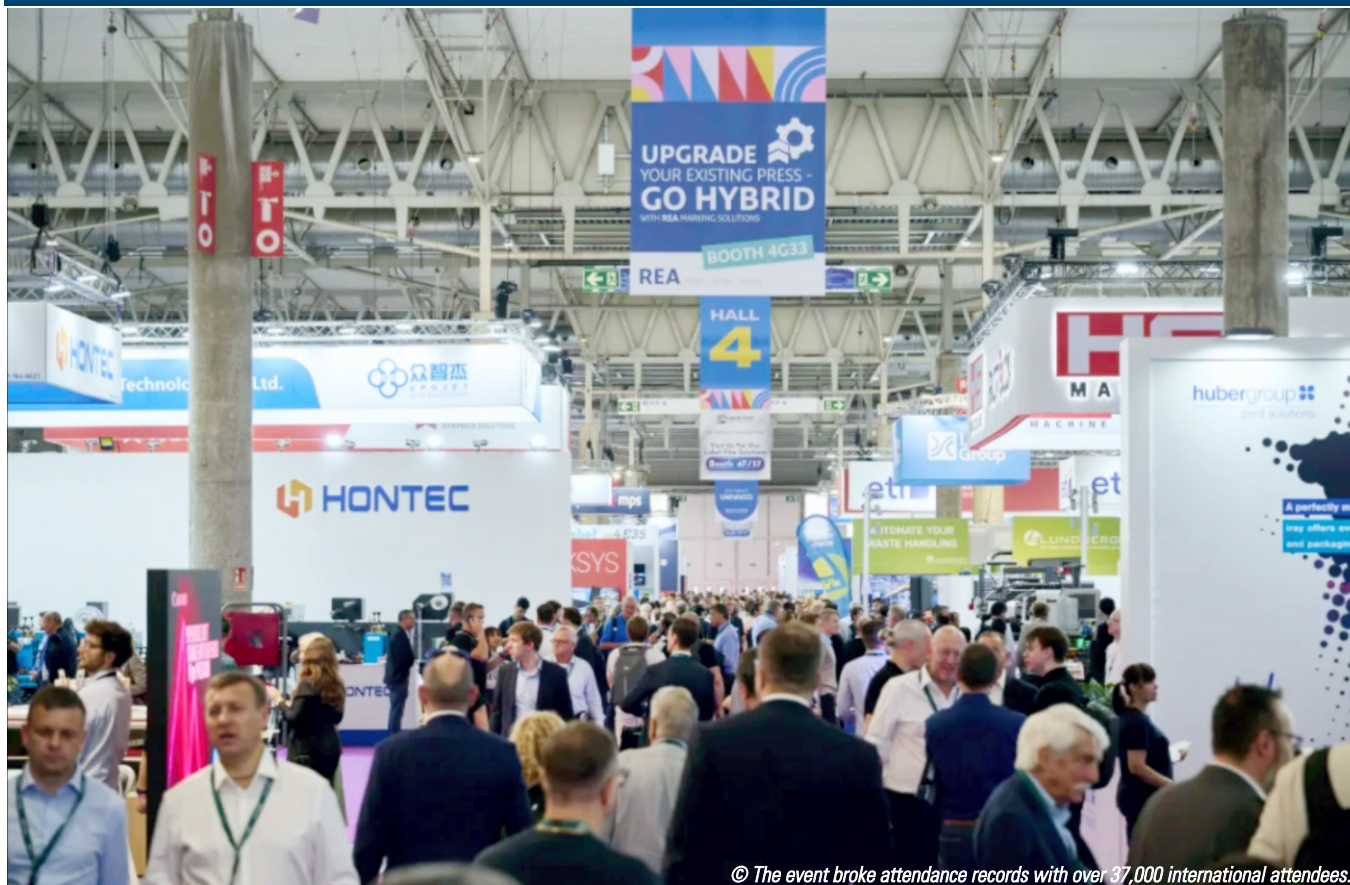
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LABELEXPO EUROPE 2025 ATTRACTS RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS



© The event broke attendance records with over 37,000 international attendees.

Newly rebranded **LOUPE** (full meaning – Labels & Outer Packaging Embellishment) **Labelexpo Europe 2025** took place for the first time in the historic **Spanish** city of **Barcelona** at a time when the label converting industry is witnessing rapid consolidation and transformation hence enabling label converters to either diversify into flexible packaging and/ or identify new opportunities in folding cartons to become a 'one-stop' package printing operations that encompass the full range of packaging formats. With more products, more launches, and more live demonstrations at the world's largest event for the label and package printing industry, this **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE**, adapted from the **POSTSHOW REPORT** by the organiser - **Informa Markets**, shows why the 4-DAY event that took place at **Fira Gran Via** from **16 to 19 September** was truly **THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH** in many ways aside recording the highest number of international visitors since established 45 years ago:

Labelexpo Europe 2025, held for the first time in Barcelona in its 45-year history, has concluded as the biggest show to date, both in exhibition space and attendance, including the highest international participation.

Show statistics revealed it was the largest Labelexpo event to date, with over 43,000 net sqm of exhibitor space. The event also broke attendance records with over 37,000 attendees. Key statistics include an increase of 18 percent in top decision makers, 49 percent in South American visitors, and 28 percent in North American visitors. And while Spain dominated the list of top visiting countries alongside Italy, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, thereby confirming the move to Barcelona as a well-thought-out plan.

According to **Labelexpo Global Series**, Strategic Director - **Andy Thomas-Emans**: 'The move to Barcelona for Labelexpo Europe 2025 is a strategic milestone in the show's 45-year history. Breaking records in both exhibition space and attendance demonstrates the industry's continued growth and the global appeal of the new location. We are particularly encouraged by the significant increase in international participation, especially from the Americas, which validates our commitment to creating a truly global platform for the labels and package printing industry. We witnessed an industry embracing automation, sustainability, and the beginnings of AI integration. All signals of a vibrant sector that continues to evolve and innovate.'

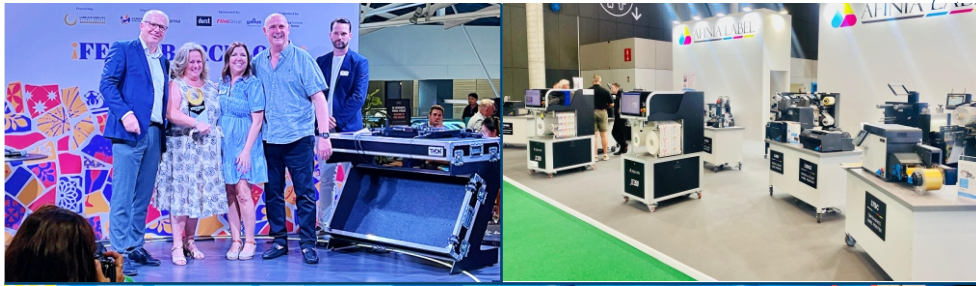
Technology and Launches

Labelexpo Europe 2025 was a hotbed for innovations in automation and sustainability. For flexo, digital, and hybrid press technologies, the key themes converged around automation, Cloud network integration, and the first developments in AI-driven machine and user interfaces. Several of the digital launches are set to facilitate converters' entry to digital and



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SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE - LABEL EXPO EUROPE 2025 POST SHOW REPORT



...with Jean Lloyd of INKISH UK, Morten B. Reiltoft of INKISH Denmark, Wayne Beckett of Printing Connect Online® UK.

enable suppliers to scale with them. To **Troika Systems**, Technical Director - **James Steptoe**; 'My overall impression of Labelexpo Europe was that it was incredibly dynamic and future-focused. The scale of innovation on display, from automation and digital printing to sustainability, highlighted how quickly the packaging industry is evolving. Seeing the latest technology and recognizing how companies are rethinking workflows, efficiency, and environmental responsibility was eye-opening. Moving forward, staying adaptable to change is going to be critical as we navigate newer technologies and methods.'

Content, Features, and Community

Labelexpo Europe 2025 launched new content and community features by introducing a user-friendly app, rest and work areas, the **Gold Concierge Club**, the **Pulse Conference Arena**, and a community industry run, touring the streets of Barcelona. The appointment of prominent industry experts, the **Labelexpo Ambassadors**, saw renowned industry experts delivering Keynotes, Q&As, and Meet and Greet sessions at the **Pulse**, covering folding cartons, flexible packaging, materials, sustainability, AI, and automation. In addition, the label industry's finest were



Do
You
need an
holistic
GUIDE
through
your
**GRAPHIC
CAREER?**



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Print Impact Around the World

The 1.6m entry-level sublimation printer with 36m²/h output is ideal for beginners as it prints on polyester and blends, hence perfect for personalisation, samples, and short-run custom items. Not only that, the affordable entry-level, dye-sub press for textiles and customized goods comes with +22% wider colour gamut with Orange, Violet, and Fluorescent inks, to deliver premium quality at a lower cost of ownership. This is because with its nozzle control, ink-saving technology, and jam sensors that minimise downtime, the Mimaki TS200-1600 Sublimation Printer is easy to operate, also owing to its single printhead and automatic adjustments, hence helps you win more jobs, grow your margins, and scale your print business with confidence.

DURST GROUP UNVEILS THE NEW TAU G3 PLATFORM AT LABELEXPO EUROPE 2025



Durst Group, presented its latest highlight for the labels and flexible packaging industry at the just concluded **Labelexpo Europe 2025** in Barcelona: **the Tau G3 Portfolio**. With the two models **Tau G3 Core** and **Tau G3 Peak**, Durst sets new benchmarks in productivity, ease of use, and print quality – under the guiding principle “Reliability, Simplicity, Performance.”

Technical Highlights of the Tau G3 Platform

The new Tau G3 platform delivers 1200 x 1200 dpi native resolution for razor-sharp print quality. In terms of speed, the Tau G3 Core reaches 61 m/min, while the Tau G3 Peak achieves 80 m/min and can optionally be expanded to 100 m/min, depending on configuration. Print widths range from 244 mm to 510 mm, offering scalability for different production needs. For maximum colour flexibility, the Tau G3 supports CMYK plus extended gamut options – Orange, Violet, Green, and White – available with both UV and LED curing. This versatility, combined with compatibility for substrates from paper to films and aluminium foils within a 20 to 500 µm thickness range, ensures application diversity across labels and flexible packaging.

The machine architecture, based on the proven Tau RSC design, introduces intuitive LED status displays, improved ergonomics, and optimized serviceability. A redesigned cooling system, electrical cabinet, and improved component accessibility simplify handling and maintenance. The ergonomic inspection unit, equipped with D50/RGB lighting and flexible adapters for inspection systems, further enhances process reliability.



The Tau G3 also integrates the new Durst ARC (Automatic Register Control) for real-time colour registration, waste reduction, and quality enhancement, and the new Durst MEP (Material Edge Protection), which safeguards printheads with optical edge sensors and protective plates. In addition, Durst HAWK AI, Durst's intelligent monitoring and assistance system, can be included to automate the colour-to-colour register and to provide closed-loop nozzle correction during printing.

GALLUS DEBUTS NEXT-LEVEL AND HIGH-PERFORMANCE HYBRID PRESSES AT LABELEXPO EUROPE 2025



At Booth **3E23 & 3E29** in Hall 3, **Gallus** (a **Heidelberg Group** company) unveiled and publicly demonstrated its next-level and high-performance hybrid presses.



With various options such as **Gallus Alpha**, **Gallus One**, **Gallus Five**, and **Gallus Labelmaster** to choose from, depending on the needs of market, the all-new digital press offers a combination of digital flexibility and industrial-level productivity to deliver premium colour performance, covering up to 95% of the Pantone colour gamut, including the vast majority of the most frequently used spot colours in packaging, while ensuring compliance with the latest ink safety regulations.

Boosting productivity and addressing key challenges for customers across the label industry, these product launches empower label printers with the agility to swiftly adapt to changing market needs. And with ease-of-use, flexibility, and performance, these Gallus presses are targeted at fast-growing markets such as retail, pharmaceutical, and logistics.

OMET UNVEILS OMET K6



At **Stand 3E73**, Hall 3, **OMET** once again demonstrated its leadership in label and flexible packaging printing technologies at **Labelexpo Europe 2025** by unveiling the **OMET K6**, the new printing platform featuring interchangeable flexo units with sleeve technology, engineered to become the new benchmark of label and packaging printing. The K6 is equipped with the groundbreaking a renovated Cold Foil Saver unit, which delivers up to 50 % material savings on cold foil applications, a significant cut in costs and waste.

Among the highlights are the latest versions of OMET Vision and Multivision systems, which have been optimized to offer a superior automated register adjustment and control, achieving the least waste possible. These intelligent solutions make the operator's life easier, even with the most demanding runs.

DANTEX SHOWCASES ADVANCED DIGITAL AND PRE-PRESS SOLUTIONS

On **Stand 5E73**, top UK-based Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) and **Labelexpo Europe 2025** lanyard sponsor - **Dantex** showcased its latest innovations in digital printing and flexographic plate processing by featuring live demonstrations of the high-performance **PicoJet digital UV inkjet press**, operating in real time to highlight its impressive speed, precision, and reliability.



Also featured is the newly developed **PicoColour press**, designed for increased flexibility and affordability, providing high-

Olakunle **Ogunjobi**, Technical Director at **Randomsoft LTD**, with his partners at **Dantex**

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Print Impact Around the World

quality output in a compact footprint. Complementing the digital press line-up, Dantex also unveiled its most advanced inline plate processing solution to date, the **Aqua X**. Engineered for use with Dantex's Aquaflex plate range,



the Aqua X is a fully automatic, ultra-high-speed, water-wash system that sets new standards in sustainable, solvent-free flexographic processing.

DUBAI TO HOST SECOND INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY AND PUBLISHING SUMMIT 2025

مكتبة محمد بن راشد
Mohammed Bin Rashid Library



© picture copyright - Layla Badr

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Library has announced the second edition of the **Dubai International Library and Publishing Summit 2025**, taking place from 30 October to 1 November under the theme: "The Future of the Publishing Industry."

The event will bring together over **80 global speakers** from **20 countries**, featuring **6 keynotes**, **45 panel discussions**, and **16 workshops**, further cementing Dubai's position as a global hub for cultural dialogue and publishing innovation. The summit will serve as a strategic platform to advance knowledge and culture, highlighting the evolving role of libraries in empowering future generations. It will explore how creativity and technology combine to strengthen the Arab world's contribution to the global publishing landscape.

Key themes will address the impact of artificial intelligence, innovation, and digital transformation on the publishing sector, alongside storytelling in an era of rapid change. Sessions such as "Voices Across Borders" will explore the role of translation in connecting cultures, while "Letters in Motion" will celebrate creativity through writing, typography, and calligraphy. The concept of publishing with purpose will also take centre stage, underscoring the growing appetite for socially conscious and meaningful content.

As the industry evolves amid technological disruption and shifting reading habits, discussions will tackle challenges including intellectual property rights, supply chain resilience, and emerging content formats catering to younger audiences. The outcomes will present practical roadmaps for institutions and professionals to adapt and thrive, while reinforcing the region's position within the global publishing ecosystem.

Over three days, the summit will convene a broad network of publishers, university presses, literary agents, booksellers, and award organisations. International publishing leaders such as Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster, and HarperCollins will join the UAE's publishing community, represented by

the Emirates Publishers Association.

Workshops will provide hands-on learning in translation, editing, children's literature, typography, inclusive workplace practices, and modern publishing operations, offering valuable insights for writers, editors, and publishers navigating an industry in transition.

Programme highlights will also examine digital and audiobooks, multimedia storytelling for young audiences, and commercial strategies such as global distribution, marketing trends, and ethical content creation. A key focus will be ensuring a sustainable balance between traditional and digital publishing, expanding access to global markets, and promoting environmental and ethical responsibility.

For free registration, please scan the QR code or visit the official website via: <https://diilps.mbrl.ae/>



XANTÉ UNVEILS NEW XR126™ ROLL-TO-ROLL 10 FT INDUSTRIAL UV PRINTER



Xanté has announced the birth of a new roll-to-roll printer - the **XR126**, a high-capacity, roll-fed, wide-format production printer designed to meet all the needs of professional sign printers in one device.

It is engineered to extend the proven quality, performance, and reliability of Xanté UV flatbeds into a 10 ft roll-to-roll format. The XR126 features up to four Epson i3200 printheads, Xanté HDUV inks, and Adobe PostScript iQueue Workflow. "We desired to create a roll-to-roll UV printer that literally performs every roll media print task needed by our customers. The flexibility of a maximum 10 ft platform, the performance of simultaneous dual-roll printing up to 4 ft each, and Adobe PostScript colour gives our customers the tool to perform every task," said **Robert C. Ross Jr.**, President and CEO of Xanté. "The XR126 can mount up to three rolls simultaneously from 1 ft to 10 ft. Our thousands of UV flatbed customers can now add a roll-fed device seamlessly using one powerful workflow."

XR126 Key Highlights:

- Adobe PostScript imaging.
- Industrial Epson i3200 printheads.
- **Up to 126-inch roll capacity** — Accepts virtually any roll up to 126 in (3.2 m) for grand-format productivity across banners, soft signage, wall coverings, and more.
- **Multi-roll efficiency** — Load up to 3 rolls



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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.



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16-19 September • Barcelona
LABELXPO EUROPE 2025
 www.labelexpo-europe.com

LOUPE
 formerly Labelexpo

celebrated at the inaugural **Labels & Labeling Global Awards** on the evening of the first day of the show at Festa Barcelona. Labelexpo Europe 2025 expanded its sustainability credentials with the **Better Stands Programme**, which incentivizes exhibitors to use recyclable materials to build stands, and an exclusive partnership with DMP to recycle matrix waste, which is transformed into usable materials.

Reconfirming the exhibition's vision, Event Director, **Andrew Galloway**, noted that, 'Our vision for Labelexpo Europe 2025 extended beyond just exhibition space - we wanted to create a more immersive and valuable experience for our community. These initiatives reflect our dedication to the industry we serve, creating not just an exhibition but a comprehensive industry gathering that delivers value at every touchpoint.'

LOUPE

This year, Labelexpo Global Series announced a major rebrand across the

event portfolio, transitioning into the new brand, **Loupe**, in 2026, starting with the Americas show in September. The Loupe portfolio remains labels-focused while acknowledging the industry's expansion and diversification in the past decade into flexible packaging and in-line folding cartons. **Jade Grace**, Managing Director of **Labelexpo Global Series**, concluded: 'The decision to change the name of the show comes after two years of consideration and consultation with trusted partners, industry associations, and key clients. Over the last decade, we have seen in-line and digital flexible packaging become an integral part of Labelexpo shows. Now we see the same trends happening in the folding cartons market, with in-line, digital, and hybrid set to disrupt this key package printing sector. Labels remain at the very core of the Loupe portfolio, and we look forward to supporting the continued evolution of the industry.'

The next European show will take place from **October 5 to 8, 2027**, as **Loupe Europe 2027**.



After the Press check-in at the Press Office with the assistance of the charming Sandra Porto.



...with Techkon GmbH MD, Albin Baranauskas.



...with HP Trainer - Yuri Goldin.



...with my Australian media colleagues James Wells and Hafizah Osman of Intermedia.



...with Nilpeter's Martin Tellberg after presenting hard copies of **PROPAK West Africa DAILY** supported by Nilpeter during the recent **PROPAK West Africa 2025**.



...with Bobst's Christian Zeller and Alex Gudrun.



...with Susi Moore, Samantha Mc Iver (Moore), and Alex Gudrun.



...at the Press Office with Megan Peek and Assistant



...with my friends at Tech-ni-Fold - the creasing experts.



...with new forces driving the slitting sector within the flexible packaging industry - Zontal Machinery/ PRINTFA.



...with flexography advocate - Olakunle Ogunjobi, Technical Director at Randomsoft LTD.



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LOUPE
 formerly Labelexpo



The Dantex/Randomsoft connection ready to meet the label and packaging needs of the West African market



...flexography and packaging tag team of Mark Andy, Randomsoft, and VIP Systems.



...with Komlan Adodo of IMEP FLEVO Togo.



...with the elated Rotocon Team of Pascal Aengenvoort, Patrick Aengenvoort, and Christian Karodza.



...with Wim Danhoff of PRINTmatters.



...with Ben Dan of Packaging MEA, Dr. George Simonian of BADR University, and our friend from Graphic Interface Concept (GIC).



...with Yukio Suzuki of Label Shimbun Co., Japan.



...with sir Naresh Khanna of IPP Catalog Publications Pvt LTD, India.



...with Jean Lloyd of INKISH UK, Morten B. Reifort of INKISH Denmark, Wayne Beckett of Printing Connect Online UK, Linda Casey of PRINTING United Alliance, and PRINTING United Expo Packaging Impressions USA.



...with ROTOCON's Heather Roth.



...with ROTOCON's Candace Aengenvoort, Christian Karodza, Sachin Sukhlal, and Pascal Aengenvoort.



...with Komlan Adodo of IMEP FLEVO Togo, with ROTOCON's Pascal Aengenvoort.



...with Komlan Adodo of IMEP FLEVO Togo, ROTOCON's Sachin Sukhlal, and Pascal Aengenvoort.



...with the duo of Tatiana Rodriguez of LUMESCA Group and Nuria Perez, and of Atlantic Devices Belgium that represents Europe at the Pantone booth (contact FLOURISH COLOUR VENTURES - www.flourishcolour.com in Nigeria for ALL your Pantone needs).



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YOUNG
PROFESSIONALS
 by carefully
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INDUSTRY
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 & **ICONS**
 whose **WEALTH** of
EXPERIENCE is a
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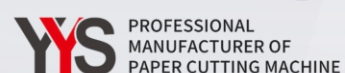
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"PRINTING UNITED EXPO 2025 WILL BE A VALUE-DRIVEN, TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE".



Characteristically, **PRINTING United Expo**, organized by the **PRINTING United Alliance**, is where you see print industry innovations, equipment demonstrations, and technologies under one roof. Set to take place at the popular and award-winning East Coast destination - **Orange County Convention Centre** in Orlando, Florida, from **Wednesday 22 to Friday 24 October**, **WHERE To Print** sought to know what's new at this year's edition and what the global printing industry should look forward to at America's largest annual trade show. Responses from Group President, Media and Events – **Mr. Christopher Curran** are excerpted below in this SPECIAL FEATURE INTERVIEW:

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW POSITION; HOW DO YOU FEEL?

Thank you! I'm truly honoured to step into this role. **PRINTING United Expo** has become the leading platform for our industry worldwide, and I feel both proud and energized to help guide it into the future. There's an incredible team behind the Expo, and we are excited to continue building on the strong foundation already in place. All the credit goes to our amazing members and partners who have truly embraced the platform that we have built for the industry and engaged with it, which allows all our programmes, services, and events to grow and be more impactful year after year.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THIS YEAR'S PRINTING UNITED EXPO AS YOU TAKE CHARGE?

I'm most excited about the level of innovation and convergence on the show floor this year. We are seeing technologies and applications coming together in ways that are reshaping the business of print. Bringing all of that under one roof for attendees to experience firsthand is something I'm thrilled to oversee. We continue to grow areas of engagement and hands-on activations, which truly help attendees become immersed in all the great technology and education there is to be experienced.

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THIS YEAR'S PRINTING UNITED EXPO THAT VISITORS SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR?

We are launching several new features this year. The **AI Pavilion** will showcase how artificial intelligence is transforming workflow, efficiency, and customer engagement. Our **Student Day** will connect the next generation with employers and technology, and the **Spill the Ink Roundtables** will foster real dialogue among peers. And for the first time, the **G7/G7+ Exchange** is taking place live on-site, which sold out months in advance.

TELL US ABOUT 'SPILL THE INK.'

Spill the Ink is our new area of live roundtable series right on the show floor at the Expo. It's a chance for attendees to sit down with peers, industry leaders, and influencers to discuss real challenges and opportunities. The sessions are candid, interactive, and designed to foster community. Anyone at the Expo can sign up and participate.

“It's not just about having everyone together; it's about ensuring that every participant - whether exhibitor or attendee - gets maximum return on investment (ROI) through connections, education, and visibility.”

TELL US ABOUT THE PRINTING AI PAVILION.

The AI Pavilion is a landmark addition. It's a dedicated space where exhibitors, consultants, and educators will show how AI is driving efficiency, predictive maintenance, colour control, personalization, and even sustainability. It's not theoretical - it's hands-on, real-world AI applications for Printers and Packaging Converters. There will be daily **PRINTING AI** tours offered, where participants will visit a curated lineup of exhibitors who are transforming workflows, automation, data insights, and business management with AI. We're not just talking about things; we are doing them, and we are making huge investments in the right resources and staff for our members to take advantage.

WHAT DO PARTICIPANTS GAIN FROM THE G7/G7+ EXCHANGE?

The G7/G7+ Exchange is an unprecedented opportunity to learn from the best in colour management and quality control. Attendees will gain actionable skills, insights into the new G7+ specification, and direct access to experts who are setting global standards. It's about elevating consistency, quality, and competitiveness in print.

**G7+ | G7+
EXCHANGE**
United by Color. Driven by Innovation.

AS AN EXPERIENCED STAKEHOLDER, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE KEY TRENDS/CHANGES IN THE INDUSTRY?

I see three big shifts: the continued convergence of market segments, the integration of AI and automation, and innovative approaches to labour acquisition and retention. Printers are looking beyond their traditional lanes to offer packaging, apparel, wide-format, and more. At the same time, AI is becoming a practical tool, not just a concept. And when it comes to people, companies are getting creative - experimenting with new ways to attract fresh talent and rethinking retention strategies to


-Aerial view of PRINTINGUnited Expo Registration Area

WHAT KEY ISSUES WILL EXHIBITORS BE HIGHLIGHTING?

Exhibitors will focus heavily on automation, efficiency, sustainability, and new revenue-generating applications. You'll see strong emphasis on AI-driven solutions, workflow software, inkjet innovations, and sustainable materials. Many will also highlight labour-saving technologies, which is a critical issue worldwide.

“Whether in America or abroad, Alliance membership means access to the largest and most influential printing association in North America.”

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT THE PAID EDUCATION SESSIONS?

We have expanded our education program significantly. Beyond traditional technical sessions, we have added leadership and business strategy tracks, hands-on workshops, and live demonstrations on the show floor. Attendees will leave with practical skills and insights they can apply immediately in their businesses.

WHAT SHOULD THE INDUSTRY EXPECT FROM OCTOBER 22 - 24?

From the moment the doors open, the industry will experience nonstop innovation. Throughout all three days of the show, the floor will be buzzing with technology unveilings, new product launches, live demonstrations, and opportunities to connect. In addition to new technology on the floor, day two is highlighted by special forums, Women in Print Alliance Programming, Student Day, bringing the next generation onto the floor, and so much more.

ORLANDO IS KNOWN FOR FUN & TOURISM. HOW WILL YOU INCORPORATE THAT?

We're encouraging attendees to take advantage of Orlando's world-class attractions. Many of our networking events will highlight the local flavour, and we have built in evening experiences - like After Dark Programming - that blend business with fun. Orlando makes it easy to combine professional growth with memorable downtime.

WHAT KIND OF SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS DO YOU HAVE FOR VISITORS?

We have partnered with local hotels, transportation providers, and the convention center to ensure discounted rates and seamless logistics. Attendees can book through our official housing partners to secure the best rates and benefits, making travel planning simple and affordable. The process to book hotels with our partners in Orlando has never been easier, just visit: www.printingunited.com

“Practitioners who don't constantly seek better ways to serve their clients will eventually fail, and those who don't build a clear plan are simply flying by the seat of their pants.”

FOR PRINTING UNITED ALLIANCE MEMBERS: WHAT DO THEY STAND TO BENEFIT FROM THIS YEAR'S EXPO?

Alliance members enjoy special pricing, VIP access, and exclusive networking opportunities. At the Expo, members can explore the VIP Lounge, get complimentary access to the show floor if they qualify, and preview our **iLEARNING+** education platform live. Membership also provides year-round advocacy, research, and training benefits that extend well beyond the show.

WHAT DO PARTICIPANTS GAIN FROM ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP, LOCALLY AND ABROAD?

Whether in America or abroad, Alliance membership means access to the largest and most influential printing association in North America. Members benefit from research, advocacy, certifications like G7+, and discounted training via **iLEARNING+**. Most importantly, they join a global community that supports growth, profitability, and connection across borders.

WHAT BUSINESS STRATEGY SHOULD PRINT PRACTITIONERS DO DIFFERENTLY?

In today's market, standing still is the same as falling behind. Practitioners who don't constantly seek better ways to serve their clients will eventually fail, and those who don't build a clear plan are simply flying by the seat of their pants. Success comes from embracing diversification and convergence - looking beyond silos to add adjacent markets and applications. It also requires investing in people through training and leaning into automation to address labor challenges.


-Women in Print 2024 Luncheon

-The Knowledge Centre at 2024 Expo

WHAT ASSURANCE ARE YOU GIVING PARTICIPANTS?

My assurance is simple: PRINTING United Expo 2025 will be a value-driven, transformative experience. Every decision we make is focused on delivering ROI - whether that's new knowledge, new partnerships, or new revenue opportunities. Attendees will leave Orlando not only inspired but equipped to take their businesses forward. And above all, business owners must anchor themselves in disciplined financial management, delivering real customer value, and building operational agility. Pair that with a clear, adaptable plan, and you'll be positioned to thrive no matter how the economy shifts. And the best part? ALL of this can be worked on - right at the Expo.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

You are always welcome.

"WE GUARANTEE TIMELY SERVICE, QUICK RESPONSE TO TECHNICAL ISSUES, AND AVAILABILITY OF PARTS".



Mr. Harsha Ashok, Manager International Business - Autoprint Machinery Mfrs Pvt. LTD beside Autoprint One-Colour Press at ANKAN GRAPHICS LTD Stand during PROPAK West Africa 2025.

From zero to over 12500 installations, exporting to more than 95 countries in a span of just 32 years, **Autoprint Machinery Mfrs Pvt. LTD** (Autoprint for short) has emerged as a market leader in the offset printing and allied machinery manufacturing industry, thanks to its customer-centric product design, innovation, and cost-effectiveness, all backed by robust after-sales service support. Little wonder one of its brands - **Autoprint One-Colour Press** not only stole the show at the just concluded West Africa's biggest packaging, plastics, printing, and food processing exhibition - **PROPAK West Africa 2025** but also recorded unprecedented sales right from the show floor from domestic and international visitors around Africa. **WHERE TO PRINT** caught up with Autoprint Manager for International Business, **Mr. Harsha Ashok**, at its Ankan Graphics LTD partner stand during the show to find out, amongst others, how the Coimbatore, India-based printing machines manufacturer intends to support the African market as it continues to alter global perception of Indian-made printing equipment. The summary of his response is excerpted below in this exclusive **SPECIAL FEATURE INTERVIEW**:

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SUCCESSFUL DISPLAY OF THE AUTOPRINT ONE-COLOUR MACHINE AT PROPAK WEST AFRICA 2025; HOW DO YOU FEEL?

We feel truly delighted and humbled by the response at PROPAK West Africa. It's always rewarding to see how strongly the Autoprint brand resonates with customers. The excitement, curiosity, and confidence shown by visitors reaffirm our commitment to delivering machines that are reliable, affordable, and tailored for the African market.

“The Autoprint One-Colour Press is engineered with simplicity, durability, and affordability in mind.”

WHAT INFORMED YOUR DECISION TO DISPLAY AUTOPRINT LIVE AT PROPAK WEST AFRICA THIS YEAR?

West Africa is one of the fastest-growing printing and packaging hubs on the continent. Nigeria, in particular, is a gateway for this growth. We wanted customers to see the machine live, running with the **new Polymaster plates**, so they could appreciate both the quality and the cost benefits firsthand. A live demo creates trust and shows how practical our innovations are in real-world conditions.

CAN YOU TELL US SOME OF THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE AUTOPRINT ONE-COLOUR PRESS THAT MAKE IT DIFFERENT FROM THE COMPETITION, AND WHAT INVESTORS STAND TO GAIN FROM ACQUIRING THE MACHINE?

The Autoprint One-Colour Press is engineered with simplicity, durability, and affordability in mind. A key differentiator this year was our demonstration using **Polymaster plates instead of conventional CTP plates**. Customers were excited to see how easy they are to use, and how significantly they reduce plate-making costs without compromising print quality. Combined with low power consumption, easy operation, and readily available spares, this technology offers investors faster return on investment (ROI) and lower long-term operating costs.

“We will begin installations in Lagos and Abuja shortly, and are also finalizing projects in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. This spread shows how widely our innovation has resonated with customers across West Africa.”

Continued on page 27 >>



-Autoprint One-Colour Press was a crowd puller at the recent PROPAK West Africa 2025.

TODAY, SUSTAINABILITY IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES DRIVING INVESTMENT. HOW ARE AUTOPRINT MACHINES DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY QUESTIONS IN TERMS OF CARBON EMISSIONS, WASTE REDUCTION, ENERGY COST, AND WORK EFFICIENCY, AMONG OTHERS?

Sustainability is central to our design philosophy. Our presses consume significantly less power, minimize paper and ink wastage, and are engineered for long-term efficiency. The **Polymaster plate system also contributes to sustainability**, as it reduces chemical use and energy demand compared to conventional CTP processes. By lowering costs and environmental impact, Autoprint machines help customers become more profitable while staying future-ready.

WE UNDERSTAND YOU HAD QUITE A LOT OF ORDERS DURING THE SHOW; CAN YOU TELL US WHICH PART OF THE COUNTRY, OR OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY, WE SHOULD START SEEING AUTOPRINT INSTALLATIONS?

Yes, the response was overwhelming, especially because customers immediately saw the value of running Polymaster plates instead of expensive CTP systems. We will begin installations in Lagos and Abuja shortly, and are also finalizing projects in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. This spread shows how widely our innovation has resonated with customers across West Africa.

WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE TO OPERATORS IN HANDLING THEIR MACHINES, NOT JUST AUTOPRINT, SO THAT THE PRESS CAN STAND THE TEST OF TIME?

The best advice is simple: respect the machine. Regular maintenance, using only genuine spare parts, and investing in operator training go a long way in extending the life of any press. At Autoprint, we always emphasize preventive care — a few minutes spent checking and cleaning the machine daily can save hours of downtime later.



The revolutionary One-Colour Autoprint Press.

“

Autoprint is not only a leader in small offset printing machines but also offers a wide range of world-class post-press equipment.

”



Interested Investors wanting to know more about **Autoprint One-Colour Press** during **PROPAK West Africa 2025**.

WITH ANKAN GRAPHICS LTD AS YOUR PARTNER, WHAT ASSURANCE ARE YOU GIVING YOUR CUSTOMERS TO GUARANTEE YOUR COMMITMENT TO THEIR SERVICE, SPARE, AND OTHER TECHNICAL NEEDS ANYTIME, ANY DAY?

Our partnership with Ankan Graphics LTD is built on trust and a shared vision of customer satisfaction. Ankan brings a strong local presence, technical expertise, and inventory of spares to ensure customers never feel stranded. Together, we guarantee timely service, quick response to technical issues, and availability of parts - the key ingredients for uninterrupted production.

AFTER PROPAK WEST AFRICA, WHICH OTHER PROPAK SHOW WILL YOU BE SHOWCASING AUTOPRINT AT?

Autoprint will continue to expand its footprint across Africa. After West Africa, we plan to participate in PROPAK East Africa in Nairobi and also PROPAK Cape in South Africa. These are key markets where we want to demonstrate our commitment and bring our solutions closer to Printers. We will also be at the Gulf Print & Pack, hopefully in March 2026, and the following drupa 2028.

ACQUIRING BRAND-NEW PRESSES CAN BE HIGHLY CAPITAL-INTENSIVE, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, FOR A SMALL/MEDIUM-SCALE PRINT & ALLIED BUSINESS. DOES AUTOPRINT HAVE PRE-OWNED MACHINES, AND HOW CAN PRINTING COMPANIES ACQUIRE THEM?

Yes, Autoprint supports small and medium-scale Printers by offering certified pre-owned presses. These machines are refurbished, tested, and guaranteed by us, making them a reliable alternative for businesses looking to grow without overextending financially. Companies can acquire them directly through our dealers, with flexible financing options depending on the market.

ANY NEWS OR INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD?

Autoprint is not only a leader in small offset printing machines but also offers a wide range of world-class post-press equipment. Our drip-off coaters and carton inspection systems are truly unique and have earned global recognition for their quality and innovation. Today, Autoprint machines are installed and trusted across Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia, and virtually every part of the world.



TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMPANY?

Autoprint is an India-based manufacturer of high-quality offset printing presses and finishing equipment, with more than three decades of experience. We are proud to have over 13,000 installations across 70+ countries. Our philosophy is to combine world-class engineering with affordability, ensuring that small and medium-sized Printers can access reliable technology. With innovations like the Polymaster plate system, we are setting new benchmarks for cost efficiency, making Autoprint not just a supplier

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Thank you too, for having me.



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 (RFEC), 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 for details on how to get in touch. Also contact **FLOURISH COLOUR VENTURES** (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.





13 TIPS FROM AN HR EXPERT



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Spring is a magical time for human resource professionals. It is a respite from holiday scheduling that is now in the rearview mirror. The end-of-year crush of open enrollment, performance evaluations, bonuses, and compensation adjustments is finishing up. We are also just ahead of the manpower issues that scheduling around summer vacations can create. Soon, the end-of-school recruitment season will be upon us, providing a larger pool of candidates to apply for job postings, which naturally makes HR processes and procedures cumbersome at this time of the year. This **COVER STORY** is adapted from a **Printing Impressions** article written by **Adriane Harrison**, Vice President of Human Relations Consulting at **PRINTING United Alliance**, to help HR practitioners in the industry navigate HR processes and procedures smoothly.

And because this is the only semblance of “downtime” in a busy HR calendar, it is a good time to consider ways to work on HR processes and procedures. Here are some tips to consider:

1 | Build in some fun, and celebrate your employees and your company.

Many people are feeling unsettled by national and international events. Elevate your company culture by providing some stress relief. Throw a party with entertainment, such as hiring an illusionist. Bring in food trucks occasionally and treat the team to lunch, or if that is too pricey, an ice cream truck for a mid-shift treat. Also, consider tricking out the break room with a pinball machine, arcade game, table tennis, or foosball. Fresh off the excitement of the most recent March Madness, consider running a bracket contest, which boosts employee engagement and provides a fun way for team members to interact. Have the company provide the prizes to the winners. Although nobody is going to match Warren Buffett's \$1 million prize for the NCAA bracket winner within the Berkshire Hathaway family of businesses, a \$100 gift card or cash would build excitement and bring people together for the tournament. Other similar activities might be to have a fantasy league for football or baseball, with a similar prize-winning opportunity.

2 | Take a hard look at your culture and ask whether it is a place that Gen Z — the bulk of your workforce candidates for the next decade or more — would like to be.

If it is not, start shifting your culture now so you

aren't fighting hard for employees later. For some insight on attracting Gen Z candidates, check out Toni McQuilken's article in the box on page 32.

3 | Review your company's digital presence — both website and social media — and spend time comparing it to others that you see (and like).

While HR people are not marketing people, we can recognize images and words that will attract prospective employees. Look at your website carefully. Do you have a “careers” page? Does it reflect the company's culture? Is it easy to find and apply for open positions? Can



Continued on page 31 >>



13 TIPS FROM AN HR EXPERT

information about your company and its culture in images and short videos. Evaluate what platforms the company is on and whether those tools are reaching the intended audience. If the company isn't using social media, consider getting active on LinkedIn, Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook. Videos, more than any other media, will grab the attention of your future workforce. And Gen Z is on TikTok, which is purely video content.

5 | In light of the focus on immigration issues in the new administration, get ready for a government audit, just in case.

To prepare, review all of the I-9 forms (as in the case of the USA) to make sure the correct information is on them, in the correct places on the form. For employment and immigration issues in the US, start with the official websites, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). And for other countries, check with the relevant government agencies and immigration authorities to ensure your company complies with updated rules and regulations on staffing and staff issues.

6 | Before the pressure is on in the months preceding open enrollment, look at the benefits the company offers and consider changing them a bit.

You may want to informally survey a few employees discreetly to see if they have suggestions about changing the benefits. Avoid taking an actual survey, because the "asks" may be beyond what the company can provide, and morale may be affected if the suggestions provided are not offered as benefits in the next round of benefits.

7 | Train your supervisors and managers in the soft skills required of leadership positions.

Communication is the key to creating a positive relationship between employees and management. The adage that "people don't quit a job, they quit a manager" still holds true. Teach your managers to recognize when someone on their team is struggling. Help them learn to connect with the employees so that when there are challenges, a foundation for healthy communication has already been established. Money spent helping managers communicate effectively and be empathetic is an investment that will provide returns in lower turnover and consequently higher productivity and reduced recruitment costs.

8 | Review your company's communication strategy with employees.

Assess how employees are getting information they can trust from leadership. Do you have a newsletter? An occasional town hall meeting? Or is information passed down through managers, which risks a distortion from "playing telephone". Gen Zs are skeptics. For this generation of workers, trust is earned rather than given. Gen Z has handled an enormous number of challenges in their relatively young lives. The need for management to build trust is a result, in part, of Gen Z having experienced stressors that have become a way of life. Things like performing active shooter drills throughout childhood and being the first generation of digital natives who have navigated online lives of scrutiny, judgment, and rampant deception. Clear and direct communication between the leadership team and the employees will be important to creating trust, positive morale, and retaining employees.

9 | Ramp up the rewards.

Employees like recognition, so acknowledging great work, milestones, or "over-and-above" effort by employees demonstrates how important a good employee is to the company. Doing so publicly shows the whole team that management cares and may also motivate them to strive to achieve similar recognition. The rewards can be small or large, depending on the company's budget and the type of recognition. For instance, volunteering to pitch in to help a teammate might be worthy of a gift card. Eclipsing a decade or more at the company might be worthy of a bonus and additional paid time off.

10 | Evaluate the company's organizational chart.

Ask a lot of questions when analyzing the org chart. Is it accurate? Does it make sense? Have titles been given equitably? Are salaries and wages compressed? If not, start adjusting the chart to the actualities of the business. Change titles when it makes sense, being conscious of the effect that a title change may mean to others in the company. Ensure managers

are not overloaded with too many direct reports. And when you are all done with the revisions, make sure any changes to the organizational chart should be reflected in the job descriptions for the positions affected.

11 | Create career development plans for your employees.

Poor career development is the No. 1 reason Gen Z will leave a job. A guide on how to start a career development programme will be examined in future articles.

12 | Using that newly revised organizational chart, begin succession planning.

Creating a succession plan serves multiple purposes. First, it puts the company in a good position to respond to the sudden departure or loss of key personnel without total disruption of the business. Second, it is a vehicle for growth because going through the process of succession planning often requires creating some type of strategic plan for the company's future. Third, succession planning results in career development for at least some of the employees.

13 | Audit your company's safety policies and procedures.

If there are jobs people are avoiding, investigate why that is happening. Do people feel uncomfortable or unsafe performing those duties? Are employees fully trained in safety procedures that would provide the confidence to do these tasks? If not, arrange for training and then reinforce the training with additional attention from supervisors and managers.

This long list will more than fill the "spare" time for an HR professional, so pick a few items on this list and see if they can be achieved this year. Then make a plan for next year, and maybe the year past that. The result that will come out is a strategic plan for human resources development, which will benefit your company for many years in the future.

In this article, **Adriane Harrison**, VP of Human Relations Consulting at PRINTING United Alliance, provides **"13 Tips from an HR Expert."** Adriane also provides tips and information like this at the **Center for Human Resources Support** on the **PRINTING United Alliance** website: www.printing.org

To become a member of the Alliance and learn more about how our subject matter experts can assist your company with services and resources such as those mentioned in this article, please contact the Alliance membership team: **888-385-3588** / membership@printing.org Reach out to Adriane directly if you have additional questions specific to HR issues that may affect your business at: aharrison@printing.org



About Adriane Harrison

Adriane Harrison is Vice President, Human Relations Consulting at PRINTING United Alliance. With a background in law, business, and non-profit sectors, Adriane brings a wealth of knowledge to address issues across all aspects of human resources. Adriane is also a relatable speaker who uses interactive techniques to provide understandable strategies for HR

success. She assists members (of PRINTING United Alliance) with a wide variety of HR matters involving statutes, regulations, policies, procedures, culture, and staffing, as well as the gamut of day-to-day HR issues. In addition, she supports professional development by conducting webinars, participating in panel discussions, and speaking at industry events on human resources issues. Currently, Adriane is the Chairperson of the Graphic Communications Workforce Coalition, a member of the Women in Print Alliance, and a founder of the Women's Print Mentoring Network.

Adriane received a journalism degree from the University of Illinois and a law degree from DePaul University in Chicago. As an attorney, Adriane practices in both the public and private sectors. Her work is in the areas of Constitutional, Commercial, Securities, and Criminal Law. Adriane and her family live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

13 TIPS FROM AN HR EXPERT

WHAT DOES GEN Z REALLY WANT IN A WORKPLACE?

For Print Service Providers (PSPs) looking to hire and retain talent, consulting content from a wide range of experts is beneficial. However, to appeal to the next generation of workers, it's important to understand **what their priorities are, what type of work environment they value, and what challenges might arise during the search for new talent.** Xiaoying Rong, Professor, Graphic Communication Department at the College of Liberal Arts, Cal Poly in California, posed these very questions to her students.

She summed up their responses, noting, "The top things that students mentioned when entering the workforce are **financial stability and sustainable salary.** The **location of the job, supportive culture, respect for diversity, and willingness to learn from the younger generation at the workplace** are also at the top of the list. The **possibility of remote work** can be attractive, too."

That mentality was echoed by both Megan Mikami, Account Manager, and Emilia Thein, an experiential Designer, who were both just hired full-time at Image Options in Foothill Ranch, California, after spending a year in the company's robust internship/apprenticeship programme. "Going into the work world — at least for me as a designer in this space — I feel like my surroundings and the community and space I'm working in are constantly inspiring me," Thein notes. "I can either be locked into my computer and work ... or I can be in a complete rut. So, coming from a creative background, I thrive on routine and deadlines, and having an organized system and way of doing things, which is why I think I went down the design route and not the art route."

Mikami has a slightly different take, noting, "I played softball in college — I've been on a team my entire life. And [I wondered] how do I cut that out cold turkey and transition into my new career and find that in a workplace? That was always something I kept in the back of my head when I was interviewing at other places ... what is going to be the environment that I'm entering into?" Mikami continues, "I was looking for a place that would take me for me as someone who doesn't necessarily know exactly what I want to do, but I'm willing to learn and I'm willing to go through it and experience it."

Creating a space where younger generations feel welcomed and free to explore their interests and cultivate their talents tops the list of what many of these workers are seeking. They are also looking for places that offer education and mentorship opportunities — whereas in the past, new hires were expected to come in, be dropped into a situation with minimal training, and were told to figure it out; tomorrow's workers are looking for a far more hands-on approach. Jules Van Sant, Vice Chair of the Print and Graphics Scholarship Foundation (PGSF), as well as a member of the Graphic Communications Workforce Coalition, observed this when working with and talking to younger workers. "I think strong communication skills are super key," Van Sant says. "I think employers have been very fortunate when they've held on to employees for a long time. It's the unspoken word — we all kind of know how it goes. And the people come in and they're like, 'Well, tell me what I need to do.' And [employers respond with], well, you're going to this corner. That's not how people learn."

"So employers need to become better communicators," she continues. "They need to foster community. They need to foster that culture within their company, and do that kind of mentoring as well as cross-training, so people feel as though they're always being challenged and educated. That's better for the employer, too, because you have people who can step in and back up. But I do think communication — whether it's nonverbal with signage, whether it's interactive video, whether it's having company events, whether it's having team meetings — I think that we have to nurture relationships. It's not, 'Oh, you're lucky to have a job.' That's not the world we live in."

Rong points out that while the printing industry has been modernized when it comes to its equipment, the way in which it speaks to and attracts the younger generations has not. "Well-educated students from various programmes — including Cal Poly — are looking for companies with supportive cultures and values that align with their own," Rong says. "They are also looking for jobs that could challenge them."

Capturing Gen Z's Attention

Creating a welcoming culture that values education, mentoring, and training will help keep Gen Z there, but it still leaves the question of how to get them through the doors to begin with. Some of that comes down to a matter of perspective.

"The job market is currently quite competitive, especially in positions related to design and high-tech," Rong says. "When students are searching for positions in print-related fields, there are more marketing, account management, and sales positions. Some students may not be interested in those areas and may find it a bit challenging to find what their technical interests could align with. Many students are interested in project management positions; many printing companies or PSPs may use different titles, making it harder for them to connect with students."

Another point the Cal Poly students note is the **use of AI in hiring and recruitment.** They consider it just as critical for a potential employer to have well-crafted applications and job documentation as it is for them to have a well-crafted resume and cover letter. On the topic of AI — while the use of these tools to screen applicants has gained steam in the past year, PSPs should still take them with a grain of salt — and be ready to hand-scan documents AI might have rejected. Those tools aren't perfect, and companies might lose out on excellent candidates without anyone in the company ever seeing their resume.

PSPs should also consider

Does the



process ask the applicant for a resume and then use an online HR/AI tool that asks them to input the same information into a form so they can more easily be bulk analyzed? If so, talented applicants might walk away out of growing frustration.

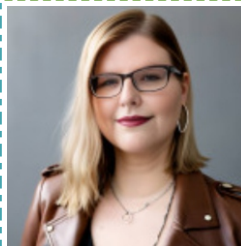
Van Sant notes that in reality, "a lot of those job boards and recruiters, all their numbers are way down this past year. So I do think you're kind of getting back to that networking." She points out that the old-fashioned approach of **connecting with guidance counselors, offering internship programmes, and hosting job fairs on-site** so potential future talent can come see what the printing industry really is firsthand, is proving to be a far better tool for finding the best talent in a community, rather than relying on AI tools and job boards.

Mikami says another thing to keep in mind is to **be clear about what the job entails.** One red flag for her when she was job hunting was a lack of "transparency when it came to applying and knowing exactly what you were going to get into. I think that was difficult to navigate, especially in the job market when there are thousands of people applying to an opening on LinkedIn and you don't really understand exactly what it is," she says. "And it's an entry-level job, but at the same time, it requires you to have five years of experience. How could I have gotten that? I feel like that was a big thing that probably turned me away from some jobs."

When referring to her interview process at Image Options, Emilia Thein points out that being up front can make all the difference. "During a time of applying right out of college, you're going to apply to jobs, and you're in that space where you're going to take what you can get," she notes. "But I felt like my interview experience with Image Options was very genuine and very much (seemed) like they wanted us, and were finding out what we bring to the table."

She continues, "And right out of college, you're applying for all these jobs, you're getting all these rejections of people not even looking at your application. ... It just feels like even though this may be a corporate setting, there's such a personable and genuine feel to the company that stands out a lot. A lot of things are moving online, and people are turning their cameras off, and human interaction isn't as prevalent as it once was. I really like that this company prioritizes [connections]."

Perhaps the biggest takeaway isn't that Gen Z is looking for the latest and greatest technology or for a place where they can live on their phones and be plugged in 24/7. Instead, many of them are desperately seeking **human connections** and want to find that in their place of work. They want to find somewhere they can **learn and grow**, where they can **be part of something bigger than themselves, and feel like what they do matters.** They want to **speak with real people**, not just screens. Maybe what the industry needs to do to hire and retain tomorrow's talent isn't going more high-tech, but rather, it needs to get back to the basics.



About Toni McQuilken

Toni McQuilken has been writing and editing since 2001. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Communications, and several years later earned her Master's of Business Administration degree while working full-time. Toni honed her skills through the years; she has

worked on magazines, marketing campaigns, and blogs that span multiple industries, such as Print & Graphics, Technology, Automotive, and Hospitality. She has written thousands of articles through the course of her career, including marketing materials, feature stories, executive profiles, and more. And she has edited thousands more for staff writers, co-workers, freelancers, and clients. Writing and editing, however, aren't the only skills Toni brings to the table. She has managed several publications, both in print and online, and served as the face and voice of her publications, regularly meeting with industry professionals and representing her brands in a wide range of situations. Executives up to the Fortune 500 C-level, across multiple industries, continue to take her calls, consent to interviews, and look to work with her, even after she is no longer with the publications they initially encountered her with. Toni has been writing about the print and graphics industry in particular for more than two decades. With experience covering every segment and facet of the business of print, she has dedicated her career to providing shop owners with the information they need to run their operations more efficiently. She is currently a Senior Content Editor for the Printing & Packaging group at NAPCO Media, part of the PRINTING United Alliance.

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SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE - PROPAK WEST AFRICA 2025

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By standardizing on the Epson i3200 printheads, Xanté inks, and the incredible iQueue Workflow, operators move between flatbed and roll jobs seamlessly. The Xanté XR126 will be available beginning December 1, 2025.

STRONG SALES AND INNOVATION MARK ROTOCON'S DEBUT AT LABELEXPO EUROPE 2025



ROTOCON's debut at **Labelexpo Europe 2025** on **Stand 4D21** was marked by a dynamic presence, where live press and finishing demonstrations attracted steady visitor traffic throughout the four-day exhibition. Over 30 **ROTOCON machines** were sold, reflecting the strong market interest and customer confidence in the company's equipment. The highlight was live demonstrations of the **CHROME 450 flexo press**, presented as a comprehensive solution for printers seeking a balance of modern technology and intuitive operation. The press delivers exceptional print quality, advanced embellishment options, and impressive cost-effectiveness. Thanks to its modular design, printers can scale their investment with performance-enhancing features tailored to their specific applications and budgets. Automation solutions and value-adding modules are seamlessly integrated and activated with a simple button press.

Live demonstrations also showcased the **ECOLINE RSI 540**, a fully servo-driven finishing machine for label slitting, inspection, and rewinding. It combines user-friendly operation with low maintenance requirements and production speeds of up to 300m/min. Also featured on the stand was the **CHROME RDF 340**, a robust digital printed label converting and finishing system designed for high efficiency and flexibility. Its modular architecture supports customised configurations as

converters' needs evolve, including options for hot and cold foil, embossing, multilayer labels, in-mould labelling, and screen printing. Members of the newly created **ROTOCON USA** operation, Cooper Ludwig and Jeff Haddad, were also present on the stand, marking an important step in the company's international expansion.

At the **EyeC Stand 5B11**, **ROTOCON's** **ECOLINE RSH 440** finishing machine demonstrated EyeC's new AI technology on their ProofRunner Web HighLight, highlighting the compatibility of **ROTOCON** equipment with EyeC's inspection solutions.

ROTOCON also hosted a well-attended press conference on its stand on Wednesday, 17 September, spotlighting its latest flexo printing and finishing capabilities. The session included a demonstration of the **CHROME RFP 450** flexo printing press, beginning with a welcome address from Michael Aengenvoort (**ROTOCON**), followed by a technical presentation of the press demo by Sachin Sukhlal (**ROTOCON**), and concluding with a presentation on ECG inks by Stuart Baylis (**Polyflex Premedia**).

Commenting on the success of the exhibition, the **ROTOCON** Board of Directors said: "Our goal has always been to deliver solutions and services that combine innovation, reliability, and cost-effectiveness. The positive response and strong sales at the show reaffirm that our technology is helping printers and converters enhance performance, efficiency, and value for their customers. A big thank you to our customers for your trust and partnership – your success is our greatest motivation."

FUJIFILM UNVEILS NEW ACUITY TR™ POWERED BY BREAKTHROUGH AQUAFUZE™ INK TECHNOLOGY TO UNLOCK NEW POTENTIAL FOR ROLL-FED WIDE-FORMAT INKJET PRINTING APPLICATIONS



FUJIFILM North America Corporation has announced the U.S. launch of the **ACUITY TR™**, a revolutionary 1.6-meter (63-inch) roll-fed printer that sets a new standard for wide-format roll printing.

Equipped with Fujifilm's groundbreaking **AQUAFUZE™** water-based UV ink technology, the **ACUITY TR** delivers impressive

Continued on page 37 >>

Print Impact Around the World

print quality and versatility, offering users a flexible, eco-conscious printing solution that powers vibrant creative expression across a wide range of applications. The AUCITY TR's innovative AQUAFUZE inkjet technology combines photopolymer dispersion with water-based UV curing to reduce printhead nozzle clogging, improve ink ejection, and eliminate the need for primers, optimizers, or topcoats on a wide range of substrates. Offering a low odor, water-based alternative to traditional solvent and latex inks, AQUAFUZE inkjet technology delivers strong adhesion, scratch resistance, and excellent rub resistance.

"As the wide format field continues to grow and demands a larger variety of applications and substrates, we are thrilled to introduce the AUCITY TR and our proprietary AQUAFUZE inkjet ink technology to the U.S. market," said Yuji Oki, General Manager, FUJIFILM North America Corporation, Business Innovation Division. "This new technology - which combines the benefits and characteristics of water-based and UV inks - represents a significant step forward, offering a unique combination of quality, durability, and versatility. We are confident that our customers will appreciate the performance and broad application possibilities that AQUAFUZE inkjet technology provides and anticipate this becoming the new standard in wide format printing."

As the industry evolves, there is a growing demand for inks that offer both high durability and stretchability, essential for products that require bending and further processing. In addition, ink safety, including minimizing solvent emissions and reducing odors during printing, is becoming an increasingly important factor in ink selection. AQUAFUZE inks meet these demands, empowering print professionals to deliver premium results while maintaining a safer, more sustainable print environment.

HEIDELBERG WELCOMES MORE THAN 200 INTERNATIONAL GUESTS FROM THE PRINTING INDUSTRY TO SHIFT 2025



HEIDELBERG welcomed more than 200 international guests from the printing industry to SHIFT 2025. The focus was on networking with experts and exchanging ideas on solutions for digital transformation.



- Participants use the new summit to exchange ideas on process digitization and hybrid print production
- Practical examples provide solutions
- Jetfire 50, upcoming Jetfire 75, and Versafire digital printing systems integrated into the end-to-end workflow with Prinect
- Prinect Touch Free unlocks potential in digitization

Enormous cost and competitive pressure, as well as the increasing difficulty of recruiting suitable personnel on the market, are driving the printing industry. An additional challenge is the fact that printing companies now have to generate a significant portion of their revenue, which they previously achieved with high-volume orders, through a large number of small orders. With conventional working methods, it is difficult to manage such an order structure economically. The solution is the consistent digitization and automation of as many processes as possible, as well as the increased use of robotics to reduce manual intervention to an absolute minimum.

These topics were addressed at **SHIFT 2025**, a new two-day event format organized by **Heidelberg Druckmaschinen AG** (HEIDELBERG) featuring external speakers on the one hand and interactive practical workshops on the other. More than **200 guests** from all over Europe and overseas attended the summit.

Practical examples provide solutions

The first day focused on practical applications from various companies. One of the six speakers was **Rob Cross**, co-Managing Director of **Micropress Printers LTD** (from Reydon, England). He described how the company has accelerated its processes and alleviated the shortage of personnel thanks to automation, robotics, and AI. Micropress produces on a Speedmaster XL 106 with Plate to Unit and on several digital printing systems. All processes are controlled via Prinect. At the folding machines, robots, including a StackStar P from HEIDELBERG, place the packages on pallets. Autonomous Mobile Robots (AMR) move the pallets between the individual machines.

Bauer Packaging Germany specializes in label printing and packaging production. The company has largely digitized its production. Using a combination of Prinect Production from HEIDELBERG and Symphony from Ctrl-s, the numerous label orders are bundled, the impositions are automatically laid out, and the output is sent to several digital printing systems. Compucut Auto-Control calculates the cutting programs fully automatically on Polar cutting technology. Around 700 orders are processed every day. Orders received by 7 p.m. are delivered on the same day from 9 p.m. For the more than 600 million folding cartons produced annually, Bauer Packaging works with a new high-performance Mastermatrix 106 CSB die cutter, among other equipment.

Prinect Touch Free unlocks potential in digitalization

In the printing industry, the range of tasks that need to be digitized and automated is particularly wide. It extends from order entry, planning, production, and materials management to shipping, invoicing, and the evaluation of KPIs (key performance indicators). The second day of the event at the Home of Print in Wiesloch-Walldorf was dedicated to this broad topic. HEIDELBERG, together with its partners,

THE PRINT SHOW AND THE SIGN SHOW WELCOME OVER 5,300 ATTENDEES TO 2025 EVENTS



Demonstrating that print is so much more than simply putting ink on paper while committing to helping visitors discover new opportunities for their businesses through access to exhibitors from all corners of the industry, all free of charge, **The Print Show UK** (colocated for the first time with **The Sign Show**) is now established as the most important and best-attended industry event in the UK. Little wonder the show welcomed over **5,300 attendees** in Hall 3 of the NEC Birmingham from **23rd September** to **25th September**. In this **SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE**, adapted from the organiser's **(Link Exhibitions (UK) LTD) POST-SHOW STATEMENT**, check out why The Print Show is the primary meeting point for the market.

In total, **5,379 visits** were reported during the three-day events, which both ran from 23 to 25 September. **The Print Show** returned for its ninth edition this year, while The Sign Show was making its debut, co-located with its sister event in Hall 3 of the NEC in Birmingham.

Both shows were hailed as a tremendous success, with exhibitors across the hall reporting high levels of footfall, leads, and in some cases, on-stand sales. Epson, Agfa, Fujifilm, swissQprint, InkTec Europe, Vivid Laminating Technologies, Antalis, and Plockmatic Group were among the stand-out names in The Print Show section of the hall, while HP, Hybrid Services (Mimaki), Graphtec GB (Mutoh), Roland DG, and EFKA Frame Solutions were all in attendance for year one of The Sign Show.



Crucially, such was the success of The Sign Show that organisers have confirmed it will return in **2026** from **29th September** to **1st October** again co-located with The Print Show, which will celebrate its **10th edition** in 2026. The two shows will again take place at the NEC, switching to a larger **Hall 1** to accommodate an expected increase in stand demand.

"For me, this was the best event we have ever put on," said

Organisers of **The Print Show** and **The Sign Show** are delighted to announce that more than **5,000** visits were recorded across the two events this year, **34%** more than in the previous year.

Chris Davies, Event & Sales Director for both The Print Show and The Sign Show. "As an organiser, we wanted to step it up a notch this year, including an improved entrance area and an enhanced Knowledge Zone speaker area, and both visitors and exhibitors really responded to it. The Print Show continues to go from strength to strength. We've had excellent feedback from

Continued on page 39 >>

exhibitors, many of whom have indicated that they will return for our 10th anniversary edition next year. As for The Sign Show, this was clearly well received by the wider industry, with exhibitors and visitors praising its focus on signage and how it has filled a gap in the market for an event that showcases UK sign-making. We're delighted to be bringing it back for its second outing in 2026."

The Print Show Remains A Selling Show

While many visited the shows to see technology for the first

time or learn more about new solutions, some took it a step further and elected to invest in kits while at the event. Vivid Laminating Technologies set a new record by selling five Velodblade Nexus devices on its stand. It also hosted the global launch of its new Razar, a new machine that can spot UV up to B2, cut and crease in one pass. Ballyprint.com of Northern Ireland became the first company in the world to purchase a machine, agreeing a deal during the show. "What we like about The Print Show is that the organisers work tirelessly to make it work for you," Vivid said in a post-show social media message. "They leave you to get on with selling and dealing with customers and genuinely want everyone to do well. A big thanks to Chris and the team for putting on a great event; we know how much hard work goes into these shows."

Konica Minolta also reported several sales on its stand at The Print Show. Design, print, sign, and exhibition services specialist Graphix purchased a new AccurioPress C7090 ENHANCED digital production press. Meanwhile, commercial print specialist GD Print opted for a new AccurioPress C14010s and AccurioPress C7090 ENHANCED.

Elsewhere, POSITIVE+ invested in a new Impala 5 from swissQprint, while Plockmatic Group, which counts Morgana, Intec, and Renz among its brands, reported high levels of sales at the show. As for the new kit that was on display, highlights included

Hybrid Services, the exclusive UK and Ireland distributor for Mimaki, which hosted the global launch of the new Mimaki TS200-1600 dye sublimation printer. In addition, Fujifilm showed the new SUPER COLOUR print models, which include

the Revoria Press EC2100S and SC285S, while China Print Supplies displayed its new Hapond 3-in-1 Double-Sided Printer, a 3.2m machine that prints perfectly registered graphics on both sides of a roll simultaneously.

Building Knowledge and Getting Interactive

Key to the shows were several special features that appeared across the hall. Within The Print Show, the **Knowledge Zone** was as popular as ever,



Founder of Willsow, Tom Willday, making a presentation at the Knowledge Zone on plantable children's books

with sessions drawing plenty of crowds.

Highlights included Jeremy Page and George Kowalowski of BrandNation, who kicked off the programme with an insightful session on the future of AI in print. Tom Willday, founder of Willsow, shared his experience of appearing on the BBC's Dragon's Den, while the FESPA UK Next Generation Committee spoke about the importance of drawing young people to print.

Other sessions saw Solopress CEO Simon Cooper look at the environmental impact of AI, while the effervescent Deborah Corn spoke about selling the security of print, before joining a panel discussion on the opportunities for women in print. She also launched PrintFM at the show, interviewing and engaging industry personalities on a wide array of industry subjects to improve exhibition experience.

In The Sign Show, visitors were invited to get hands-on across several interactive areas.

The School of Wrap allowed attendees to try out vehicle and architectural wrapping under the expert guidance of CVi Group, SPACE Architectural Interiors, All Print Supplies, Fedrigoni, and FESPA UK.

Across the aisle, the supremely talented David Mearns from Signmode showcased his talents on the Traditional Sign-Making Masterclass, inviting visitors to try their hand at sign writing and learn more about this incredible art.

Finally, Neon Creations welcomed visitors to the Neon Insights area to educate them about neon signs, displaying some of



their incredible signs and encouraging those in attendance to try out neon glass bending. "Having The Sign Show alongside The Print Show this year has been a real pleasure," Chris says. "It adds a whole new angle to what was already a diverse event, and I look forward to chatting with the team about how we can evolve both shows for next year and beyond."

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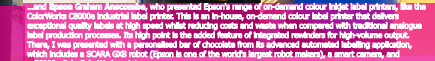
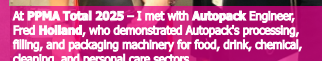
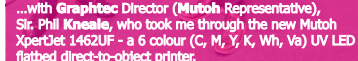
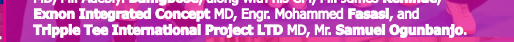
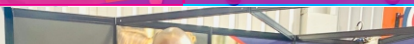
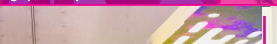
THE POWER OF PRINT AT PRINT SHOW UK – PICTURE NEWS



WHERE To Print magazine Publisher, Joju ADEKANBI, reporting LIVE at the shows.



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Print Impact Around the World

presented itself as a solution provider and system integrator for end-to-end production in commercial and packaging printing—from the PDF file to the delivered product.

Special attention was paid to hybrid print production with Speedmaster technology on the one hand and digital printing with Jetfire 50 and Versafire systems on the other. The focus was on fully automated workflow control via the new Prinect Touch Free workflow. The AI-supported software guides an order independently and without human intervention through the entire manufacturing process, always taking into account the most cost-effective production route, available capacity, the current order backlog, and delivery dates. Prinect Touch Free is scheduled to be available from the end of 2025.

"With SHIFT, HEIDELBERG has created a unique platform where participants can network, discuss the topic of digital transformation, and gain inspiration for solutions," says **Dr. David Schmedding**, Chief Technology and Sales Officer at HEIDELBERG. "We want to support our customers as partners with all our process expertise and experience in process digitalization." HEIDELBERG will therefore continue the format due to the extremely positive feedback. The industry can already look forward to SHIFT 2026!

KOENIG & BAUER STRENGTHENS PRINTING COMPANIES WITH NEW "PROTECTED AT PRINT" INITIATIVE

KOENIG & BAUER



Marc Hunsänger, Director Protection Technologies at **Koenig & Bauer Vision & Protection**, shows how easy it can be to protect and verify printed products
© **Koenig & Bauer**

With the strategic "protected at print" initiative, **Koenig & Bauer Vision & Protection** is giving the printing industry a boost and helping its customers expand their value chain.

The initiative aims to enable printing companies to develop from being mere service providers into full-fledged protection partners for their customers. This new positioning provides printing companies with additional sources of income, strengthens customer loyalty, and creates a crucial competitive advantage.

Creating value through integrated protection

Under the umbrella of "protected at print", Koenig & Bauer Vision & Protection offers technologies that can be applied directly in the printing process, including Stegano, Daktylo, and Ovjera. The direct integration of these security solutions not only increases product security but also production efficiency.

Product launch: varnish protect 'aegis'

As the first product of this initiative, Koenig & Bauer is introducing varnish protect 'aegis'. This innovative varnish protection solution uses Stegano technology to seamlessly integrate hidden information, such as codes or images, into the varnish layer of printed products. This is done without affecting the product design or existing production processes. A key advantage is that a single varnish plate can be used for different customers and print jobs, which makes product protection highly efficient for printing companies. "In a world where threats to product and brand security are constantly increasing, Koenig & Bauer Vision & Protection offers important, innovative, and reliable solutions," says **Julian Schubert**, CEO of Koenig & Bauer Vision & Protection. "Varnish protects 'aegis' embodies our mission to make protection simple, smart, and accessible to everyone. We are directly transferring our extensive expertise from high-security printing to provide other products with unparalleled protection."

Product piracy costs companies billions every year, not only through lost sales but also through declining customer trust and damaged brand reputation. Varnish Protect 'aegis' is an effective tool for consolidating brand integrity with cryptographic security and immediate proof of origin, which enables traceability down to the batch level. The tool is ideal for protecting goods in critical markets such as baby food, health products, pharmaceuticals, and toys, and for ensuring authenticity where it matters most.

To keep implementation as simple and flexible as possible, the Koenig & Bauer Vision & Protection team has ensured that no changes to existing prepress workflows are required. Varnish protect 'aegis' uses ready-to-use varnish plates that can be manually adjusted to the print image and integrated into the flexo coating unit like any standard varnish plate. This ensures that there is no impact on production speed or quality and provides maximum flexibility on different printing presses and technologies. The technology is also compatible with a wide range of varnishes.

Seamless verification with a verification app – ava' app

Brands that have their products protected with this technology can check the authenticity of the products using a verification app – ava' app. The invisible data can be easily read and verified. The app, a robust multi-technology platform, enables quick offline verification of euro banknotes and activated packaging. Interested customers can obtain sample material from their responsible sales department.

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2025 KEY STATS



250

Exhibitors



4x

Exhibition Halls



3,196

Visitors



39

Visiting Countries



50

Conference Speakers

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