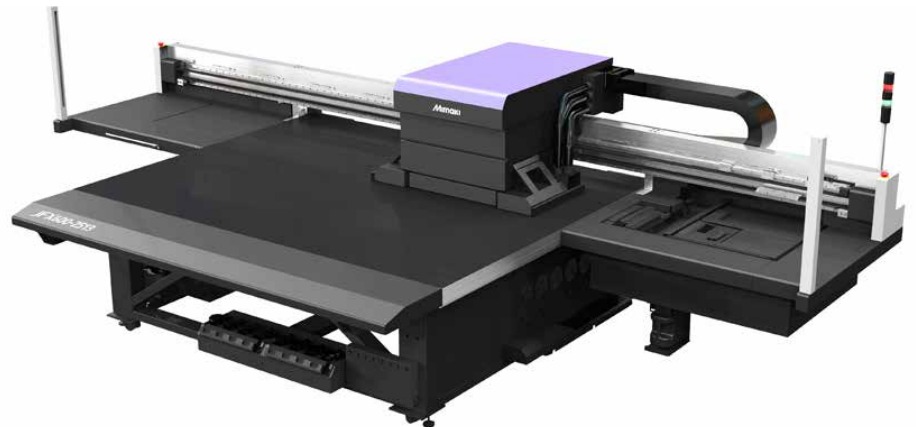


Mimaki to bring new innovations and application opportunities to FESPA

It's time to experience print

Mimaki Europe, the leading manufacturer of inkjet printers and cutting systems, will showcase its broad portfolio of market-leading, profit-generating digital print technologies at FESPA Global Print Expo 2021 (12-15 October 2021, RAI Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Stand: 1-F45).



The JFX600-2513 LED-UV large-format flatbed inkjet printer

Taking full advantage of the first in-person FESPA event since the COVID-19 pandemic, the company will premiere live demonstrations of its most recently announced innovations, while also inspiring visitors with outstanding applications produced by customers. As FESPA 2021 will take place 'on home soil' for Mimaki Europe, visitors will also have the unique opportunity to visit its Amsterdam Experience Centre and tour Mimaki's entire 3D and textile portfolio with one-to-one demonstrations from Mimaki's expert team. Proudly announcing that "the real

print experience is back", Mimaki is committed to bringing the print community back together with all possible COVID-safety measures in place. On the stand, customers can immerse themselves in technology from Mimaki's latest product portfolio, including brand-new releases such as the high-volume UV flatbed printer, the JFX600-2513, the high-speed, high-quality UJF Series printers, and the full-colour desktop 3D printer, the 3DUJ-2207. Mimaki will also celebrate its customers and partners in an interactive exhibit of success stories and application examples from its print ambassadors.

"We are thrilled to invite customers to join us in-person at FESPA this year. As well as being packed with cutting-edge technologies, inspiring customer stories and plenty of buzz and excitement, the show, and our booth, will be a safe and COVID-compliant set-up. We have done everything to ensure visitors can enjoy the event safely, such as integrating additional online content to avoid unnecessary crowding and physical contact." Danna Drion, General Manager Marketing, from Mimaki Europe explains. "FESPA 2021 is the optimal chance for the industry to join forces and re-

invigorate business with new technologies and applications. For such a visual and vibrant industry to have been apart for so long, this year will be centred around the full print experience, something you can only truly enjoy in-person. As such, our theme is "Experience Print", and what better place to do it for the first time in almost 2 years than at FESPA!" With so many ground-breaking technologies yet to be seen at a physical event, the Mimaki stand is sure to be an extraordinary experience. The JFX600-2513 LED-UV large-format flatbed inkjet printer, designed to address the high-volume UV market, will be among the new solutions to have its tradeshow debut this FESPA. Engineered for high speeds and high productivity, the new model offers print service providers a broader variety of applications thanks to a wider range of ink types and increased media flexibility. Announced just this month, the UJF-7151 plusII and the UJF-MkII e Series will also take centre stage on the Mimaki stand. Designed for seamless and reliable high-speed production, the UJF-7151 plusII allows for faster print speeds of up to 190% compared to the previous UJF-7151 plus model.

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The printer is capable of handling high-quality print jigs and ideal for accurate industrial printing of heavy media, such as wood, metal, and glass. Representative of Mimaki's varied portfolio and yet another brand-new product, the Mimaki 3DUJ-2207 will also make its debut. This easily scalable, desktop 3D solution is designed to open the full colour, 3D printing door to those who previously felt the benefits of 3D printing were out of reach.

Visitors are also sure to savour the chance to finally see Mimaki's renowned "100 Series" in action. Launched during the height of the pandemic as cost-effective, business-enhancing solutions, these printers are designed to meet current market challenges and enable users to drive success despite market uncertainty. With high productivity and reliability, as well as extreme flexibility to diversify an application range, these highly competitive price-performance printers have already been added to print operations in all sectors.

RODONA Industria Grafica invests in Spain's first HP PageWide Web Press T250 HD

The new challenges ushered in by changes in the publishing market have forced companies to update their systems and equip themselves with the latest technology to differentiate their offering from competitors and deliver the highest quality outputs. Company relies on HP inkjet technology by incorporating a second digital press to meet new publishing market challenges.

With 10 years of experience in the printing and binding of high quality books, Pamplona-based company, Rodona Industria Gráfica, has recently installed a new printing and binding line to increase production capacity, in its bid to adapt to the evolving publishing market and meet new demands from its customers. Within this context of change, Rodona, a leader in digital press printing with extensive experience in inkjet technology, has increased its pro-

duction capacity by installing a new HP PageWide Web Press T250-HD. This press incorporates the new HP Brilliant Ink and enables printing on conventional paper.

The new web press joins the existing HP PageWide T370 HD, which has been in operation at Rodona since 2010. The new PageWide Web Press T250-HD will look to increase the production capacity at the company's Navarre plant, which specialises in printing quality paper from 35 GSM, and has focused on printing and binding books in medium and short runs in paperback and hardcover since its inception.

The high-quality, full colour reproduction achieved by HP Brilliant Ink, alongside its ability to print on conventional paper makes HP's inkjet printing for presses an ideal solution for short and medium print runs.

The reduction in print runs and the coexistence of paper publications with other media mean that the versatility, agility and high degree of customisation offered by high-resolution inkjet printing technology is being consolidated as the solution deployed for an increasing number of titles.

Rodona's two highly productive presses strengthen the company's role as a market leader for an increasing number of educational, legal, medical and educational publishers who value the versatility of HP's printing solutions, and who recognise inkjet as the ideal solution for optimising print runs, production times and distribution resources.

The HP PageWide Web Press T250 HD press has a maximum print width of 520 mm and is ideally suited to printing educational books, one of Rodona's main markets. As a company committed to protecting the environment, it only uses paper from sustainable sources, so the responsible use of ink and minimising paper waste are just as important to the company's business ethos.

When speaking about the company's new investment, Alberto Senosain, CEO, Rodona, said, "HP inkjet web presses are the printing solution we have chosen to develop our business. In 2010 we opted for the

HP T-300 because we saw that it was the best option available on the market, and today, with the evolution of inks and printheads, there's no change in that respect as we are opting for HP for our second press".

Retriever Sports installs first Mark Andy Evolution Series E5 in UK

In one of the more unusual applications for narrow web flexo technology, UK manufacturer of dart and accessories, Retriever Sports, has added a Mark Andy Evolution Series E5 to its production facility in Slough, some 20 miles west of London.

The six-color flexo press is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK and replaces one of two Mark Andy Scouts that have been in use at Retriever Sports since shortly after the millennium.

The company is renowned worldwide for its dart products, which it supplies to both the leisure and professional markets. Founded by husband-and-wife Tom and Katie Pope in 1978, Retriever Sports remains under family ownership and is run today by Ian and Marc Bennett, along with Jacqueline Bennett and Geraldine Osborne. Together with a staff of 35, they manufacture around 10 million sets of dart flights each year in their 20,000 sq ft factory. In addition to the printing technology on-site, they also have CNC, injection molding, vacuum forming, laser marking, pad printing and automated bagging machines.

According to Ian Bennett: "We consistently apply high standards of manufacturing to our dart products and build technical innovation into each and every component that we produce. Our commitment to providing a superior product and outstanding service to our customers has seen the company grow into one of the largest manufacturers of darts and accessories in the World."

It was into this high-quality engineering environment that Mark Andy sold two 10" Scout presses in the early 2000s. Used to print the variety of colorful dart flights that Retriever manufactures, the Scouts

have given great service to the company over the past 20 years, so for Ian Bennett it was a combination of reliability and Mark Andy's reputation and support over the years that steered him towards the new Evolution Series E5 when the time came to upgrade capacity.

According to Phil Baldwin, Mark Andy's UK & Ireland Sales Manager: "The new Evolution Series press is a fully servo-driven 13" six-color flexo line, with full UV curing and an overhead rail system for moveable cold foil application." According to Ian Bennett, most dart flights are six colors, or five plus varnish, and the moveable cold foil system allows for the greater degree of creativity in decoration that the market now demands. The new press also features pacing rollers that are the same size as the impression rollers, which improves tension control for superior register whether in manual or auto mode.

Since full commissioning in April, and two weeks of training from Steve Bull, Mark Andy UK's print instructor, the new Evolution Series has added 50% to Retriever's output. From typically 130,000 sets per week beforehand, the company is now manufacturing in excess of 200,000 sets of 75 - 180-micron PE that is used. Crucially, in addition to extra volume the new Mark Andy has reduced delivery times at a time when higher demand would normally have extended them.

Retriever Sports now exports to all the established dart playing nations in the World and is expanding into supporting countries that are trying to develop the game as a major recreational past-time. With a number of significant innovations to its name, the company views its ongoing investment in the latest technology as key to staying ahead of the competition. "The new Mark Andy Evolution Series is part of that process," concluded Ian Bennett.

Summa appoints Geert Pierloot as Managing Director

Summa NV with Headquarters in Gistel, Belgium announces the appointment of Geert Pierloot to Managing

Director of Summa as of October 1, 2021. Geert Pierloot started his career at Summa in 1994 as Product Engineer and has managed different departments (Product Management, Sales, Marketing and R&D) since then. Geert also runs Summa's Laser Division in Nottingham UK as General Manager since the acquisition in 2018.

Erwin Vandousselaere, current CEO, is appointed as Executive Chairman of the Board since Ergon Capital and the Management acquired the company from Gimv. While remaining the Group CEO, Erwin will further focus on the strategic projects within the Summa Group, while continuing to play an active role in the development of Summa.

With his background and experience, Geert is ready to take up the next challenge in his career. "I want to thank Erwin and the Board of Directors to give me this great opportunity. I am looking forward to take on this position and lead our driven team as we continue to grow the company", says Geert Pierloot.

Erwin Vandousselaere adds: "With the appointment of Geert to Managing Director, we are confident this is the right decision going forward. Geert carries a Summa-DNA with him and has provided crucial added value to the company for many years. He is, therefore, the right person to lead the day-to-day operational business and management of the group together with a strengthened management team. Please join me in congratulating Geert with his new responsibilities."

In recent years, Summa has developed strongly in the field of flatbed and laser cutting technology. With the appointment of the new Managing Director, Summa builds further on positioning Summa's established roll cutter and flatbed cutter series while increasing brand awareness of the company in laser cutting solutions in the sign & display, textile and garment markets.

Highcon appoints New GM and VP of Sales to Highcon Europe

Highcon has announced the ap-

pointment of Juergen Freier to the role of VP and GM Highcon Europe, effective October 1, 2021. In this role he will be responsible for driving Highcon's sales and building the company's business across the region.

Freier is an industry veteran who worked in leadership positions in both the production side at companies including Bertelsmann and the vendor side at Heidelberg, Polar and others. Until late 2019, he served in senior European sales leadership roles within HP's Graphics Solutions Business, leading Indigo and Page-wide Web Press in France, then Germany and then across the whole of EMEA (Europe Middle East and Africa) with great success.

"Juergen is a high energy, driven strategic thinker and leader who has proved himself in a variety of different environments" said Shlomo Nimrodi, Highcon's CEO. "With his many years of experience in the industry and his demonstrated customer-centricity, passion, and commitment to success, Juergen fits well with Highcon's culture and values. Europe is a key market for Highcon. We look forward to him stepping into this critical role, to continue to generate new opportunities for our growth and expand our footprint in Europe."

Freier added: "These are exciting times. Digitalization in the packaging industry is at an inflection point. Highcon's digital finishing solutions are what's missing to enable a full end-to-end digital manufacturing revolution. I am excited by the opportunity to play a role in shaping this industry transformation."

MASTHEAD

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