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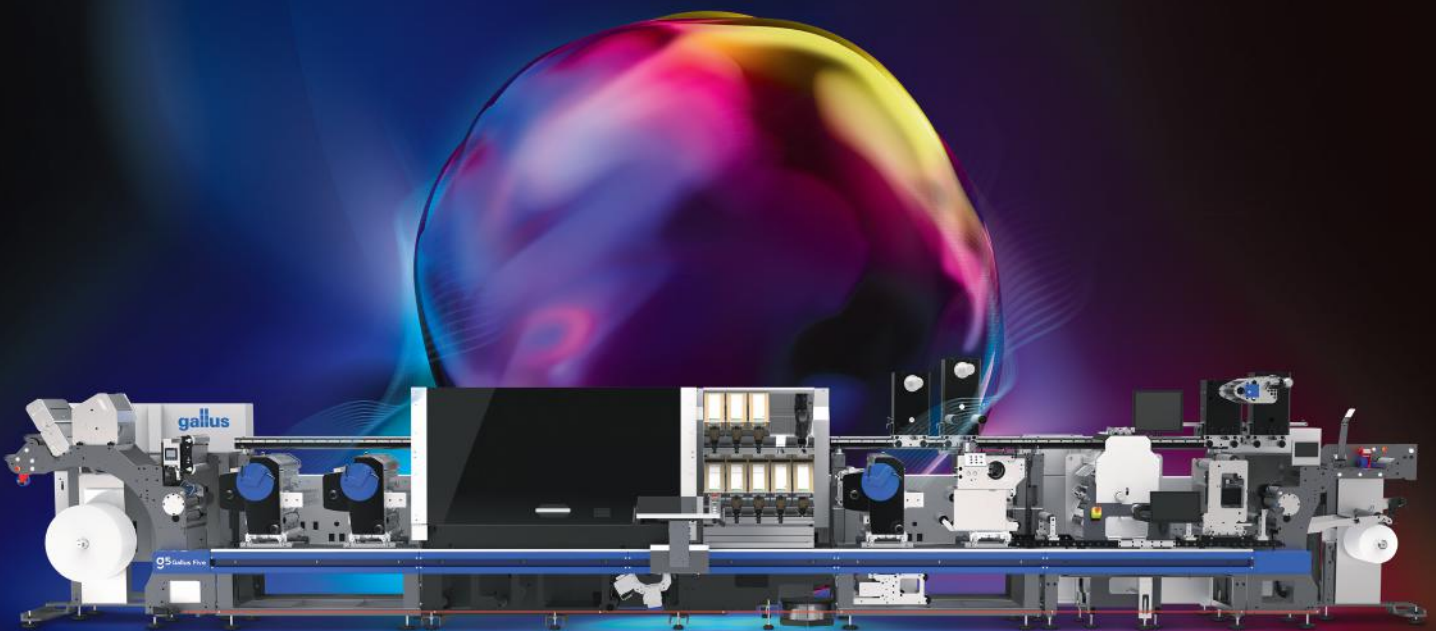


by GLUNZ & JENSEN 

Find out all about it on page 8

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ACROSS ASIA

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Best Use of Colour Award



KONICA MINOLTA

Best In Digital Embellishment

HEIDELBERG

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Print Impact Award

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Recognising print that drives measurable business and marketing impact. Tell us why your work is driving print forward on a separate page

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New Award Category for



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Advanced Printing Technology Centre
(A Subsidiary of The Hong Kong Printers Association)



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THE HONG KONG PRINTERS ASSOCIATION



Offset Printing Only

Categories 1- 12 - Offset Printing Only

1. Offset Calendars
2. Sheetfed Magazines
3. Book Printing - less than 4 colours
4. Book Printing - 4 or more colours
5. Limited Editions & Artwork Reproductions (under 1000 print run)
6. Web Offset - Coated stock 70gsm and above
7. Web Offset - Light Weight Coated 65gsm or less
8. Offset Packaging - Soft Carton
9. Offset Packaging - Rigid material
10. Offset Posters
11. Offset Restaurant Menu
12. Offset Labels

Digital Printing Only

Categories 13- 27 - Digital Printing Only

13. Book Printing
14. Digital Calendars
15. Digital Personalised or Photo Books - any format
16. Digital Posters
17. Digital Showcards & Point of Sale material
18. Digital Printing Magazines
19. Digital Special Colours
20. Digital Restaurant Menus
21. Digital Limited Editions & Artwork Reproductions (under 500 print run)
22. Digital Proofing - (must supply digital proof and the printed product)
23. Digital Packaging - Soft Carton
24. Digital Packaging - Rigid Material
25. Digital Labels
26. Digital Embellishment
27. Digital Wedding Invite

Other Categories

Categories 28- 35 - Other Categories

28. Multi-Piece Productions & Campaigns
29. Innovation/Specialty Printing/New technology
30. Company Self Promotion
31. Design and Layout
32. Security Applications
33. Environmental (any process)
34. Sales Catalog (any process)
35. Education (any process)

ENTRY FORM

Deadline for Entries Submission: **7th August 2026, 5pm** Remember to submit **2 copies** of each job!
Why? - Just in case one is damaged. Maximum 3 entries per category

If you are entering the **PRINT IMPACT AWARD** please tick the box ☐

Recognising print that drives measurable business and marketing impact. Write and tell us why on a separate page

SECTION A

Entered by (Company name): _____

Contact Person: _____ Email _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Country _____

Category Number: _____ (Example Cat 4)

Title of entry (ie: "Book of Birds"): _____

Printer: _____

Designer Pre Press House: _____

Brand of Printing Machine: _____

Paper used and Supplier Name _____

Ink Supplier _____

How many colour is the job 4-6-8 etc _____

Plates used if Offset _____

X _____

By signing above you accept the rules and conditions of the Asian Print Awards Competition



SECTION B (TAPE this securely to the back of each entry)

Category Number (same as above): _____ Entry number _____
(Administrative use only)

Title of entry (same as above - ie: "Book of Birds") _____

Print method: _____

Number of ink colours (4-6-8 etc) _____ Any Embellishment (foil stamping etc) _____

Quantity produced (Print run): _____ Other technical details (finishing processes etc)
Please supply on a separate page

Send your entries by 7th August 2026 - at 5pm to:

Asian Print Awards Competition 2026

c/o The Thai Printing Association

311, 311/1 Rama IX Soi 15/1 - Huaikhwang District, Bangkok 10310 Thailand Tel +662 719 6685

You MUST fill out these production details

You MUST fill out these production details

The 2026 Asian Print Awards Checklist!

1. Have you pick your **best work** to be judged?
2. Have you checked the work to make sure it's "**1st class quality**" - no hickies - no scuffing - no miss register?
3. Check it **ONE** more time!
4. Are there **2 copies** for each entry and are they packed correctly for shipment?
5. Have you completed the entry form (Section A & B) correctly and paste Section B onto the back of the entry?
6. Have you left enough time for shipment?
- Friday, 7th August 2026 - 5pm** is the Deadline.
7. Check that you have written the **address** correctly

Send all entries to
Asian Print Awards Competition 2026
c/o The Thai Printing Association - 311, 311/1 Rama 9 - Soi 15
 Huaikhwang District, Bangkok 10310 Thailand
 Tel: +66 2 719 6685

PLEASE ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE WHEN SHIPPING ENTRIES

Declare "No Commercial Value" for Printing Competition on the courier ticket by Friday, 7th August 2026

All entries are **non-returnable**

The Awards Dinner will be held on October 15th at Kerry Hotel Shanghai during
All in Print China Exhibition

at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre
 For more information go to <https://www.allinprint.com/en/>
 email: paul@ppiainnovationasia.com Tel.: +61 422 869728

The annual Asian Print Awards was founded **25 Years Ago** to recognise outstanding achievement in the print and packaging industries across Asia. With more than half the world's population represented in this fast growing area, communication in the form of printed matter links Asia's diverse cultures. It is imperative that such print achievements do not go unrecognised, especially among the population base that Asia enjoys.

The Awards are judged on a wholly quality-oriented set of criteria to ensure that fair play is enacted at all times.

The **Independent Judging Panel** comprises highly qualified personnel from within Asia and around the world. The independent judging panel has no knowledge of the actual entrants details. ALL ENTRIES ARE NUMBER-CODED. Entries must be commercially produced work.

The Asian Print Awards is the **only regional print quality competition of its kind in Asia**. Supported by leading industry-supply companies, any progressive quality print house should enter and prove that they are the best - by winning the Gold, Silver or Bronze award. Proving pride in quality awareness is what customers love to see. Win and you can prove it!

26th YEAR



ASIAN PACKAGING EXCELLENCE AWARDS:



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MÜLLER MARTINI

HALO by Glunz & Jensen: Expanding the LED exposure gamut for flexo

An interview with Per Arild, Chief Commercial Officer, Glunz & Jensen A/S
By Print Packaging Innovation Asia

For decades, Glunz & Jensen has been recognised for reliable plate processing and exposure technology for the flexographic printing industry. Today, as the industry shifts from conventional UV-A mercury tube exposure to LED technology, the company is helping printers and trade shops modernise their prepress operations with greater efficiency, consistency and sustainability.

Following the launch of the Flex-Pose LED 420 at drupa 2024 and the larger Flex-Pose LED 520 at Labelexpo 2025, Glunz & Jensen has introduced HALO—an LED conversion kit that allows many existing exposure units to be upgraded instead of replaced.

Print & Packaging Innovation Asia spoke with Per Arild, Chief Commercial Officer at Glunz & Jensen, about the new technology.

Q: How does HALO fit into your LED strategy?

Per Arild: HALO expands our LED portfolio rather than replacing it. Customers investing in new exposure

systems have the Flex-Pose LED range, while those with mechanically sound exposure units can now upgrade to LED without purchasing a new machine.

Our goal is simple: make LED exposure accessible to as many flexo users as possible.

Q: What exactly is HALO?

Per Arild: HALO replaces conventional UV-A mercury lamps with LED lamps and upgrades the electrical system with LED drivers. It is available for common formats including 3647, 4260 and 5280, and can often be

adapted to equipment from other manufacturers where technically feasible.

Installation is straightforward but must be carried out by a qualified electrician to ensure safety and performance.

Q: Why is LED exposure becoming so important?

Per Arild: LED delivers a much more stable and controllable light source. Unlike mercury lamps, LEDs require no warm-up, maintain consistent output and allow light intensity to be adjusted to suit different plate types.



▲ Easy plug-and-play installation. No additional brackets or frames required.



▲ LED exposure is extremely stable, providing a consistent and precise flat-dot structure.



▲ No pre-heating required. LED technology is ready immediately, reducing exposure times by 20–30%.



▲ Flexible light intensity control. Adjust output to match specific customer and plate requirements.

Smart LED upgrade solution
for your exposure unit

HALO LED Kit



Suitable for all
exposure units



Plug & Play
solution



Eco
friendly



- ▶ No special installation frame required
- ▶ Reduce exposure times by 20 - 30%
- ▶ Flexible light intensity control
- ▶ High precision LED exposure for outstanding plate performance
- ▶ Available for standard 3647, 4260 and 5280 sizes. Other size options on request

More info ▼



HALO LED Kit improves exposure
quality, save time, energy and cost

Provided with power
supply



More than 10 000 hours
of LED lifetime guaranteed

Compatible with both new
and existing exposure units

Exceptional exposure
quality



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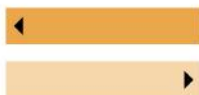
gj@glunz-jensen.com



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Save time, energy, and costs. Halo LED tubes offer a lifetime of >10,000 hours.



Halo LED Kit can be installed in new and used exposure units from all equipment manufacturers and is available in the most common sizes.



Homogenous exposure for enhanced quality results. Back exposure precision with <0.02 mm tolerance.



can modernise existing equipment quickly.

Q: How should customers choose between HALO and a new Flex-Pose LED system?

Per Arild: If they're investing in an entirely new exposure platform, the Flex-Pose LED 420 or 520 is the ideal solution. If their existing exposure unit remains mechanically sound, HALO offers many of the benefits of LED technology with a significantly lower investment.

Both options are part of the same strategy—giving customers flexibility.

Q: What message do you have for Asian converters?

Per Arild: Asian packaging companies face increasing pressure to improve quality while controlling costs and meeting sustainability targets. HALO offers a practical way to modernise existing assets, reduce energy consumption, eliminate mercury and improve consistency without replacing an entire exposure system.

LED exposure is becoming the new benchmark in flexo, and HALO provides an affordable pathway to that future.

Q: Finally, how would you summarise HALO?

Per Arild: HALO completes our LED offering. Together with the Flex-Pose LED systems, it gives customers the freedom to choose the upgrade path that best fits their production requirements and investment plans.

It's more than a new product—it expands the options for flexo printers looking to embrace the next generation of LED exposure technology.

This results in more repeatable plate quality, better dot formation and improved process consistency.

Q: What benefits will customers see?

Per Arild: The advantages are practical: More consistent plate quality. No warm-up time. Exposure times typically reduced by 20–30%. LED lifetime exceeding 10,000 hours. Lower maintenance. Reduced energy consumption. Mercury-free operation. Together these improve productivity while reducing operating costs.

Q: How important is the move away from mercury?

Per Arild: It's becoming increasingly important. Environmental regulations continue tightening and mercury-based lamps will become more difficult and expensive to source over time. Moving to LED removes that uncertainty while supporting customers' sustainability goals.

Q: Can HALO be installed on any exposure unit?

Per Arild: Not every machine, but many. We assess the mechanical layout, electrical system and cooling before confirming compatibility. Our aim is to support as many existing exposure units as possible, regardless of manufacturer.

Q: What does this mean for print quality?

Per Arild: The biggest improvement is consistency. Stable light output means more predictable back exposure, improved plate floors and reduced variation from plate to plate.

Ultimately, customers achieve more reliable production rather than simply higher peak quality.

Q: What about installation downtime?

Per Arild: Installation generally takes around eight hours. We designed HALO to minimise disruption so customers

HALO



by GLUNZ & JENSEN 



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Giving Shape to Ideas

Thermoflex Edge 80

The Fastest **Flexo Plate Imager** on the Market



XSYS

XSYS, a global supplier of integrated solutions for the flexographic printing industry, today announces the commercial availability of the Thermoflex Edge 80, first introduced at Labelexpo 2025 – the third generation of its laser imaging platform and the fastest flexo plate imager available on the market.

Developed and manufactured at the XSYS equipment facility in Ypres, Belgium, the Thermoflex Edge 80 sets a new benchmark in flexo prepress performance. With imaging speeds of up to 15 m²/h – up to twice as fast as competing systems – the imager significantly increases plate production capacity without compromising print quality. Its open architecture ensures seamless integration into all major prepress workflows.

A key innovation of the Thermoflex Edge 80 is its Woodpecker Nano 2400 surface screening technology. Building on the proven Nano 2000 platform, Nano 2400 operates at 2400 ppi with zero data loss, delivering the highest number of gray levels in flexo imaging.

The result is finer detail, smoother solids, and outstanding print consistency, particularly in demanding flexible packaging applications. Critically, these quality gains come without any speed penalty: the Thermoflex Edge 80 maintains speeds of up to 10 m²/h even with Nano 2000 surface screening active, and up to 6.5 m²/h with Nano 2400.

The Thermoflex Edge 80 is designed for maximum uptime. Industry-leading remote diagnostics, real-time monitoring via ProServX Cloud, and rapid intervention from XSYS' global network of flexo experts ensure continuous production and proactive maintenance. The system also supports seamless integration with Catena+, XSYS' end-to-end solution for fully automated, touch-free flexo plate production.

The Thermoflex Edge 80 is the first model in the new Thermoflex Edge

series. Additional size variants will be introduced starting in 2027.

"The Thermoflex Edge 80 represents a fundamental step forward in what flexo prepress can deliver," said Steven Vandevoorde, General Manager Prepress at XSYS. "For our customers, that means more plates per shift, faster turnaround, and print quality that gives them a genuine competitive edge. And it's backed by the kind of service and support that XSYS has built its reputation on."





**Make it real.
Put it on paper.**

UPM Communication Papers

FUJIFILM Business Innovation Singapore Expands Production Print Portfolio

- High-speed digital printing technology supported by FOGRA-certified colour management services and delivered by highly skilled service engineers with end-to-end solution expertise
- Supports high-volume production environments with faster output, production reliability and improved throughput across evolving print requirements

FUJIFILM Business Innovation Singapore has announced a strategic partnership with KYOCERA Document Solutions Singapore to expand its production print portfolio with the introduction of the TASKalfa Pro 15000C, a high-speed cut sheet inkjet production printer designed to support high volume printing with greater flexibility, faster turnaround and improved operational efficiency.

The collaboration marks a significant step forward for Singapore's production print landscape, bringing together FUJIFILM Business Innovation Singapore's end-to-end expertise in production print solutions, workflow consulting, implementation and technical support with KYOCERA's advanced inkjet technology.

Together, the partnership delivers high-speed digital print production supported by FOGRA-certified colour management services and highly qualified engineers, helping customers maximise uptime, maintain consistent colour and print quality, and achieve



Wee Tee Hsien, CEO at FUJIFILM Business Innovation Singapore

TASKalfa Pro 15000C



Powerful by nature.



SPEEDSET
ORCA
1060



Productivity	Up to 11,000 B1 sheets/hour
Width	Up to 1060 mm x 750 mm (41.7 inch x 29.5 inch)
Colors	CMYK (up to 7 colors optional) + primer + varnish

Dive into a sea of opportunities

Are you a packaging converter seeking a cost-effective way to print short runs of packaging? Capable of printing at killer speeds, the SpeedSet Orca 1060 sheetfed water-based inkjet press is set to make massive waves in the packaging printing market. With its stunning quality and its capability to handle a wide range of media, this cost-effective solution will enable you to dive into a sea of opportunities.

> www.agfa.com/orca

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reliable production outcomes aligned to internationally recognised standards.

Supporting Organisations in Accelerating Print Transformation

As businesses in Singapore continue to face rising operational costs and tighter turnaround expectations, growing demand for shorter print runs with greater flexibility is reshaping production print priorities. Singapore's production printers market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 4.4% between 2026 and 2033. The broader digital printing segment is also expanding at a projected CAGR of 12.8% from 2025 to 2031, driven by rising demand for personalised and short-run print and a shift towards more sustainable production methods.

Across the sector, some businesses are transitioning from conventional offset and toner-based platforms towards digital production to improve throughput and respond to evolving customer expectations. Yet, many organisations continue to operate ageing production environments, making it challenging to scale production inkjet efficiently while maintaining quality, reliability and long-term value.

This partnership addresses these challenges by combining proven production inkjet technology with local implementation expertise, professional colour management and dedicated support services, enabling organisations to modernise

production environments with greater confidence.

Wee Tee Hsien, Chief Executive Officer of FUJIFILM Business Innovation Singapore, said: "In production print, hardware is only part of the equation. Customers need a partner that can ensure consistent output quality, keep operations running smoothly and help them realise the full value of their investment over time.

KYOCERA brings a proven inkjet platform with strong technology credentials, while we contribute production expertise, implementation capabilities and local service infrastructure to accelerate customer adoption. Together, we are well positioned to help organisations strengthen operational agility and achieve business outcomes throughout their print transformation journey."

Delivering Greater Value Through Production Print Innovation

The addition of the TASKalfa Pro 15000C strengthens FUJIFILM Business Innovation Singapore's Graphic Communications portfolio and expands its production inkjet capabilities. Designed for high-volume environments, the solution brings together high-speed production, consistent image quality, broad media flexibility and integrated workflow capabilities to support a wider range of print applications, including commercial print, transactional print and corporate print operations.

Powered by advanced water-based pigment ink technology and maintenance-optimised printheads, it helps organisations maximise uptime, improve production continuity, maintain colour consistency and respond more effectively to evolving customer needs.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to customer excellence and innovation by combining advanced production technology with FUJIFILM Business Innovation Singapore's market presence, professional services infrastructure and customer relationships across Singapore. Businesses benefit from an end-to-end production ecosystem that streamlines print operations, reduces outsourcing dependency and delivers more consistent, high-quality outcomes and customer experiences.

Frank Shu, Managing Director of KYOCERA Document Solutions Singapore, said: "We are pleased to collaborate with FUJIFILM Business Innovation Singapore to bring TASKalfa Pro 15000C to more businesses in Singapore. As organisations modernise their production environments and shift towards more digitally enabled print operations, customers are increasingly seeking solutions that combine performance, reliability and expert support. Together, we aim to help organisations unlock greater operational efficiency, improve production flexibility and realise more value from their print investments."

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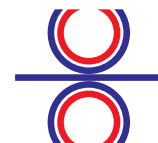
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THE THAI PACKAGING ASSOCIATION



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Messe
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Asia

The Quiet Revolution in M

How Commercial Printers Are Expanding

Every commercial printer knows the feeling. A customer requests a job that stretches current production capability. The options are familiar: outsource the work, decline the order, or invest in equipment that keeps future jobs in-house.

Canon addresses these different stages of business growth through three monochrome production platforms: the imageFORCE 8100 series, varioPRINT 140 series, and varioPRINT 6330 series. Each is designed for a different production environment, but all share the same objective — helping print providers increase productivity, reduce manual intervention, and keep more work in-house.

Considering the Capacity Question

For years, capacity limits were simply accepted as part of running a print business. Jobs that fit the equipment were taken on; the rest went elsewhere. That equation is shifting gradually as digital mono production technology has matured.

Today's systems can reasonably support a broader range of work than many print shops currently handle. The gap, in most cases, isn't in what the technology can do — it's in what a given operation has chosen to invest in so far. Jobs that go elsewhere, whether turned away or subcontracted, represent revenue that a competitor picks up instead.

In markets like Singapore, Malaysia, and across Southeast Asia, clients are increasingly attentive to turnaround times and how their documents are handled. Printers able to offer more in-house have found this a useful point of difference when competing for new accounts. A well-specified production system typically pays for itself within a timeframe many businesses find reasonable to plan around.

Three Systems, Different Stages of Growth

Canon's range is structured simply: three tiers, intended to align with where a commercial printer currently sits and where it may be heading.

For Print Shops Looking to Expand Their Services

The imageFORCE 8100 suits business owners considering a move into higher-value document work, without committing to an enterprise-scale investment.

A mid-sized commercial printer might have corporate clients asking for compliance reports or presentation packs — work that previously required referring the client elsewhere. With the

imageFORCE 8100, that work can be handled directly. The system supports a wider range of paper types and weights than entry-level equipment, opening job types that were previously outside the printer's remit.

When Productivity Becomes the Competitive Advantage

For printers managing higher volume or more varied client demands, the varioPRINT 140 series is designed to let a production floor absorb more work without a proportional increase in staff.

Automated paper handling and job management mean multi-format queues largely run with less manual oversight, freeing staff for other tasks. In practical terms, this gives printers a more credible basis for promising faster turnaround. The system's energy efficiency may also be relevant where clients have their own sustainability reporting requirements.

Meeting the Demands of Industrial-Scale Production

At the top of the range, the varioPRINT 6330 series is generally considered by larger print service providers pursuing



Monochrome Production

ing Capacity Without Expanding Costs



accounts in publishing or financial services — work that depends on consistent output across very high volumes.

For a printer looking to move into this segment, the equipment itself can serve as a credible signal of capability. Job streaming, finishing options, and Canon's reliability track record are intended to reduce operational friction, allowing more attention to be directed toward client relationships.

Managing Workload Through PRISMAsync

Canon's varioPRINT systems run on PRISMAsync workflow software, which handles job management behind the scenes.

For a commercial printer, the practical benefit is straightforward. Instead of manually sequencing jobs, adjusting settings for each paper type, or checking run status throughout the day, PRISMAsync allows operators to queue multiple jobs, set priorities, and let the system manage the rest.

Production managers can also use the PRISMAremote Manager feature to monitor operations and reprioritise jobs remotely, without disrupting the overall run. This becomes increasingly useful as job volume and variety grow, giving managers oversight without requiring constant presence on the production floor.

As commercial printing continues to evolve, investment decisions

are increasingly driven by business strategy rather than print speed alone. The ability to produce more work in-house, automate repetitive processes, and respond quickly to customer demands is becoming a defining advantage.

Canon's monochrome production portfolio — including the varioPRINT 6330 series, varioPRINT 140 series, and imageFORCE 8100 series — reflects this direction. Rather than simply replacing existing equipment, these platforms are designed to help print service providers strengthen operational efficiency, expand their service offerings, and position their businesses for long-term growth.

CPX grows with Heidelberg CX 104 and Coater installation

A life-long relationship with Heidelberg has helped CPX Printing and Logistics become one of the leading offset, digital, and large format printing companies in Queensland.

CPX has recently installed its first Heidelberg Speedmaster CX 104 6-colour press with coater in Brisbane. Replacing a Speedmaster XL 75, the CX 104 has delivered the business with immediate growth and efficiencies as well as providing additional revenue streams through a sharp increase in trade printing, and further expansion opportunities into new areas such as packaging.

Supported by Prinect workflow software, the CX 104 complements a multitude of Heidelberg equipment within the CPX business including a Speedmaster SM 52 offset press, Suprasetter A106 platesetter, two Stahlfolder TH 82 folding machines, two Polar 115 high speed cutters, and a ST 350 binder.

The newly installed CX 104-6+L press comes with the latest push-to-stop features from Heidelberg. This includes all press and colour settings, automatic plate change, and blanket and impression cylinder wash, without the need to touch a button as all the relevant information for an automated job change comes from the fully integrated Prinect Production workflow from Heidelberg. The Prinect Inpress Control minimises make ready times and make ready sheets and ensures colour consistency throughout the print run without the need to pull a sheet.

In addition to commercial and digital print products such as books, posters, and flyers, CPX offers its clients large-format signage as well as personalised printing for small to medium clients – through to universities and government departments.

Following a process of continuous investment in new equipment, mainly with Heidelberg, CPX has created the ability to produce the vast majority of its work in-house, reducing lead-times, creating efficiency and maximising customer service.

Even before he started CPX in 1995, James Bennett's journey with Heidelberg began when he became a printer almost 50 years ago. "I was born in Darwin and I am a printer by trade. I have been in the industry since I was 16 years old – and the entire

CPX has recently installed its first Heidelberg Speedmaster CX 104, 6 colour and coater in its Brisbane office, seen here with owner, James Bennett



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HEIDELBERG



The move to A2 with a six-colour CD perfecter, which was destroyed in the flood.

time I have worked with Heidelberg equipment – the first press I touched was a Heidelberg KORD,” Bennett said.

“I completed my apprenticeship under Gary Coleman at Colemans Printing in Darwin and I then moved into the government printing office working in the secure printing department. I then moved to Brisbane and joined Neta Printing, which had just installed its first Heidelberg MO A2 press and needed someone who could run this machine.”

Bennett then joined the Brisbane office of SOS Print + Media Group in 1985, now owned by Pegasus Media & Logistics. After 10 years, Bennett decided to go out on his own with business partner Steve Dougherty and start CPX.

“When we started CPX in 1995, our first press was a single colour Heidelberg GTO 52 purchased for \$89,500 and we would print everything on that. We printed during the day and then I would visit the site in the evening and print through the night as we only had one press and couldn’t afford another printer or staff another shift – that was our profit shift.

“To start with, we couldn’t even afford our own factory – we borrowed floorspace from another printer and when he went home, we would keep going and provide him with some extra money for power during the night.

“After our first three months, we moved to our first factory in Bowen Hills and bought a platesetter and a guillotine,” Bennett said.

The CPX business reached a turnover of \$1 million after its first 12 months and then after a conversation with SOS owners – Michael Peel and Andy von Faber-Castell – the decision was made to merge the two businesses and retain the CPX brand in the market. “We had a very long relationship with SOS and it ended well – even though we didn’t always agree on everything to do with the business – but that reflects a good partnership with strong and robust communication,” Bennett said.

“When we merged the two businesses – we had three Heidelberg presses – SOS had an SM 74 two-colour, an SM 52 two colour and there was our single-colour press. We then bought a new SM 52 A3 five-colour press and then later we bought a second one.

The next press we bought was after we traded in one of the five colour presses and bought a CD 74 six colour press in 2016. We have also bought a lot of other pieces of equipment from Heidelberg over the years including cylinders, platens, and guillotines as well.

Wherever possible, Heidelberg has always been our main press supplier. “Ever since we started CPX, we have worked very closely with Heidelberg over the years. For example, when we bought the Stitchmaster ST 350, Heidelberg helped move it up to our factory and then helped us completely rebuild and refurbish it.

Bennett said Heidelberg is a business that CPX has always been able to rely upon over the last three decades.

“In 2022, when our factory was flooded, all of our presses were written off. Michael Collins (general manager of service from Heidelberg) went over and beyond to help as we needed to keep printing to save the business. The flood happened in February and we were printing again by May. The team from Heidelberg helped me with a replacement XL 75 as they realised we needed a press straight away.

The entire team put in extra shifts and extra people to get the machine to us – and also included pulling the old press out and cleaning the new press – and whilst all this was taking place, cutting edge flood mitigation technology was being installed to ensure the technology was protected in the future. It was incredible that we were up and running within 10 weeks of the flood. I know that could not have happened without a relationship like the one we have with Heidelberg.

"In 2024, Gareth Price (CPX GM) and I travelled with Heidelberg to Drupa. During this trip we visited 10 separate Heidelberg customers – and this experience would transform my business.

The European customers we met had at least one, and sometimes up to three or four Speedmaster CX and XL machines operating in their factories – it was very impressive. These customers were also very generous with sharing information and explaining the importance of efficiency by investing in robotics, automation and the development of their own software and coding to futureproof their business.

"At the time, we were in the market for a new Heidelberg A2 press with all of the bells and whistles. I loved the idea of being 30 per cent more productive and my production staff were also very comfortable with this because we understood the capabilities of an A2 press.

"I asked the same question to every Heidelberg customer we visited in Europe – 'where is your half sheet press doing your covers and your small jobs?' and the answer I received was the same – 'we don't have a half-sheet press'.

"My takeaway from asking the same question 10 times to 10 different businesses and not finding any half-sheet presses made me think – 'I need an A1 press' – and this is why we have invested in our new Heidelberg CX 104 press which Dierk Wissmann (national sales manager from Heidelberg) helped us with. His advice and knowledge of the market was key to our purchase decision.



"A dear friend of mine – Tom Lusch from Platypus Packaging – who passed away in 2024, once gave me some great advice – if you're going to invest in new technology, it's absolutely imperative that the new technology brings something new to the business – whether it's a new product or service or efficiency – it must deliver something you are currently not doing.

"The CX 104 now brings a number of advantages to our business in addition to speed and additional capacity. It also allows us to print entire 16-page sections for the first time and in the future, we have the opportunity to enter the packaging market which is one of the fastest growing areas in printing.

"Just 10 months into owning the CX 104, the success we have achieved is significantly greater than we expected. If you told me 10 months ago that we would be as busy as we are and the opportunities that would open up – I would not have believed you.

"Our previous XL 75 was a half-sheet press with five colours and coater – and we were running two shifts a day

at 15,000 sheets per hour. Now we have the CX 104 full sheet press with six colours and a coater, running 16-page sections at 16,500 sheets per hour.

"When we installed the CX 104, we knew that it was a long-term decision and to fill that press we needed to double our workload. Our production team understood that this would take time, and I told my team not to get stressed if we couldn't fill the two shifts.

However, we have grown so fast that three months after the CX 104 was installed, we were filling these shifts and the work has not stopped.

"The CX 104 has also provided us with the capacity to take on more trade work.

Before we installed the CX 104, the percentage of trade work within our business was probably a very small part of our overall turnover, but now over the last 10 months, this has grown considerably.

Since we installed the CX 104, we have a press with the capability to match our reputation and integrity in the marketplace, with Heidelberg there with us as our biggest partner – every step of the way to support our success and be there for our future.

This story was first published in the February 2026 edition of ProPrint magazine and Sprinter News.



CPX's first five-colour press SM 52 5

Rapidly advancing into folding brings 2 million copies per month in-house

Since its founding in 1989, Sonique Co., Ltd. has built a solid business foundation as a full-service printing company. In recent years, it has extended the "communication expertise" cultivated through print into the digital domain, supporting its clients' business growth from multiple angles.



In January 2024, the company installed an MBO T50 (B2 size buckle folder) with the aim of bringing folding work in-house. Sonique had previously been outsourcing direct mail production of up to 8 million copies per month to several finishing companies.

We spoke with President Takao Mitsumura, Managing Director Koichi Takano, and Floor Manager Koji Tobe about the background behind this decision--made despite having no prior experience in folding--and the initiatives that enabled the company to bring 2 million copies per month

in-house within roughly one year of installation.

Deciding to Bring Folding In-House to Meet Rising Direct Mail Demand and Resolve Key Challenges

Sonique Co., Ltd. is a full-service printing company that specializes in flyers and direct mail, built around offset web printing. Today, it also supports its clients' digital strategies through three core pillars: "social media and websites," "web marketing," and "e-commerce and online shop operations." Leveraging the know-how cultivated in print

media, the company's strength lies in its communication strategy proposals--"combining print and digital to strategically drive customer acquisition and deliver direct results in the form of client sales."

Sonique is also deeply rooted in its local community, having continuously provided scholarship support since 2002 and contributing to local revitalization through community events such as calligraphy exhibitions.

The company has built its production system around a total of four offset web presses, including the System 18S (546mm Cut-Off Eight Page Web Offset Press) and the System 35S (546mm Cut-Off Sixteen Page Web Offset Press). Managing Director Takano explains, "Our main products--direct mail and flyers--have traditionally been produced in-house on our web presses, all the way through chopper folding."

The catalyst for installing a folder was a direct mail project reaching as many as 15 million copies in peak months and 8 million copies in a typical month. After chopper folding, the work required an additional "roll-fold (tri-fold)" process, which had been outsourced to several finishing companies. "It's difficult to raise unit

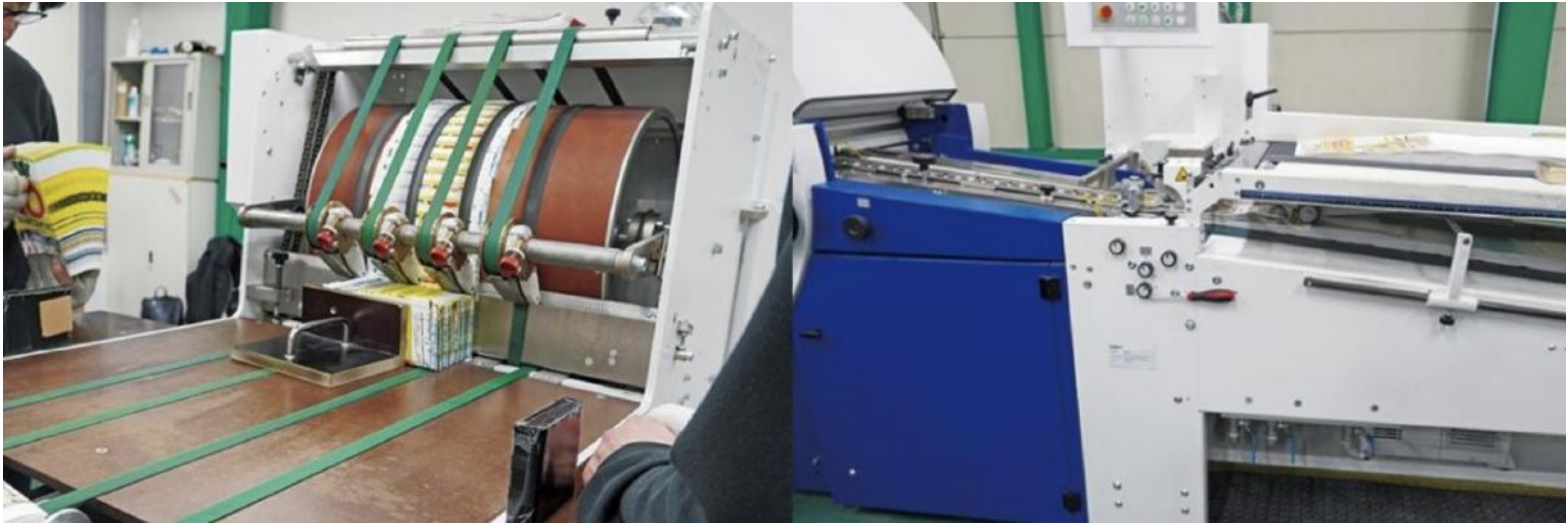


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prices for direct mail, and outsourcing also incurs transportation costs. From both a cost and process-management perspective, we felt the need to bring this work in-house," says Managing Director Takano. President Mitsumura adds, "We were also receiving requests from our customers to reduce costs."

To address this growing demand and the challenges of outsourcing, the company decided to bring folding in-house. In January 2024, Sonique installed the MBO T50 along with a unit-type folder from another manufacturer. President Mitsumura notes, "The Business Restructuring Subsidy, which we utilized with Komori's support, also helped make this installation possible."

On the selection of the machine, Managing Director Takano recalls, "We visited another company that was operating the MBO T50 and were attracted to its features—folding speed that could handle our projected production volumes, and the convenience of its unique slitter shaft. Komori's support framework—how closely they stand by us on the shop floor—was another decisive factor."

Achieving In-House Production with Zero Complaints

Despite having no prior experience in folding, Sonique built a stable in-house production system within roughly one year of installing the MBO T50. President Mitsumura says, "We are currently running at a pace of 100,000 pieces per day, producing approximately 2 million copies per month in-house." Through reductions in transport costs and outsourcing-

management costs, the company has achieved cost savings of roughly one-third compared with outsourcing.

Regarding operating conditions, Managing Director Takano explains, "We are running stably at 15,000 cycles per hour. Job changeovers are completed in about 15 minutes, so on busy days we consistently achieve more than 100,000 pieces in an 8-hour shift while performing seven to eight changeovers." The benefits of in-house production have also been reflected in quality. "Quality issues that were unavoidable when outsourcing simply no longer occur," he reports, citing stable operation at high speeds as a key achievement.

Shop-Floor Effort and External Support Enabling In-House Production Without Prior Folding Experience

The MBO T50 is operated by a team of three: one feeder operator and two inspection/bundling staff members.

Floor Manager Tobe, who previously served as a sub-operator on a web press equipped with a chopper folder, has led the launch of the folding team. While bringing folding in-house was a new challenge, he has built today's operating structure through repeated trial and error. Managing Director Takano comments, "Folding is delicate work—paper quality and paper condition significantly affect accuracy. The team confronts these difficulties head-on, accumulating ingenuity and improvements on the shop floor every day."

As a result, the company achieved its production target of 100,000 pieces per day within roughly one year of installation. Supporting this achievement, in addition to shop-floor effort, was a network of internal and external support. Managing Director Takano reflects, "Beyond Komori's service, being able to consult with our outsourcing partners and peer companies with folding experience



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was also a great help." Floor Manager Tobe adds, "At the time of installation, I received two weeks of training from Komori and mastered the basic operations. Actual production is a delicate world influenced by paper quality, image content, and other job specifications. Going forward, our challenge is how to put this intuitive expertise into words and pass it on to the next generation."

MBO T50 and Peripheral Equipment Supporting Productivity and Quality Stability

Sonique's main products--direct mail and flyers--require an additional post-press step after the signatures are folded on the web press. "To fold the signatures further, we chose to add the Round Feeder," says Managing Director Takano. By supplying paper at regular intervals, the system enables stable, non-stop operation.

For delivery, the company adopted the MBO SBAP, which makes it easy to check the condition of printed pieces folded on extremely thin paper. After pressing the signatures upward, the structure discharges them vertically, and the unit can also separate output into predetermined batch sizes, creating extra capacity for stacking and bundling work.

Floor Manager Tobe comments, "The paper comes out neatly aligned in

bundles, making it easy to grip and easier to bundle afterward."

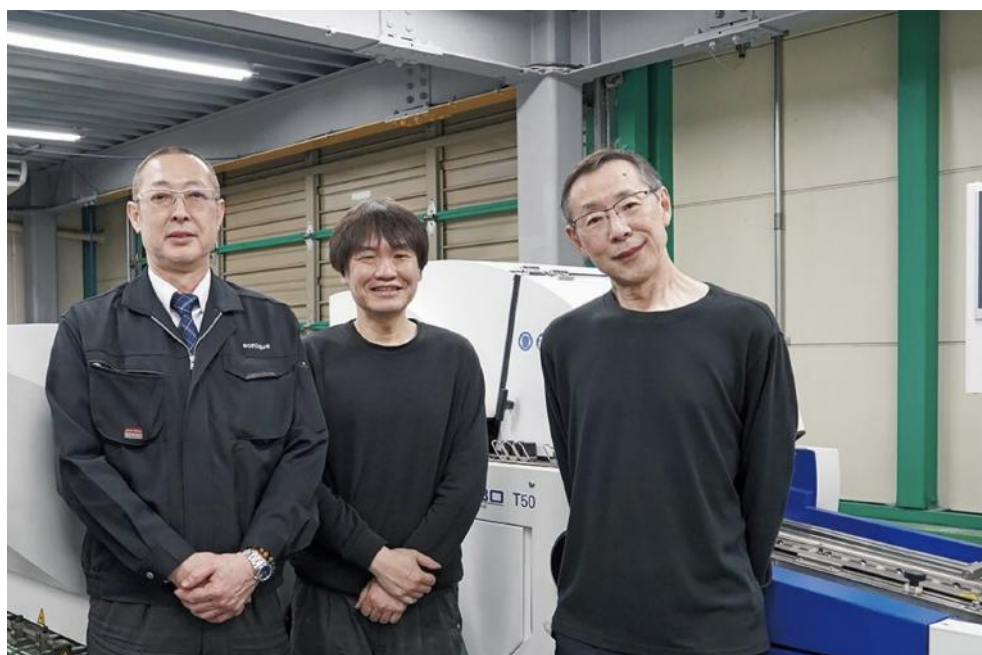
Pursuing Further Business Expansion Centered on In-House Production

President Mitsumura says, "Since installing the MBO machine, we have seen an increase in inquiries from fellow printers, and the scope of our work has been gradually expanding."

Going forward, leveraging the proficiency it has built, the company aims to accelerate the in-house production of high-value-added projects and pursue further revenue growth, while also beginning to take on

more diverse folding styles and heavier paper stocks.

Looking ahead to further business expansion, the company plans to install an additional System 35S in August 2026--a machine capable of printing 30,000 sheets per hour and performing inline direct mail finishing. President Mitsumura concludes, "As we ramp up production, we want to review our production framework and consider expanding processes such as folding. At the same time, we will place even greater emphasis on employee development."





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Mr. Cheon Ho-gyu,
President



10-Story head office building

Offering ultrafast service with same-day printing and shipping of business cards

Located in the heart of Seoul in an area where printing-related companies are concentrated, Print City Co., Ltd. is a printing company with 185 employees. They have steadily expanded by offering fast, high-quality, low-cost, high-mix, short-run printing of business cards as well as leaflets, fliers, and a wide range of novelty items primarily through online orders. To further expand their business they are leveraging an LED-UV equipped press to offer UV instant drying printing. We talked with Print City president Cheon Ho-gyu about the company's purchase of RMGT presses as a key part of their growth strategy.

Founded in 2003, Print City was quick to adopt an online order system, enabling the company to achieve rapid growth. Having developed an ultrafast internet printing business, Print City is the only printing company in Korea offering business card printing with same-day shipping for orders received by 3 p.m.

At their 10-story (plus a basement floor) headquarters building, levels B1 through 4 boast a state-of-the-art one-stop production system from editing and printing to cutting and other post-press processing to shipping. The company has also established a unique customer support system, including a number of delivery centre

offices located throughout Seoul where customers can place orders or choose to pick up their completed orders.

Print City's choice of Ryobi and RMGT presses played a key role in the company's rapid growth since its founding in 2003. Over the 9 years



Delivery centers with racks of business cards sorted by customer



The RMGT 1050TP-8 8-color tandem perfecter has greatly increased productivity for printing fliers



The LED-UV equipped RMGT 970PF-8 has enabled shorter lead times and eco-friendly printing



The RMGT 1060ST-4 delivers high-quality printing of covers, catalogs, brochures, and other products

from the start of their instant-drying printing business with the purchase of a UV-equipped Ryobi 754 B2-size press in 2004 up until 2013, Print City purchased a total of seven Ryobi presses to continuously expand and upgrade their production system.

In 2016, in order to further increase productivity, they purchased an RMGT 1050TP-8 B1-size 8-color tandem perfecter for printing mainly fliers. With its maximum sheet size of 1,060 x 758 mm, this tandem perfecter can perform double-sided printing of 10 A4-size sheets or 16 B5-size sheets. The dramatic increase in production efficiency greatly contributed to Print City's growth.

Over the succeeding years, the company has continued to strategically upgrade their production line with the purchase of an RMGT 790ST-5XL + SLD 5-color B2-size press in 2017, an RMGT 970PF-8 + LED-UV A1-plus size convertible perfecter in 2022, and an RMGT 1060ST-4 4-color B1-size press in 2023.

By building their main production system around RMGT presses and moving to LED-UV printing, they have succeeded in increasing productivity and further shortening lead times.

The company is currently operating five RMGT presses and printing at a constant rate of 600 to 800 plates a day.

President Cheon Ho-gyu discussed Print City's management philosophy. "Our management philosophy primarily focuses on two things, promoting employee welfare and offering stress-free online printing services for business cards and fliers. For online business card orders received by 3 p.m., we can deliver the printed business cards to the customer between 6 and 7 p.m. the same day. We have extensive experience and expertise in business card printing and a proven track record. Customers can select from among the many templates on our website that are available for download.

Customers can also visit any of our delivery centres to see actual samples produced using various paper types and printing methods."

"Business cards are mostly ordered in very short runs of 50, 100, 200 or 1,000. To efficiently run such jobs, it is important to minimize the time required for job changeover. That's where RMGT presses help out. Everything from paper setting and plate changing to register setting and density adjustment up to the advance sheet is very fast.

For example, with the 970PF-8, when printing business cards in runs of 200, we can print an average of 16 jobs per hour in straight printing mode or 8 jobs per hour in perfecting mode. Seventy percent of the work we do on



the 970PF-8 is business cards, with the remaining 30% being magazine printing. This press has played a major role in helping us achieve our goal of faster business card printing."

Regarding LED-UV, president Cheon explained: This is our first experience with LED-UV. Seeing that it has lower power consumption and improved environmental features versus standard UV, we had long been interested in trying out this technology to achieve an improved, powderless work environment.

So far the results have been excellent, and in the future we feel that the technological innovation of LED-UV printing will become a vital core technology for our company." President Cheon also shared the following.

"Our RMGT presses have enabled us to shorten operating time, reducing the burden on our operators. The RMGT 9 series and 10 series presses are a perfect fit for us as a company specializing in printing business cards and fliers with short lead times. We've had positive feedback.



Business card samples are sorted by paper type, thickness, and mode of printing



Asian Print Awards & Asian Packaging Excellence Awards

CTV Excellence Awards

NEW CATEGORY



Promoted by APTEC, CTV (Colour Tone Value) is a press calibration and colour control method based on the colourimetric values obtained from spectral data. Its key advantage is that it uses colour values (LAB)—rather than density—to achieve consistent and reliable visual results. CTV can monitor both colour and tonal values and can be applied across a range of printing methods, including spot colour, 4C, and multicolour printing. As a result, it helps improve tonal quality, contrast, and gradation.

About CTV Excellence Award:

Objective: To promote wide application of CTV (Colour Tone Value) press calibration method.

Requirement: Participating companies must be CTV Certified Printing Company.

The companies MUST use CTV in printing

Judging criteria: based on measurement (solids and tone), visual (print sheet versus digital proof) and level of difficulty.



Printing specification:

The participating company can choose:

- 1 Colour: 4C, 5C, 6C or 7C
- 2 Printing method: Offset
- 3 Substrate (based on the provided substrate data):
 - 3.1 Coated paper
 - 3.2 Uncoated paper



Printing specification:

The participating company can choose:

- 1 Colour: 4C, 5C, 6C or 7C
- 2 Printing method: Offset or Flexography
- 3 Substrate (based on the provided substrate data):
 - 3.1 Coated paper
 - 3.2 Uncoated paper
 - 3.3 Clay Coated Newsback
 - 3.4 One-side coated board
 - 3.5 PVC (for flexo)
 - 3.6 Label (for flexo)

Submission procedure:

1: After received the application, the participating companies will receive the "colour-separated" PDF file from APTEC.

2: For APA, please send 10 print sheets to the organiser.

3: For APEA, please send 10 print sheets and 3 pieces of dummy product to the organiser. Dummy product is for display only.



CTV Excellence Awards



Free Entry Form

Company name: _____

Contact person: _____

Contact no. (office) _____ (mobile) _____

Country: _____ Email address: _____

Wechat no. (if any): _____ Whatsapp no. (if any): _____

Please choose your participating Award and your choices of printing specification,
maximum 3 entries per Award (must fill in the following combination for each entry in separate Form).

☐ Asian Print Awards

Submission deadline: Aug 7th, 2026

Print Method - Offset (default)

Colour (choose only one item)

☐ 4C

☐ 5C (4C + Orange)

☐ 6C (4C + Orange + Green)

☐ 7C (4C + Orange + Green + Violet)

Substrate (choose only one item)

☐ Coated paper

☐ Uncoated paper

☐ Asian Packaging Excellence Awards

Submission deadline: Sept 4th, 2026

Print Method (choose only one)

☐ Offset

☐ Flexography

Colour (choose only one item)

☐ 4C

☐ 5C (4C + Orange)

☐ 6C (4C + Orange + Green)

☐ 7C (4C + Orange + Green + Violet)

Substrate (choose only one item):

☐ Coated paper

☐ Uncoated paper

☐ CCNB (Clay Coated Newsback)

☐ One-side coated board

☐ PVC (for flexo)

☐ Label (for flexo)

Asian Print Awards dinner Oct 15, 2026 at Shanghai

Asian Packaging Excellence Awards dinner

Nov 13, 2026 at Jakarta

Send all entries to -

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Huaikhwang District, Bangkok,
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Nordmeccanica is expanding and looking to the future

We talk to Luigi Guzzardi – Sales Manager Nordmeccanica Group about the plans they have in place for expanding their presence here in the Asian

Q: Please introduce yourself and your industry experience

LG: We are here with the three of us. My name is Luigi Guzzardi. I am sales manager for the Nordmeccanica group in the wider Asia Pacific region, based Italy. Ronojoy Basu is our Business Development Manager for our Metallizer in the Asia Pacific Region. Ron is based in India. Tim Klappe has just been appointed as Regional Sales Manager for the laminators and coating machines in Asia Pacific. Tim is based in Thailand.

Q: Please introduce your company, and what product sectors they look after across the region, along with the equipment you supply to the region.

LG: I can say that Nordmeccanica is recognized worldwide as a leading force in the development and manufacturing of coating, laminating, and vacuum metallizing machinery. Today, we hold roughly 75% of the worldwide market share in our sector. When you look at our setup, we essentially cover everything in the roll-to-roll converting chain for lamination, coating and metallizing. Except for extrusion lamination.

With regards to our focus, product sectors and the specific applications we look after, you can break down the market into a few main areas:

1. Flexible Packaging (Food & Beverage)

This is historically our largest sector and where our well-known Simplex series and Duplex SL lines for Solventless lamination revolutionized maybe even disrupted the industry. We are proud to say that Nordmeccanica



From left to right: Luigi Guzzardi (Sales Manager Nordmeccanica Group); Ronojoy Basu (Business Development Manager Metallizers Asia Pacific); and recently appointed - Tim Klappe (Regional Sales Manager Asia Pacific) who is based in Bangkok.

anding in Asia e



pioneered the commercial viability of solventless lamination back in the late 1970s. We are the clear global market leader in solventless lamination.

- Applications: Multi-ply structures for food, drinks, snacks, coffee, and high-performance retort pouches (e.g., PET/Alu-Foil/PE configurations).

- Focus: Today, our focus is heavily steered toward sustainability. Like helping converters shift to mono-material structures, recyclable paper-based barriers, and running thinner webs.

2. Pharmaceutical, Medical & Industrial Applications

These applications require ultra-precise coating uniformity and stringent regulatory compliance.

- Applications: Blister packs, transdermal patches, high-barrier pharmaceutical sachets, as well as industrial applications like window

films and even solar panels, and thermal insulation.

- Focus: For these applications, we have our Combi and customized multi-layer lines allowing interchangeable coating heads (such as gravure, solventless, or flexo) to switch quickly depending on the specific adhesive requirements.

3. Vacuum Metallizing

This is the area of Ronojoy Basu. He has been in the Metallizing world for almost 20 years. We have a dedicated vacuum division in which we look after the vacuum deposition of aluminum and other materials onto flexible substrates.

- Applications: Converting standard BOPP, CPP, and PET films into high-barrier packaging materials or decorative labels.

- Focus: Enhancing barrier properties against oxygen and moisture and optimizing energy consumption.

Q: *Looking into the near future, what plans do you have to keep your products at the forefront and maybe grow the business across the region. Also, What is your opinion of Ai and the industry. Will this affect our businesses looking ahead.*

LG: We recently introduced "aNDRomeda". This is an AI and machine learning platform integrated directly into our coating and laminating lines. It uses so-called predictive analytics to optimize process parameters in real time. This can really improve the coating uniformity and prevent defects before they cause costly waste and represent a decisive step toward the smart factory of the future.

So, yes. I definitely believe that Ai will affect our business and for that matter everyone's business. Companies really need to embrace Ai and the connectivity (Industry 4.0) technology to avoid being left out and taken over by more innovative competitors.



Nordmet N-Gen Metallizer



Super Combi 5000

Our Innovation Hub is another asset of Nordmeccanica. Working with new materials always carries technical risks. In our Innovation Hub in Italy technical teams can run full-scale trials on new substrates, barrier coatings, and adhesive formulations under real production conditions.

Equipped with advanced instrumentation, specialized laboratories, and deep process expertise, it provides real support to our customers and industry partners throughout development, testing, and industrial scale-up.

Q: The future of your industry sector you provide your equipment for, if you had a crystal ball where do you see technology in 10 years and longer

LG: Well, 10 years is a long time. Especially here in Asia Pacific. In my view, if I look into the crystal ball for the next 10 years, the Asia-Pacific lamination and converting market isn't just going to grow; it will change fundamentally.

As a region, APAC is the fastest-growing flexible packaging market globally. This is driven by urbanization, e-commerce, and an expanding middle class. That is good for us and our customers in Asia. But the rules are changing. I think there are two structural shifts:

First of all, the growth of mono-materials and the transition from automated machinery to autonomous factories.

The traditional approach of throwing three or four different materials together to get the perfect barrier—like PET/Alu-Foil/PE—will reach an expiration date. Driven by tightening recycling regulations and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes all around the world. Also in Asia, the future will grow to mono-materials (primarily all-polyethylene or all-polypropylene) and high-barrier functional papers.

The Challenge is that Mono-materials and paper are incredibly sensitive to heat, tension, and stretching. If you pull a thin MDO-PE or a lightweight paper substrate just a fraction too hard during lamination, you distort the web, ruin the barrier, and create massive waste. So, in 10 years, lamination machines will require ultra-precise, low-tension web handling that operates flawlessly at ultra-high speeds. We at Nordmeccanica already shifted from just "applying glue" to becoming masters of web physics.

I also believe that the future will see an absolute dominance of solventless lamination, especially with so-called the One-Shot technology like we have developed, because it eliminates the thermal stress of drying tunnels entirely, making it the perfect vehicle for delicate, sustainable substrates.

Secondly, we will see the shift from Automation to the "Autonomous" Laminator

Right now, the industry talks about Industry 4.0 and machine connectivity. I believe that in 10 years, the converting floor of the late 2030s will feature self-optimizing, autonomous lines powered by advanced Artificial Intelligence. At the same time, human expertise will remain essential to configure, supervise, and continuously improve these systems, ensuring they deliver their full potential.

At Nordmeccanica we have already laid the groundwork for this future with "aNDRomeda", our AI and machine learning platform which I mentioned before. Right now, it uses predictive analytics to optimize coating uniformity and prevent defects. In the future, this AI will be fully autonomous.

If a batch of film arrives from an extruder with minor gauge variations, the laminator will detect it instantly, recalculate the tension and adhesive deposition in milliseconds, and correct the error before a human operator even notices a fluctuation.

Through our Innovation Hub in Italy we are building the future. As mentioned, we are already partnering with material suppliers, adhesive chemists, and top-tier converters to run full-scale trials on the exact paper and mono-material substrates that will dominate supermarket shelves in the 2030s. The crystal ball is clear: the future belongs to precision, sustainability, and data-driven predictability.

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Finishing Lines: *The quiet profit centre in modern label production*

In label production, most of the attention usually goes to the press. That is understandable. The press is visible, expensive, technically impressive, and often the headline investment in any printing business.

By Paul Myatt

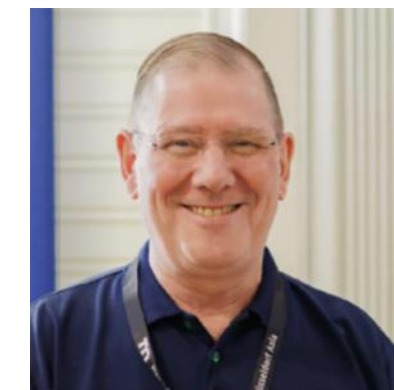
But in reality, many label converters win or lose margin after the print is complete.

Finishing is where a printed roll becomes a saleable product. It is where labels are inspected, die-cut, slit, rewound, embellished, checked, packed, and prepared for the customer. It is also where production delays, waste, rework, operator dependency, and hidden costs can quietly eat into profitability.

For this reason, the finishing line should no longer be seen as a secondary process. It should be viewed as a strategic production asset.

The changing demands on label converters

The label market has changed significantly over recent years. Run lengths are becoming shorter. SKU counts are increasing. Customers expect faster turnaround times, tighter quality control, and more flexibility. At the same time, converters are under pressure to control labour costs,

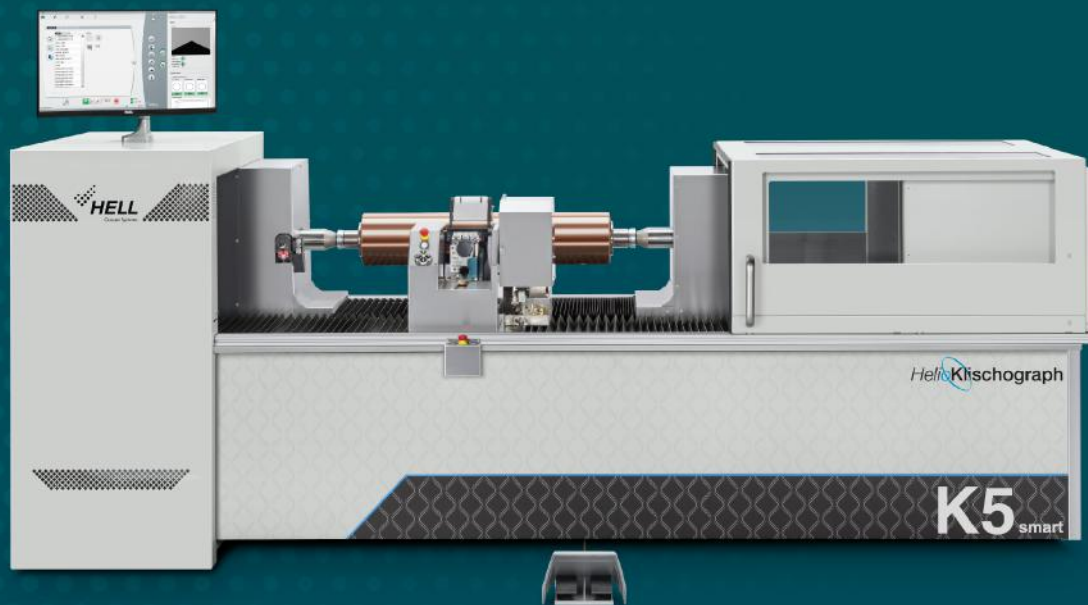


reduce material waste, and improve machine utilisation.

Digital printing has accelerated many of these expectations. A digital press can produce many short-run jobs quickly, but if the finishing department cannot keep pace, the benefit is quickly lost. The bottleneck simply moves from printing to converting. This is especially important for



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converters running a mix of digital, flexo, hybrid, and blank label production. They need finishing lines that can handle frequent job changes, different substrates, different die-cutting requirements, inspection needs, embellishment options, and varying roll formats without becoming overly complex for the operator. This is where the design philosophy behind modern finishing equipment becomes critical.

Why modular finishing matters

A modern label converter does not always need to buy the biggest or most complex machine on day one. What they do need is a platform that can grow with the business.

This is one of the reasons modular finishing lines have become so important. A modular system allows a converter to configure the machine around today's requirements, while keeping the option to add capability later. That might include additional die-cutting, inspection, slitting, lamination, varnishing, embellishment, or automation features.

Grafotronic has built its finishing portfolio around this principle. Its machines are designed around a modular and upgradeable platform,

allowing converters to build a line that matches their production reality rather than forcing them into a fixed configuration.

This is commercially important. A converter investing in finishing equipment wants productivity now, but also wants protection against future changes in customer demand. The ability to upgrade a line over time can reduce investment risk and extend the useful life of the equipment.

Automation is no longer optional

In the past, many converters relied heavily on skilled operators to manage set-up, tension, register, inspection, slitting, and rewinding. Skilled operators are still essential, but the industry can no longer depend only on manual expertise.

Labour availability is a real issue in many markets. Even where skilled people are available, converters need consistency across shifts and across operators. Automation helps reduce set-up time, reduce waste, and make production more repeatable.

This is where fully servo-driven finishing lines offer clear advantages. Better control of web tension, register, die-cutting, matrix handling, and rewind quality can have a direct effect on output quality and production efficiency.

For high-volume production, automation is about speed and uptime. For short-run digital work, it is about fast changeovers and waste reduction. In both cases, the target is the same: more saleable labels per shift, with less material lost and fewer operator-dependent variables.

Inspection and quality control

Finishing is also the final quality gate before labels reach the customer.

A defect caught at the finishing stage can be corrected before it becomes a customer complaint. A defect missed at this stage can result in returns, credit notes, reprints, or damage to customer confidence.

This is particularly important in sectors such as food, beverage, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, logistics, and industrial labelling, where label accuracy and consistency matter. Barcode readability, missing labels, die-cut accuracy, print defects, roll quality, and correct rewind direction are not small details. They are part of the customer's production process. Inspection slitter rewinders, such as Grafotronic's SR³ platform, play an important role here. They allow converters to combine productivity with final quality assurance, while maintaining a compact footprint and operator-friendly workflow.

Finishing as a value-added process

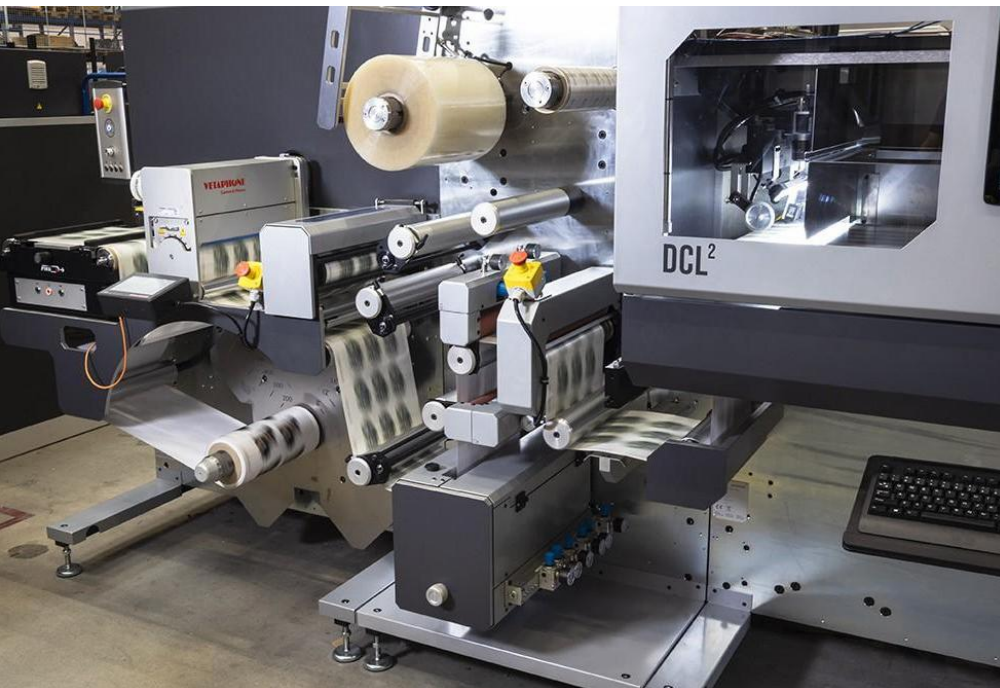
Finishing should not only be viewed as

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a cost centre. It can also be a way to create value.

Premium labels increasingly use embellishment to create shelf impact and brand differentiation. This can include varnish, tactile effects, high-build decoration, foiling, lamination, and other finishing techniques.

For converters, the commercial question is simple: can they offer added-value finishing profitably, repeatably, and without creating unnecessary complexity?

Grafotronic's development of solutions such as Haptic Digital reflects this market direction. Digital embellishment can reduce the need for conventional tooling and make premium finishing more accessible for shorter runs. This is especially relevant as brands continue to demand more variation, faster launches, and smaller batch sizes.

The opportunity is not only technical. It is commercial. A converter that can offer decoration, tactile effects, inspection, and converting in a controlled workflow has more ways to defend margin than a converter competing only on print price.

Matching finishing to the press

One of the biggest mistakes in label production is to invest heavily in print capacity without giving equal attention to finishing capacity.

A high-performance press needs a finishing line that can match its output and support the same level of flexibility. This applies to digital, flexo, and hybrid production.

For digital presses, finishing needs to support frequent changeovers, short runs, and variable job structures. For flexo and conventional production, it needs to support speed, consistency, and longer production runs. For hybrid production, finishing must often bridge both worlds.

Grafotronic's DCL² modular digital finishing line is positioned for this type of environment. It can be configured for different production needs and sits well alongside digital and hybrid press investments. More compact solutions, such as CF² and SCF, give converters options where space, budget, or production volume require a smaller footprint.

The important point is not that one configuration fits every converter. It does not. The important point is that the finishing line should be selected around workflow, job mix, future growth, and the customer segments the converter wants to serve.

The hidden return on investment

When converters calculate ROI, they often look first at machine price, speed, and headline productivity. These are important, but they do not tell the full story.

The real return from a finishing line often comes from less visible areas:

- Reduced set-up waste.
- Faster job changeovers.
- Lower operator dependency.
- Better rewind quality.
- Fewer customer complaints.
- Higher press utilisation.
- More sellable output per shift.
- The ability to add premium finishing services.

A platform that can be upgraded instead of replaced.

These are the areas where a well-specified finishing line can make a meaningful difference to profitability.

Conclusion

Label converters are under pressure to become faster, more flexible, more automated, and more commercially disciplined. Printing technology will continue to attract most of the attention, but finishing is where much of the production efficiency and final product quality is decided.

The finishing line is no longer simply the machine at the end of the press. It is a critical part of the production strategy.

For converters looking to grow in digital, flexo, hybrid, or premium label production, the right finishing investment can protect margin, improve workflow, and create new commercial opportunities.

Grafotronic's approach reflects this shift: modular, upgradeable, automated finishing platforms designed to support the way modern label converters actually work.

In a market where every minute, metre, and margin point matters, finishing deserves a much bigger place in the investment conversation.



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Faster job changes in diecutting largeformat solid board and corrugated board sheets

In the early 1960s, BOBST revolutionized the production of large corrugated packaging with the market launch of its Autoplaten® flatbed die cutters for format VII, for sheet widths of up to 1,650 mm.

Sixty years later, the company is once again breaking new ground, together with packaging manufacturer Leopold, through the pilot installation of a MASTERCUT 165 PER Dual Stream at Leopold's Plant III in Marbach. With its flexibility in processing both solid board and corrugated board, this high performance die cutter for format VII sets entirely new benchmarks.

"With the MASTERCUT 165 PER Dual Stream, we can operate on two tracks and die-cut both large-format cartonboard sheets and corrugated board sheets. For both material types, we achieve the same high speed and quality, while performing rapid job changeovers. BOBST has combined optimal processes for both materials in this flatbed die-cutter - successfully pulling off a real balancing act," explains Valeri Lach, Plant Manager at Leopold GmbH Verpackungen's Plant III in Marbach am Neckar.



Customer-specific adaptations

MASTERCUT 165 PER Dual Stream is the result of close collaboration between the experts at BOBST and Leopold. The machine, featuring a rear blank delivery, was additionally equipped with lateral delivery functionality. The combination of both pile delivery and high-pile delivery is the source of the machine's Dual Stream name.

By installing a comparable MASTERCUT 165 PER Dual Stream, including PALLETIZER, at its Packaging Center in Mex, Switzerland, BOBST

was able to thoroughly test technical modifications before applying them to the pilot machine at Leopold. Further strengthening its support, a BOBST technical specialist was continuously on site at Leopold during the first few months of operation.

"Over time, Valeri Lach and his team repeatedly approached us with requests and ideas that were incorporated into our development. Ultimately, this resulted in a machine that is truly unique on the market," recalls Hans Dreistein, Sales Manager at Bobst Meerbusch. Today, across its three plants in Ludwigsburg, Bad Lauterberg, and Marbach, Leopold now operates more than 17 die-cutters and 16 folder-glueers supplied by BOBST.

Maximum flexibility

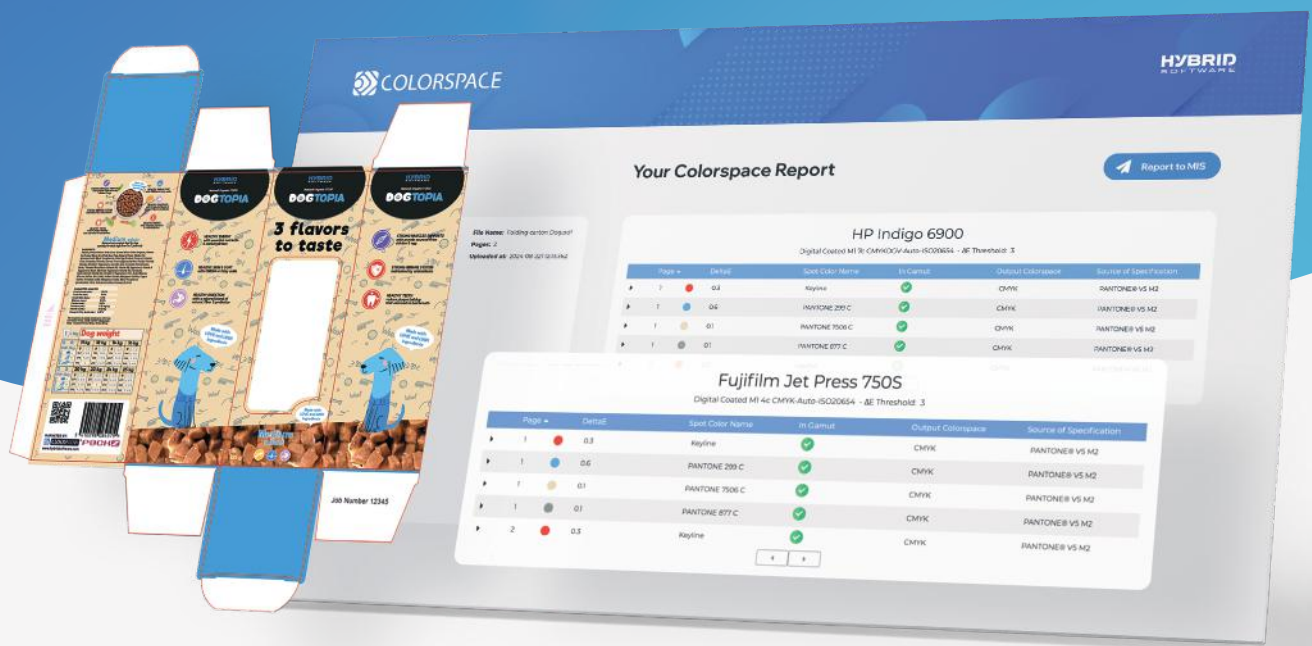
The innovative Dual Stream technology gave the company a new level of flexibility in delivery. Lach explains: "With the MASTERCUT Dual Stream, we have two options: the delivery of correctly counted and separated stacks of blanks at the rear of the machine, or the motorized high-pile or full-sheet delivery at its side. In addition, when processing solid board, there is the option of blank separation





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with single or double cuts and dynamic waste ejection. As a result, with just one machine, we can now respond to our customers' requests more flexibly than ever before in our production and cover their requirements from a single source."

The MASTERCUT 165 PER die-cuts solid board with basis weights from 300 to 2,000 g/m² and corrugated board with thicknesses from 0.5 to 7 mm. The processable sheet formats range from 600 × 520 mm up to 1,650 × 1,300 mm. Thanks to its high cutting force of up to 5.5 MN combined with low pressure on the sheets, even laminated materials with sensitive coatings pose no challenge. Its specially adapted sheet-feeding system pulls all these materials into the machine gently and with maximum reliability.

"More and more of our customers want to pursue a dual strategy and bring products to market in packaging made from both solid board and corrugated board, as well as sometimes including laminated materials. Thanks to the hybrid operation of the MASTERCUT 165 PER Dual Stream, we can meet their requirements in both areas with a level of flexibility that was previously unattainable," Lach states, describing the strategic advantage for long-standing customers.

Currently, depending on the die-cutting job, Leopold achieves speeds of up to 7,000 sheets per hour with the MASTERCUT 165 PER - both for solid board and for corrugated board. Leopold also demonstrates a strong customer focus by offering customer-specific pallet configurations with folding carton products via the PALLETIZER - and all of this fully automatically.

"There is no difference at all. The MASTERCUT 165 PER requires no special changeover work when switching materials. All of its devices are designed for this level of flexibility," notes Markus Bonna, Deputy Head of Plant III and Head of Logistics at Leopold.

Greater sustainability thanks to operator convenience

Among other things, BOBST developed movable racks and an Easytransfer system specifically for this machine.



The racks simplify the movement of large-format die-tool sets to the machine and back to their storage location. The Easytransfer tower mechanically lifts them onto the 1.8m machine platform. This not only makes the work of machine operators easier, but also safer and more efficient. With the MASTERCUT 165 PER, Leopold opted for the maximum possible machine elevation in order to fully exploit the maximum stack height of up to 2,000 mm at the delivery.

Automated setup procedures simplify job changeovers. The contactless POWER REGISTER, specially adapted for processing corrugated board and laminated corrugated board, ensures unique register accuracy. Stack positioning and sheet synchronization are also automatically matched to the register values by the SMART FEEDER, guaranteeing maximum precision during die-cutting.

The easily accessible machine offers a high level of operator comfort through its versatility. Up to 5,000 repeat jobs can be stored in the MATIC control system and quickly recalled. Machine operators simply change the die-cutting and stripping tools and make fine adjustments via the SPHERE human-machine interface with intuitive navigation.

Tooling synergies and energy savings also help to support sustainability in the plant whenever possible. Leopold can operate its new die-cutter in both format VI and format VII. It is even compatible with the tools used on the company's large-format BOBST MASTERCUT 145 die-cutters.

In addition, the MASTERCUT 165 PER features high energy efficiency: Leopold can switch off any process that is not required, ensuring that unused modules and peripheral equipment use no power.

Fully harnessing development potential

Until now, packaging made from solid board has been Leopold's core business. With the MASTERCUT 165 PER Dual Stream, the company has ventured into new territory.

"With the MASTERCUT 165 PER Dual Stream, we generally have the latest die-cutting technology at our disposal, but we have not yet completed its implementation in all areas," Lach explains, citing one example: "This applies, among other things, to the ToolLink option, which will allow us to further reduce setup times for repeat jobs." Several die-cutting tools have already been equipped with ToolLink data chips, which store job data. When the tools are inserted, sensors read the data from the chips and automatically transfer them to the human-machine interface.

Several BOBST machines installed at Leopold's plants are connected to the digital platform BOBST Connect - including the MASTERCUT 165 PER Dual Stream. Beyond the Helpline Plus service for remote technical support, this connectivity allows the packaging manufacturer to monitor the performance data of these machines. Looking ahead, it offers a range of potential opportunities to optimize production processes.

We said “entry level”
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Standardize Global Repro and Workflow Processes

The SAUERESSIG Group and Hybrid Software have entered into a strategic agreement to support the standardization and digitalization of SAUERESSIG's global repro and workflow operations. The initiative strengthens the technological foundation of SAUERESSIG's production sites in Europe and **Asia** and supports the company's ongoing international growth.

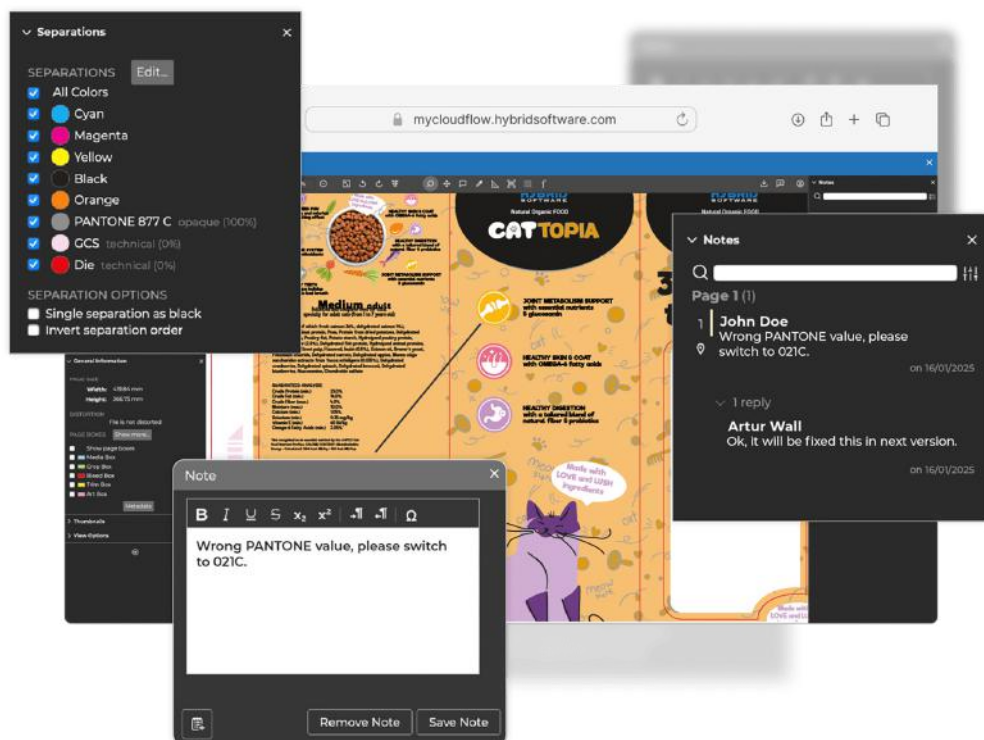
SAUERESSIG is a leading international manufacturer of printing and embossing cylinders for the packaging and surface finishing industries. By working with Hybrid Software, the company is implementing a unified and scalable workflow infrastructure designed to ensure consistent quality, greater efficiency, and reliable production processes across multiple locations.

The project focuses on standardizing and automating prepress workflows across SAUERESSIG's production network. Hybrid Software's modular workflow technology enables centralized process control, automated data verification and preparation, transparent approval workflows, and seamless integration with upstream and downstream production systems.

The result is a more consistent and efficient production environment, with reliable data quality from prepress through to cylinder production. Standardized review and approval processes help reduce turnaround times, minimize manual intervention, and improve the repeatability of complex printing and embossing projects.

A key requirement for SAUERESSIG was long-term scalability. The new workflow architecture allows additional capacity and new production sites to be integrated into existing standards without compromising quality or process consistency.

"Our production processes require maximum precision, repeatability,



and data security. At the same time, we need to be able to connect new locations in a structured and efficient way. With Hybrid Software, we have a partner that understands these requirements and supports us with a sustainable technology platform," says Ingo Beutler, Director of PrePress at the SAUERESSIG Group.

Christopher Graf, Managing Director of Hybrid Software, adds: "SAUERESSIG is known for industrial precision and the highest quality standards in a demanding market. Together, we are building scalable workflow architectures that combine global standardization with the flexibility required for future growth."

The partnership also provided

continuity during SAUERESSIG's successful management buyout. Throughout this period of organizational change, the company maintained a clear technology strategy, with Hybrid Software supporting the continued development of its workflow architecture and helping to ensure operational reliability.

The collaboration marks an important step in SAUERESSIG's ongoing digital transformation strategy. By combining SAUERESSIG's expertise in printing and embossing technologies with Hybrid Software's workflow and automation solutions, the two companies are creating a future-ready production environment that supports global standardization, operational excellence, and long-term growth.



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Langley Holdings - agreement with Heidelberg for Manroland Sheetfed service and spare parts business

Langley Holdings plc today announces that it has reached an agreement with Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (HEIDELBERG) for the transfer of significant parts of the Manroland Sheetfed business.



As part of the planned transaction, HEIDELBERG will take over Manroland's global service and spare parts business, including related intellectual property, market organisations in around 35 countries, selected assets, and approximately 600 employees.

Also, as part of the transaction, HEIDELBERG will secure the intellectual property relating to the Roland 900 / Cartonmaster large-format press.

The agreement represents an important step in securing long-term continuity for more than 3,000 Manroland Sheetfed users worldwide. Customers will continue to be supported by familiar local contacts, while gaining access to HEIDELBERG's global service network, spare parts infrastructure, and more comprehensive lifecycle offering.

Langley Holdings acquired the sheetfed division of the former Manroland AG out of German insolvency proceedings in 2012 and has since financially supported the business for more than a decade. As noted in the Chairman's Review of Langley Holdings' 2025 Annual Report, the Group delivered a record performance in 2025, but the Print Technologies division continued to record significant losses.

Against this backdrop, Langley concluded that a strategic solution was required for Manroland Sheetfed, its customers, employees and installed base.

The agreement with HEIDELBERG provides that solution. It brings together two of the most established names in sheetfed offset printing and creates a strong platform for continued service,

technical support, and spare parts availability for Manroland customers around the world.

Langley Holdings plc Chairman & CEO, Anthony Langley, said: "Since acquiring Manroland Sheetfed in 2012, Langley has supported the business through a hugely challenging period for the global printing press industry.

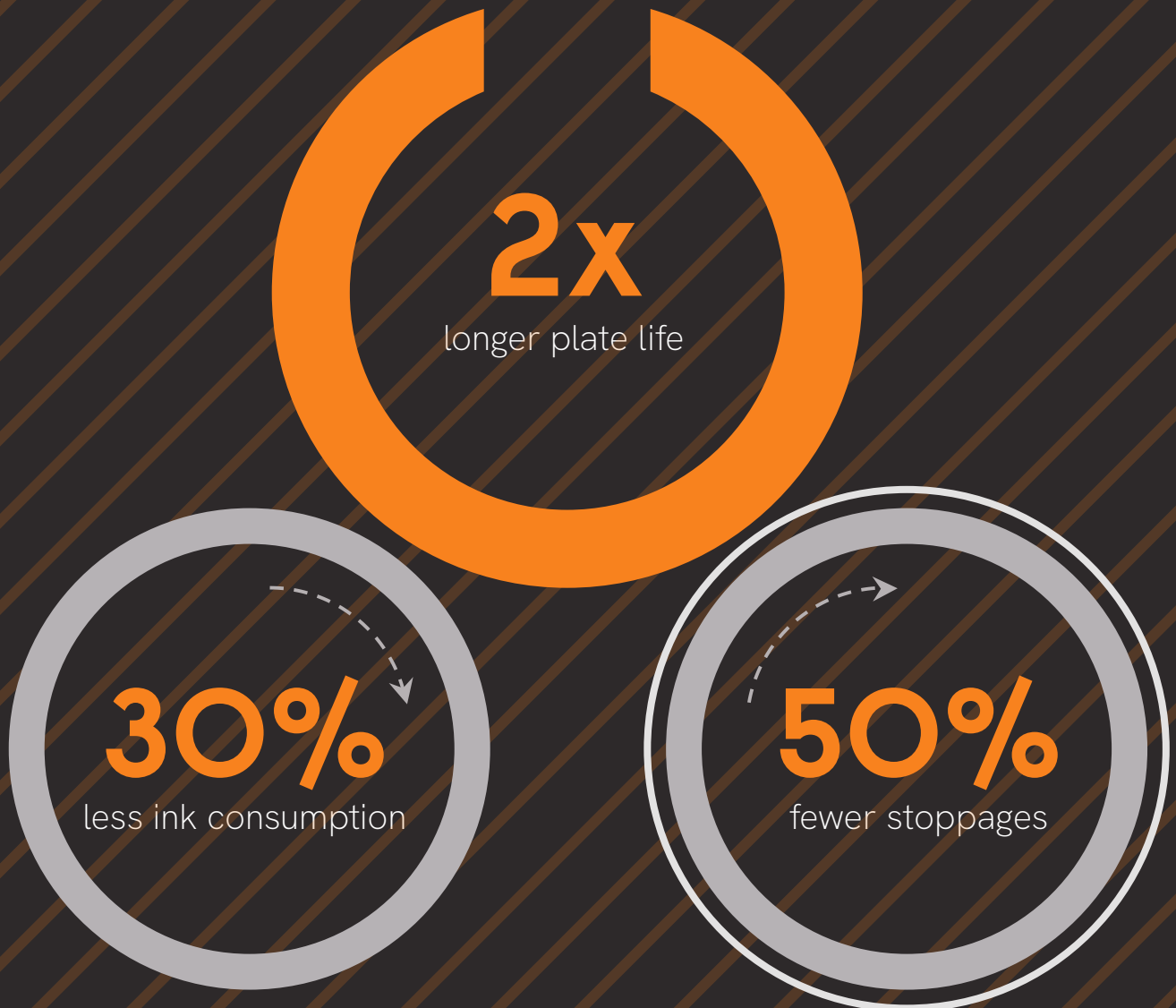
The agreement with HEIDELBERG ensures continuity of service and spare parts support, while placing the company within a global organisation with the scale and infrastructure to support Manroland users over the long term."

Jürgen Otto, CEO of Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG, said: "We are actively driving the consolidation of our industry.

The combination of Manroland Sheetfed's service and spare parts business and its sales subsidiaries with HEIDELBERG strengthens our role as a global systems integrator and gives us direct access to new customers, markets and growth opportunities. Together with our strong service and logistics network, we provide our customers with a reliable global supply of service and spare parts."

For us, this acquisition is more than just a strategic move – it is a deliberate continuation of a shared industrial history and a clear commitment to the future of printing press manufacturing, which we, as a technology group, will continue to shape innovatively."

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LEDcure NX from IST METZ on-site implementation

Successful pilot installation confirms the performance and service concept of the new LED UV technology from IST METZ

Phoenix Color has successfully tested the new LED-UV curing system, LEDcure NX, from IST METZ in a production environment. The installation and on-site support were carried out by IST America, the METZ Group's North American sales and service company. The water-cooled system impresses with its high performance, simple maintenance and maximum process reliability, even under demanding production conditions.

Phoenix Color, one of North America's leading manufacturers of book covers, dust jackets and high-quality printed products, has successfully tested IST METZ's new LEDcure NX LED UV curing system in a production environment. The water-cooled LED solution from IST METZ was implemented on a Heidelberg XL 106 as part of a pilot project and has since impressed with its reliable curing, high ease of use and low maintenance requirements.

As a company with high production volumes and short lead times, Phoenix Color has relied on LED UV technology for many years. The demands placed on the curing systems are correspondingly high: high machine speeds, numerous jobs per day and extensive post-processing steps require maximum process reliability.

"We switched to LED technology years ago," explains Chris Strine, Press Room Manager at Phoenix Color. "We produce at high speeds, in large print runs and across a wide variety of jobs. Our printing inks need to perform reliably at all times."

Partnership as the foundation for innovation

The decision to choose LEDcure NX for the pilot installation was based not only on technical requirements but also on the long-standing partnership with IST America. Phoenix Color had already gained positive experience

with IST's UV and LED UV systems in the past.

The company particularly highlights the close support provided by IST America's service and technical team. In addressing previous challenges, training, technical support and practical solutions were at the heart of the collaboration.

The water-cooled LEDcure NX solution was installed on a Heidelberg XL 106 for end-of-press and interdeck drying.



METZ successful



IST America provided comprehensive service and technical support on site during the implementation of the LED technology.

"IST America has supported us at every stage," says Don Pennington, Maintenance and Facilities Manager at Phoenix Color. "They provided us with the necessary tools, technical support and training so that we could carry out maintenance and repair work independently. This commitment has built a great deal of trust."

LEDcure NX proves its worth in day-to-day production

The new LED UV system was installed on a Heidelberg XL 106, one of the most powerful printing presses in Phoenix Color's production environment. The team from IST America supported the integration process from the dismantling of the existing system right through to full commissioning. In daily use, the LEDcure NX impresses in particular with its compact design and maintenance-friendly construction. The water-cooled system combines efficient LED UV technology with mirror-based UV energy control,

thereby providing a high-performance yet service-friendly solution.

"The new system has a very simple and well-thought-out design and delivers excellent results," says Pennington. "It is more accessible, easier to maintain and significantly more convenient to handle than many other systems." The LEDcure NX also meets high expectations in terms of production output. "The system runs completely smoothly on one of our fastest printing presses," confirms Strine.

Service as a key factor for success

In addition to the technology itself, Phoenix Color sees particular added value in its close collaboration with IST America. Short response times, direct points of contact and comprehensive technical support contribute significantly to operational reliability. "If we are successful, then IST is successful too," says Pennington, describing the partnership. "They

help us to achieve our goals and continuously improve our production." Looking to the future

Following its positive experience with LEDcure NX, Phoenix Color is already exploring further upgrades to its existing UV curing systems. The company is also showing interest in SMARTcure, the AI-powered control system from IST METZ. SMARTcure helps print shops to automatically adjust UV output to the prevailing production conditions, save energy and further improve process stability.

The successful pilot installation at Phoenix Color underscores IST METZ's commitment to developing innovative UV and LED solutions that not only deliver top performance but also meet the demands of modern production environments in terms of efficiency, ease of maintenance and sustainability.



Flexo: Why the Most Traditional Packaging Process is More Modern Than Ever

Flexography is undergoing an unprecedented technological rebirth. Often written off as a legacy craft, it remains the undisputed market leader in global packaging print. The technology is worlds apart from a decade ago.

Deep digital upgrades across printing plates, ink control, and machine automation have radically overhauled the process. This is why modern flexo in 2026 is highly cost-effective, hyper-competitive, and more productive for its core applications than ever before.

gravure handles extreme runs, flexo dominates the packaging value chain. Even as production inkjet advances with variable data, digital alternatives still lag behind on speed, scale, and unit costs for high volumes. For mid-to-high print runs, automated flexo

remains the most cost-effective choice.

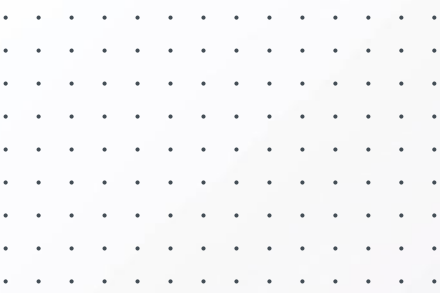
The mechanics of the print run

To understand why flexo dominates packaging production, look at its physics. It is a direct rotary relief

The origins of Flexography date back to the late 19th century as aniline printing. Back then, it was dismissed as a cheap, low-quality alternative to gravure and offset. It was the tech for basic paper bags, notorious for halo effects and coarse screens. The shift to photopolymer plates changed everything. Because these elastic plates conform to almost any substrate, from ultra-thin films to corrugated board, the process quietly captured the global packaging sector.

Today, flexo stands alongside offset, gravure, and digital production inkjet as an industrial manufacturing powerhouse. Its positioning is distinct. While offset traditionally rules high-detail commercial graphics and





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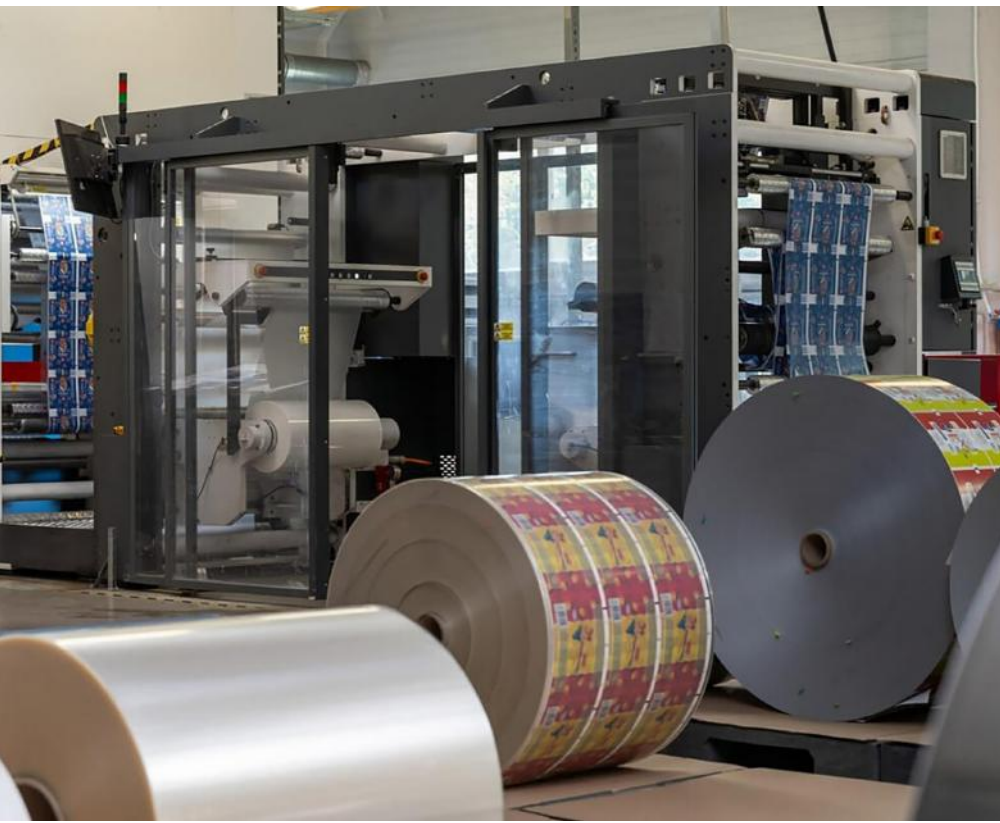
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printing method. Think of it as a high-speed industrial stamp: the image areas on the flexible plate are raised, while non-printing areas are recessed. The ink kitchen pumps liquid ink, water-based, solvent-based, or UV-cured, into an enclosed chambered doctor blade system. Here, it coats the anilox roller, a ceramic or metal cylinder engraved with thousands of microscopic cells. A doctor blade shears off the excess ink, leaving a precisely metered, microscopic film on the roller surface.

The anilox roller transfers this film perfectly onto the raised elements of the plate mounted on the plate cylinder. Finally, the substrate passes between the plate cylinder and an impression cylinder. The impression cylinder provides just enough resistance to transfer the ink with minimal pressure. In the industry, this sweet spot is called the "kiss print".

Expanding the colour gamut

Each ink colour requires its own dedicated printing plate and separate print unit. To reproduce photorealistic images, the press deposits these individual ink layers sequentially onto the moving substrate. With web speeds regularly exceeding 500 metres per minute, registration accuracy is critical. Even a microscopic shift at this pace instantly blurs the image. Modern converters increasingly rely

on an Extended Colour Gamut (ECG), adding orange, green, and violet to the standard CMYK mix. This fixed seven-colour set simulates nearly 90 per cent of traditional spot colours without press washouts.

Substrate versatility and systemic limits

Flexo owes its name and primary advantage to the elasticity of its plates. Because the photopolymer plate cushions the contact, it handles substrates where other methods physically fail. The spectrum spans from thin, stretchable plastic films to coarse, uneven corrugated board. The operational payoffs are massive substrate versatility, high overall equipment effectiveness (OEE), crisp solids, and exceptionally low unit costs at scale.

But there are physical boundaries. Every colour change requires a physical plate, making ultra-short micro-runs economically unfeasible due to setup costs. Variable data, like individual QR codes, is physically impossible because the plate image is static. Historically, the process also battled "ink spread", where mechanical pressure squeezed ink past the edges of the halftone dots, causing fuzzy edges.

Autonomous production on the shop floor

Modern connected automation has dismantled these legacy weaknesses. Setting up the press used to be an artisanal craft dependent on a press operator's decades of gut feel. Today, intelligent automation fills the skills gap.

High-resolution line-scan cameras continuously monitor the moving web. Operating within a closed-loop system, the software analyses the print image in milliseconds, spotting microscopic registration shifts caused by web tension, substrate stretch, or thermal expansion. Instead of manual tweaking, the system instructs high-precision servomotors to adjust the cylinders in real time. The press hits and maintains the perfect kiss print entirely on its own.

Material science fixed the ink spread issue. Plate surfaces are now digitally micro-structured. These microscopic patterns hold the liquid ink exactly where it belongs, eliminating squeezed edges and pulling flexo quality level with offset or gravure.

The zero-solvent shift

The ecological footprint has transformed too. Plate making once relied heavily on aggressive chemical solvents to wash out unexposed polymers, generating VOC emissions and requiring high-energy drying cycles.

The industry is shifting rapidly toward "Solvent ZERO". Water-washable photopolymers process using ordinary tap water, recycled through internal filtration loops. These plates dry in a fraction of the time, accelerating time-to-market while slashing the environmental footprint of the prepress stage.

The high-volume packaging benchmark

Flexo has done more than survive; it has modernised from within. It does not compete directly with digital print; instead, the two methods merge inside modern hybrid lines. While digital options handle short, variable print runs, highly automated flexo remains the benchmark for profitable, high-volume packaging production.

A woman in profile is looking towards a large industrial machine. The machine is emitting bright blue and purple light beams, creating a futuristic and high-tech atmosphere. The woman is wearing a dark top and has her hair pulled back. The machine has various components, including a control panel with buttons and a small display. The background is dark and industrial, with other machinery visible in the distance.

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BHS Corrugated mark success BHS Jetliner Xceed in the U.S.

Following the initial announcement of TRG Packaging and Display Solutions' investment in the BHS Jetliner Xceed, a major milestone has now been reached: TRG, one of the nation's largest independent corrugated packaging and display manufacturers, and BHS Corrugated, the world's leading provider of solutions for the corrugated industry, are celebrating the successful installation and full operation of the first BHS Jetliner Xceed digital preprint press in the United States.

Installed at TRG's facility in Zionsville, Indiana, the BHS Jetliner Xceed represents the collaborative partnership between the two companies to bring industrial-scale digital preprint technology to the North American corrugated market.

Together, TRG and BHS Corrugated have transformed an ambitious vision into a production-ready platform. Unlike traditional approaches that require individual facilities to maintain their own high-graphic print capabilities, TRG's centralized preprint model distributes digitally printed rolls and sheets across its converting network, extending advanced digital printing capabilities throughout its 21 facilities. As a result, the BHS Jetliner Xceed helps TRG meet growing customer demand for faster turnaround times, greater SKU flexibility, and more agile packaging programs.

"The successful launch of the Xceed is a significant step forward for TRG, our customers, and the industry," said

Kevin Miller, CEO of TRG Packaging and Display Solutions. "By combining this game-changing technology with our manufacturing network, we're delivering new levels of speed, flexibility, and graphic capability."

"This achievement highlights the strong partnership between BHS Corrugated and TRG," said Greg Grdinich, Chief Sales Officer - NASA (North America/South America) at BHS Corrugated. "Together, we are showing how advanced digital print technology can be successfully implemented in a demanding production environment."

Nils Gottfried, Senior Sales Manager Digital Print at BHS Corrugated, added: "Seeing the first Xceed in the U.S. enter production is an exciting milestone and a clear sign of how digital print innovation can deliver measurable performance on the production floor."

The successful launch of the BHS Jetliner Xceed demonstrates what can be achieved when innovative



Successful launch of first United States

technology and operational expertise come together. By combining BHS's advanced digital printing solutions for corrugated with TRG's national manufacturing footprint, the two companies are revolutionizing how corrugated packaging is produced and delivered.

About TRG Packaging and Display Solutions

TRG Packaging and Display Solutions is one of the nation's largest independent corrugated packaging and display manufacturers with over 100 years of innovation. From more than 30 locations nationwide, TRG provides solutions ranging from industrial brown box shipping containers to high-end graphic packaging, in-store displays, packaging supplies, and pack-out and fulfillment services. Learn more at www.teamtrg.com.





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BHS Global Website



Rapid efficiency gains across three locations

Upgrading three locations with advanced perforation technology and developing a production-ready application within six weeks? For our customers, we make the seemingly impossible possible: Atruvia AG was able to execute an order on short notice in exceptionally short time.

The question for Atruvia AG was not whether they wanted to accept a large-scale order. The uncertainty among the print and data experts was more about whether they would be technically prepared for such a complex undertaking as quickly as required. However, after consultation with us, a trusted and proven partner in print processing for several decades, quickly provided reassurance: This will work.

We at Hunkeler drew our confidence to commit to a successful implementation from our deep knowledge of the availability and capabilities of our teams. The task was not only to install a new Hunkeler DP8 inline solution at Atruvia's Karlsruhe site: A Roll to roll inline solution that connects the Dynamic Processor DP8 with a Canon ColorStream 8000 printer. Already existing DP8 modules at Atruvia's Berlin and Münster sites were technically upgraded.

At all three locations, print jobs for the order are to be executed—jobs that, due to their complex design featuring three different perforation types, certainly pose a challenge.

«We know what we are getting into with Hunkeler: we have always been well served there», explains Edwin Klemm, Tribe Lead Print Center. The Atruvia team also placed full trust in the fact that not only would the hardware at the three locations be ready for



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Canon ColorStream CS8000



operation on time, but the necessary control application for processing the order's print documents would also be available.

Backup and Efficiency Gains

The special requirement for this new solution was that we wanted to achieve product optimization. This means we needed to consolidate different perforation requirements into a single application—and we succeeded in doing so, explains Edwin Klemm, describing the motivation behind upgrading to the DP8 solution at three locations. The efficiency gains for this process step cannot be underestimated, given the volumes processed daily at the Atruvia sites.

We specialize in high-volume transactional documents such as account statements, credit card and payroll slips, as well as any kind of insurance documents, adds Christian Kempf, Business Unit Lead for Output Solutions at Atruvia AG. These are

sensitive documents, not only highly individualized but also reliant on a seamless and efficient production process. Timely delivery is critical to the business operations of Atruvia's clients.

It is no surprise that successful fulfillment in print processing holds special importance for Atruvia AG. With our three print locations, we are fully backup-capable at all times, says Christian Kempf. We use the same secure closed-loop process at all three sites, and we have a redundant infrastructure supporting the technology behind it. Kempf further explains that if an issue were to arise, there are always two other locations capable of compensating for any disruptions.

This redundant production capability at the three locations—Berlin, Karlsruhe and Münster—also offers clear advantages in terms of sustainability. The proximity to the postal service's

regional mail centres significantly reduces the transport distances for the documents printed by Atruvia, a factor that makes a noticeable difference given the volumes involved.

Every year, 195 million mailings leave Atruvia's printing facilities, heading to millions of bank and insurance customers.

Quick response times to issues, rapid reactions to short-term requests, and, not least, highly skilled technicians are some of the key characteristics that define this long-standing partnership. «We have worked together on many development projects and brought numerous initiatives into production, confirms Christian Kempf, highlighting the strong relationship with Hunkeler.

For me, Hunkeler has become a constant in my professional life, and I am very grateful for this partnership.



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UPM Label Materials

The right paper can create an elevated brand experience

Chris Berardelli is President of Media Horizons, a direct marketing agency focused on proving the power of print. He believes that print and direct mail offer boundless opportunities for creativity and deepen the emotional connection to brands.

"I started my career at R.R. Donnelley, a company with a corporate library at the time straight out of a Harry Potter movie—multi-story, rich wooden shelves, an opulent atmosphere. Clients

would tour the space, and we'd host meetings and dinners there. It housed pages from the original Gutenberg Bible, World War I pilot manuals, first printings of encyclopedias, the original

Sears Roebuck catalog, and iconic Life Magazine issues. If you looked at it as just a collection of printed materials, you missed the point. It was 150+ years of history, chronicled in print. Unlike digital files stored on a server or in the cloud, this was a tangible history. That experience shaped my deep appreciation for print and paper.



Chris Berardelli

President of Media Horizons

Media Horizon is a direct marketing agency focused on proving the power of print.

Started his career at R.R. Donnelley and was deeply inspired by their library with over 150 years of history, chronicled in print.

"Digital fatigue is real and print offers something distinctive".

In today's world, impactful creative matters more than ever. Creative sells – whether it's a TV ad, a TikTok video, or a printed catalog. Digital fatigue is real and print offers something distinctive. It can enhance the creative component of a marketing campaign and allow brands to stand out. Consumers' primary source of content consumption is through digital channels but from a marketing standpoint, brands must continue to meet the consumer where they want to be met. Across multiple generations, many still want to engage with print media and direct mail.

Recently, I heard a CEO of an apparel business tell an audience that his customers prefer an in-home shopping experience over brick-and-mortar and that the catalog is the best way to showcase the product assortment to those customers.

"Marketers now understand that print media and digital should be choreographed together".

For many businesses, nothing compares to print in making a connection between the products that they sell and their customers. Marketers now understand that there can be synergies between print media and digital, and that the two should be choreographed together in a marketing campaign. At Media Horizons, we like to call this media harmonization.

I have two sons, 19 and 21. I often ask them and their friends about their feelings on print. The responses always include intrigue and interest. My eldest loves music and he told me that young musical artists are fascinated by the creative possibilities with print, because they don't have to conform to defined aspect ratios to display content like on digital media platforms.

"Even digitally native brands are now increasingly including direct mail into their media mix, because they recognize the power of print".

You can see through the big murals and posters used by artists and musicians today. It showcases a genuine appreciation for the possibilities with print. Even digitally native brands – those that started as e-commerce businesses, who only advertised digitally – are now increasingly including direct mail into their media mix, because they recognize the power of print.



If you survey most marketers, they would like to use a higher grammage or basis weight paper and a gloss coating, because it lends itself to higher print quality reproduction. For direct mail, you often want something with substantial heft in the consumers' hands, because that can drive engagement and conversion. However, there are competing factors that need to be considered – creative design, sustainability, and cost.

In terms of sustainability, paper can carry a powerful message. Companies known for their environmental stewardship can choose a paper that aligns with their brand values and resonates with their customers.

I've heard some people characterize postage as the existential threat to the direct mail business because the rate of postage inflation is a multiple of normal inflation. We often try to shift conversations with clients from cost to

performance. If something performs well – even at a higher cost – why does the cost matter? Performance is about sales and profits, yes, but also about brand awareness, which can be harder to measure. The right paper can create an elevated brand experience. People want something tangible, something that feels substantial in their hands. The right paper makes images pop, deepening their emotional connection to a brand.

I believe the future of print marketing and direct mail will always be dictated by consumers, but those of us in the industry have a role to play as well. We must innovate, refine, and prove print's effectiveness. Consumers will decide whether they engage with print, but we must champion it."

"Consumers will decide whether they engage with print, but we must champion it".





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ENTRY DEADLINE
4TH AUGUST 2026



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311, 311/1 Rama 9 - Soi 15
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3D printed collectibles for 2026 LIV golf tournament

Fine details, textures, and color transitions from original artist-designed tournament bags faithfully reproduced as collectible limited-edition 3D printed replicas that blend sport, art and technology

Mimaki, maker of industrial inkjet printers, cutting plotters, and 3D printers, has launched an exclusive collaboration with Cleeks Golf Club to produce limited-edition, artist-designed 3D printed collectibles based on the Art of Golf series. The project involves highly detailed miniature golf bags that reflect the artwork of professional players' bags used during the multi-stage 2026 LIV Golf tournament.

Created in a full-color, photorealistic process, each miniature measures about 15cm and is printed in one piece on Mimaki's 3DUJ-553 3D printer—eliminating the need for painting or assembly. The collection features 14 different renowned artists, each contributing a unique design. With only 25 units per design, the total run is 350 models available to purchase across the 14 LIV events.

Alongside the miniatures, Mimaki was commissioned to produce larger, half-scale reproductions of each Art of Golf

bag design. Measuring 50cm, these models are displayed as eye-catching showpieces in the clubhouse at each LIV event.

Mimaki's 3D Segment Manager, Matthew Stark, says traditional production often forces compromises such as simplified shapes, reduced color, or extra manual finishing, whereas 3D printing enables short-run, highly precise, full-color output with consistent results "delivered in a matter of hours." He adds that achieving the same level of realism and fine detail would be extremely difficult with conventional hand model-making.

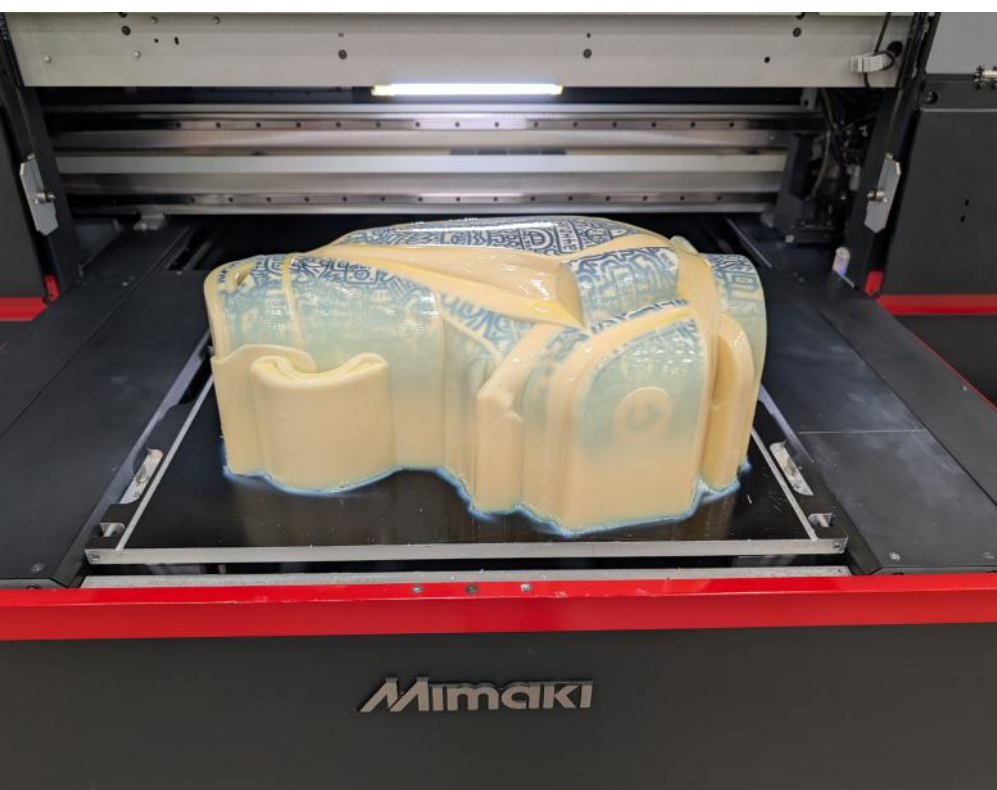
Cleeks Golf Club's General Manager, Jonas Mårtensson, describes Art of Golf as an effort to expand what the sport can be—using the golf bag as a canvas to celebrate artists, cultures, and creative voices worldwide. He says the collectibles preserve the integrity of the original designs while offering fans something they can take home,



calling them "miniature works of art," not just small replicas.

The Art of Golf series includes artist designs inspired by regions and cultures connected to the 2026 LIV Golf tournament, with work coming from countries including Korea, Mexico, Singapore, and the USA. One featured design draws inspiration from Virginia, using motifs like the Flowering Dogwood and Northern Cardinal to reflect themes of renewal, protection, and identity.

The collaboration highlights Mimaki's photorealistic full-color 3DUJ-553 capabilities, which can produce more than 10 million unique colors. Beyond art and collectibles, the company notes that similar 3D printing benefits are also being used for medical and anatomical modelling, product design and prototyping, and other creative and commercial applications.





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ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Asian Packaging Excellence Awards have been awarding quality in Packaging Excellence for the last 25 years across Asia

IT'S NOT EASY TO WIN

Note:

NOTICE

Awards Dinner held in Jakarta Indonesia on the 13th November 26.
Will you join us on stage?



TRADE HOUSE OF
THE YEAR

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DIRECTIONS FOR USE

You must start collecting your best 2026 packaging work to submit no later than September 4th - 2026

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Flexographic Categories

Categories 1- 7

1. Narrow Web Flexo (up to 500mm)
A. Paper/Board B. Film
2. Mid Web Flexo (501mm to 914mm)
A. Paper B. Film
3. Metalized Substrate
4. Wide Web Flexo (915 width and more)
A. Paper B. Film
5. Flexo Carton & Cups
6. Post Print for Corrugates
7. Pre Print for Corrugated

Label Categories

Categories 8- 17

8. Flexographic Labels
9. Letterpress
10. Offset Labels
11. Gravure Labels
12. Combination Printing (different processes)
13. Labels Non Pressure Sensitive Materials
14. Digital Labels - 4 colours
15. Digital Labels 5 colours
16. Digital Labels 6 colours
17. Digital Labels 7 + colours

Gravure Categories

Categories 18- 22

18. Gravure Paper/Board
19. Metallised Paper (surface print)
20. Aluminium Foil
21. Gravure Film
A. Surface Print B. Reverse Print
22. Specialty Gravure (must provide written explanation)

Trade House of The Year

37. Open to all trade houses. **The jobs must be printed in Asia.** You must supply prints of your choice of the best work produced by you and the printers. If any special process used please provide on a separate paper.

Look out for the new Award Category for CTV - Sponsored by



Other Competition Categories

Categories 23- 36

23. Embellishment
24. Digital Embellishment
25. Mock-up/Sample
A. Rigid or B. Soft
26. Digital Mock-up/Sample
A Rigid or B Soft
27. Digital Packaging
A. Soft Carton or B. Rigid Material
28. Hybrid Printing
29. Offset Packaging
A. Soft Carton or B. Rigid Material
30. Company Self Promotion
31. Packaging - Point Of Sale
32. Digital Food Pouches
33. Innovation New Technology
34. Packaging Proofing
35. Digital Packaging - Wide Format
36. Offset Packaging - Corrugated

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ENTRY FORM ASIAN PACKAGING EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026

Deadline for Entries Submission: **4th September 2026, 5pm**

Remember to submit **2** copies of each job! Why? - Just in case one is damaged.

Maximum **3** entries per category

SECTION A

Category Number Entered (See opposite page) _____

Printing Company _____

Company Address _____

Country _____ Contact Number _____

Title of Entry _____

Your Name _____ Email _____

Signature _____



SECTION B - TAPE THIS TO THE BACK OF THE ENTRY

Category Entered _____ Number of colours _____

Title of Entry _____

*Brand of Machine _____ *Ink Supplier _____

*Plate Supplier _____ *Tape Supplier _____

*Pre Press by _____ *Printed Quantity _____

*Paper/Board/Film/Label supplier _____

Send all entries to - **APEA Competition 2026**
c/o The Thai Printing Association - 311, 311/1 Rama 9 - Soi 15 - Huaikhwang District,
Bangkok 10310 Thailand Tel: +66 2 719 6685

PLEASE ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE WHEN SHIPPING ENTRIES

Declare "Non Commercial Value" - Printing Competition on courier ticket

All entries are **non-returnable**

email: paul@ppiainnovation.com Tel.: +61 422 869728

You **MUST** fill out these production details

You **MUST** fill out these production details



The 2026 Asian Packaging Excellence Awards Checklist!

1. Have you pick your **best work** to be judged?
2. Have you checked the work to make sure it's **1st class quality** - no hickies - no scuffing - no miss register?
3. Check it **ONE** more time!
4. Are there **2 copies** for each entry and are they packed correctly for shipment?
5. Have you completed the entry form (Section A & B) correctly and pasted Section B onto the back of the entry?
6. Have you left enough time for shipment?
Friday, 4th September 2026 - 5pm is the Deadline.
7. Check that you have written the **address** correctly
8. If you win YOU MUST attend the awards dinner to receive your award



Send all entries to
APEA Competition 2026
c/o The Thai Printing Association - 311, 311/1 Rama 9 - Soi 15
 Huaikhwang District, Bangkok 10310 Thailand
 Tel: +66 2 719 6685



PLEASE ALLOW TIME FOR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE WHEN SHIPPING ENTRIES

Declare "No Commercial Value" for Printing Competition on the courier ticket by Friday, 4th September 2026

All entries are **non-returnable**

The Awards Dinner will be held on November 13th in Jakarta Indonesia

www.ppiainnovation.com
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The annual Asian Packaging Excellence Awards was founded **25 Years Ago** to recognise outstanding achievement in the packaging industries across Asia. With more than half the world's population represented in this fast growing area, communication in the form of printed matter links Asia's diverse cultures. It is imperative that such print achievements do not go unrecognised, especially among the population base that Asia enjoys.

The Awards are judged on a wholly quality-oriented set of criteria to ensure that fair play is enacted at all times.

The **Independent Judging Panel** comprises highly qualified personnel from within Asia and around the world. The independent judging panel has no knowledge of the actual entrants details. ALL ENTRIES ARE NUMBER-CODED. Entries must be commercially produced work.

The Asian Packaging Excellence Awards is the **only regional print quality competition of its kind in Asia**. Supported by leading industry-supply companies, any progressive quality packaging print house should enter and prove that they are the best - by winning the Gold, Silver or Bronze award. Proving pride in quality awareness is what customers love to see. Win and you can prove it!