

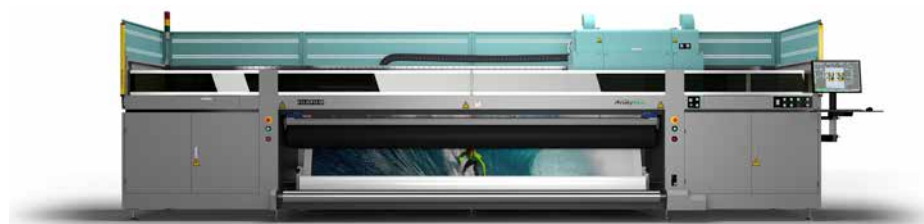
Fujifilm to highlight the versatility of its superwide Acuity Ultra platform

Growing number of installations

At FESPA Global Print Expo 2019 Fujifilm will use its stand to showcase the Acuity Ultra, a superwide format printer targeted at the high end indoor graphics and outdoor signage markets. This latest addition to the Fujifilm Acuity range is unlike anything currently available on the market.

The machine generated huge interest when it made its FESPA debut at the 2018 show in Berlin, and with a number of high-profile installations across Europe now complete, visitors to this year's exhibition in Munich will be able to hear more about this platform's remarkable capabilities.

The Acuity Ultra is available in 5 metre and 3.2 metre models with eight colour channels. It uses a new, high quality, low film weight Uvijet GS ink which is Greenguard and AgBB approved. This ink has been specifically designed to deliver the



Fujifilm Acuity Ultra

highest quality and is fully emission-compliant for interior graphic display work.

With a 3.5pl drop size ensuring incredible quality, the Acuity Ultra is ideal for the high end indoor display market, especially for brands focussing on the highest possible quality. Operating with conventional UV technology, it runs at much higher speeds than LED competitors, but as the vacuum table is efficiently water cooled, it does not build up excessive heat on the print plate, meaning no shrinkage and allowing the use of heat sensitive substrates. Linear motors also ensure smooth edge-to-edge printing with no vibrations at the end of the run. With a throughput of up to 236m² per hour, the machine is capable of printing on three rolls simultaneously, as well as printing superwide format graphics up to five metres in width.

between 14th and 17th May, FESPA 2019 is the FESPA federation's global, all-encompassing event for the wide-format, textile printing and signage markets that typically attracts over 20,000 visitors from across the world. May's expo will be co-located with the European Sign Expo 2019.

Debuting at FESPA will be Nazdar's newest addition to its wide-format inks portfolio - the 204 Series Solvent Inkjet Inks. 204 Series Inks are designed as a colour-match, chemically-compatible alternative ink for Roland TrueVIS SG and VG Series printers using TrueVIS TR Inks. With plug-and-play capabilities and consistent high-speed printing performance, users can simply replace with 204 Series as the OEM ink runs out, producing high-impact, high-intensity colours comparable to the original inkset.

Alongside the new introduction, Nazdar will be promoting its full range of market-leading wide-format 'plug and play' alternatives to OEM inks. These products allow end-users to reduce costs without compromising on quality when running their Roland, Mimaki, and other wide-format digital printers. The Nazdar range offers exceptional colour and chemistry compatibility, quality and cost effectiveness combined with a seamless conversion process, enabling users to switch out individual colours as and

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Nazdar Ink Technologies to reveal latest innovations at FESPA Global Print Expo 2019

Nazdar Ink Technologies will exhibit brand new and established inkjet, screen and flexo inks, as well as examples of its special effects portfolio, at the forthcoming FESPA Global Print Expo 2019. Taking place in Munich Messe, Germany,

when required, saving time and money.

Nazdar inks formulations are available for virtually every make of grand-format printer, including HP Scitex, HP Nur, Mutoh, Gandinnovations, DGI, Océ/Canon and Agfa, and Ricoh, Konica Minolta, Xaar, Seiko, Dimatix print-head technologies.

Also on show will be the new Nazdar 735 Bridge Series UV Inkjet Ink. Recently announced and now available worldwide, the primary uses of this versatile product are for „bridge“ type printers running POP displays, durable graphics and banners where colour fidelity and adhesion are of primary importance. Typical substrates for this graphic ink include acrylics, styrene, Dibond, foam boards, Sintra, rigid and flexible vinyl, rigid PVC, pressure sensitive banner, and window cling.

An expert in screen printing inks, Nazdar will also be debuting the new Nazdar 2800 Series Durable Graphic Screen Ink. One of the first dual-cure UV/UV-LED inks specifically formulated for the durable decal market, 2800 Series offers excellent adhesion on vinyl and print-treated polyesters and boasts 4-year outdoor durability without an overprint. The 2800 Series exhibits excellent chemical resistance, accepts premask, and thermal die-cuts without edge chipping. Five-year outdoor durability can be achieved by overprinting with Nazdar 2829 Durable Overprint Clear. Nazdar will also be presenting its 2300 UV and UV-LED Screen Inks. This dual-cure series, developed for the container market, is perfect for printing on various glass and plastic bottles used in the packaging of cosmetics, household chemicals and other similar applications, and offers energy savings and a smaller environmental footprint compared to traditional UV curing energy requirements.

Nazdar 3500 and 3529/3539 Screen Inks, also on display, are designed for long-term outdoor durability on premium pressure-sensitive vinyl films intended for exterior ap-

plications, featuring excellent weatherability and chemical resistance.

Nazdar's new eye-catching Special Effects Inks binder will also showcase creative ways to harness specialty inks' capabilities, such as metallic finishes, phosphorescence (glow-in-the-dark), various textures, and more.

Finally, ink experts from Nazdar's technical service team, InkAnswers, will be on hand to answer visitors' perplexing printing problems. Whether printing indoor or outdoor applications on paper, plastics, textiles, metal, glass, or containers and packaging, there's a Nazdar ink that's right for every job.

Mark Andy P3 prints Aluminium Foil in Slovakia

In an unusual application, Radaflex has adapted a Mark Andy Performance Series P3 to print on aluminium foil at its facility in Tmava. The Slovakian converters new P3 is an eight-color flexo press, with a 10-inch (250mm) web width, fitted with hardened idler rolls coated with Teflon.

The modern flexo press replaces a 2200 press providing the printer the ability to cut waste while increasing up time, with Performance Series presses providing 50% less waste than conventional inline presses. Configured with eight flexo print units, reverse side printing, cold foil capability and two die cutting stations, the P3 also has full UV curing. It is fast to make ready between jobs, which is a bonus considering the range of work and different substrates that Radaflex copes with daily.

According to Radaflex co-owner Daniel Lukac: „The new P3 fits well with our existing production capability which sees 50% of our work supplied on aluminium foil to the pharmaceutical industry and also as lids for plastic cans in the food sector, where 35-micron foil is the preferred material for yoghurt pots and the like, because it provides a safe barrier for the food.“

Unlike filmic material, foil is more stable during the print process. The mechanical drive of the P3, manual registration and control is well suited for Radaflex's work. With years of experience in this field, Mr Lukac says his press operators have the necessary skills to man the mechanical press. The stroboscopic camera monitors the run's register. After printing, the company has specialized finishing and punching technology on hand.

Installation of the new P3 went smoothly under the supervision of Radim Krutis of Enginne, Mark Andy's distributor for Slovakia. Limiting the early jobs to labels allowed the operators time to become acquainted with the new press. Operators found it faster and more productive than its legacy 2200 predecessor. Radaflex expects significantly less waste to be produced as well.

Once they felt confident, Radaflex introduced foil work, which forms a substantial part of the P3's workload. „The P3 handles [the work] with ease which shows how well designed and manufactured it is. It has fulfilled all our requirements for print quality and has saved us material and time since it came onstream,“ Lukac concluded.

Global tightening of raw material supply for publication and UV Inks

A recent and deadly explosion at Jiangsu Tianjiayi Chemical in China is severely impacting the global raw material supply chain, including materials used in publication and UV printing inks.

The March explosion spread to adjacent facilities, causing nearly 80 deaths, injuring hundreds of people and forcing thousands of evacuations of nearby areas. The Chinese government has forced shut-downs at the industrial park, as well as others nearby, to allow for investigations and safety inspections.

„Our hearts go out to the loved

ones of those hurt or killed," says Michael Podd, Chief Procurement Officer of Flint Group's CPS Inks business.

According to Arno de Groot, Vice President Procurement for Flint Group Packaging, „thousands of factories have already been shut down. Government investigations and safety inspections will impact the total chemical industry in China and will not be limited to the province where the catastrophic accident happened.“

The impact has reached UV and publication printing ink supply chains, as the closures affect companies that supply materials for photoinitiators and for red and yellow pigments.

Mr. Podd notes that the raw material shortage will not affect ink supply for Flint Group's customers. „Our preferred status with our partner suppliers helps us minimise supply chain disruptions, even during unforeseen crises like this one.“

Mr. Podd continues, „Our customers can rely on us for an uninterrupted supply of inks, though these raw materials will come at a higher cost due to the supply / demand imbalance this event has caused.“ Re-open dates for the shuttered raw material facilities remain unknown.

Forerunners in pharma

Igb (Industrie Grafiche Bressan) is one of the most renowned manufacturers of pharmaceutical folding cartons in Italy, well known for both its production quality and its innovation: in 2018, Igb was awarded the Oscar della Stampa as the Best Technology Innovator.

The company is very much a family affair and has been growing very quickly, driven by a lean manufacturing management approach. Originally founded by Dino Bressan during the 1960s, Igb is now managed by his three children. We spoke to one of them – Alessio Bressan, the CEO of Igb – about what differentiates the company and how their partnership with Bobst gives them an extra competitive advantage.

„Igb is a little bit different to most manufacturers: we innovate as well as produce packaging that responds to our clients' specific needs,“ explained Alessio. „We have a specialist R&D department, which has so far filed more than 100 new patent applications. Some of these innovations already have the potential to be truly groundbreaking. For example, we have developed Tamper Evident and Child Resistant folding boxes, which can be processed on standard packaging lines.“

„On February 9, 2019, the Falsified Medicines Directive (FMD – Dir. 2011/62/EU) on anticounterfeiting came into force. This means that pharmaceutical products in Europe require tamper evident cartons. Glue is not considered as an accepted anticounterfeiting solution for pharmaceutical cartons, while cases sealed with labels are complex and expensive to pack. Igb's solution has no glue, requires no change in the packaging processes of pharmaceutical companies, is environmentally friendly, and completely fulfils the needs of the FMD. It's a very lean and green solution, and several world-leading pharma companies have already chosen this product to ensure they are ready for the FMD.“

Meanwhile, Igb has also developed and mass-produced an innovative Child Resistant folding box that looks like a regular folding box, but has a locking system with a key. Sales are growing quickly for this product both in Europe and in the US. „These innovations are representative of Igb's approach,“ said Alessio. „We look to the future to understand what challenges our customers will face, we assess the shortcomings of current approaches and we find completely innovative solutions. Igb is a problem solver and solution provider as well as a service provider, and we are always actively looking for new ways to improve the service to our customers even further.“

Igb and Bobst: a meeting of minds
Folding cartons are the core business of Igb and it is imperative that they have the most advanced fol-

der-gluer available. This is where Bobst comes in. Bobst is one of the leading suppliers of equipment and services to packaging and label manufacturers in the folding carton, corrugated board and flexible materials industries. It has worked closely with Igb since the 1980s, when under Dino Bressan, the Italian company transformed and added cardboard processing to its printing activities. It has recently invested in its latest Bobst folder-gluer – Expertfold 110 with Gyrobox.

„After analyzing various solutions on the market, the quality of Expertfold 110 was the best,“ said Alessio. „The tests carried out on the machine were very satisfactory as they allowed us to reach high production speeds. Another determining factor - which competitors cannot offer - is the in-line quality controls. With Expertfold 110 quality inspection is possible during the production phase.“

Expertfold 110 is an extremely versatile folder-gluer. Also available in 50 and 80 cm widths, the wide choice of modules available allows manufacturers to produce an impressive number of box styles - from small pharma and general food cartons, to large cartons made from litho-laminates - in a wide range of materials at speeds of up to 450 meters per minute.

Expertfold is easy to operate, and allows users to simultaneously carry out other in-line processes, such as Braille embossing with Accubraille and quality inspection with Accucheck, making it ideally suited for the pharmaceutical market.

MASTHEAD

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