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Issue No. 2 | April 2024

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# Editorial



## TRADE FAIRS 2024 – INSPIRATION, INNOVATION, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND NETWORKING

Michael Johannes Julius Maggi was a Swiss entrepreneur and inventor when he popularised Maggi seasoning in 1886. Maggi ran intensive brand advertising, pursued innovative advertising strategies and relied on street advertising with enamel signs, peppered with creative texts and slogans, which laid the foundation for the Maggi image that still exists today.

The further development of effective advertising printing techniques was already a topic for printers in the 19th century, the first trade fair ideas emerged and the importance of trade fairs for initiating business was also recognised in Germany. One of the first trade fairs before the First World War was the BUGRA (Book Trade and Graphic Arts) exhibition in Leipzig. It was followed by other trade fairs that still exist today, such as the International Radio Exhibition in Berlin in 1924 and the International Aviation Exhibition in 1928. Before the start of the Second World War, the last printing trade fair was held in Leipzig in 1938. Another look back at the first Drupa in 1951 shows the rapid development of a trade that at that time still favoured letterpress printing and cast letters from lead. The highlight was the Heidelberg platen with 5,000 printed sheets per hour. What would a visitor of the time have said about a smartphone with an ultra-fast processor, brilliant screen resolution, ultra-wide-angle camera with telephoto lens and artificial intelligence that supports live translation and image editing?

The history of trade fairs goes back a long way and has become increasingly important over time, with some trade fairs standing out due to their extraordinary popularity, such as Expo 2010 in Shanghai, which attracted over 70 million visitors.

And in the printing industry, too, there are currently trade fairs that show how 3D or electronics are printed or how artificial intelligence can help to optimise results. The following outlook for Drupa in Düsseldorf in May, where automation, sustainability and digitalisation are key topics, underlines the importance of Germany as a trade fair location:

*"Drupa 2024:  
The must-attend event for the printing industry"*

In order to improve the properties and quality of print products and meet rising demand without increasing prices, the use of artificial intelligence has recently become very important. AI-controlled systems can take the automation of work processes to a new level. This includes monitoring and evaluating production cycles, downtimes, material flows and bottlenecks in real time. What is extraordinary is the rapidly increasing pace at which AI models and their capabilities are developing.

Industrial and production companies around the world are focusing on optimising their ecological footprint. Sustainable production is becoming increasingly important and the printing industry is also required to make processes more transparent and environmentally friendly. To this end, manufacturers are increasingly endeavouring to offer low-emission and residue-free solutions.

E-commerce and the associated digitalisation as well as consumer demand for shorter delivery times are playing an increasingly important role. Many companies are likely to continue to favour printing for selected business transactions, while others prefer a more digitalised approach.

*Udo Schulz*  
Udo Schulz

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Imprint

# MAX WAITS TABLES\*

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Daiber and you. A whole life long.

Find out here how things are going for Max:





# Brother:

## The expert for innovative industrial printing solutions

In the ever-changing world of industrial technology, Brother stands for innovation and expertise. Brother already adapted its strategy last year and emphasised its intention to increasingly promote the industrial product sector.

As part of a constantly growing product portfolio, Brother is presenting the new GTXpro DTF roll-to-roll printer, which combines high-quality printing with speed and efficiency by means of a powder and drying unit. The GTXpro roll-to-roll solution is versatile and can be used on a wide range of textiles including cotton, polyester and blended fabrics. The DTF roll-to-roll solution utilises Brother's proven, environmentally friendly, water-based inks. Inks that are GOTS-positive registered and certified according to the OekoTex standard.

Last year, Brother also decided to enter the large-format latex printing market segment with the WF1-L640 large-format latex printer. The WF1-L640 is equipped with piezo print heads and environmentally friendly, weather-resistant, water-based ink with GREENGUARD Gold certification, which enables high-resolution printing at up to 1200 dpi.

Brother is also developing digital solutions, such as the Myze customer platform, which simplifies the production of direct-to-garment prints.



*The Brother WF1-L640 large-format latex printer with high-resolution printing up to 1200 dpi*

### Brother

Founded in Japan in 1908, Brother manufactures a wide range of electronic, industrial and household appliances and is one of the world's leading manufacturers of direct-to-garment printers and industrial sewing machines. The Brother Group has sales and distribution offices in more than 40 countries around the world and employs more than 40,000 people. The headquarters for the distribution of industrial products such as sewing machines, direct-to-textile printers and, more recently, large format printers for Europe, Africa and the Middle East is located in Emmerich am Rhein. Including the branch in Italy, over 80 employees are responsible for the EMEA region. Emmerich is also the spare parts centre for the above-mentioned region. More than 10,000 machines and machine spare parts are stored there and more than 50 countries are supplied daily from the small town on the Lower Rhine.



*The Bielefeld-based company KINZEL printing has grown to become one of the market leaders in the industry by combining decades of experience with innovative ideas*



# KINZEL

## Printing Systems

KINZEL Printing Systems (founded in 1992 as A&M KINZEL) is a manufacturer of high-quality printing machines. KINZEL develops and produces innovative solutions for roll-to-roll screen and digital printing systems.

From planning to the realisation of standard and customised R2R printing and finishing systems, the team at KINZEL Printing Systems GmbH is a competent partner. KINZEL Printing Systems GmbH offers an extensive range of products for printing machines. For example, R2R screen and digital printing systems, laminating machines, die-cutters, embossing presses, slitting and cross-cutting machines,

doctor blade grinding machines, screen coating machines, hot transfer presses and much more. The portfolio also includes digital printing machines for flexible materials, laser cutting systems, drying systems (hot air, UV and IR), heat transfer and transfer systems as well as customised system integration.

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# Semi-automatic labelling solution

## AP380e labeller from DTM Print



Product labels are an important factor in the promotion and presentation of a product. An accurate and crease-free label makes a product look professional and enhances the product presentation. DTM Print, an international OEM and solution provider for speciality printing systems, recommends semi-automatic labellers such as the AP series models to companies, which can increase production and enable a uniform appearance across all packaging.

According to the manufacturer, the AP380e is faster than the previous AP360e and AP362e models and is designed to ensure quick and precise labelling and consistently accurate results on a wide range of containers. The AP380e is equipped with a mechanical sensor for detecting labels which, unlike ultrasonic sensors, can process transparent labels without marking strips. This specially developed sensor has been installed in over 38,000 AP series labellers and is known for its durability and reliability with a wide variety of label types and thicknesses.



*Quick and precise application of labels with consistently accurate results*

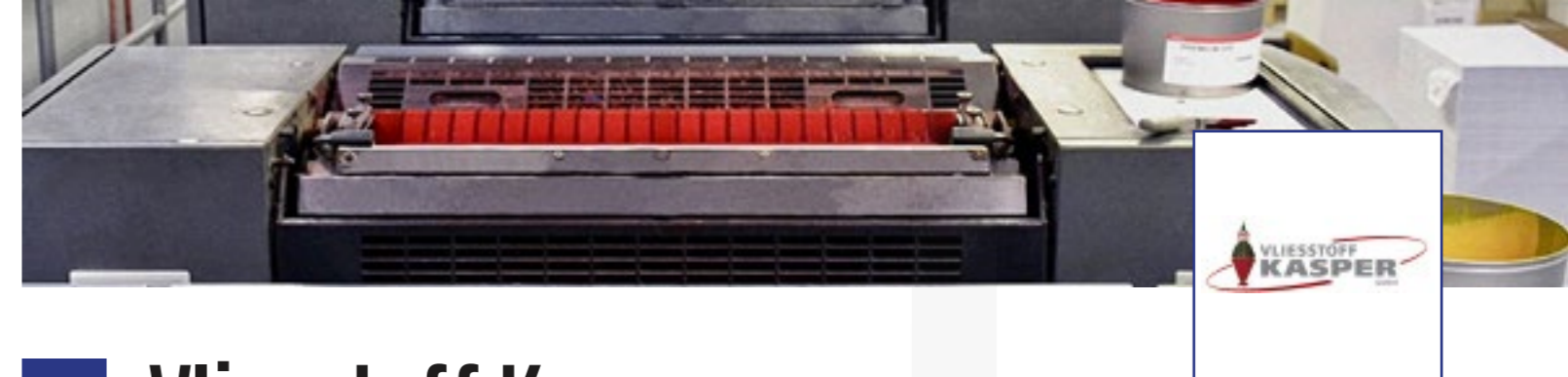
Lea König, Product Manager for label printing solutions at DTM Print, summarises the benefits: "The AP380e optimises production processes thanks to the integrated rewinder for the liner. At the same time, it increases production throughput many times over. With the

AP380e ensures that labels are applied reliably and without errors, giving the finished products a highly professional appearance."

The AP380e is an ideal complement to the label printing and labelling solutions offered by DTM Print, including the LX series of colour label printers. The AP380e can also be used to apply roll-fed labels from flexo, offset or thermal transfer printers.

### DTM Print

DTM Print, a DTM Group company, is an international OEM and solution provider for printing systems based in Germany. Founded in 1986, the company is known as a pioneer in the field of speciality printing and has more than three decades of experience in the development of customised printing services. In addition to marketing its own products, the company works closely with well-known manufacturers to offer the best possible printing solutions. DTM Print distributes products and services through authorised sales partners and dealers in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.



# Vliesstoff Kasper: Cleaning cloths for the printing industry

As a long-standing partner to the printing industry and specialist dealer for Sontara® PrintMaster, Vliesstoff Kasper offers washup reels for automatic cleaning for all common printing machines (Heidelberger, KBA, Komori, Manroland, Ryobi). And with the Mönchengladbach-based company's winding station, wash-up reels can also be produced from a 500 metre roll.

For manual cleaning tasks, the range extends from high-performance and solvent-resistant Sontara® cleaning cloths to various machine cleaning cloths.

The manual cleaning wipes are particularly suitable for removing dirt or for sensitive equipment. According to Kasper, automatic high-performance wipes fulfil maximum requirements in automatic surface cleaning for pre-treatment or direct integration into production chains and process and cleaning sequences. Nonwoven and cleaning paper rolls round off the range.

### Vliesstoff Kasper

Vliesstoff Kasper was founded in 1971 by Walter Kasper of the Kasper & Taglaue company, and a subsidiary in the USA was added in 2008 with Kasper Consumables Incorporation. The Mönchengladbach-based company has been selling and manufacturing high-quality nonwovens for cleaning applications for more than 30 years. The product range includes wet and dry wipes and extends from fine cellulose wipes from the pluck can to various microfibre qualities and special nonwoven rolls for automatic cleaning processes in the printing and electronics industries.

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The structure gives the cloth a large surface area and thus enables better binding of impurities in the cloth. PrintClean is ideally suited for the lint-free cleaning of printing plates, rollers and blankets.



Pre-soaked cleaning wash wrap

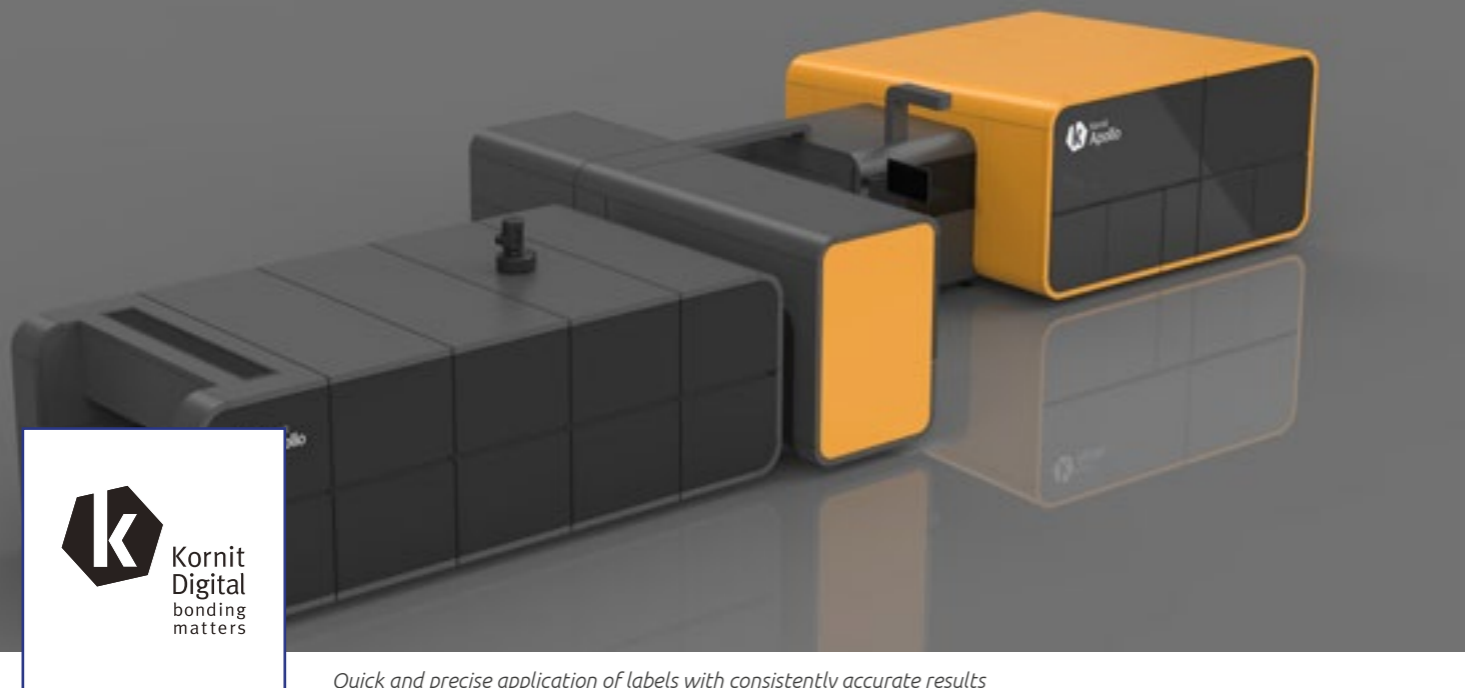


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# On-Demand-Production

## Kornit Apollo direct-to-garment platform

Kornit Digital, a global leader in sustainable, digital on-demand fashion technologies that reduce lead times, lower total cost of ownership and improve margins for short to medium runs, has announced the general availability of its field-proven Kornit Apollo direct-to-garment platform.

Designed to enable brands, retailers and screen printers to take advantage of automated, high-throughput digital production, Apollo is said to be capable of decorating more than 1.5 million garments per year with a single operator. Supported by an advanced automation system, the platform integrates versatile, intelligent drying that simultaneously handles different garments at a rate of up to 400 garments per hour. According to Kornit, the Apollo system is extremely flexible and can be scaled as required to handle large volumes as well as single items. At the heart of Apollo is the patented MAX technology, which ensures the colour accuracy of PANTONE® and spot colours.

Scott Valancy, COO of T-Shirt Central says: "Kornit has been a long term partner and we are pleased to be an early adopter of the Apollo system. Similar to other Kornit solutions, we are very pleased with the performance of the system. Our team has been impressed not only with

the performance during peak season, but also with the ability to easily connect our automation system to deliver vibrant, high-quality prints. With Apollo, we were able to easily handle the increased demand with 24/7 availability without missing a beat. We look forward to taking the next step with Kornit and utilising its on-demand production and industrial capacity to drive our business growth." In a demonstration at Impressions Expo Long Beach in January 2024, Kornit showcased Apollo in live on-demand production, underscoring Kornit's commitment to helping businesses create new revenue streams and opportunities for efficiency, sustainability and innovation.

### RETAIL CUSTOMERS AND SCREEN PRINTERS

Apollo offers benefits for retailers, brands and screen printers in particular. Retailers and brands benefit from the flexibility to respond to new trends in real time,

while rationalising inventory requirements and costs. Screen printers can reduce lead times while benefiting from increased productivity and sustainable production that eliminates waste and leverages synergies between analogue and digital approaches.

"Kornit Apollo is the most advanced and proven solution on the market that enables digital production to become mainstream - creating real business opportunities for brands, fulfilers and retailers," says Ronen Samuel, Chief Executive Officer at Kornit Digital. "Apollo was first announced last year and promised to transform a legacy industry that was far too complex and slow. With successful implementations at such high-profile customers, it's clear that Apollo is delivering on its promise."



The Kornit Apollo direct-to-garment platform benefits retailers, brands and screen printers.

### Kornit

Kornit Digital (NASDAQ: KRNT) is a global leader in sustainable, on-demand digital modex and textile printing technologies. With complete solutions, including digital printing systems, inks and consumables and a global ecosystem for workflow and fulfilment management, the company is considered a pioneer for the fashion industry. Headquartered in Israel, Kornit Digital has offices in the US, Europe and Asia-Pacific and customers in more than 100 countries worldwide.

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# Köstlin Prepress Services

## PureFlexo Printing™ from Miraclon



Köstlin Prepress Services in Ditzingen, south-west Germany, is open to technological innovations that bring efficiency and cost savings and enable companies to produce printing plates that enable higher productivity in printing and consistently high quality. Köstlin Prepress followed this strategy by investing in PureFlexo Printing™ from Miraclon.

PureFlexo Printing is available through the FLEXCEL NX Print Suite for flexible packaging and utilises advanced plate surface texturing patterns that counteract the tendency of ink to spread into areas where it is not wanted during print production.

### THE LIMITS OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN FLEXO PRINTING

"We were excited by the possibilities of PureFlexo Printing. We felt that the technology would enable the print shops we work with to achieve more consistent and higher quality production, especially when printing films," says Managing Director Marc Talmon Gros. Köstlin uses the technology for both FLEXCEL NXH plates and FLEXCEL NX Ultra plates. He goes on to say that the printers Köstlin works with cite a significant improvement in ink laydown and the virtual elimination of run-off edge problems on solids and other printed elements as benefits of using PureFlexo Printing. The improvements were so convincing

that Köstlin now supplies around 30 print shops with FLEXCEL NXH and FLEXCEL NX Ultra plates, which are produced using PureFlexo Printing.

### EARLY INVESTMENT IN PUREFLEXO PRINTING

"Miraclon's FLEXCEL NX plates set the standard in the market for productivity and efficiency gains in printing," explains Marc Talmon Gros. "Of course, many other prepress service providers are aware of this and also offer these plates. That's why we have certainly tried to capitalise on our early investment in PureFlexo Printing as a unique selling point, at least for a while." He continues: "We see Miraclon on the right track with developments like PureFlexo Printing: to keep bringing solutions that both we and our customers can use to increase efficiency and productivity, save costs and simplify the flexo process overall, and simplify the flexo process as a whole." According to Marc Talmon Gros, this also applies to the FLEXCEL

NX Central software for automating plate layout creation, which Köstlin has been working with since the beginning of 2023, and concludes: "FLEXCEL NX Central has ensured better utilisation of plate material and reduced time and errors when creating plate layouts. It also allows us to plan production better. Previously, we didn't have an exact overview of how many panels or square metres we currently had to produce. Now that we know our capacity, we can use the FLEXCEL NX Central software to carry out real production planning, prioritise orders correctly and optimise system utilisation."

Köstlin has been using KODAK FLEXCEL NX technology since 2013. In addition, the family business with around 50 employees has been using the FLEXCEL NX Ultra solution for the solvent- and VOC-free, water-based production of flexographic printing plates for several years.

Its business activities focus on food and cosmetics packaging for branded companies and private labels. FLEXCEL NX and FLEXCEL NX Ultra plates, which are produced using a FLEXCEL NX Wide 4260 system, now account for around 70% of the company's total flexo plate production.

Fabric rolls, for example, which are no longer in keeping with contemporary tastes, used to be a sunk cost, whereas today new textures can be created for this material. Fabric or furniture manufacturers are able to print on old

fabrics in stock and transform them into "new" fabrics and designs. A trend - away from more problematic, conventional practices in the textile industry - towards more sustainable practices. Because upcycling also means flexibility, versatility, adaptability and breaking away from the usual supply chains, unpredictable challenges and uncertainties.

### Miraclon

Miraclon is a global company that has been helping to transform flexographic printing for more than a decade. Its technology, including the industry-leading FLEXCEL NX and FLEXCEL NX Ultra systems and the FLEXCEL NX Print Suite, which enables PureFlexo™ Printing, maximises print efficiency. With a focus on pioneering image science, innovation and collaboration with industry partners and customers, Miraclon is committed to the future of flexographic printing.

### Köstlin

Köstlin, based in Ditzingen, Baden-Württemberg, emerged in 1978 from the large galvanoplastics company Albert Köstlin in Stuttgart. The transition from a labour- and material-intensive, manual reproduction process to digital publishing was successfully mastered in the mid-1980s. Since then, Köstlin has been on hand with state-of-the-art technology and extensive expertise to implement technological and market-specific developments for operational progress.



# Better textile recycling with removable logos



The Danish company Bjørn Thorsen A/S is taking part in a project to develop solutions for replacing transfer prints on clothing. The aim of the project is to develop methods for removing existing transfer prints from certain types of textiles and to develop a new type of removable transfer print.

Workwear and corporate clothing account for around 12% of total textile consumption in Denmark. Employees in various companies wear printed shirts, T-shirts, lab coats, safety vests or high-visibility vests. When the person is no longer employed there or the company logo has changed, the quality clothing is thrown away and incinerated, as the printed names and logos can no longer be removed. According to the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, almost 90% of textiles collected by Danish companies were incinerated in 2023. If a solution can be developed to remove the logos, the fashion industry could make a significant contribution to sustainability. "One obstacle to recycling is the widespread use of transfer printing, i.e. printed logos and names," says project manager Jeppe Holmehave from the Danish Technological Institute.

## CHALLENGES FOR LOGO REMOVAL

The Technology Institute explains that transfer prints are designed for high durability and not with the intention that the textiles will be reused later. However, there is a growing demand for removable logos, partly due to responsible sourcing policies, leasing models and the emergence of take-back schemes where customers can return used logo garments. "There is a huge demand for solutions that move us away from the throwaway culture. We can certainly contribute to this with this partnership if we can find a solution where our transfer prints maintain their high quality during use and are easier to replace when the print is no longer relevant," explains Niels Rask.

## THE ROLE OF RAW MATERIALS

Bjørn Thorsen A/S contributes to this project with raw materials used for the production of the transfer prints through its subsidiary DST. Quentin Le Piouff, Managing Director of DST, says: "As a manufacturer of consumables for the production of thermal transfer prints for workwear, we have the know-how about the chemical and mechanical properties of the raw materials and the way the transfers interact with the textiles. We want to use our industry knowledge and contribute to this project with a working solution for print removal that enables the reuse and recyclability of workwear in a systematic, large-scale way". Lars Rønsholt, Managing Director at Bjørn Thorsen A/S and head of the company's technology department, adds: "Collaboration with the right players in the industry is key to the success of such a large-scale project. Only by working together and sharing knowledge across the entire supply chain can we achieve the desired result."

### Bjørn Thorsen A/S

**Bjørn Thorsen A/S is an expanding group of companies based in Hellerup, Denmark. Its core activity is the distribution of raw materials from leading chemical manufacturers to customers in various industries. The company offers customized alloys, compounds, reactive polymers, dispersions and innovative solutions for traditional screen printing and digital hybrid systems.**



*When it comes to environmentally and climate-friendly production, the print and media industry has played a pioneering role in the German economy for more than 25 years*

# BVDM campaign in the public space

The communication campaign "Environment.Conscious.Printed." provides facts about the value of print in terms of a good environmental balance.

Under the campaign motto "Environment. Conscious. Gedruckt.", the aim is to dispel prejudices about the environmental balance of print products among customers, decision-makers, the media, opinion leaders and politicians. In this way, the German Printing and Media Industries Federation and its eight regional associations aim to significantly strengthen the perception of print products as sustainable communication tools. At the same time, the campaign aims to take the wind out of the sails of greenwashers. After all, there are often other reasons behind their switch from print to online than "love of the environment".

The campaign started with the themed website: [www.umweltbewusstgedruckt.de](http://www.umweltbewusstgedruckt.de). Mailings, social media posts and newsletters were sent to around 20,000 recipients. Since the beginning of February 2024, posters in six metropolitan areas have been promoting a rethink of printed products. "With this step into the public eye, we want to reach consumers who know little about print and are therefore susceptible to prejudices and misinformation about the environmental footprint of our products," says

Kirsten Hommelhoff, Managing Director of the bvdm. In order to maximize the impact of the campaign, the associations are once again calling on companies to join the association's commitment and make intensive use of the campaign modules in their own communications.

## BVDM

**The Bundesverband Druck und Medien e. V. (bvdm) is the umbrella organization of the German printing industry. As an employers' association, political trade association and technical trade association, it represents the positions and objectives of the printing industry vis-à-vis politicians, administration, trade unions and the supplier industry. The bvdm is supported by eight regional associations. Internationally, it is organized through its membership of Intergraf and FESPA. The printing industry currently comprises around 6,900 predominantly small and medium-sized companies with more than 110,000 employees subject to social security contributions.**



# Kodak publishes Sustainability Report 2023

At Kodak, shaping a sustainable future for the company is high on the agenda. The 2023 Sustainability Report covers Kodak's global business activities in 2022 through the first quarter of 2023 and provides an overview of the company's sustainability programs.

The 40-page report describes Kodak's progress on its priority sustainability initiatives, particularly with respect to reducing waste and increasing energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas and other emissions, conserving water, and improving employee social and community engagement. In addition to Kodak's recent sustainability achievements, the report outlines the company's sustainability strategy and environmental and social goals through 2025. The publication also highlights how Kodak's innovative products and technologies are enabling customers in the global printing industry to become more sustainable by reducing energy, water and chemical consumption and eliminating waste.

The new edition of the report includes a Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Content Index, which is used for sustainability reporting within a standardized, internationally recognized framework. The index, defined according to GRI standards, increases the transparency and comparability of reporting and is intended to provide Kodak's customers and partners with relevant information for their own sustainability initiatives.

"Our 2023 Sustainability Report demonstrates that we at Kodak continue to intensify our efforts to be responsible stewards of the environment we leave for the next generation," notes Jim Continenza, Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kodak. "As we move into the future, we will continue to focus on sustainability by investing in technologies and processes that reduce our environmental footprint and help our customers reduce theirs."



## Kodak

The US company can look back on a long tradition in printing and publishing. The company first sold materials for the printing industry back in 1912 and in 1929 launched high-contrast KODALITH materials on the market, which made it easier to prepare halftones for printing. In the mid-1930s, Kodak researchers developed and built the world's first electronic color separation scanner to prepare images for printing. When electronics entered the typesetting industry in the 1960s, Kodak supplied many new generations of films and printing plates for the graphic arts industry. Kodak also introduced the first digital halftone color proofing system, the KODAK APPROVAL system, which made it possible to see the quality of the final output without making a proof.



## drupa 2024 Perspectives of the printing industry

The most important international trade fair for printing technology will take place in Düsseldorf from May 28th to June 7th, 2024. Drupa is groundbreaking for all interested parties and stands for innovations and new approaches. The most modern technologies along the value chain will be presented and a further focus will be on future technologies whose applications are not limited to just one sector of the economy. Given this, sustainability, AI, automation and connectivity play a central role.

The following brief overview of the meeting of industry experts who exchange current trends and developments is intended to promote innovation and advance the industry.



# drupa: Prime-Time-Event for the global printing industry

The international printing industry is looking forward to gathering information and exchanging ideas in person at the world's most important industry event, drupa, from 28 May to 7 June 2024 in Düsseldorf. Because in these volatile times, which are characterised by major social upheavals as well as rapid technological changes and global megatrends, companies need to react: Those who fail to anticipate significant developments and position themselves with foresight jeopardise competitive advantages and squander future opportunities.



drupa 2024: The prime-time event for the global printing industry

The leading global trade fair for printing technologies showcases the state of the art in the industry as well as forward-looking innovations in direct international comparison and offers plenty of opportunities for knowledge transfer, dialogue and networking. On an area of around 140,000 m<sup>2</sup>, 1,427 exhibitors from 50 nations will present the spectrum of current trends and visionary ideas relating to printing technologies in 18 exhibition halls. From renowned global players to up-and-coming newcomers and start-ups, the list of registered exhibitors reads like a who's who of the printing and packaging industry, including Bobst, Canon, Comexi, Duplo, EFI, Epson, ESKO, Fujifilm, Heidelberg, Horizon, HP, Kodak, Koenig & Bauer, Kolbus, Komori, Konica Minolta, KURZ, Landa, Müller Martini, Ricoh, Screen, Windmüller & Hölscher and Xeikon.

## The focus topics of drupa 2024

Sustainability is an essential component of long-term corporate strategies due to limited fossil resources and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Depending on the raw materials used, the printing industry already utilises energy- and resource-saving manufacturing processes. drupa will provide information on what is important in the sustainable production of printing solutions and what trends are emerging for the industry in order to achieve the goal of a circular economy. Digitalisation is changing analogue processes and artificial intelligence is taking over more and more tasks. drupa showcases cutting-edge technologies along the value chain with a focus on future and cross-sectional technologies. Topics such as circular economy, automation, printing/finishing 4.0, artificial intelligence, platform economy and connectivity play a central role in the conference programme and in the specialist forums.

## drupa cube

The fact that consumers do not always perceive print products as sustainable and how to calculate your carbon footprint are just some of the topics that will be discussed at drupa cube 2024. The programme includes five keynotes by renowned industry specialists and presentations on topics such as increasing business success, the circular economy and sustainability, the future of print and packaging, as well as sessions and best practice examples on new business models and trends.

## touchpoint sustainability

touchpoint sustainability focuses on the role of the printing and paper industry in the sustainable transformation and offers an overview of current, medium and long-term developments. Technologies from mechanical and plant engineering are of crucial importance, particularly in the context of quality, process reliability in production and sustainability. Digitalisation and AI play a key role in accelerating the transformation process in the printing and paper industry and realising economies of scale. Manufacturers, industry players, brands and users will use numerous exhibits at touchpoint sustainability to show how change can succeed.

## dna

Big ideas, small budget - for many young companies it is not easy to make the right contacts and establish their exciting and forward-looking solutions on the market. drupa has created a special platform for this target group: drupa next age (dna). Here, newcomers, young talents, start-ups and established companies can network at eye level, find cooperation partners and exchange innovative business ideas. This is an opportunity for participants to present themselves to an international trade audience.

## touchpoint textile

touchpoint textile presents the world premiere of a Digital Textile Microfactory. A networked, integrated process chain from digital simulation to design, animation and virtual rendering through to production will be presented. The industry can conquer new fields of application and inkjet enables entry into sectors such as clothing and fashion as well as interior design, architecture, automotive and many other vertical markets.

Details on the programme, the partners and the speakers of the individual special forums can be found at:

[www.drupa.de/de/Programm](http://www.drupa.de/de/Programm)

## Drupa

The international print and packaging industry will meet at drupa from 28 May to 7 June 2024 under the umbrella of the megatrends of sustainability and digitalisation. The world's leading trade fair for printing technologies stands for inspiration, innovation, high-calibre knowledge transfer and intensive networking. This is where top international decision-makers from the industry come together to discuss the latest technology trends and ground-breaking developments.

# Kodak: pioneering solutions for inkjet and traditional offset



At drupa 2024, Kodak will showcase digital printing technologies and traditional printing solutions that help printers increase productivity and profitability.

The revolutionary KODAK PROSPER ULTRA 520 press, based on KODAK ULTRASTREAM continuous inkjet technology, will take centre stage on the Kodak stand A02-2 in Hall 5. Controlled by the KODAK 900 Print Manager and integrated into the KODAK PRINERGY workflow platform, the high-speed press will be demonstrated along with newly introduced, versatile pre- and post-processing solutions manufactured in-house by Kodak.

During drupa, the PROSPER ULTRA 520, which uses KODACHROME inks, will print various high-quality applications at full production speeds of up to 152m/min on different papers every day. At drupa 2024, powerful new KODAK PROSPER wide-format printing solutions for hybrid packaging and commercial printing applications will be unveiled for the first time. This inkjet innovation can be integrated into offset, flexo and gravure presses as well as print

finishing and packaging converting systems, enabling highly flexible, high-quality digital printing for customised packaging, security and commercial printing applications.

## KODAK PRINERGY Platform

The KODAK PRINERGY Platform is expected to play a significant role as it offers an integrated and future-proof workflow



Kodak showcases digital printing technologies and traditional printing solutions at Drupa

solution that consolidates production across digital and analogue printing processes. According to Kodak, the PRINERGY platform is compatible with virtually any third-party software and production technology and enables connectivity to the widest range of digital presses. It can act as the central data hub of an intelligent print factory and enables centralised job management through an intuitive interface for job creation, submission, management and quality control. Visitors can also experience KODAK PRINERGY Business Solutions, a fully integrated MIS/ERP, e-commerce and collaboration software solution that is seamlessly compatible with any workflow solution. In addition, the Kodak team will showcase the cloud-based KODAK PRINERGY Access content management solution, which combines the powerful automation of PRINERGY with the versatility of connecting to any digital press or on-site workflow system.

### Innovations for traditional offset printing

Kodak is also committed to driving innovation in offset printing. This year, the company is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its process-free KODAK SONORA printing plates. Koenig & Bauer (Hall 16/A31-1 - A31-5) will be using process-free KODAK

SONORA plates to print various applications on Rapida presses during the show. At Koenig & Bauer, a KODAK MAGNUS Q800 platesetter with T-Speed Plus (up to 84 B1 plates per hour) and a multi-pallet loader (MPL) will image SONORA plates. Komori Corporation (Hall 15/E02) and RYOBI MHI Graphic Technology (RMGT, Hall 16/E11) will also use SONORA plates in their live print demonstrations on sheetfed offset presses.

"With our presence at drupa 2024, we will demonstrate our commitment to innovation across our entire portfolio of traditional and digital production solutions. At our booth, printers will learn how Kodak can help them run their business more efficiently and profitably in today's 'and' era of printing," said Jim Continenza, Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kodak. "To fully serve their customers and succeed in the marketplace, today's printers need both innovative digital printing technology and advanced, highly automated solutions for traditional offset printing. This is exactly what Kodak offers them from a single source."

### Kodak

The US company can look back on a long tradition in printing and publishing. The company first sold materials for the printing industry as early as 1912 and in 1929 launched high-contrast KODALITH materials, which made it easier to prepare halftones for printing. In the mid-1930s, Kodak researchers developed and built the world's first electronic colour separation scanner to prepare images for printing. When electronics entered the typesetting industry in the 1960s, Kodak supplied many new generations of films and printing plates for the graphic arts industry. Kodak also introduced the first digital halftone colour proofing system, the KODAK APPROVAL system, which made it possible to see the quality of the final output without making a proof. Today, KODAK is a global technology company focused on printing and advanced materials & chemicals. KODAK provides industry-leading hardware, software, consumables and services to customers in the commercial, packaging, publishing, manufacturing and entertainment printing industries.

## EyeC: Innovative solutions for a sustainable printing industry

EyeC GmbH, a global provider of automated artwork verification and print image inspection systems, will be represented at drupa. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience EyeC's innovative and fully automated systems live in action and to discuss solutions and services with the team of experts. EyeC will also be presenting sustainable solutions for the industry at the VDMA stand "Touchpoint Sustainability".

After an eight-year break, the world's leading trade fair for printing technologies is once again opening its doors to the international print industry. Under the trade fair motto "we create the future", EyeC will be presenting the diversity of its product and service portfolio for automated quality control throughout the design and printing process as well as exciting technical innovations and system enhancements at stand A101 in hall 3.

Among the highlights at the EyeC stand will be live demonstrations of the EyeC ProofRunner Carton HighLight. The inline inspection system was specially developed for the 100% inspection of folding cartons in the premium segment and will be presented on a folding carton gluing machine from partner Kohmann. The system reliably checks the quality of complex finishes such as hot stamping, holograms or blind embossing.

Another highlight of the trade fair stand in the area of inline inspection will be a presentation of the EyeC ProofRunner Web. Installed on the "Bobcat S" rewinder from French machine supplier DCM, the modern inline inspection system guarantees fast and precise print inspection for labels and flexible packaging with web widths of up to 1,700 mm. Brand new options for the entire EyeC ProofRunner line will be demonstrated for the first time, providing an insight into the performance of AI-based defect classification. In addition, the scanner-based EyeC Prooffiler DT line with scan formats up to 1,270 x 915 mm will be shown, as well as demos of the EyeC Prooffiler Graphic artwork proofreading software. The modern software enables the automatic synchronisation of print-ready files or step-and-repeat files with approved artwork.

EyeC will also be presenting other solutions that reflect the future-orientated, sustainable and pioneering approach of the Hamburg-based company at its "Touchpoint Sustainability" stand at the trade fair. The drupa forum, which is being organised by the VDMA Printing and Paper Technology Association, will focus on sustainability in the printing industry.

"With our innovative systems along the entire value chain, we are setting new standards for sustainability in the printing industry. Our presence at drupa and at the "Touchpoint Sustainability" stand offers us a unique platform to be part of this important discussion and to present our pioneering solutions to an expert audience," says Markus Fietkau, Sales Director at EyeC.



EyeC at drupa 2024, can be found at stand A101 in hall 3

### EyeC

EyeC GmbH, based in Hamburg, Germany, has been providing user-friendly artwork verification and print image inspection systems worldwide since 2002. EyeC is the only provider that ensures product quality throughout the entire manufacturing process. EyeC products are designed to give users 100% confidence in the print quality of their products such as labels, folding cartons, leaflets or flexible packaging. Complaints and recalls can thus be avoided, production and material costs reduced and quality inspection optimised. Over 2,500 EyeC inspection systems are now in use at pharmaceutical companies, printers and branded goods manufacturers worldwide. The company currently employs over 70 people in Hamburg and has international sales partners in more than 100 countries.

# Industrial printing platforms

## ESMA at drupa 2024



Between 28 May and 7 June 2024, the printing world will meet at drupa in Düsseldorf to discuss and shape the future of the entire industry. ESMA and its members will present their expertise for industrial applications in inkjet and screen printing. The ESMA pavilion in Hall 3 (B81) offers a 360-degree view of printing as part of the manufacturing process over an area of almost 500 square metres.

A lot has changed since the last drupa in 2016. More than ever before, the focus within the ESMA community is on specialised, functional and industrial printing processes - its ability to serve current market applications and its growing potential for the industries of tomorrow. "We are building our drupa presence on the two pillars of our association: screen printing and inkjet technology. Both technologies have shown resilience, adaptability and creativity during the recent turbulent economic period," says Peter Buttiens, CEO of ESMA.

The industrial inkjet printing platform will demonstrate direct-to-object printing and will include companies such as ideeGO, IST INTECH, K-Flow, Lambda Technology, Neatjet and Meteor Inkjet, each representing a different step in the printing process. The decoration of three-dimensional shapes includes applications in personal care, food, beverages, bottles, boxes and other containers.

The platform for industrial screen printing includes in-mould decoration, film insert moulding and in-mould electronics for market segments such as vehicle interiors, household appliances and toys. Here, the process is supported by the expertise of Drop, ESC, Fimor, Marabu, Saati, SPS Technoscreen, Thieme and VFP. "Screen printing is still the driving force behind many industrial applications. The combination of printed electronics with in-mould decorations opens up almost unlimited possibilities," says Peter Buttiens.

ESMA's involvement at drupa 2024 goes beyond industrial platforms. The Touchpoint Textile forum in Hall 4 will be supported by a conference programme focusing on modern printing on textile substrates. In addition to presentations by leading industry representatives, there will also be a live demonstration of a microfactory.



ESMA presents screen printing and inkjet technologies at Drupa

# Multi-Plot

## Fully automated microfactory



The DRUPA "touchpoint textile" is the special forum for an innovative, fully networked production chain: from the customer's request to the design to large-format, digital textile printing and thus to the finished product of various future fields and business models of the textile industry.

At drupa, visitors to stand B30 in hall 4 will be able to marvel at applications in various areas such as direct textile printing, screen printing, transfer printing and digital printing. Multi-Plot is part of this digital microfactory within the "touchpoint textile". It brings companies together and provides a space for cross-industry collaboration to realise new projects and product and manufacturing ideas. Together with 11 exhibitors, the Multi-Plot team will present the "Artrix Omni Pro" printing machine from d.gen, which is integrated into the end-to-end digital workflow.

According to the manufacturer, the Artrix OMNI Pro is the ultimate printing machine for direct textile printing at a professional level. Thanks to its high productivity, 6-colour printing technology, inline fusing and adhesive tape system, industrial textile companies can easily print on woven and non-woven fabrics such as cotton, polyester, velvet, elastic textiles and more. The printing process with pigment inks does not require coating and finishing operations such as steaming and washing. High light fastness of the prin-

ting inks and good washability after printing are also important features of this printing system. In addition, the Artrix OMNI Pro is equipped with 10 print heads, offers a print width of 183 cm and uses the new CBS (Colour Boosting Solutions) coating technology. No special pre-treatment is required.

### Multi-Plot

Since 1990, everything at Multi-Plot in Bad Emstal has revolved around advertising technology and digital printing. Founded as an independent engineering office, the company based in the district of Kassel is known as a specialist and exclusive dealer in the field of "digital printing systems". With experience in sublimation and digital textile printing since 1997, Multi-Plot sees itself as a pioneer of these new technologies.



The "Artrix Omni Pro" from d.gen with 6-colour printing technology, inline fusing and adhesive tape system

### ESMA

ESMA has been active in the industrial printing sector since 1990 and, as the European association for print manufacturers in screen and digital printing, has developed into an organisation representing industrial, functional and speciality printing. Over the years, ESMA has developed the concept of the Knowledge Hub, which today provides cross-technology expertise to almost 70 European manufacturer members and technology partners. Other benefits include access to technical seminars and committee meetings. Partners and members receive support and promotion in relation to health, safety and environmental legislation and participate in the setting of industry standards.

# High volume digital printing Print finishing from TecnaU



TecnaU will be showing numerous innovations for print finishing at drupa 2024 (Hall 8A, Stand B41), which will further advance print finishing with improved automation, higher performance and intelligent evaluation and connectivity.

Under the motto "Tomorrow's Finishing, Today. "Connect with the future" TecnaU presents highly innovative, available solutions that can support print service providers on their way to a successful future with new applications and high cost and performance pressure. It will be presented how costs can be reduced through effective automation, applications can be produced thanks to new functions and optimal control can be achieved through TecnaUConnect for an overview of the most important key figures. With 15 solutions on display - seven on its own stand and eight on partner stands - TecnaU will present finishing solutions for digital printing, specifically for high-speed inkjet systems, including the following highlights:

High-speed finishing for web printing through TecnaU Revolution 50 cutting and book lines for more automation, mailing or pharmaceutical applications. TecnaU RoboTEC for automated removal and palletizing. Or Sitma e-wrap for dynamic packaging of e-commerce print products. The TecnaUConnect software offers production evaluation options for targeted improvement.

The further processing of digital prints has been the focus of TecnaU's strategy since the 1980s, which is pursued in close cooperation with all well-known printing system manufacturers and partner companies. "At drupa 2024 we will demonstrate how TecnaU print finishing technology breaks down barriers to automation, speed, flexibility and connectivity and facilitates the transition from offset to digital printing in many print applications, short runs and personalized productions, for example in direct mail. Pharma, books, brochures and niche products," says the company.

At the TecnaU stand B41 in Hall 8A, visitors can also get to know Sitma's portfolio of packaging solutions for e-commerce, mailings and other print products, as well as the latest dynamic packaging technology for books and intelligent logistics solutions.

Interested parties can find interesting and important information as well as a personal consultation appointment at drupa at: [www.tecnaU.com/event/drupa-2024](http://www.tecnaU.com/event/drupa-2024)

## TECNAU

**TecnaU offers a comprehensive product portfolio of automated paper finishing systems for high-volume digital printing. Corresponding systems are available for web and sheet-fed printing systems in IN- and OFF-line configurations and can perform intelligent tracking or quality assurance tasks. TecnaU focuses on the development and delivery of integrated solutions for a wide range of applications in the transaction printing, promotional, direct mail, publishing segments as well as solutions for highly automated book production from book-on-demand to book-of-one. Worldwide service and 24/7 support contribute to the company's remarkable reputation as a reliable partner.**

# Sabine Geldermann, Director drupa, on sustainability, digitalisation and growth



Sabine Geldermann, Director drupa, Portfolio Print Technologies Messe Düsseldorf

## CAN YOU GIVE US AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND YOUR ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF DRUPA?

I joined Messe Düsseldorf in 2013 as Director drupa and responsible for the Print Technologies portfolio. I am a trade fair enthusiast through and through and have spent my entire professional life in the industry. After graduating, I initially worked for renowned British trade fair organisers such as Blenheim International, Miller Freeman and most recently in the extended management team at Reed Exhibitions. I was also a member of the divisional management of the largest technical-scientific network for engineers in the VDI, Association of German Engineers.

In my current role, my focus is on the strategic planning and further development of drupa in order to further strengthen its position as the world's leading trade fair. The primary goal is to open up new business potential for our exhibitors and visitors, expand our global network and ensure the high quality and relevance of our trade fair portfolio in the field of printing technologies.

## WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU FACED LAST YEAR AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT?

Fortunately, our biggest challenge was a few years ago and was undoubtedly the coronavirus pandemic and its global impact, which brought the entire trade fair business to a virtual standstill. Even though we realised a successful virtual edition of drupa for the industry in 2021, this is of course no substitute for a live event. With this in mind, we and our international customers are all the more looking forward to drupa 2024, which will be a gigantic trade fair with an incredibly high level of innovation from exhibitors, a very high level of internationality and unrivalled relevance for the entire print and packaging industry.

## HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MOST IMPORTANT FUTURE CHALLENGES AND GROWTH AREAS FOR DRUPA?

Sustainability and digitalisation are both the biggest challenges and also the most important opportunities with growth potential. The digitalisation of traditional processes is gaining in importance because it leads to greater efficiency and automation. This also includes the increasing use of artificial intelligence, self-learning machines and maintenance. In addition, global megatrends such as the platform economy and connectivity - driven by e-commerce - are having a strong influence. The industry is focussing intensively on the development of sustainable technologies and solutions, as this is also being demanded far more by brand owners, print service providers and, of course, consumers.

## WHAT TRENDS ARE YOU OBSERVING AND HOW IS DRUPA POSITIONING ITSELF TO CAPITALISE ON THESE TRENDS?

Visionary topics and global megatrends such as digitalisation, sustainability, the circular economy, artificial intelligence and much more are on our agenda in order to master current and future issues for our customers in the best possible way - all of which are key factors for the entire industry. drupa is an indispensable platform for staying ahead of the global competition. We see ourselves not only as a highly relevant marketplace for the global printing industry, but also as a place for valuable knowledge transfer, networking and product and technology innovations that are launched at drupa. A unique opportunity to increase your competitive advantage and understand the direction in which the industry is developing worldwide.

## AND FINALLY, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF DRUPA?

We are now on the eve of drupa, which will finally take place again after eight years from 28 May to 7 June. We are concentrating 100 percent on that at the moment. But after that, of course, things will continue. We have a number of trade fairs from our drupa global portfolio in the autumn that we also want to strengthen in order to tap potential in regional markets for our exhibitors and visitors. And as far as drupa in Düsseldorf is concerned, strategic development and the identification of new market trends remain on our agenda. To this end, we are in constant dialogue with our global network and partners.

# Digitalization of packaging production

## Dr. Sean Smyth, Smithers

After eight years and the impact of COVID, it is difficult to estimate what theme will dominate the fair. As the world becomes increasingly digital, many print service providers and packaging manufacturers are concerned with sustainability, automation and work processes.



*Dr. Sean Smyth, Analyst & Consultant at Smithers Digital Printing Equipment for Packaging and Labels*

Developments around digital printing are taking center stage across all areas of the printing and media industry, and further innovations will be presented at this year's drupa. Digital packaging printing opens up many opportunities for entering new market segments. The same dynamic is encouraging machine manufacturers to offer digital

printing systems for labels, corrugated packaging, folding boxes, flexible packaging, as well as packaging made of rigid plastics, glass and metal.

Quality, reliability and productivity in inkjet and electrophotographic printing machines have long been standard and at drupa, inkjet sheetfed printing machines will be presented that, with speeds of 11,000 sheets per hour in B1 format, represent the equivalent of sheetfed offset. Web printing machines offer speeds of more than 400 meters per minute with widths of up to 2.8 meters. Printhead and printing machine manufacturers are developing solutions for inkjet printing that eliminate image errors by compensating for nozzle failure and deviations in real time. These solutions will extend printhead life, improve machine uptime, and inkjet printing looks set to be the real winner. UV and water-based inks will be used for specific applications and there will be more highly pigmented formulations that can reduce ink layer thicknesses and lower total cost of ownership.

Drupa will offer solutions that integrate with management information systems (MIS) to automate administrative processes. After approval, designs are loaded into job queues for automatic color management and imposition without employees having to intervene manually. Market leaders will offer a wide range of creative software and present new ways to automate repetitive prepress processes. Other vendors will present solutions for integrating and optimizing color management, imposition, and variable data delivery.

drupa is the world's most important printing trade fair and digital packaging printing will be high on the agenda. There will be more machines for label production and machines that replace laminating machines as well as machines for the production of folding boxes and flexible packaging. Interesting machines for direct printing on objects such as cans, aerosols, plastics and glass will also be on display. Industry incumbents will showcase optimized quality, speeds and formats, with new inks and toners expanding the range of packaging types possible.

### drupa

The international print and packaging industry will meet at drupa from May 28th to June 7th, 2024 under the umbrella of the megatrends of sustainability and digitalization. The world's leading trade fair for printing technologies stands for inspiration, innovations, top-class knowledge transfer and intensive networking. Top international decision-makers in the industry meet here and exchange ideas about current technology trends and groundbreaking developments.

### Smithers

For nearly 100 years, Smithers, an American company based in Akron Ohio, has been helping companies develop, manufacture and introduce new products and materials. Innovative testing, consulting, information and conformity services are offered. With laboratories and offices in North America, Europe and Asia, Smithers supports customers in a variety of industries.

# Seiko Instruments presents new printhead



The printhead division of Seiko Instruments will present the highly anticipated 600 dpi printhead - the ACROBAT - RCE2560 at DRUPA. The RCE2560 is based on a combination of 600 dpi resolution with true recirculation with isolated channel technology and integrated waveform controllers.

With 2560 nozzles strategically distributed across four rows over a print width of 108.3mm, the RCE2560 delivers exceptional print results, according to Seiko. The recirculation system enables a high flow rate directly behind the nozzles. Highlights of the RCE2560 are that it offers many grey levels in a drop volume range of 9 to 20 pl and the ability to accommodate different types of liquids. These include water-, solvent-, oil- or UV-based inks.

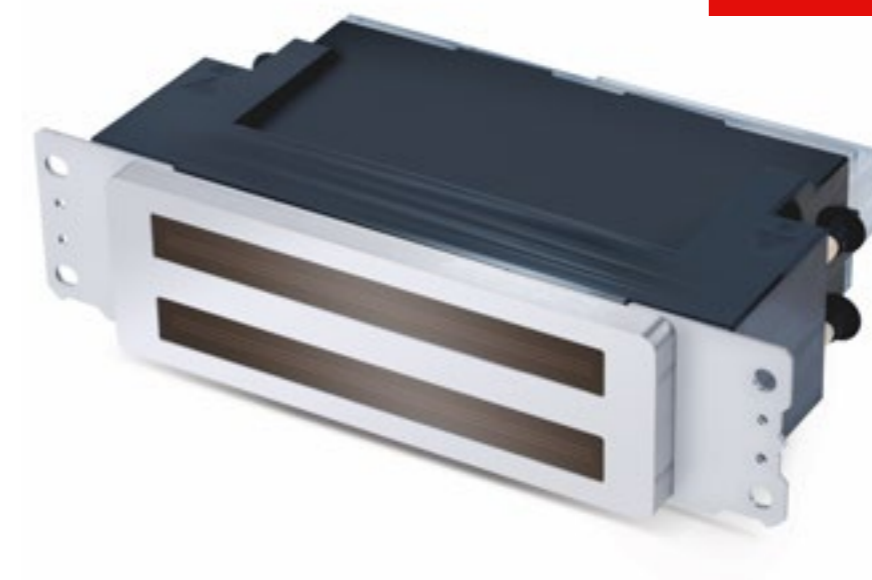
Visitors to the People & Technology stand (C30 / Hall 5) will have the opportunity to see the RCE2560 in action. In addition, People&Technology will be showing its complete fleet of machines such as the INKTESTER, the BACKTRACK, the SMART CLEANJECTOR and a variety of other machines. All equipped with the various models of Seiko's RC1536 recirculation print head, which has been improved and adapted to the ever-changing challenges of different applications for almost 10 years.

In the ESMA pavilion in hall 3, at stand no. 81-5, K-Flow Consulting will be showcasing the results of its collaboration with machine manufacturer IdeeGO. For example, a robotic arm, the LabelSaver from OPM Europe BV, positions a water bottle for direct printing under a print bar equipped with two RC1536 print heads. A UV LED curing unit from IST INTECH, an NIR infrared system from Lambda Technology, inks from Siegwark, driver electronics and software from Meteor Inkjet and an ink supply system from Neatjet round off the system.

And last but not least, interested visitors should visit stand D42 in hall 12 of the Italian company Spider-jet. Spider-jet will be demonstrating the use of an anthropomorphic robotic arm that prints on aluminium with UV ink, and horizontal printing on glass. In both cases, Spider-jet will be using the Seiko RC1536 print head.

### Seiko

Today's Seiko Group grew out of a watch business founded by Kintaro Hattori in Tokyo, Japan, back in 1881. Our product portfolio includes button cell batteries, quartz crystals, thermal printers, inkjet print heads and many other precision parts.



*The eagerly awaited 600 dpi print head from Seiko Instruments*

# TPS Conference 2024

## Sustainable Textile Printing



The Textile Printing & Sustainability Conference (TPS), now in its second iteration, is scheduled to return to Düsseldorf on October 15 and 16, 2024. The esteemed organizers from the European Specialist Printing Manufacturers Association (ESMA) cordially extend an invitation for participation in lectures covering the indispensable elements influencing textile production and decoration in the contemporary landscape and upcoming trends. Esteemed insights, particularly pertaining to inkjet and screen printing, will be presented by eminent suppliers, distinguished researchers, and leading experts in printing technology.

The inaugural gathering in 2022 brought together significant industry constituents and prominent academic establishments on this novel platform to deliberate on sustainable solutions for the textile industry, emphasizing the pivotal role of printing technologies. From advances in materials science to cutting-edge printing systems, micro-factories, and finishing techniques, TPS unites stakeholders driving transformative change and fostering innovation.

This year's symposium comprises two days of enlightening lectures, complemented by ample networking opportunities within the interactive exhibition venue. Each segment of the conference will commence with keynote addresses offering a harmonious blend of inspiration, policy frameworks, market trends, and the latest technological insights. The thematic purview encompasses discussions on the EU Green Deal, eco-design directives, utilization of recycled substrates and biofibres, textile brand strategies, emergent business paradigms, market projections, and prospective avenues for innovation. The array of solutions spotlighted by suppliers catering to the printing industry will encompass a spectrum including inks and chemical formulations (with an emphasis on circular economy principles and optimal resource utilization), hardware components (such as printheads, electronics, and printing systems), and workflow automation tools (encompassing software applications, RIP technology, color management solutions, and advanced finishing methodologies). Striving for a comprehensive overview of market dynamics and technological

advancements, Textile Printing & Sustainability aspires to identify areas ripe for enhancement within the printing domain, explore avenues for optimization, pinpoint bottlenecks, and highlight transformative developments.

For detailed information on the submission guidelines for presentation proposals, please visit the official website [www.tps-conference.com](http://www.tps-conference.com).

### ESMA

Established in 1990, ESMA has been a stalwart presence in the industrial printing realm, evolving from a European association focused on screen and digital printing manufacturers to an eminent entity championing industrial, functional, and niche printing themes. Through the years, ESMA has cultivated the concept of the Knowledge Hub, a wellspring of cross-technology expertise that currently caters to an illustrious cohort of nearly 70 European manufacturing members and technology collaborators. Each ESMA constituent is accorded preferential treatment at major trade expos and ESMA-led conferences, as well as access to enriching technical seminars and committee deliberations. Partners and members benefit from expert consultation and advocacy on matters of health, safety, environmental regulations, and actively contribute to shaping industry benchmarks.

# Kuteno 2024

## Plastic Finishing Exhibition by ESC

ESC, a North Rhine-Westphalian company, will showcase a diverse array of cutting-edge printing technology for plastic finishing at Kuteno (May 14 to 16, 2024 in Rheda-Wiedenbrück). The exhibition will feature screen, pad, and digital printing machines along with their corresponding peripherals. This comprehensive range of equipment enables the development of efficient manufacturing systems that yield high-quality printing outcomes and facilitate the automation and integration of diverse production processes.

### SCREEN PRINTING MACHINES FOR HIGH-VOLUME PRODUCTION

ESC offers a selection of screen printing machines suitable for cost-effective printing of various plastic products. The ESC-AT PA basic model, with a format of 300 x 450 mm, is ideal for a range of plastic items. For higher production volumes, the flatbed three-quarter machines like the ESC-ATMACE are available, alongside fully automatic versions equipped with feeders and stackers. These can be integrated with suitable dryers to create complete production lines. The Sakurai cylinder screen printing machines are specifically engineered for industrial applications, allowing

the printing of thin and delicate substrates at high speeds and with exceptional precision. These models are well-suited for use in sectors such as automotive, plastic cards, and packaging printing. Featuring servo drive technology and a CCD camera system for precise sheet alignment, the machines in this series ensure accurate application of colors and layers.



The ESC-ATMACE flatbed three-quarter automatic unit is tailored for high-volume production.



VERSATILE PRINTING SOLUTIONS

Irrespective of the industry, whether it's cosmetics, medical devices, or electronics, ESC's pad printing machines from the ESC-COMEC series can accommodate the individual printing requirements of even the most intricate product shapes. The range includes entry-level models as well as sophisticated fully automatic machines for single or multi-color printing operations.

DIGITAL PRINTING SYSTEMS FOR INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

ESC's portfolio also includes Inkjet flatbed printers and cutting plotters from Mimaki. The UJF and JFX models are highlighted by ESC for their robust performance, user-friendly interfaces, exceptional print quality, and versatility enabled by their UV inks. For example, the IoT-capable Mimaki UJF-7151 plus II can seamlessly integrate into automated, unmanned production processes with the use of robots.

ESC

Established in 1949, ESC boasts over 70 years of experience in the screen printing industry, positioning itself as a premier provider. Visitors can explore the latest innovations across over 5,000 m2 at the exhibition facility in Bad Salzungen, which hosts one of Europe's largest and most comprehensive permanent exhibitions of screen printing machines. In addition to screen printing systems, ESC offers solutions for digital printing, pad printing, filmless production of screen printing stencils, the renowned PERFECTA screen washing and decoating machines, and a wide range of quality used machinery.

# RGB - Red Green Blue. Colour Stories

## Leipzig Museum of Printing Art

Three colors, three stories. The exhibition RGB – Red Green Blue has been running at the Museum für Druckkunst Leipzig since February 2024. Color Stories, a show on the media history of the three colors of light developed by the Musée de l'Imprimerie et de la Communication graphique in Lyon.

The exhibition delves into the color space of the screens, in which images are created from a mixture of red, green and blue. In over sixty objects – paintings, prints, photographs, films, games, advertising, books – the diverse applications, effects and symbolic meanings of these three colors are traced. Why is the Veronese green so dramatic? Stephen King's passion red? Maggie Nelson's melancholy blue? The exhibition is accompanied

by a diverse supporting program with the support of the Institut français Leipzig.

What is a color? A sensory stimulus, pure feeling or a telling sign? The exhibition focuses on a medium that is one of the oldest in human history. Exhibits from the collections of the Musée de l'Imprimerie et de la Communication graphique, the Museum für Druckkunst Leipzig, the museum

in Wilhelm Ostwald Park in Grimma and the Altenburg Castle and Playing Card Museum illustrate its multifaceted cultural and knowledge history - as a spectral color in optics, as a pigment in painting and printing technology or as an image symbol. Using the example of red, green and blue, the exhibition conveys how individual color perception and cultural color coding go hand in hand. The red of the rose, the communist revolution

and the horror films express passion and pain in equal measure. The regenerative green of nature can transform into the theatrical green of the video game Zelda, the green screen in the cinema and the paintings of the Renaissance painter Veronese. And the blue of the ocean waves can be both soothing and riotous, or cold and full of melancholy like in Maggie Nelson's diary Bluets.

The exhibition collaboration between the Musée de l'Imprimerie et de la Communication graphique and the Museum für Druckkunst Leipzig was initiated with the support of the Institut français Leipzig to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Élysée Treaty in 2023. It also recognizes the partnership between the two cities that has existed since 1981. The exhibition was already shown in Lyon from April 7th to September 17th, 2023.



Three colors, three stories: Exhibition in the Museum for Printing Art in Leipzig

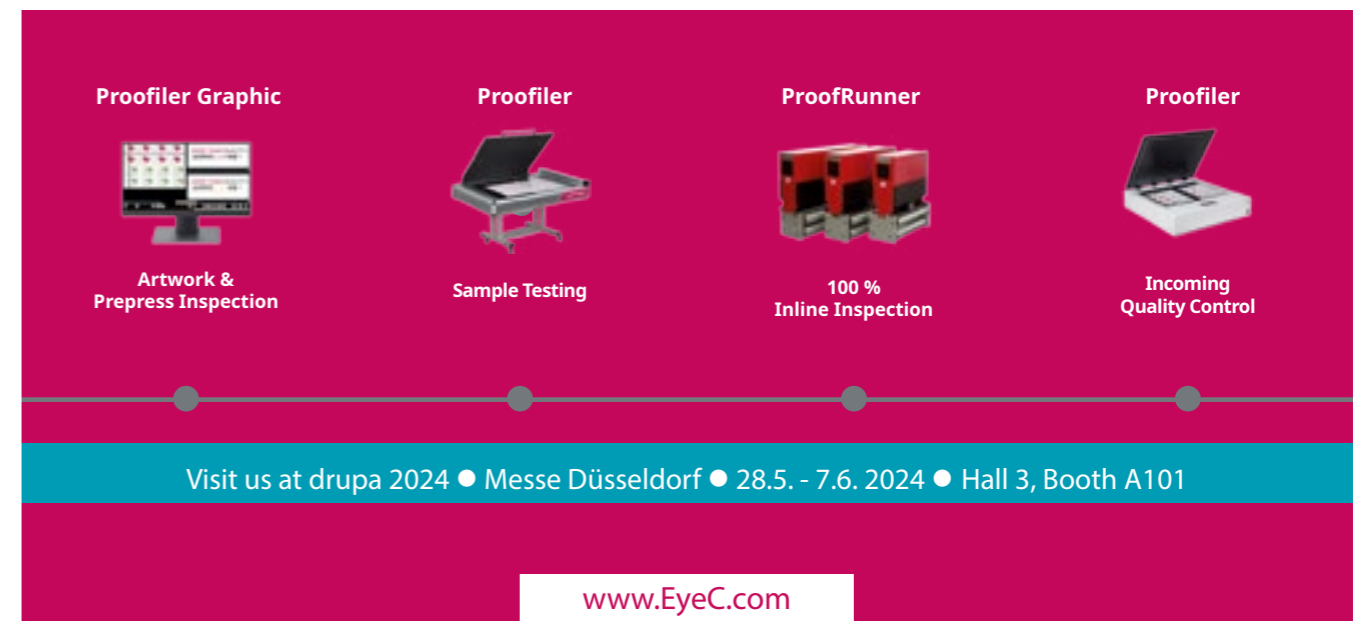
Museum of Printing Art

Since its founding in 1994, the Museum of Printing has been dedicated to the cultural heritage of printing technology. Around 100 functioning machines and presses as well as 550 years of printing and media history are presented on four floors. The printing techniques of letterpress, gravure and planographic printing are listed in the German UNESCO Commission's nationwide register of intangible cultural heritage.



Print Quality Control

Throughout the Entire Production Process





# Dr. André Schwarz, EyeC

## about Marketing & Documentation



*Dr. Andre Schwarz holds a doctorate in German studies, is a technical editor and a global validation expert for vision systems for print image control and pattern inspection.*

### CAN YOU GIVE US AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND YOUR ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & DOCUMENTATION AT EYEC?

I have a doctorate in German studies and am a trained journalist. I have been working at EyeC for eight years now, initially as a technical editor and computer validation specialist. Since June 2022, I have been Head of the Marketing & Documentation department. I am responsible for marketing, technical documentation and validation support, among other things.

### WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE YOU FACED LAST YEAR AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT?

In addition to the integration of the reorganised department, certainly the implementation of Labelexpo in Brussels and Interpack in Düsseldorf. Despite tight deadlines, supply chain bottlenecks and the resulting delays or extended production times for our new systems, we mastered both tasks together as a team and as a company as a whole with aplomb - and we are already looking forward to presenting our new products at this year's drupa.

### WHAT IS EYEC GMBH DOING TO ENSURE THAT ITS BUSINESS AREAS ARE IN HARMONY WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS?

Sustainability is practically the core of our business, because our products help our customers to produce more sustainably and conserve resources. As our systems enable errors to be recognised early on in the entire process chain - with the EyeC Proofifier Graphic in prepress, the EyeC ProofRunner in printing or finishing and the EyeC Proofifier in sample inspection - massive savings can be made on resources such as material, energy and machine time. Waste can be avoided as far as possible and there is no need for overproduction because

our systems tell the user when a sufficient number of "good", i.e. error-free, copies have been produced. We ourselves produce exclusively with electricity from renewable sources - sustainable management is simply essential in today's world.

### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE MOST IMPORTANT FUTURE CHALLENGES AND GROWTH AREAS FOR EYEC?

One of the challenges is to utilise the possibilities of artificial intelligence for our print inspection. Our developers are working flat out to make our software even easier to use with the help of AI and to support customers in further optimising production to achieve a flawless product. We are also working on more closely integrating all process steps in printing. We are not only the only provider on the market that can inspect everything from the artwork to the printed sample - we also want the individual components to be able to interact with each other. With our Quality Link system, for example, we are already combining inspection on the press and in postpress, and we are aiming to do this for other applications in the future. Here, too, we can look forward to seeing what exciting things the increasing digitalisation and communication between devices will bring. As an innovative company, we are in the process of taking printing to the next level.

### HOW DOES EYEC GUARANTEE THE QUALITY OF ITS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES?

In addition to ISO 9001 certification, all EyeC employees pull together to offer our customers the best possible solution. This is only possible through a clear commitment to quality, because half-baked solutions do not achieve a sustainable customer relationship. Every system that leaves our production facility is extensively tested and verifiably qualified. For our customers from regulated sectors such as the pharmaceutical and food industries, we offer a comprehensive Validation Support Package to provide a GMP-compliant system ex works. In contrast to other market players, we also attach great importance to competent and fast worldwide service. We have installed and maintained systems in the most remote locations - even during Covid times, we kept production running remotely together with our customers.

### CAN YOU NAME SOME INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED BY EYEC TO FULFIL SPECIFIC CUSTOMER NEEDS?

Our entire product range has grown out of innovative solutions. The EyeC Proofifier was the first system on the market to enable offline proofing of artwork, 1D and 2D codes and Braille in a single pass - at 600 dpi. The EyeC ProofRunner makes it possible to carry out a 100% inspection at full machine speed using state-of-the-art cameras with the highest possible resolution. In other words, the printing or folding carton gluing machine or even a rewinder does not have to be slowed down for the inspection, but production can continue as usual, with the only difference being that

the finished product is 100% defect-free. In general, we are always open to new innovations that we can realise together with our customers.

### CAN YOU PROVIDE DETAILS OF EYEC'S CURRENT OR UPCOMING PROJECTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE COMPANY AND THE INDUSTRY?

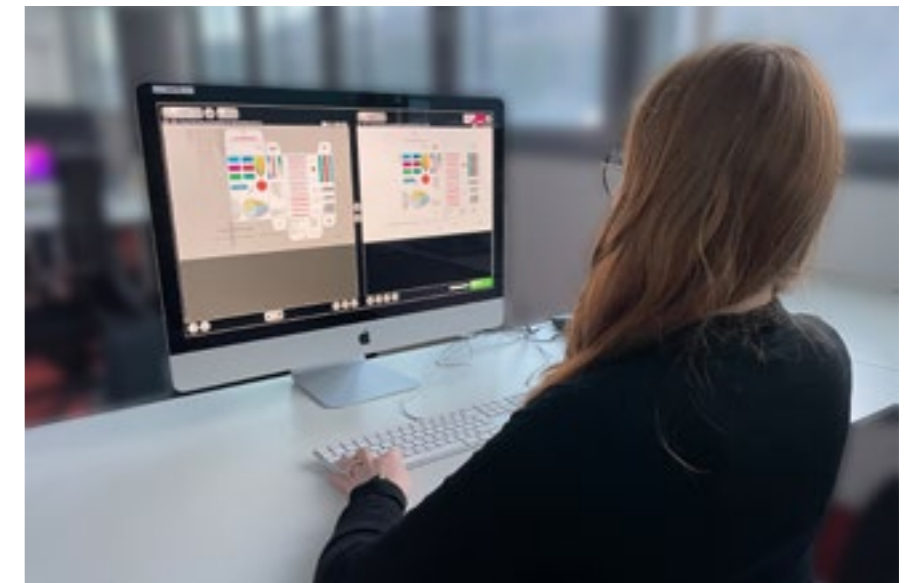
As mentioned above, digital networking and the use of AI will play an important role. The effects can certainly be named: More sustainable and safe production, more economical use of resources - and a never-ending spirit of innovation. We will reveal more about this at drupa 2024 in Düsseldorf.

### WHAT IMPORTANT TRENDS ARE YOU OBSERVING IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY AND HOW IS EYEC POSITIONING ITSELF TO CAPITALISE ON THESE TRENDS?

As already mentioned, the trend is inevitably moving towards digitalisation, sustainable production and the networking of production components.

### AND FINALLY, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF EYEC?

Me and my team want to continue to drive EyeC forward, put it in the spotlight as a provider with innovative solutions and maintain our trusting and long-term customer relationships. In the pharmaceutical sector in particular, we are one of the most experienced providers with expertise that is unrivalled on the market. With our inspection solutions for the entire production process, we help to make production more sustainable and efficient - a topic that could not be more topical in view of the climate crisis.



*Quality control with the EyeC Proofifier, one of the first systems on the market that enabled offline inspection of artwork, 1D and 2D codes, and Braille in a single pass.*

# bvdm-Telegram: Business climate stabilised in March



After the significant decline in February, the development of the seasonally and calendar-adjusted business climate in the German print and media industry stabilised in March 2024. While the business outlook for the next 6 months fell slightly compared to February, assessments of the current business situation are rising moderately. The business climate index calculated by the German Printing and Media Association was around 0.6 percent higher than in the previous month after seasonal and calendar adjustment. At 82.7 points, the index was around 12.8 percent below the previous year's level in March.

In March 2024, the decision-makers of print and media companies surveyed by the Ifo Institute assessed their current business situation as slightly better than in the previous month. By contrast, the assessment of developments in the coming months fell slightly. The characteristics of the current and expected business situation determine the development of the business climate, which is a good leading indicator for the development of production in the printing and media industry.

## BVDM

The German Printing and Media Association (bvdm) is the umbrella association of the German printing industry. As an employers' association, political trade association and technical trade association, it represents the positions and goals of the printing industry vis-à-vis politics, administration, trade unions and the supplier industry. The bvdm is supported by eight regional associations. Internationally, he is organised through his membership of Intergraf and FESPA. The printing industry currently includes around 6,900 mainly small and medium-sized enterprises with more than 110,000 employees subject to social security contributions.

In March 2024, the seasonally and calendar-adjusted business situation index recorded a slight increase of 2.5 percent compared to February. Nevertheless, at 79.1 points, the index was around 17 percent below the corresponding figure for the previous year. In March, around 16 percent of the companies assessed their current business situation positively, while 35 percent gave neutral assessments and around half assessed the current situation negatively. The persistently low order situation – 56 percent of those surveyed rated their order backlog as "too low" – is also reflected in the number of hours worked in the companies. In March, for example, none of the companies surveyed stated that the overtime worked exceeded the usual seasonal fluctuations; in the same month last year, it was still 8 percent of the companies.

Expectations regarding the development of the business situation in the next 6 months fell slightly in March compared to the previous month. At 86.5 points, the seasonally and calendar-adjusted index was around 1.3 percent below the previous month's level and thus around 8.3 percent below the value from March 2023. Around 12 percent of companies said they expected their business situation to improve significantly in the next 6 months, while 38 percent of respondents expected their business situation to deteriorate. Around 50 percent were neutral about the expected development. This is also reflected in expectations regarding the use of short-time work.

While only around 7 percent of companies stated in March – 5 percent less than in the previous year – that they were currently using short-time work, the proportion of expectations for the use of short-time work within the next 3 months rose to around 27 percent. Expectations for employment development also remain clearly in negative territory, with a balance of around -17 percentage points.

## Economic situation in the German printing industry 3/2024

Index values (2015=100), seasonally adjusted | Calculation/graph: bvdm, source: Ifo Business Survey



# Daiber main catalogue 2024 Climate-neutral and new products

The new main catalogue from Gustav Daiber GmbH is now available and presents the 2024 collection. In addition to functional corporate fashion and warm workwear, the expanded product portfolio offers a wide range of colours. Together with Climate-Partner, Daiber is once again offsetting the CO2 emissions generated during catalogue production this year and supporting tree plantations in Germany and China.

Around 800 articles on 580 pages: The corporate fashion company also presents the new products from the 2024 collection of its own brands JAMES & NICHOLSON and myrtle beach. The range includes practical crossover styles, lined workwear, fashionable headwear and spring-like colours. Whether corporate fashion or workwear - the new products combine functionality with modern looks and can be combined in a variety of ways for work and leisure. The majority of the new products are already available to order. The remaining products are expected to be in stock and available by the end of March.

One of the highlights of this year's collection is the soft Sherpa Jacket. Its robust, easy-care Sherpa fleece made from 100 percent recycled polyester makes it a real eye-catcher. The new Ladies'/Men's Doubleface Jacket also uses sustainable materials such as organic cotton and a warming Sherpa lining made from recycled polyester. The Ladies'/Men's Blouson is a particular highlight. It is available in three colours and offers two looks in one thanks to its reversible design. The Winter Workwear Pants Strong are a new addition to the portfolio. The first lined workwear trousers from JAMES & NICHOLSON are suitable for

colder temperatures thanks to their brushed inner lining. To coincide with the launch of the 2024 collection, the Workwear Colour Selector will also be supplemented with new products and colour enhancements. This service from Daiber makes it possible to clearly display all workwear products in a collection in the available colours. This means that possible combinations for coordinated corporate fashion outfits can be seen at a glance.

### CLIMATE-NEUTRAL CATALOGUE PRODUCTION WITH CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

"Environment friendly behaviour is our top priority. This starts with our products, in which we use durable and increasingly sustainable materials, and extends through all areas of the company to the climate-neutral production of our catalogues. With our commitment to the environment, we want to play our part in increasing sustainability," says Managing Director Kai Gminder. Together with ClimatePartner, Daiber is once again offsetting all of the CO2 emissions generated during the printing of the main catalogue this year. To this end, the corporate fashion manufacturer is supporting an internationally certified climate protection project in China. Trees are being planted on 43,600 hectares of barren land to improve air quality and soil structure as well as prevent erosion. Thanks to the project, the total of 114,000 kilograms of CO2 offset is doubly worthwhile: for every tonne of CO2 saved, ClimatePartner

800 articles on 580 pages with new products from the JAMES & NICHOLSON and myrtle beach collection.

plants an additional tree in Germany. In this way, Daiber is promoting the conversion of structurally poor forest stands and monocultures into more resilient mixed forests, thus making a sustainable contribution both abroad and at home.

### Daiber

111 years of tradition and quality: Gustav Daiber GmbH stands for high-quality corporate fashion with its own brands JAMES & NICHOLSON and myrtle beach. The annual collections are based on current and international industry trends for promotion, sport, leisure, business, workwear and headwear. With over 800 items available in up to 40 different colours, the textile company offers a wide range of fashionable corporate fashion in Europe. Thanks to high quantities and an inventory of more than 15 million items, Daiber offers high stock availability, which benefits retailers, corporate customers and other business partners. The family-owned company Daiber is increasingly using sustainable materials such as organic cotton or recycled polyester and develops new sustainability concepts every year. The company is managed by Kai Gminder, who is the fourth generation to run the company, and Christof Kunze. Daiber employs around 150 people at its headquarters in Albstadt in the Zollernalb region.



# Digital Serigraphic Technologies A/S

## welcomes new managing director

DST, a leading manufacturer of consumables for textile heat transfer, announces the appointment of Quentin Le Piouff as new managing director. With more than 15 years of experience in polymers and printing solutions, Quentin Le Piouff aims to lead DST into a transformative future.



Quentin Le Piouff is new managing director at DST

### EXPERTISE AND EXPECTATIONS

In his previous role as Business Development & Application Technology Manager, Quentin Le Piouff played a crucial role in DST's growth. He has led the development of innovative print media tailored to hot peel trans-

fers and in the selection of cutting-edge printing inks developed over the last ten years. His leadership in developing strategies to meet market requirements and working with key partners in digital printing have contributed significantly to DST's success.

With his extensive expertise in the adhesive and textile industries, he has championed decoration techniques such as hybrid/DST or DTF and pushed the limits of product innovation. Svend Rimestad, chairman of DST and managing director of DST parent company Bjørn Thorsen A/S, expressed his confidence in Quentin's leadership skills: "With his impressive experience in the printing and polymer industry, Quentin will be an outstanding leader and I have great confidence in our exceptional team."

"I am deeply honored to take on the position of managing director and to lead DST into the next phase," said Quentin, who expressed his enthusiasm for the new role.

"The entire DST team has been incredibly supportive and I'm extremely proud to lead such a dedicated team and serve our customers effectively. In 2024, DST will aim for significant growth with the introduction of new consumables developed with a circular economy in mind. We are also committed to obtaining new certifications to ensure that our products meet the highest standards, and we are improving our services to maintain our commitment to exceptional customer care. At the same time, we are focused on further developing our technology and contributing to more sustainable industry solutions."

### DST

Digital Serigraphic Technologies A/S (DST) develops, produces and markets heat transfer consumables, which are primarily used for textile decoration using digital hybrid processes, traditional screen printing or DTF technologies. DST's product range, which is based on technology acquired by Digital Screenprinting Technology ApS in 2020 with more than 20 years of market experience, has been constantly developed. It comprises release films (paper or PET), water-based paints, adhesives (powder or liquid/printable) and special additives to create thermal transfers for textiles, clothing decoration and/or decorations in the areas of sports, leisure and workwear as well as promotional items. DST is headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark.

# National & international trade fairs

A selection on the topics of screen, digital, pad, large format and textile printing

As of April 2024. Due to the current situation, dates and information may be outdated. Please contact the respective organiser for a confirmation of the date. Further international trade fairs can be found on our website at:

[printmarket.online/en/fairs-en/](https://printmarket.online/en/fairs-en/)

## National trade fairs 2024/25

### Rapid.Tech 3D

Trade fair for the latest developments and applications in additive manufacturing

14 to 16 May 2024 in Erfurt

### Empack

Trade fair for innovations in packaging technology

15 to 16 May 2024 in Dortmund and  
12 to 13 June 2024 in Hamburg

### drupa

International trade fair for the print and media industry

28 May to 7 June 2024 in Düsseldorf

### Print & Digital Convention

Congress trade fair for digital printing, digital media technology and multichannel applications

28 May to 7 June 2024 as part of  
of the Drupa in Düsseldorf

### DMEXCO

Digital Marketing & Tech Event

18 to 19 September 2024 in Cologne

### Glasstec

International trade fair for glass,

glass manufacturing and production technology

22 to 25 October 2024 in Düsseldorf

### Fakuma

International trade fair for plastics processing

15 to 19 October 2024 in Friedrichshafen

### PSI

The leading European trade fair for the promotional products industry

7 to 9 January 2025 in Düsseldorf

### TecStyle Visions

Europe's leading trade fair for textile finishing and promotion

13 to 15 February 2025 in Stuttgart

### GiveADays

The promotional products trade fair in the south

13 to 15 February 2025 in Stuttgart

### wetec

Trade fair for advertising technology, digital printing, illuminated advertising & digital signage

13 to 15 February 2025 in Stuttgart

### CCE International

International trade fair for the corrugated board and folding carton industry

11 to 13 March 2025 in Munich

### ICE Europe

Leading international trade fair for finishing and processing of paper, film & foil

11 to 13 March 2025 in Munich

### InPrint Munich

Europe's industry meeting place for print tech companies

11 to 13 March 2025 in Munich

### 8th AM Forum

Conference on the integration of additive manufacturing

20 to 21 March 2025 in Berlin

### FESPA Global Print Expo

Europe's leading trade fair for the printing industry

06 to 09 May 2025 in Berlin

## International trade fairs 2024/25

### Surfex

International trade fair for adhesives, surface treatment, printing machinery, equipment and technologies

4 to 5 June 2024 in Warwick, United Kingdom

### Coatings Expo

International trade fair and conference for the coatings, pigments and colours industry

12 to 16 June 2024 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

### FuturePrint

Trade fair for screen printing, visual communication, signage, digital printing and textile printing

10 to 13 July 2024 in Sao Paulo, Brazil

### Indoprint

International exhibition for the printing industry

04 to 07 September 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia

### SuperCorrExpo

International trade fair for software, packaging machines, printing machines and printing

8 to 12 September 2024 in Orlando, USA

### Labelexpo

Trade fair for labelling, product labelling and printing

10 to 12 September 2024 in Rosemont, USA

### FESPA Mexico

Trade fair for the printing industry

26 to 28 September 2024 in Mexico City, Mexico

### viscom Italia

International trade fair for visual communication

16 to 18 October 2024 in Milan, Italy

### 3D Print Congress

Congress and reference trade fair for additive manufacturing

4 to 6 June 2024 in Lyon, France

### DPES Sign Expo

The leading global trade fair for digital printing, engraving and digital labelling

14 to 16 August 2024 in Guangzhou, China

### ISPRINT

Trade fair for printing technology

10 to 12 September 2024 in Tel Aviv, Israel

### FESPA Eurasia

Trade fair for the printing and industrial advertising industry

11 to 14 September 2024 in Istanbul, Turkey

### SIGN

International trade fair for advertising and digital printing technologies

31 October to 3 November 2024 in Istanbul, Turkey

### RemaDays Warsaw

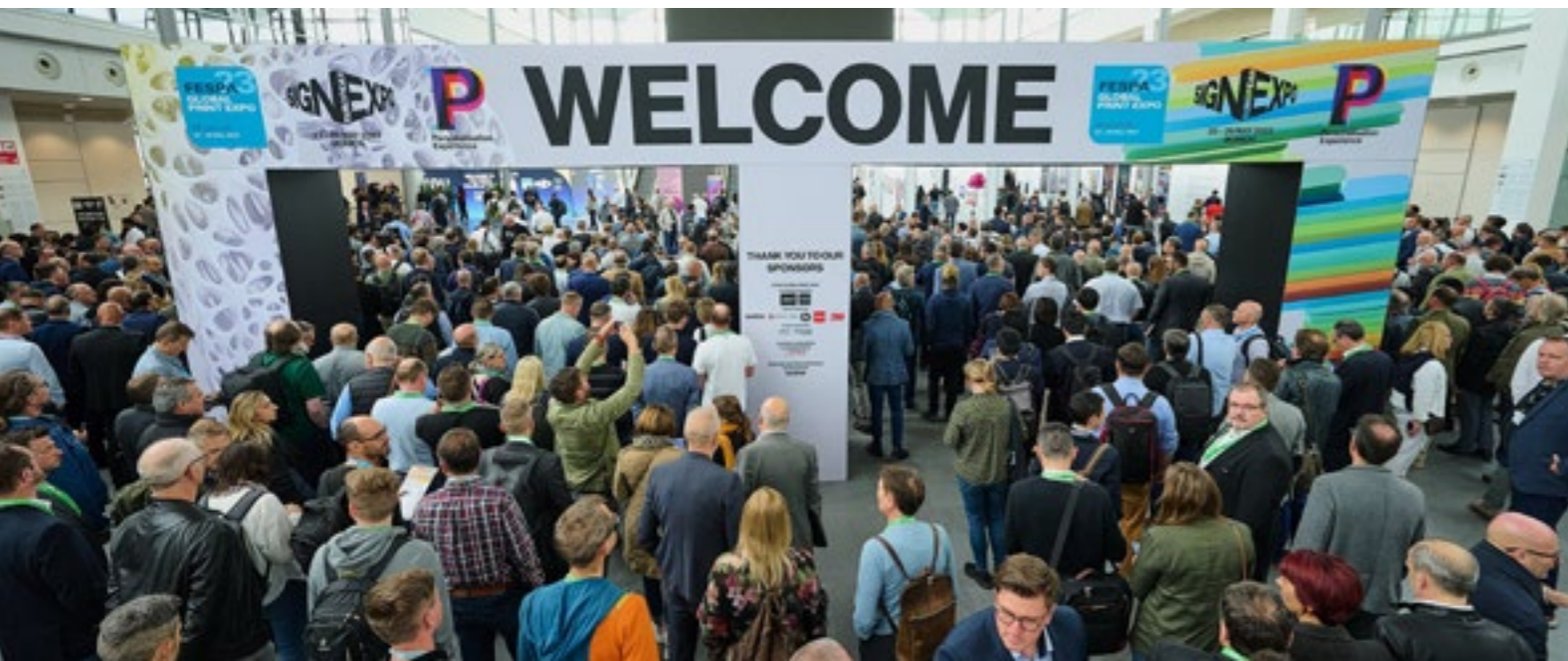
International trade fair for advertising and printing

28 to 31 January 2025 in Nadarzyn, Poland

### Sign & Print Expo

Trade fair for graphic media and visual communication

25 to 27 March 2025 in Gorinchem, Netherlands



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