

Mimaki launches two advanced solutions for Digital Textile Production

New Year, new Technology

Mimaki Europe, a leading manufacturer of inkjet printers and cutting systems, has announced the addition of two new high performance textile printers to its market-leading product portfolio – The Mimaki TS100-1600 and the Mimaki Tiger-1800B MkIII Printer.



The TS100-1600 is Mimaki's latest addition to its '100 series' portfolio. This affordable, high-quality system is ideal for printers looking to add their first digital sublimation printing solution or expand their production capacity.

Bert Benckhuysen, Senior Product Manager at Mimaki Europe explained, "The textile printing indus-

The new Tiger-1800B MkIII has been developed with reliability and print accuracy at the forefront of the design process and features new software capabilities that help to increase productivity and reduce downtime.

try has seen a growing requirement for increased product variety, lower inventories and shorter delivery times. Add to that the economic challenges of 2020 and we recognized that the market needed a digital textile printer that combined high quality, on-demand output with a low initial investment and cost-effective production. Having seen the success of our 100 series printers for the same reasons in other sectors, we knew that introducing a textile printer to this range would provide our customers with an opportunity to expand their businesses and seek new revenue opportunities, even amid these challenging times."

Available in the EMEA from April 2021, the TS100-1600 has a print width of 1,600 mm and speed of 70 m²/h in the fastest mode. In addition, the use of a 1 litre ink bottle helps reduce the running cost and enables stable, continuous operation due to the reduced need for ink replacement. The printer is also

equipped with a variety of renowned Mimaki features, including NCU (Nozzle Check Unit)¹, NRS (Nozzle Recovery System)², and the DAS (Dot Adjustment System) function which automates dot position correction and feeding amount correction, reducing the need for operator intervention. While the RIP software RasterLink 7 comes as standard, printers purchasing the TS100-1600 can also choose to add the TxLink⁴, another one of Mimaki's original RIP software platforms.

The second printer launched today is the Tiger-1800B MkIII - the latest model of this high-speed, high-volume industrial textile printer range. Available as a high-quality direct-to-textile (reactive or direct sublimation) or sublimation transfer printing solution, the new Tiger-1800B MkIII has been developed with reliability and print accuracy at the forefront of the design process and features new software capabilities that help to increase productivity and reduce downtime.

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“The textile industry is fast-moving, highly creative and leaves little room for error,” continued Benckhuysen. “Printers in this market require a robust system that will deliver the speed, quality and innovation needed to keep pace with this exciting industry. The new capabilities of the Tiger-1800B MkIII build on those featured in successful predecessor models to meet these requirements head on.”

The new capabilities of the Tiger-1800B MkIII include the ‘Mimaki Printer Controller’ (MPC) software. This platform has been designed for ease-of-use and enables users to set up, operate and output data with one-touch, simple operation. Its intuitive interface and functionality allow users to easily run automated overnight operation by sending multiple jobs with different settings to the print queue. The nozzle recovery function further reduces downtime by allowing production to continue if the printer encounters a nozzle malfunction.

The Tiger-1800B MkIII is also supported by the latest ‘TxLink4’ software. Its new ‘Parallel RIP function’ can manage multiple sets of print data at once to maximise productivity and the ‘Variable print function’ provides printers with the flexibility to produce more innovative, creative apparel applications. This latest system has also been upgraded with 16-bit rendering to enable a smoother gradation expression and can handle high-speed data transfer thanks to its 10 GB-based Ethernet controller.

Xerox appoints Jacques-Edouard Gueden as EVP and President, EMEA Operations

Xerox, a global provider of technology for the workplace, has appointed Jacques-Edouard Gueden as Executive Vice President and President of Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA) Operations. Gueden had already assumed this position on an interim basis at the end of September 2020 and reports directly to John Visentin, Xerox Vice Chairman and CEO.

“Jacques-Edouard will be responsible for Xerox’s go-to-market teams across EMEA to strengthen sales of Xerox’s full portfolio of products, services and software to new and existing customers and partners,” commented Visentin. “With his in-depth knowledge of customer requirements and long-standing contacts in the region, he is ideally placed to drive success and growth.” Gueden, who has been with the company for 32 years, has held various sales and marketing leadership positions of increasing responsibility throughout his career. Most recently, he served as president for France, Belgium and Luxembourg. Prior to that, Gueden was senior vice president of EMEA business operations and marketing. “As we expand our portfolio and capabilities, our focus in EMEA will be on driving awareness and sales for existing and new Xerox technologies. This includes software, financial services and innovations such as 3D metals and Industry 4.0,” Gueden adds. “I look forward to leading the team and delivering strong results for Xerox customers and partners.”

Londons last canmaker demonstrates the power of personalised print on a tin

In a sign of how this is beginning to change though, William Say & Co., a company with a proud heritage dating back nearly a hundred years, chose to demonstrate the new potential for customisation and personalisation of printed cans by commissioning and forming a run of 100 unique individual tins to give away as Christmas gifts to valued customers.

“We’ve been watching developments in digital print technology in our industry for a while,” says Stuart Wilkinson, Marketing and Sales Director at William Say & Co. “We actually had the privilege of working directly with Fujifilm to produce a short run of hot chocolate tins for a special Fortnum and Mason in-store display early last year. Since then, things have moved on even further.” In 2020 Fujifilm entered into a technology partnership with Tinmasters

- one of Europe’s biggest metal packaging printers. As part of this relationship, Tinmasters bought and installed an Acuity B1 inkjet printer at their site in Swansea.

“We’ve worked with Tinmasters for many years,” says Wilkinson. “And now they have this partnership with Fujifilm, and the ability to print extremely high quality short-run work, they were perfectly placed to help us. We’re really excited about the growth potential inkjet offers our business and our industry and we wanted a way to clearly demonstrate this to our own customers.

“We printed a run of 100 tins, in full colour, each with a unique series number. It was a simple exercise that would have been extremely complex and costly using traditional offset print.

“There used to be a lot of canmakers in London. Now we’re the only ones left. And in large part, it’s because of our willingness to seize opportunities like this that we’re still here, and thriving, and will be for many years to come.”

Kevin Jenner, Business Manager, Fujifilm Wide Format Inkjet Systems says: “Inkjet is going to transform the print for metal packaging industry in the same way it has every other print sector from labels, to commercial print to sign and display. It’s happening later and more slowly than it has in other sectors - but it is happening. We’re proud to be driving that change and all the possibilities it brings, and we’re delighted to be working with companies like William Say and Tinmasters to make it a reality.”

Kornit wins 2020 EDP Award for its NeoPigment Robusto Softener

Key component of Kornit Presto system for on-demand production cited as a leader among consumables. Kornit Digital (Nasdaq: KRNT), a worldwide market leader in digital textile printing technology, is proud to be named among 29 winners of the 2020 EDP Awards, presented by the European Digital Press Association (EDP). The company’s NeoPigment Robusto

Softener solution, which ensures superior hand feel for substrates imprinted using the Kornit Presto system for roll-to-roll, direct-to-fabric digital production, was selected "Best Coating and Varnish" in the Consumables category.

"Products have been judged not only on innovation, but also on better price, ease of use or even a clever solution that were added to a current product," said judge Mike Horsten. "Also this year, market trends and customer needs were taken into account. We believe that this year's winners with the solutions they offer are truly outstanding in their field."

The EDP Awards are Europe's only technology assessment in the industry and an open competition for all products announced and launched in the market within a year. The winners are selected by a commission of experts (the EDP Technical Committee), which evaluate the submitted products according to criteria such as innovation, quality, performance, and cost. Due to these strict criteria, there are no voting or other public votes. It is about technical criteria, not popularity. This is the only way EDP can guarantee manufacturers' achievements in developing new technologies will be recognized.

The award is a recognition of Kornit's innovation as it continues its journey to become a complete, sustainable textile printing solutions provider.

Kornit's Softener solution is applied seamlessly during the printing process. No additional time, labor, or equipment is needed, and most importantly, it is a sustainable solution carrying Eco Passport certification and GOTS verification.

"Kornit Presto with Softener is changing the game for on-demand production, making pigment-based digital print a serious contender for even the most demanding fashion houses," says Chris Govier, KDEU Managing Director. "Kornit is proud to be recognized for its innovations, and we strive to continue exceeding the market's demands for efficient, eco-friendly, profitable solutions regardless of the new trends and challenges facing the textile industry."

HP Inc. names Jami Miscik to Board of Directors

HP has announced the appointment of Judith (Jami) Miscik to its Board of Directors. Miscik currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer and Vice Chair of Kissinger Associates, an international geopolitical consulting firm, founded by Henry Kissinger in 1982. She is also Vice Chair of the Council on Foreign Relations. The HP Board of Directors is one of the most diverse of any technology company in the U.S.

"We are delighted to welcome Jami to the HP Board of Directors," said Enrique Lores, President and Chief Executive Officer, HP Inc. "Her vast understanding of the geopolitical and macroeconomic landscapes, combined with her deep experience in international affairs, intelligence and risk assessment, will be a valuable addition to our board as we deliver on our strategy to drive long-term sustainable growth and shareholder value creation."

Miscik joined Kissinger Associates in 2009 as President and was appointed CEO and Vice Chair in 2017. Prior to entering the private sector, Miscik built a distinguished 22-year career in intelligence, ultimately serving as the Deputy Director of Intelligence at the Central Intelligence Agency. Following this she held a range of leadership roles including at Lehman Brothers. Miscik holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from Pepperdine University, as well as a master's degree in International Studies from the University of Denver.

Mondi revolutionises European paper-based shopping bag market with start-up of new machine

Mondi has started up its new speciality kraft paper machine at its Štetí mill in the Czech Republic. The 67 million Euro investment in the machine makes it Europe's first dedicated paper machine for speciality kraft paper grades made out of fresh and recycled fibre for retail and online shopping bags. The paper machine will produce up to 130,000 tonnes of spe-

ciality kraft paper per year, meaning Mondi will have the largest product portfolio for consumer shopping bags in Europe. This includes white and brown virgin grades and now recycled paper grades that can be used in a range of bag applications from fashion stores to online grocery platforms and home deliveries. The EcoVantage two-ply paper produced on the new machine consists of recycled and sustainably sourced fresh fibres and is 100% recyclable.

The European speciality kraft paper market is expected to grow strongly driven by legislation to eliminate waste caused by plastic shopping bags and consumer preference to move away from single use plastic.

Kalle Taari, Head of Strategy & Product Management Kraft Paper, Mondi, says: "We want to offer converters and brand owners sustainable, 100% recyclable paper-based products for their retail and online shopping packaging. The papers produced on this machine will offer recycled fibre-based products with a natural look, great printability and strength properties, all pre-requisites for consumer shopping bags. We are excited to be rolling out several options from our EcoVantage range throughout 2021."

The paper produced will have a trim width of 4.4m, with a substance range from 70g to 135g. The EcoVantage range can be produced with predominantly fresh fibre-based material, and also offers combinations of fibres composed of up to 100% pre-consumer and post-consumer waste. Best combination of fresh and recycled fibres is available to offer required strength to hold groceries and fashion goods. Fibres are sourced from sustainably managed forests.

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