

# printmarket

Trade journal for the printing industry

Issue No.1 | January 2026

TRADE FAIRS

TECHNOLOGY

SUSTAINABILITY

INTERVIEW

TRENDS

HIGHLIGHTS

PRINTED ELECTRONICS FOR  
THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

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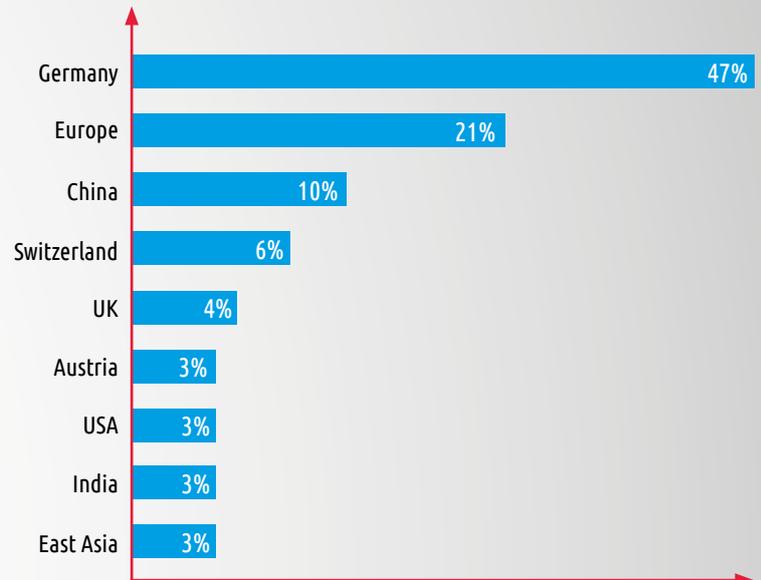
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# Editorial



## GEARS, TEETH AND NUMBERS: CHALLENGES FOR THE PRINTING INDUSTRY IN 2026

In 1870, German engineer Louis Saalschütz formulated the so-called gear law in its current form, in which two or more interconnected gears form a transmission that transfers power to the next wheel in a uniform motion. To ensure that the ratio between input and output remains constant, the tooth flanks are in constant contact, whereby the shape of the teeth can be freely selected in accordance with the general laws of gearing. In the manufacture of graphic machines, too, simple tooth shapes are used as far as possible. If the tooth shapes are precisely matched to the counter gear, the gear is described as form-fitting and transmits power without slippage. It is not always obvious at first glance who is slipping under whom, because this simple physical principle could also be projected onto the interlocking relationship between manufacturers, printers and clients. In other words, how can productivity increases be sold profitably by machine manufacturers, for example?

With 2025 behind us, a year marked by great commitment and a high willingness to innovate, the printing industry is likely to face complex tasks, trends and forward-looking plans in 2026 as well. Topics such as cooperation, automa-

tion, robotics, digital transformation, AI and new business concepts will gain in importance and often can only be shaped jointly.

Important disciplines include navigating regulatory mazes such as compliance and sustainability. Comprehensive control over supply chains with real-time data and forecasts. Coordinating and standardising digital workflows. Increasing production efficiency through automation and bringing dynamic market changes into line with your own production. And last but not least, this includes further developing the online print business and integrating new technologies such as 3D printing. Accompanied by a cautiously optimistic economic climate, a shortage of skilled workers and rising costs due to wage increases.

One or two milestones are already looming large. These include trade fairs such as Lopec in Munich, Empack in Dortmund and Hamburg, the AM Forum in Berlin, the Online Print Summit in Munich and the FESPA Global Print Expo in Barcelona, the main event for European printing professionals. And last but not least, exhibitor registration for Drupa 2028 will open in February 2026.

With this in mind, I hope you enjoy reading this issue and that you find some inspiration for your own work. Best regards.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Udo Schulz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Udo W. Schulz

# Content

printmarket – Issue No. 1 | January 2026

## TRADE FAIRS

- 5 **LOPEC**  
Driving innovation in printed electronics
- 6 **EMPACK**  
Trade fair for the packaging industry
- 7 **AM Forum**  
Additive manufacturing
- 8 **Online Print Summit**  
First partners on board
- 9 **Fespa Global Print Expo**  
Global meeting place for experts

## INTERVIEW

- 10 **Sun Chemical**  
Printing inks, dyes and advanced materials

## TECHNOLOGY

- 12 **Ink-Tech from Saralon**  
Printing electronics made easy
- 13 **Laser and plasma technology**  
by Trumpf

- 14 **Printer Trento installs**  
Kodak MAGNUS Q 800

## SUSTAINABILITY

- 15 **EUDR agreement**  
Relief for the printing industry
- 16 **Sun Chemical**  
The 15th sustainability report
- 17 **FESPA UK Champion**  
for Digidelta

## TRENDS

- 18 **Performance and style**  
Daiber main catalogue 2026
- 20 **Intergraf launches**  
Young Talent Award 2026
- 21 **SOS**  
German economy in danger

## TRADE FAIR DATES

- 22 **Preview of national trade fair**
- 23 **Preview of international trade fairs**

**Imprint**

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Printed electronics is driving innovation in the automotive industry and is seen as a beacon of hope in challenging times. © Messe München GmbH

# LOPEC 2026

## Printed electronics as a driver of innovation

Printed electronics are playing an increasingly important role in the mobility sector. LOPEC, the trade fair and congress for flexible, organic and printed electronics, will be presenting innovations for the automotive industry in Munich from 24 to 26 February 2026.

Battery management, display concepts, customised vehicle designs and energy-saving lights. Printed electronics is driving innovation in the automotive industry and is seen as a beacon of hope in challenging times.

'Printed electronics strengthens the innovative power of the entire mobility industry. With LOPEC, we not only offer forward-looking solutions on the exhibition floor, but also address the needs of the industry in a targeted manner with our congress and user sessions,' says Armin Wittmann, Exhibition Director of LOPEC.

### OLEDs AND THE CARBON FOOTPRINT

Aumovio, a spin-off of automotive supplier Continental, relies on flexible organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs) for its displays, which impress with excellent image quality and a reduced carbon footprint. Tesa is developing

debonding-on-demand adhesive tapes for displays, electric car batteries and other applications that dissolve under the influence of heat, electricity or laser light. This allows composite components to be broken down into their constituent parts in a controlled manner and recycled. Other industry giants such as Celanese, Covestro, Elantas, Henkel, Heraeus and Sun Chemical will also be represented at LOPEC.

### PRINTED ELECTRONICS

US company E Ink, in collaboration with automotive supplier Marquardt, is showcasing switchable panels for door trim that can change colour and pattern at the touch of a button using electronic ink from E Ink. TactoTek from Finland is focusing on the production of dynamic displays and animated, customised lighting modules.

### INTEREST FROM ASIA

Changan, one of China's largest vehicle manufacturers, is providing information about the advantages of printed electronics. Naxnova is represented from India. The Naxnova Group includes Quad from Belgium and ATT from Austria, as well as the German automotive supplier HS Products Engineering. Naxnova's product range includes printed lighting elements for vehicle interiors and exteriors, as well as sensors for driver assistance systems.

### LOPEC

LOPEC (Large-area, Organic & Printed Electronics Convention) is a leading international trade fair and important congress for flexible, organic and printed electronics. In the high-tech metropolis of Munich, this combination of trade fair and congress showcases exciting future technologies in a variety of ways.

# EMPACK Dortmund

## Trade fair for the packaging industry

For the intralogistics and packaging community in the North Rhine-Westphalia region, the trade fair season begins on 25–26 February 2026 with LOGISTICS & AUTOMATION plus EMPACK-Special in Dortmund. Visitors can tap into synergy effects and find out all about industry topics.

According to Easyfairs, interested trade visitors can look forward to 'trade fairs with lots of added value' and gain deep insights. The combination of LOGISTICS & AUTOMATION and EMPACK Special provides a common platform for intralogistics and packaging. The timing is intended to give exhibitors and visitors the opportunity to start projects early in order to increase success and efficiency gains.

The accompanying lecture programme includes reports from the fields of intralogistics and packaging, as well as lectures from the scientific community, for example from Fraunhofer IML and other associations. The detailed supporting programme has largely been finalised and includes topics such as AI in packaging and intralogistics, the impact of the PPWR regulation, recyclable packaging as a valuable resource of the future, and ergonomics and work simplification as

efficiency factors. In addition, visitors to LOGISTICS & AUTOMATION can also learn about the latest trends in industrial maintenance and process technology at the EMPACK Special. LOGISTICS & AUTOMATION underlines its practical orientation with a test area for exoskeletons.

Maria Soloveva, Project Manager at Easyfairs Deutschland GmbH: 'With the trade fair combination and the new timing, visitors can find out about the latest developments in intralogistics and packaging at an early stage – in a concentrated and solution-oriented manner, in a pleasant atmosphere, with a focus on personal discussions. The short distances also have the advantage that a visit to the trade fair can be easily integrated into the working day.'

### Easyfairs

Easyfairs organises and hosts events that bring communities together under the motto 'Visit the future'. It organises 110 events at eight of its own exhibition centres in sixteen European countries, the United Kingdom and the United States. In the D-A-CH-IT region, Easyfairs organises events such as all about automation, KPA Kunststoff Produkte Aktuell, Kuteno, AQUA Suisse, EMPACK and LOGISTICS & AUTOMATION. Easyfairs' goal is to increase the return on investment for professional communities through all-in formats and advanced technologies. Digital formats and initiatives offer communities the opportunity to network.

*On 25 and 26 February 2026, the packaging industry will meet in Dortmund at the EMPACK trade fair and the parallel event LOGISTICS & AUTOMATION.*



# Join Europe's leading AM user conference!

March 10 - 11, 2026 | Berlin

[www.am-forum.de](http://www.am-forum.de)



AM Forum  
Berlin

*Under the motto 'Scaling Impact: Realising the potential of industrial AM', more than 750 users and experts will meet in Berlin in March 2026.*

## Additive Manufacturing AM Forum Berlin 2026

**'Scaling impact – Realising the potential of industrial AM.'** Under this motto, the AM Forum Berlin on 10 and 11 March 2026 is aimed at specialists and executives who want to utilise and advance the potential of additive manufacturing in their companies.

The focus will be on the professional exchange of key implementation issues along the entire AM value chain: from process stability and standardisation to digital integration and automation to scalability and series production. Application strategies, best practices, cooperation approaches and regulatory and technological framework conditions for industrial use will be discussed.

The conference contributions focus on the following topics: In the area of industrialisation, scalability and quality in series production, the transition from development to stable large-scale series production will be examined. In the area of digitalisation, AI and intelligent process chains, digital technologies and smart systems for additive manufacturing will be assessed. The focus will also be on quality assurance, standards and process control with standardisation and regulatory requirements. And in the field of cooperation, regulation and sustainability, the focus will be on additive manufacturing in the context of industrial, social and ecological transformation. The conference is supported by competence partners Airbus, Deutsche Bahn, EOS, HP, Materialise, Mobility goes Additive and Berlin Partner for Business and Technology.

The 10th edition of the AM Forum offers a practical programme with over 100 speakers from 60 companies. This includes inspiring AM tours, a pre-event above the rooftops of Berlin, workshops, deep dive sessions, a Women in AM luncheon and an after-work party.

### IPM AG

The Institute for Production Management (IPM) supports industrial companies in building knowledge, identifying trends and forming networks. IPM was founded in Hanover in 1999 and entered into strategic partnerships with Deutsche Bahn and the Airbus Group in 2012, which became competence partners of the 'Railway Forum Berlin' and the 'Aviation Forum Hamburg'. Both conferences have become established fixtures in their respective industries and are considered flagship events for IPM. Further conferences have been established, including the Production and Logistics Forum and the Additive Manufacturing Forum.

# Online Print Summit 2026

## First partners on board



The new concept for the Online Print Summit 2026 is ready, and the Durst Group will be participating as a major partner for the first time at the flagship event on 12 and 13 March 2026 in the Alte Kongresshalle in Munich. Long-standing partners such as risc solutions, ctrl-s, Printess, Crispy Mountain, Probo, HP and Cloudlab are also on board.

Neu sind die Eventformate C-Level Classrooms, Executive New event formats include C-Level Classrooms, Executive Briefings and Mind on Tap Stage. OPS's largest partner is the Durst Group from Brixen, a manufacturer of large-format printing machines and software solutions. The organisers, the Printing and Media Association and zipcon, were also able to secure Crispy Mountain as a partner once again. The Mainz-based software company focuses on software products for printing companies, machine manufacturers and suppliers. Anyone interested in printing will find answers at hp and Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG. The Executive Briefings occupy a special place. Solution-oriented hands-on sessions offer insights into solutions, strategies and trend topics. The number of participants is limited to ensure an intensive exchange of information, and the 45-minute briefings will be announced shortly in the official programme. In addition to the Executive Briefings, there are two other new formats: the C-Level Classrooms and the Mind on Tap Stage. The three C-Level Classrooms will focus on strategic topics and future

technologies aimed at executives from the online printing industry. The Mind on Tap Stage forum will highlight, contextualise and discuss topics of the day.

### ORGANISERS AND PARTNERS

"Our partners are more than just sponsors – they are actively shaping OPS 2026. With the new Executive Briefings, we are creating spaces for genuine exchange on an equal footing. This will once again make OPS a "laboratory for online print innovations", close to practical application, open to discussion and with clear impetus for 2026," explains Jens Meyer, Managing Director of VDM Beratung GmbH.

"The Online Print Summit shows how powerful partnerships can be when the content is truly useful," adds Bernd Zipper, founder and CEO of co-organiser zipcon consulting. "The Executive Briefings, the new C-Level Classrooms, the Mind on Tap Stage and the conference itself bring together decision-makers, experts and suppliers."



The Online Print Summit will start in 2026 with a new name and a new location. Image source: Online Print Summit.

### Zipcon

Zipcon Consulting GmbH is a global consulting firm for the communications, printing and media industry with a focus on online printing and digital transformation. The company sees itself as an independent and holistic technology and strategy consultant. zipcon produces market studies and various case studies for e-business printing, mass customisation and multichannel publishing.

# FESPA 2026

## Global meeting place for experts

FESPA will host the FESPA Global Print Expo and the parallel events European Sign Expo and Personalisation Experience from 19 to 22 May 2026 at the Fira de Barcelona. The event portfolio will be expanded to include Corrugated and Textile, each offering exhibitions and content for packaging and display manufacturers as well as textile and clothing producers.

The events offer visitors the opportunity to meet a wide range of experts from the speciality printing and signage industry, discover products and solutions, and learn about market trends. At FESPA Global Print Expo 2026, European Sign Expo, Personalisation Experience, Corrugated and Textile, suppliers will showcase the latest technologies, media, services and consumables for the speciality printing sector.

Michael Ryan, Director of FESPA Global Print Expo, comments: "It has been thirteen years since we last held a major FESPA exhibition in Spain, and we are delighted to be returning. This year's event slogan, "The place for Experts", underlines FESPA's exceptional value as a global meeting place for visitors and exhibitors to exchange insights and innovations that have the potential to shape the future of speciality printing and visual communications. It reminds us of the energy and inspiration that comes from taking the time to network, learn and hear from the minds driving change."

### FEATURE PROGRAMME

The exhibition, which showcases innovations in materials and accessories for vehicle wraps and surface decoration, will also host the World Wrap Masters competition. Vehicle wraps from across Europe will compete against each other, wrapping special objects and vehicles, and at the end, the World Wrap Masters 2026 champion will be crowned. FESPA also includes two free conference programmes, one for textiles and personalisation, and one for corrugated cardboard, offering access to informative sessions on printing, signage, textiles, personalisation and corrugated cardboard.

### FESPA

FESPA is an association of trade associations founded in 1962 that organises exhibitions and conferences for the screen and digital printing industries. FESPA's two objectives are to promote screen printing and digital imaging and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge about screen and digital printing among its members worldwide, in order to support the expansion of their businesses and keep them informed about the latest developments in their rapidly growing industries.



*FESPA Global Print Expo is Europe's leading trade show for the printing and signage industry and will take place at Fira Barcelona from 19 to 22 May 2026.*



# Sun Chemical

## Printing inks, dyes and advanced materials



An interview with Simon Daplyn, Product and Marketing Manager at Sun Chemical, who provides insights into the challenges facing the printing industry.



*Simon Daplyn, Product and Marketing Manager, Sun Chemical*

### Can you give us an overview of your professional background and your role as manager of Sun Chemical?

Pete Saunders is Global Director of Digital Businesses at Sun Chemical. While his role is commercially focused, he possesses a strong technical background in inks and coatings, particularly in inkjet technology and the application of aqueous, solvent and UV ink chemistry in emerging digital print markets.

His expertise includes developing long-term professional relationships and managing projects from concept through to full-scale launch and commercialization.

### What was the biggest challenge you faced last year, and how did you overcome it?

The dynamic nature of the print market continues to present challenges, particularly due to geopolitical disruption, including issues in the Suez Canal. Sun Chemical handled such situations through close management of global supply chains and logistics, for example, by implementing alternative routes that avoid trouble spots and ensuring that any additional material transportation times have been built into product lead times. In addition, production assets in Europe, N. America and Asia, Sun Chemical has more flexibility in the event of these geopolitical supply disruptions.

Concurrently, global regulatory management has presented challenges with changes to both global and in-country legislation, requiring deep understanding and prompt product management. This has been navigated through global regulatory teams, supported by parent company, DIC and participation in a number of industry bodies to help shape safety and regulatory practices.

From a commercial perspective, meeting tight deadlines to support OEM launches around drupa and Labelexpo required fast turnaround R&D and agile manufacturing across multiple

sites, enabled by strong collaboration between Sun Chemical and its partners.

### What is Sun Chemical - as the world's leading manufacturer of printing inks and pigments - doing to ensure that its business areas are in harmony with sustainability and environmental aspects?

Sun Chemical has a central sustainability function that coordinates with core members of the individual business units to ensure alignment of methods and deliverables. This allows consistency in the way inks, coatings, adhesives, and pigments are manufactured and how customers are supported to achieve their sustainability targets.

### How would you describe the most important future challenges and growth areas for Sun Chemical?

Key challenges include staying ahead of technological developments, regulatory changes, such as recycling initiatives, consumer trends (e.g. pauperization), as well as evolving substrates, while reacting quickly to market needs.

Sun Chemical sees continued growth in the demand for digital printing, especially in markets like packaging, décor and metal decoration, where

print runs are becoming shorter, and there is a need for agile production, reduced inventory pressures and adaptation to the changing consumer landscape.

### How does Sun Chemical ensure the quality of its products and services?

Sun Chemical operates a stringent quality control system across all business areas, with robust checks and measures in place for all aspects of performance. This includes statistical process control to ensure batch consistency and tightly controlled specifications for inks, as well as testing for application-associated performances. The use of neural networks and machine learning is being explored to further improve manufacturing consistency. Sun Chemical has a global network of production sites and strict matching of materials and processes to guarantee the same ink performance regardless of production site.

### Can you name some innovative solutions developed by Sun Chemical to fulfil specific customer needs?

Sun Chemical works closely with printers, OEMs and brands to support specific customer needs.

A recent example is the development of a food contact flexo ink and coatings package enabling a chocolate carton design without a plastic tray, reducing plastic use while maintaining performance and visual appeal.

In digital inks, Sun Chemical has supported a number of innovative solutions for a range of markets. These include the development of a UV ink based on inorganic pigments to increase the outdoor light resistance for printed metal for building cladding. Additionally to UV solutions, Sun Chemical has invested heavily in water-based technology advance-

ments to support a transition to digital in packaging applications such as flexible pouches and carton board, where food compliance-needs, combined with recyclability, present a challenge. Along with high reliability ink jet inks the platform includes customized primers to enhance substrate and ink performance.

### What major trends are you seeing in the printing industry and how is Sun Chemical positioning itself to capitalize on these trends?

There is a strong trend in the adoption of digital print and processing in packaging, including connected workflows aligned to Industry 4.0. Sun Chemical is well placed to support customers with any process to incorporate digital printing alongside current analogue print processes to allow customers to maximize production efficiency and benefit from shorter runs, personalized, connected packaging and longer run production of standard packs.

There is a continuing growth in digitalization with workflow automation, AI, etc. As part of this, digital printing and hybrid (digital-flexo) printing are growing across the majority of print markets, enabling fast turnaround times of shorter run jobs and design introduction, simplified inventory management and the ability to support smart products and connected packaging. Sun Chemical is well placed to support

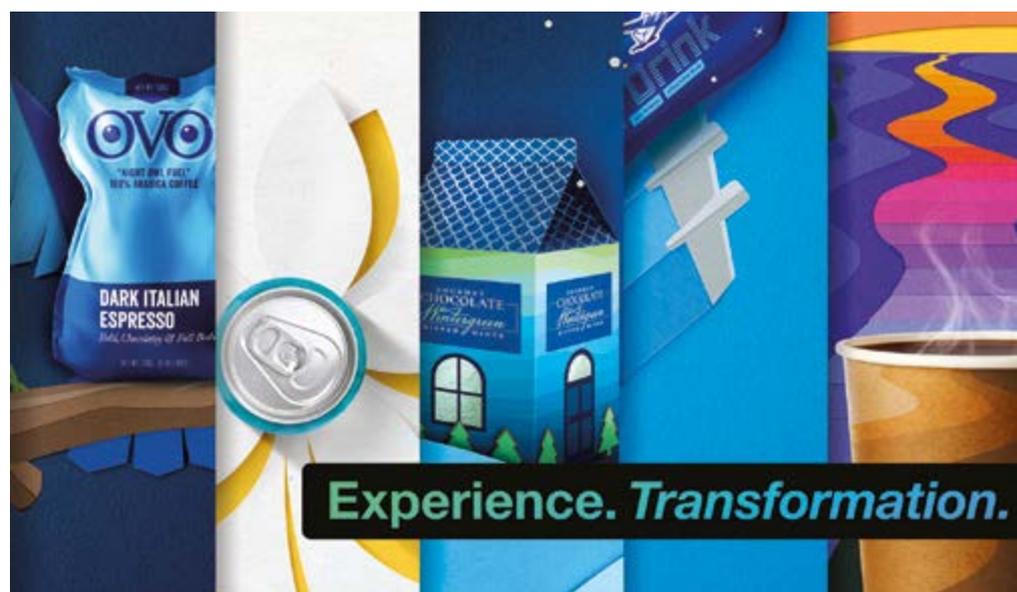
this growth with solutions to support OEMs, printers and brands across inks, primers, adhesives and coatings.

A clear global trend is one of product lifecycle management, with the introduction of key legislation in Europe, for example, with the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), meaning that most printed items will be subject to requirements in terms of their end-of-life processing. This may include recyclability, de-inking, and biodegradability. Sun Chemical works hard on chemical management and regulatory support to ensure compliance with these regulations.

Lastly, brand owners are increasingly sensitive to their customers' health and safety concerns. Sun Chemical employs a "beyond compliance" strategy to minimize the presence of substances of concern.

### And finally, what are your plans for the future?

As a trusted partner, Sun Chemical secures supply chains and diversifies production to make sure our customers are supported with the best products. Sun Chemical will continue strong investment in innovating new solutions to keep our customers at the forefront of the technology curve and 'Experience. Transformation.' through seamless transitions to new processes.





*Conductive inks can also be printed using conventional printing processes on standard printing machines; easy to use and sustainable.*



# „Ink-Tech“ by Saralon

## Simply print electronics

Printed electronics offer enormous market potential and influence many aspects of everyday life. Thin, light, robust and suitable for mass production, it enables cost-effective applications for flexible sensors, smart displays, RFID tags, wearables, portable medical technology, components in vehicle interiors and electric cars, in energy technology for solar cells and batteries, smart packaging and IoT applications.

Taking into account the needs of printing companies, Saralon GmbH has simplified production processes and supports printing companies in product development and technology transfer to turn them into manufacturers of printed electronics. With its 'InkTech – Printed electronics simplified by InkTech' approach, the Chemnitz-based company provides inks and production technology for sustainable electronics.

Saralon divides its process expertise into printing and integration processes. In traditional colour printing, several layers of ink with similar thicknesses are printed on top of each other, whereas in printed electronics, different layers with varying thicknesses ranging from a few nanometres to hundreds of micrometres are printed. To create an application based on printed electronics, the integration of graphically printed objects with electronics must be as cost-effective as possible. To enable printing companies to produce printed electronics on their existing printing presses, Saralon, with its many years of experience in integration techniques, offers printing companies comprehensive support in the development of ready-to-use applications.

'Our mission was not only to become another major supplier of functional inks, but also to actively promote printed electronics for market applications,' said Steve Paschky, Saralon's managing director of sales and marketing, who founded the company together with Dr Ali.

### Saralon GmbH

Saralon's origins date back to Prof. A. C. Hübler's research group at Chemnitz University of Technology. It was founded in 2014 on the initiative of Dr Moazzam Ali as a spin-off from the Institute for Printing and Media Technology. Saralon offers ink and production technology for sustainable electronics, enabling traditional printing companies to transform their businesses into production facilities for printed electronics. In addition to selling inks, Saralon offers production expertise for ready-to-use applications.

# Laser and plasma technology by TRUMPF

At Semicon, technology company TRUMPF demonstrated how innovative laser and plasma technologies can reduce production costs, improve chip quality and make the semiconductor industry fit for the future. The company presented a combined laser etching process for the latest generation of microchips.

Advanced packaging with glass is considered a pioneering technology for the semiconductor industry because glass is cheaper than silicon. In advanced packaging, individual chips can be combined on so-called interposers, an intermediate layer that electrically connects the individual chips. To create connections on the interposer, holes must be drilled into the glass, often requiring millions of holes. Here, TRUMPF's ultra-short pulse laser can selectively change the structure of the glass, which is then treated with an etching solution. Laser and etching processes must be perfectly coordinated to create precise holes, and TRUMPF has proven that this is possible in a project with the SCHMID Group.

In addition to laser technology for high-speed drilling (TGV), TRUMPF relies on the HiPIMS process (High Power Impulse Magnetron Sputtering). This technology ensures uniform copper coating along the side walls of the drill holes – an important prerequisite for the subsequent volume metallisation process. The technology delivers high ionisation energy and, according to TRUMPF, achieves almost twice the deposition rate of other HiPIMS products. With its experience in industrialisation at leading manufacturers, TRUMPF says it is paving the way for more cost-

effective and powerful chips by combining laser drilling and HiPIMS coating.

'The semiconductor industry is growing rapidly and faces the challenge of combining efficiency, precision and sustainability. Our technologies form the basis for the production of the latest generation of microchips, which are required for AI applications, for example,' says Michael Samtleben, Managing Director of TRUMPF in Japan.

## TRUMPF

TRUMPF, based in Ditzingen, Baden-Württemberg, was founded in 1923 as a mechanical workshop and has developed into a leading global company for machine tools, lasers and electronics for industrial applications. Today, Trumpf's software solutions are paving the way for smart factories, industrial electronics and high-tech processes. In the 2024/25 financial year, the company generated sales of around four billion euros with 18,000 employees.



*TRUMPF's headquarters in Ditzingen with its machine tools and laser technology divisions.*





The KODAK MAGNUS Q800 platesetter at the Italian company Printer Trento in Trento.



# Printer Trento installs KODAK MAGNUS Q800

Kodak CTP and workflow technology has helped Printer Trento S.p.A. become a leading manufacturer of high-quality books since the company was founded in 1980.

Based in Trento, Italy, the company serves customers in the European publishing industry. With over 150 employees, Printer Trento produces around 15 million books a year in the fields of art, photography, education and lifestyle. Most of the print volume is handled by sheetfed offset presses,

and Printer Trento uses process-free KODAK SONORA plates on all its presses.

Printer Trento opted for a KODAK MAGNUS Q800 platesetter with T speed Plus and single pallet loader, which can hold up to 1,500 plates, specifically for imaging plates and can output up to 84 plates per hour. A common feature of the CTP systems is KODAK SQUARESPOT imaging technology, which, according to Kodak, offers market-leading imaging resolution with its square and small spot size, dynamic autofocus and thermal compensation. A central component of production is the KODAK PRINERGY workflow platform, which enables book manufacturers to control and manage prepress processes. The KODAK PRINERGY INSITE Prepress Portal also enables file uploads and can simplify proofing, correction and approval cycles.

'Kodak's prepress technology, with its quality, productivity and stable, reliable functionality, has been a driver of our business success for decades. We also appreciate the continuous improvements and automation of Kodak's hardware and software solutions,' commented Massimo Martinelli, Managing Director of Printer Trento. "After deciding to invest in a new ten-colour sheet-fed press, we also needed to increase our plate production capacity in the B1 segment. It was therefore logical for us to also rely on Kodak for CTP in the 8-page range. The MAGNUS Q800 will integrate seamlessly into our prepress environment and significantly increase our plate imaging capacity."

## KODAK

Kodak is a leading global manufacturer focusing on printing technology and advanced materials and chemicals. In 130 years of research and development, Kodak has acquired 79,000 patents. Kodak products, combined with a customer-focused approach, make Kodak the partner of choice for printing companies around the world. Kodak is committed to environmental protection and is a leader in the development of sustainable solutions for print production.

# EUDR agreement

## Relief for the printing industry

The German Printing and Media Association (BVDM) welcomes the postponement and revision of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which was decided shortly before the end of the year. For the printing industry, the agreement finally provides clarity after a long period of legal uncertainty regarding the scope and start date of the regulation.

The postponement of the start date by twelve months for all companies, which was decided by the EU Parliament on 17 December 2025, and the relief for the downstream supply chain are in line with the BVDM's demands. For the printing industry, which is predominantly made up of small and medium-sized enterprises, this provides planning security and clear framework conditions for the coming financial year.

Printing companies that source their paper within the EU will in future be considered downstream supply chain companies and will be exempt from submitting due diligence declarations to the EU information system and from the complicated process of passing on data along the supply chain. EUDR-related due diligence obligations will therefore only apply to printing companies in exceptional cases, for example if they import paper into the EU themselves.

Paper, cardboard and printed products under HS code 48, such as wallpaper, packaging, labels and notepads, remain within the scope of the EUDR. Printing companies that purchase their paper within the EU can therefore rest assured that only EUDR-compliant paper will be placed on the market.

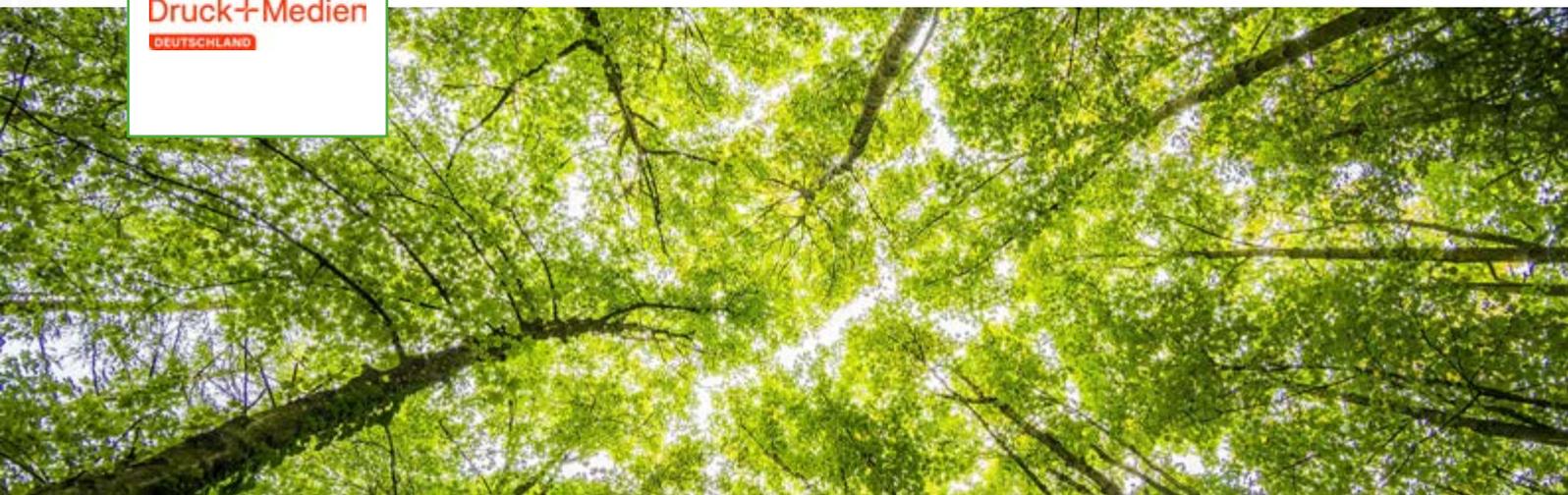
The BVDM fully supports the objectives of the EUDR, as the printing industry in Germany has been promoting sustainable forestry, transparent supply chains and the responsible use of raw materials for many years. According to the BVDM, this commitment must not be undermined by excessive bureaucracy. The association is therefore advocating for a balanced and practical implementation that takes this commitment into account.

### BVDM

The Federal Association of the Printing and Media Industry (BVDM) is the umbrella organisation 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, administrators, trade unions and the supplier industry. The BVDM is supported by eight regional associations. Internationally, it is organised through its membership of Intergraf and FESPA. The printing industry currently comprises around 6,300 predominantly small and medium-sized companies with more than 99,000 employees subject to social insurance contributions.

**Bundesverband  
Druck+Medien**  
DEUTSCHLAND

*Large/medium-sized enterprises will not be required to implement the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) until 30 December 2026, while small/micro-enterprises will have until 30 June 2027.*



# Sustainability Report

Data for Sustainable Growth

October 2025



**SunChemical**  
a member of the DIC group 

*Sun Chemical's sustainability report highlights reductions in energy consumption, waste generation and water consumption.*

## Sun Chemical 15th Sustainability Report

Sun Chemical has published its annual sustainability report, highlighting the company's progress in promoting circular product innovations within the industry for a more sustainable future.

The report describes Sun Chemical's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. According to its own figures, Sun Chemical has already achieved 86 per cent of its 2030 target.

'This year's report showcases the tangible results of our sustainability strategy, from groundbreaking low-carbon products to new partnerships that support our customers' environmental goals,' said Michael

Simoni, Director, Global Sustainability, Sun Chemical. 'Our commitment to transparent progress in sustainability ensures that we continue to deliver meaningful results.'

Among other things, product innovations such as a black pigment with a negative product carbon footprint (PCF) and recyclable inks, coatings and adhesives are highlighted. This also includes leadership in supplier sustainability through the EcoVadis rating system, which reflects compliance within Sun Chemical's global

supply chain. The expansion of circular partnerships, the promotion of closed-loop packaging solutions and collaboration with partners in the value chain to accelerate the transition to a circular economy are also discussed.

'Our progress reflects company-wide efforts to innovate the way we formulate, manufacture and deliver our products,' said Daniel Grell, Vice President, Environmental, Health and Safety, Sun Chemical. 'Through collaboration and innovation, we are laying the foundation for a circular, low-carbon future that benefits both our customers and the planet.'

### Sun Chemical

Sun Chemical, a member of the DIC Group, is a leading manufacturer of packaging and graphic solutions, colour and display technologies, functional products, electronic materials and products for the automotive and healthcare industries. Together with DIC, Sun Chemical is working to develop sustainable solutions, and with over 21,000 employees worldwide, the companies of the DIC Group support a wide range of global customers.

# FESPA UK Champion for Digidelta

Digidelta, a specialist manufacturer of digital printing, decoration, visual communication and textile materials, has been recognised for its environmental commitment with the FESPA UK Waste Accreditation Champions Recognition Award 2025.

Launched in 2022, FESPA UK Waste Accreditation is a voluntary programme that focuses on promoting responsible waste management and recycling in the printing, signage and graphics industry. FESPA UK assesses a company's waste generation, waste output and disposal practices, with those that meet the strict criteria being awarded 'Champion' status. 'We are delighted to welcome Digidelta as the latest supplier to become a FESPA UK Champion and join our mission to further improve the sustainability of the industry,' said Jon Hutton, Director of FESPA UK.

## DIGIDELTA

With nearly 40 years of experience, Digidelta represents and manufactures globally recognised brands in the fields of digital printing, visual communication, decoration and the textile industry. Digidelta is behind the digital printing medium Decal, the Biond film series and the bio-based structural film AllDecor, and is the exclusive distribution partner of Mimaki. Digidelta is headquartered in Torres Nova, Portugal, and has offices in Lisbon and Famalicão, as well as in Barcelona and Madrid in Spain.

Digidelta's product portfolio includes bio-based, environmentally friendly BIOND films. BIOND is made from plant-based products and absorbs carbon dioxide during growth, reducing its carbon footprint by more than 80 per cent. To promote transparency, Digidelta has developed an online calculator that allows users to see how much conventional PVC material they use and how much carbon dioxide they save by switching to BIOND. In addition, BIOND products use a water-based adhesive and are manufactured using 85 per cent solar energy.

"Recognition by a leading and highly respected organisation and the presentation of the FESPA UK Waste Accreditation Champions Recognition Award 2025 are further proof of our mission: to offer environmentally friendly solutions while reducing our own impact on the planet. We are delighted to become a FESPA UK Champion and look forward to working with the association to promote our leading products," said Armando Mota, CEO of Digidelta.

*Digidelta was awarded the FESPA UK Waste Accreditation Champions Recognition Award 2025 for its sustainable solutions.*

**DIGIDELTA**  
DIGITAL DIMENSION





Daiber's climate-neutral 2026 main catalogue: 484 pages full of corporate fashion that connects brands with people. (Source: Daiber)

# Performance and style

## Daiber main catalogue 2026

Sporty styles, colourful workwear and modern crossover items. With its 2026 collection, Gustav Daiber GmbH is strengthening its corporate fashion portfolio. Forty-one new products are expanding the range, combining functionality and design with environmentally friendly materials. All new products are available now.

With these new additions, Daiber 2026 is expanding its range of high-quality and fashionable corporate fashion that can be combined in many ways for the office, outdoor appointments or leisure time. Daiber focuses on environmentally friendly materials such as recycled polyester in accordance with the Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) and organic cotton in accordance with the Organic Content Standard (OCS).

### ACTIVE STYLES, WORKWEAR AND MODERN CLASSICS

The collection highlights include the running styles, which combine athletic performance with comfort thanks to functional materials, innovative Climactive climate control technology and reflective details. According to Daiber, eight new sports items, including the Running Tank GRS, the Running T-Shirt GRS and the Running Shirt Longsleeve GRS, as well as functional jackets and trousers in short and long lengths, offer the right outfit for every training situation.

The new workwear items impress with their details and set new standards for professional workwear with their fresh colours. The new products stand out from the classic sanitary blue or painter's white with colour combinations such as deep blue/foggy grey and industrial green/foggy grey, transforming typical workwear into crossover styles that combine work and leisure. Robust materials, ergonomic cuts and practical details ensure functionality.

In the crossover styles range, there are new versatile all-rounders and highlights such as the multifunctional 3-in-1 Jacket GRS, the Bomber Jacket GRS and the Shirt Jacket Unisex OCS Blended & GRS. These combine weather resistance, comfort and design and can be combined in many ways to create a professional outfit. The collection is rounded off by an expanded selection of headwear, from sporty, functional caps to a fisherman's hat in a corduroy look.



*The Daiber Unisex Jacket GRS in olive and sandstone with a ready-made collar, patch pockets and cuff fastenings.*

## THE CLIMATE-NEUTRAL 2026 MAIN CATALOGUE

All new products and Daiber's existing range can be found in the new 2026 main catalogue, which is now available and was printed in a climate-neutral process at Druckhaus Kaufmann in Lahr. The catalogue is printed on 100 per cent FSC-certified recycled paper, which conserves valuable

*The Ladies and Mens Bomber Jackets in sandstone and navy with a fitted hood and side pockets.*



resources and saves 79 per cent water, 73 per cent energy and 42 per cent CO<sub>2</sub> compared to conventional fresh fibre paper. Daiber offset the unavoidable emissions generated during printing through a certified climate protection project with ClimatePartner, which supports reforestation measures in German forests. For every tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> offset, a tree is planted in the Harz Mountains, the Thuringian Forest and the Vogelsberg, among other places. The project is combined with a certified solar energy project in Togo, which produces around 88,000 megawatt hours of renewable electricity annually.

'Thanks to our collaboration with ClimatePartner, we are not only making an important contribution to protecting our climate and biodiversity, but also helping to supply around 160,000 households and small businesses in Togo, West Africa, with renewable electricity,' says Managing Director Kai Gminder, who runs the company together with Christof Kunze.

### Daiber

Gustav Daiber GmbH offers more than 700 timelessly designed products in 160 colour variations for promotion, sports, leisure, business, workwear and headwear, and is considered one of Europe's leading corporate fashion platforms. The focus is on comprehensive consulting, individual textile finishing and tailor-made concepts. The company is managed by Kai Gminder, a fourth-generation member of the family, and Christof Kunze. Around 170 employees work at the main location in Albstadt in the Swabian Alb. Another location is in Hong Kong.

# Intergraf launches Young Talent Award 2026



Intergraf announces that applications for the Intergraf Young Talent Award 2026 are now open. The award invites young talents to share new perspectives with European industry leaders and compete for a prize of €3,000.

Communication is becoming increasingly personalised, automated and insight-driven, and printing is evolving in parallel with new expectations regarding relevance, experience and responsibility. This year's theme challenges

candidates to think about the opportunities available to printing and the strategic decisions required to capitalise on these opportunities, whether through innovation, data-driven printing solutions, cross-media integration, customer experience, and the impact of data privacy and ethics. Candidates are invited to answer

the following question: 'What opportunities do you see for printing in a hyper-personalised future?'



The winner will receive a prize of €3,000 and will be invited to present their ideas at the Intergraf conference 'Print Matters' on 5 June 2026 in Budapest, with accommodation and travel expenses covered. The work of the three

best participants will be presented to the European printing industry and key stakeholders. Please send your application in English to Sergejs Mikaeljans, Communications & Events Officer at Intergraf, by email ([smikaeljans@intergraf.eu](mailto:smikaeljans@intergraf.eu)) or by post (Avenue Louise 130A, 1050 Brussels, Belgium) before the deadline on 8 March 2026.

Eligible participants are students, trainees or professionals from the graphic arts industry (maximum age 25) and Intergraf member countries. The submission format is a three- to five-page paper in English. Visual aids to support the ideas are welcome and please include a short CV (maximum 2 pages).

To ensure fairness and thorough reflection, the use of AI tools for critical thinking and creative development of entries is strongly discouraged. Entries must reflect the applicant's own ideas, analyses and perspectives. The jury may penalise or exclude entries that appear to be general in nature or predominantly generated by AI.

## Intergraf

As the European association for the printing industry, Intergraf represents employers in the graphic arts sector. Intergraf also advocates for the European printing industry vis-à-vis the EU and works with political decision-makers to support the competitiveness of the printing industry through advocacy, information exchange, networking, campaigns, social dialogue and EU projects. Its members include 22 national printing associations from 21 countries as full members and 14 other European companies as associate members.

# SOS - German economy in danger

The German economy is in crisis. The situation is serious, politicians need to understand the extent of the crisis and take decisive action. That is why the printing and media associations, together with 40 other associations and across all sectors, are participating in the campaign 'SOS – The German economy is in danger'.

Germany is becoming less attractive as a business location, deindustrialisation has set in and the figures are worrying. For the second year in a row, the German economy is in recession, losing ground in many competitiveness rankings, jobs are being cut and the outlook for the future appears pessimistic.

And it is not only affecting industries such as printing and media, agriculture, foreign trade and construction. That is why there is a joint campaign, coordinated by the INSM, the Initiative for a New Social Market Economy. The INSM has spoken to economists, entrepreneurs, associations and politicians and asked for suggestions for solutions. There can be no 'business as usual' and politicians are called upon to overcome the crisis quickly.

## EXPERTS HAVE IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING POLICY AREAS: LABOUR, TAXATION AND FINANCE, SOCIAL AFFAIRS, BUREAUCRACY, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

A steadily growing shortage of skilled workers is offset by almost three million unemployed, and incentives such as tax breaks, more flexible working hours and unbureaucratic immigration of skilled workers are needed to counteract this.

Germany is a high-tax country, and corporation tax must be reduced and the solidarity surcharge for small and medium-sized enterprises and freelancers abolished.

It is time to distribute the burden fairly across all generations, link the retirement age to life expectancy and restrict non-insurance benefits such as maternity pensions.

Bureaucratic burdens are considered the number one obstacle to investment. Structures in the legislative process must be changed and administrations must work faster.

While global CO2 emissions continue to rise, high energy prices are putting pressure on industry and households. Only with market-based practices, such as a functioning trading system for emission certificates, can Germany achieve genuine climate protection.

*The printing and media associations are participating in the 'SOS – The German economy is in danger' campaign alongside 40 other associations.*

Verband  
Druck+Medien  
MITTELDEUTSCHLAND

## VDM Central Germany

The Central German Printing and Media Association (Verband Druck und Medien Mitteldeutschland e. V.) was founded in 1990. Since its inception, it has developed into the most important representative body for the printing and media industry in Saxony, Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt. Its focus is on innovation, sustainability and digitalisation. The association represents the interests of the printing and media industry in dealings with politicians, administrators, trade unions and suppliers.



# National & international trade fairs

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

## Trade Fair Dates National 2026

### wetec

*Trade Fair for Advertising Technology and Digital Printing*  
3 to 5 February 2026 in Stuttgart

### LOPEC

*International Trade Fair and Congress for Printed Electronics*  
24 to 26 February 2026 in Munich

### EMPACK

*Trade fair for innovations in packaging technology*  
25 to 26 February 2026 in Dortmund

### ICE Europe

*Leading trade fair for finishing and processing*  
9 to 11 March 2026 in Munich

### AM Forum Berlin

*Conference with exhibition for industrial 3D printing*  
10 to 11 March 2026 in Berlin

### Online Print Summit

*Event for print on demand, mass customisation, AI*  
12 and 13 March 2026 in Munich

### rapid.tech 3D

*Trade fair and conference for additive technologies*  
5 to 7 May 2026 in Erfurt

### Interpack

*Trade fair for packaging*  
7 to 13 May 2026 in Düsseldorf

### EMPACK

*Trade fair for innovations in packaging technology*  
2 to 3 June 2026 in Hamburg

### Print Digital Convention

*Congress trade fair for multichannel marketing*  
16 to 17 June in Düsseldorf

### Fakuma

*International trade fair for plastics processing*  
12 to 16 October 2026 in Friedrichshafen

### glasstec

*The world's leading trade fair for the glass industry*  
20 to 23 October 2026 in Düsseldorf

### Creative Paper Conference

*Fine paper trade fair for printing and finishing technology*  
29 and 30 October 2026 in Munich

### IPI Conference 2026

*Conference on industrial print integration*  
24 to 25 November 2026 in Düsseldorf-Neuss

### wetec

*Trade fair for advertising technology, digital printing  
and digital signage*  
3 to 5 February 2027 in Stuttgart

### TecStyle Visions

*Leading trade fair for textile finishing and promotion*  
3 to 5 February 2027 in Stuttgart

### InPrint Munich

*Trade fair for printing technology in industrial manufacturing*  
9 to 11 March 2027 in Munich



As of February 2026. Due to the current situation, dates and information may be out of date or not up to date.  
Please contact the respective organiser to confirm dates. You can find more international trade fairs on our website at:  
[printmarket.online/en/fairs-en/](http://printmarket.online/en/fairs-en/)

## International trade fair dates for 2026

### **EMEA high security printing conference**

*Conference for high-quality and security printing*  
2 to 4 March 2026 in Rabat, Morocco

### **MECSPE**

*International reference trade fair for the manufacturing industry*  
4 to 6 March 2026 in Bologna, Italy

### **Printpack Alger**

*Trade fair for the printing and packaging industry*  
30 March to 1 April 2026 in Algiers, Algeria

### **Gulf Print & Pack**

*Trade event for the packaging and printing industry*  
22 to 24 January 2026 in Long Beach, USA

### **RemaDays Warsaw**

*International Trade Fair for Advertising and Printing*  
31 March to 2 April 2026 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

### **EMPACK**

*Trade fair for innovations in packaging technology*  
14 to 16 April 2026 in Gorinchem, Netherlands

### **Digital Printing Equipment and Technology Expo**

*Trade fair for digital printing technologies in China*  
15 to 17 April 2026 in Shenzhen, China

### **Reklama Polygraf**

*Trade fair for advertising, marketing and media*  
May 2026 in Prague, Czechia

### **Saudi Signage Expo**

*Trade fair for the digital, print, graphics and imaging industry*  
20 to 22 April 2026 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

### **Packshow Romania**

*Trade fair for the packaging industry*  
13 to 15 May 2026 in Bucharest, Romania

### **FESPA Global Print Expo**

*Leading European trade fair for the printing and visual communications industry*  
19 to 22 May 2026 in Barcelona, Spain

### **Labelexpo Americas**

*International trade fair for label and packaging printing*  
15 to 17 September 2026 in Chicago, USA

### **Printing United Expo**

*Trade fair for the printing and graphics industry*  
23 to 25 September 2026 in Las Vegas, USA





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