PRINT & PACKAGING INNOVATION ASIA MAGAZINE

Serving Printing, Packaging and Publishing Industries across Asia Pacific since 1985 - Issue 6 2026

Partnerships Innovation Support

Daisuke Mori, Managing Director of Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia, will reveal his strategic plans to strengthen the company's presence in Asia, emphasizing innovation and regional growth.

Read all about this on Page 8

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ENTRY FORM

Recognising the best in Print production from across Asia Since 2001

25 YEARS IN ASIA

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

FUJIFILM

Best in Digital Award

CGS ORIS

Best Use of Colour Award

MGI Digital Technology

KONICA MINOLTA

Best In Digital Embellishment

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Best In Offset Award

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2026 ASIAN PRINT AWARDS

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 Catergories

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 catergory

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 seperate page

SECTION A

You MUST fill out these production details

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)

You MUST fill out these production details

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)
Pleasse 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

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:

In this issue

Issue 6 - 2026

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Strengthen partnerships support sustainable grov

Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia has been at the forefront in servicing our industry for decades here in Asia. Now that a new Managing Director has arrived we thought it good to sit down with Daisuke Mori and see what he feels about the industry as it stands today and what plans he and his team have as they move forward.

Q: Could you please introduce yourself and share a brief overview of your industry experience?

DM: Thank you for having me, Paul. My name is Daisuke Mori, but you may call me Mori. I am currently the Managing Director of Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia.

I have been with Konica Minolta for 34 years, and a significant part of my career has been focused on working closely with customers and sales companies across Asia to create business value through print and digital transformation. Over the years, I have taken on different responsibilities across sales, marketing, strategy, and business leadership, including nearly two decades of experience with sales company operations across markets such as Japan, China, Southeast Asia, and India.

This experience has shaped the way I see the business. For me, technology is only meaningful when it helps customers solve real challenges, improve productivity, and create new opportunities. Based on my experience across Asia, I strongly believe that staying close to customers and partners is the foundation of sustainable growth.

Before taking on this regional leadership role, I spent the past six years leading global initiatives for Konica Minolta's digital production print business. During this time, I worked closely with teams across different markets to strengthen our business strategy, expand our solution offerings, and support the continued growth of our production print business worldwide.

Today, Konica Minolta has continued to build a strong global presence in digital production print, with our digital colour printers holding leading market share in approximately 40 countries around the world. To me, this reflects not only the strength of our technology, but also the trust of our customers and the commitment of our teams and partners across markets.

Q: Could you introduce Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia and your role as Managing Director?

DM: Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia is based in Singapore and serves as the regional headquarters for Konica Minolta's business operations across Asia. We support and strengthen our National Operating Companies and business partners across the region by providing strategic direction, business development support, marketing, technical expertise, and customer-focused solutions.

As Managing Director, my role is to take a broader leadership responsibility in shaping and executing our regional strategy. My focus is to drive sustainable growth, strengthen collaboration across our diverse markets, and ensure that we continue to deliver meaningful value to our customers and partners.

s, drive innovation, and wth across the region

Daisuke Mori, Managing Director of Konica Minolta Business Solutions Asia.

What is important to me is that our role goes beyond business growth alone. We want to contribute to the continued development of the printing industry and the wider society we serve. Today, the industry is facing challenges such as labour shortages, skills gaps, productivity pressure, and the need for more sustainable operations. Through digital solutions, workflow automation, and continuous innovation, we aim to help customers address these challenges in a practical way.

This direction is closely aligned with Konica Minolta's vision to be a global company that is vital to society, continually evolving and contributing to the sustainable growth of society and individuals. For us, this means being not only a technology provider, but a partner that helps customers and industries move forward.

Q: As you return to this regional leadership role, what are your thoughts on the Asia region?

DM: My earlier career gave me valuable exposure to the Asia region, and returning to Singapore in this regional leadership role after 12 years is both meaningful and exciting. It gives me a renewed perspective on how much the region has evolved, not only economically, but also in terms of customer expectations, business maturity, and the pace of digital transformation.

From my recent global role, I have continued to monitor the development of Asia closely, and I can see how much its presence in the global economy has become more significant. According to the IMF, Asia remains the world's growth engine, generating around 60% of global growth, which is far higher than its share of global GDP. Within this, ASEAN stands out as an especially dynamic and high-potential region, supported by diverse markets, growing business activity, and strong long-term potential.

What excites me most is not only the economic growth, but the mindset of customers in this region. Across ASEAN, I see businesses becoming more ambitious, more agile, and

more open to transformation. Many customers are no longer asking only for better machines. They are asking how they can improve productivity, respond faster to market needs, manage manpower challenges, and create new value for their own customers.

This is where I believe Konica Minolta has an important role to play. We are well positioned to support customers and partners across Asia not only through advanced print technologies, but also by helping them strengthen competitiveness and adapt to the changing needs of the market.

At the same time, our business in ASEAN has continued to build strong momentum, supported by the launch of new models, stronger regional collaboration, and the trust of our customers and partners. This gives us a strong foundation to continue contributing to the growth and development of the region's print ecosystem.

Q: How do you see Konica Minolta continuing its success across the region, and what has contributed to this strong foundation?

DM: I believe our success in Asia has been built over many years through trust, reliability, and close partnerships with our customers and business partners. I must also acknowledge the strong foundation built by my predecessor and our teams across the region. They have established a solid organisation, service network, and support system that allow us to serve customers effectively across very diverse markets.

One important reflection of this foundation is our continued leadership in ASEAN. Our four consecutive years of leadership in the Colour Light and Colour Mid Production segments show that customers continue to place their trust in Konica Minolta. To me, this is not only about product performance. It also reflects our regional scale, our service and support capabilities, and the reliability that customers expect from us.

What differentiates Konica Minolta is not only our technology, but our ability to support customers across their operations, workflow, service needs, and long-term business transformation. Customers today are looking for reliable systems, stable output, higher uptime, easier operation, and automation that can help them improve productivity while reducing dependency on highly skilled manual processes.

For example, our IQ-501 Intelligent Quality Optimiser helps automate image registration and colour control, supporting consistent quality while reducing manual adjustment and operator time. Technologies like this are important because they make production print more accessible, efficient, and reliable, even for operators with different levels of experience.

Moving forward, we will continue to strengthen our Production Print and Industrial Print business through a more integrated approach, especially in the commercial printing market. But our focus is not only on hardware. We also want to strengthen workflow automation, digital solutions, service support, and post-sales capabilities, so that we can support customers more comprehensively.

Ultimately, our direction is to help lead the digital transformation of printing operations, not simply replace analogue printing machines. By focusing on reliability, automation, productivity, and ease of use, we aim to help customers improve their business performance while also contributing to the long-term development of the printing industry.

Q: Are there any new initiatives or activities planned to further engage customers across the region?

DM: Customer engagement will continue to be very important for us. For Konica Minolta, engaging customers is not only about introducing products. It is about creating opportunities to listen to them, understand their business challenges, and work together on ideas that can help them grow.

KONICA MINOLTA

Giving Shape to Ideas

UNLEASH CREATIVITY WITH THE 5TH COLOUR TONER

REACH YOUR AMBITION

AccurioPress
C14010/C14010S/C12010/C12010S

DISCOVER THE WAY AHEAD

To face the challenges of today and tomorrow, you need a trusted partner by your side. Reach new peaks of performance, efficiency and reliability, giving you the freedom to conquer new markets and be more adventurous than before.

With innovation that inspires you, expertise that elevates and support that guides you, we're with you at every step.

One important platform for us is the Asian Print Awards, where Konica Minolta has continued to support the industry as a key sponsor. We see this as more than a branding opportunity. It is a meaningful platform to recognise excellence in print, share successful applications of digital print, and showcase how innovation can help customers create new value.

These platforms are not just for showcasing products. They are also opportunities to help customers identify new revenue opportunities, understand market trends, and explore how digital print, workflow automation, and integrated solutions can improve their business performance.

We will also continue to participate in regional trade shows, knowledge-sharing sessions, and technology showcases across the region. These activities allow us to stay closer to the market, understand evolving customer needs, and demonstrate how our production print, industrial print, digital workflow, and automation solutions can support business growth, productivity, and operational efficiency.

At the end of the day, our focus is to build stronger conversations with customers. We want to understand their challenges, explore new opportunities together, and support them with solutions that are aligned with their business direction. By doing so, we hope to strengthen long-term partnerships while also contributing to the advancement of the print and packaging industry across the region.

Q: How do you view the current economic situation in Asia, particularly in relation to the print and packaging industries?

DM: The global economic environment remains uncertain, and Asia is also affected by this. Each market is moving at a different pace, with different levels of growth, cost pressure, and business confidence. But if we look at the long term, I still see very strong potential in Asia, especially in ASEAN. It is a dynamic region, and I believe it will continue to offer meaningful growth opportunities.

For the print and packaging industries, customers are becoming more careful and selective in their investments. At the same time, they still need to improve productivity, efficiency, speed, and value creation. Rising raw material costs, changing customer expectations, and the demand for faster turnaround are encouraging print businesses to rethink how they operate and how they can remain competitive.

This is where digital print, workflow automation, and integrated solutions become very important. With growing demand for shorter runs, on-demand printing, reduced waste, and more sustainable production, digital print can help businesses respond more quickly and efficiently to changing market needs.

In today's environment, I believe the gap between companies that invest in transformation and those that do not will continue to widen. Success is no longer only about print volume. It is about business speed, flexibility, productivity, and the ability to create new value for customers.

While challenges remain, I believe companies that continue to invest in digital transformation, automation, and innovation will be better positioned for future growth. Our role is to support customers through this transition, so they can become more resilient, competitive, and ready for the future.

Q: Is there any final message you would like to share with readers, customers, and industry partners?

DM: Firstly, thank you, Paul, and Print & Packaging Innovation Asia for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts with your readers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our customers, partners, and teams across the region for their continued trust and support. Their trust is what motivates us to keep improving and to continue creating value for the industry.

The industry is evolving rapidly, and with this change comes new opportunities for growth, transformation, and collaboration. For Konica Minolta, it is important that we continue to stay close to our customers, understand their needs, and support their business ambitions as they respond to changing market demands.

As we move forward, we will continue to strengthen partnerships, drive innovation, and support sustainable growth across the region. By combining our technology, expertise, and regional capabilities, we hope to create meaningful value for our customers and contribute to the future development of the print and packaging industries.

Ultimately, we aim to be not just a technology provider, but a true transformation partner for our customers.

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At UPM Specialty Materials, we help you bring your packaging ambitions to life with recyclable, high-performance papers made from fibres sourced exclusively from sustainably managed forests.

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The economics of folding carton have changed.

Here's why digital wins.

The folding carton market is entering one of its most dynamic periods in decades, and for converters who move at the right moment, that represents a significant commercial opportunity.

An article by Richard Cotterill, Head of Sales – Packaging, Digital Printing Solutions, Agfa.

Digital printing is at the centre of that change. With no plates, no makeready waste, and job changeovers measured in minutes rather than hours, it offers a fundamentally different production model; one that's increasingly aligned with how brand owners want to specify and order packaging today. SpeedSet Orca is an example of this principle, running at 11,000 B1 sheets per hour to bring industrial-scale capability to work that was previously unprofitable to produce.

The economics have already changed

The folding carton work coming through production facilities today looks nothing like it did five years ago. Brand owners are proliferating SKUs at pace, with a noticeable rise in limited editions, regional variants, promotional packaging, and regulatory-driven changes. The pharmaceutical sector demands serialisation and track-and-trace, while premium food and beverage brands want personalisation and seasonal launches that turn around in weeks, not months.

This isn't a fleeting trend, it's industry-wide change driven by retail dynamics that aren't reversing. The result is that average run lengths are dropping. Converters are quoting more jobs for fewer sheets. And most importantly in a cost-sensitive market, every plate change, makeready hour, and sheet wasted in offset setup erodes margin on work that's increasingly unprofitable to produce conventionally.

Digital doesn't just solve this problem; it inverts the economics. No plates or makeready waste. Job changeovers in minutes, not hours. Agfa's SpeedSet Orca runs at 11,000 B1 sheets per hour. That's not a niche anymore, but a significant and growing portion of the work converters handle daily. Plus, since converters can produce exactly what's needed, whenever it's needed, there are no minimum order quantities (MOQs) forcing customers to over-order or hold excess stock that risks becoming obsolete. Digital production eliminates the write-offs that can come with spec changes, rebrands, or discontinued SKUs sitting in warehouses.

Quality isn't the question

The SpeedSet Orca delivers 1200 dpi resolution with a colour gamut that meets industry standards for brand consistency. Converters aren't being asked to compromise on quality or ask their customers to accept 'good enough for digital,' the technology delivers offset-equivalent output.

The name isn't accidental. Like its oceanic namesake, the SpeedSet Orca combines intelligence, agility, and dominance in its environment. It's the apex predator in digital folding carton printing – a press that doesn't just compete with conventional processes but redefines what converters can expect from production equipment.

The substrate range matters here too. The SpeedSet Orca handles everything from 0.2mm paper to 2mm microflute, making it suitable for folding carton, shelf-ready packaging, and microflute corrugated jobs. Far from being a specialist machine for occasional

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**

AGFA

short runs, it's a production press that fits into demanding, mixed-work environments.

The automation advantage is real

Where digital moves from viable to superior is in operational simplicity. Offset presses require skilled operators who can manage colour calibration, register, and makeready. Those operators are increasingly difficult to find and expensive to retain. Digital presses reduce that dependency dramatically because the learning curve is shorter, and the setup is faster. The consistency is built into the technology rather than reliant on individual expertise.

For converters operating in tight labour markets, which is most of them, this is a major benefit that lets operations maintain productivity with leaner teams and less operational risk.

The SpeedSet Orca also integrates with Agfa's Asanti workflow software, which automates job planning, colour management, and production scheduling. This isn't just about the press; it's about the entire production ecosystem working intelligently to maximise uptime and minimise touchpoints.

Asanti 8's StackFlow takes this functionality even further by addressing the complexity of multi-location retail fulfilment. Using content lists – pre-collated sequences based on order data – it enables the SpeedSet Orca to print folding carton blanks in the precise order they need to be packed and shipped. Instead of printing in bulk to be manually sorted by destination, converters can produce pre-collated stacks with interleave sheets separating each location's order. The downstream benefits include faster fulfilment, fewer errors, and scalability that manual sorting struggles to match.

The flexibility premium

Something important shifts when a folding carton converter adds digital capacity: the commercial conversation changes.

Suddenly, jobs that were previously unquotable become viable. Rush orders with 48-hour turnarounds, test marketing runs of 500 units, and seasonal packaging that needs three versions. These aren't theoretical use-cases anymore, they're exactly the kind of work brand owners need.

The SpeedSet Orca doesn't just handle this work technically; it makes it commercially attractive. No minimum run economics dictated by plate costs, no makeready time padding the quote, and no material waste inflating the price per unit.

Converters with hybrid capabilities, offset for volume and digital for agility, can say yes to a broader range of work. That versatility translates directly into stronger customer relationships and revenue from jobs that would otherwise go elsewhere or not happen at all.

The market is moving

Digital won't outright replace offset for long-run folding carton work because that's not the point. The point is that an increasing share of the work converters need to win, and produce profitably, suits digital better than conventional processes.

We've seen this pattern before in other segments. The converters who invested in digital capabilities early didn't abandon offset; they built hybrid operations that could profitably handle the full spectrum of work. They became more versatile, more responsive, and more valuable to their customers.

That's what the SpeedSet Orca enables for folding carton. Not a replacement for what's being done today, but the capability to dominate the work that's coming tomorrow. The market's moving. The question is whether converters are moving with it.

Where Innovation Connects Industries

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mmsupport – virtually o maximum production reli

In production environments, every minute counts. when a system stops or an issue occurs, customers expect one thing above all: a fast and competent solution.

This is exactly where MMSupport comes in.
With a dedicated hotline, remote support capabilities, and a global network of experts, Müller Martini helps customers minimize downtime, maximize equipment availability, and ensure reliable production processes.

Remote Support: Responding as if We Were Right There
Many challenges can now be resolved efficiently without waiting for an on-site service visit. This has become increasingly important in today's environment, where travel may be complicated by geopolitical tensions, regional uncertainties or short-notice restrictions.

Through a secure TÜV-certified Remote Line connection, MMSupportspecialists can directly access remote-enabled systems, analyze issues and immediately initiate corrective actions.

The key benefit for customers:
Real-time expert support – regardless of location, travel time or national borders.

Support engineers, system specialists, software engineers and product experts can work simultaneously on a case, helping customers return to full productivity as quickly as possible.

When required, remote support can also assist local service technicians during on-site interventions, ensuring efficient, coordinated and transparent problem resolution.

Strong Collaboration Behind Fast Support
Reliable remote support begins long before an issue occurs.
Müller Martini works closely with customers during installation to define, configure and test all technical prerequisites, network access requirements and security standards together with the customer's IT team.

At the same time, multiple Müller Martini departments collaborate closely – from Customer Service and Engineering to Network and System Specialists.

The result is a secure infrastructure that enables fast, professional and highly efficient support whenever it is needed.

1. Practical Example: Production Downtime at a Leading Packaging Manufacturer in Germany uickly Resolved

An active production job suddenly could no longer be processed, even though everything had been running perfectly the previous evening.

Using Remote Line, MMSupport analyzed the situation together with the customer. It quickly became clear that the root cause was neither mechanical nor electrical.

A system specialist was immediately involved and identified the issue: a customer-specific setting had caused the production job to close automatically.

Through remote access, the production could be reactivated immediately.

Customer Benefit
A brief interruption instead of an extended production stoppage—without travel time, without waiting for an on-site intervention and without having to recreate the entire production job. This also helped prevent potential reputational damage for the customer.

2. Practical Example 2: Issue Identified – Production Restarted in Less Than 15 Minutes

A production line repeatedly reported Data Matrix code reading errors. The

n-site fast support for ability

initial feedback was: "The Data Matrix code is being read."

However, a joint analysis via Remote Support quickly revealed the actual cause:
A code was indeed being read—but it was the wrong one. A slightly offset Data Matrix code was mistakenly captured instead of the intended code.

By making a quick adjustment to the reading window, production was able to resume immediately.

Customer Benefit
The problem was identified and resolved in less than 15 minutes—without waiting time and without the need for a specialist to travel to the site.

More Than Support: A Partner for Long-Term Production Reliability
MMSupport is much more than traditional troubleshooting.

It means:
Fast response times
Direct access to specialists
Real-time remote diagnostics
Transparent communication
Maximum equipment availability
In Short

MMSupport enables us to respond as if we were directly on site—helping our customers stay productive at all times.

Experience the Future of Print Production at Heidelberg Indonesia Showroom

The Heidelberg Indonesia Showroom, located in Pancoran, South Jakarta, Indonesia, is a dedicated space where innovation meets real-world print production. Designed for industry professionals, the showroom offers a clear overview of Heidelberg's latest technologies—brought to life through live demonstrations and hands-on experience.

Gallus One Hybrid

At the heart of the showroom is the Gallus One Hybrid, where innovation meets performance in the latest narrow web solution for the label and packaging industry. Built on a "system to compose" concept, it offers exceptional flexibility and modularity, allowing users to future-proof their investment by adding modules at their own pace.

The Gallus One Hybrid seamlessly integrates digital inkjet, Flexo, screen printing, and die-cutting into a single platform for complete printing, finishing, and embellishment. The configuration on display features six-color plus white digital inkjet, supported by two flexo units for special colors, coatings, cold foil, or lamination.

Powered by the Heidelberg Prinect workflow, users benefit from advanced color management and intelligent job management combining the flexibility of digital printing with the proven reliability of conventional processes. These helps printers handle short runs, cost pressure and production complexity with confidence.

The Gallus Digital Hybrid approach delivers high productivity, minimizes waste, and achieves a competitive cost per meter, making it an ideal solution for today's production challenges while meeting evolving market demands.

MK Diana Eye 55

The packaging printing industry is increasingly dynamic. Suppliers serving pharmaceutical, cigarette, and F&B markets must constantly adapt to evolving regulations on coding, track and trace, and anti counterfeiting—while customers continue to demand higher quality and complete quality control.

We will arrive **anywhere, anytime.**

Globally networked, with intelligent processes and cutting-edge warehouse technology, we work every day to ensure that heidelberg customers are always optimally supplied.

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Diana Eye 55 Inspection System, a high-performance solution for folding carton inspection. Operating at speeds of up to 120,000 cartons per hour, Diana Eye inspects every blank before it enters the folder gluer. Using intelligent software, advanced camera systems, and unique lighting, it detects defects across printed images, hot and cold foil, embossing, holograms, coatings, codes, and serialization.

Defective blanks are automatically ejected without damage, reducing waste and allowing re-sorting where needed. Manufactured by MK Masterwork and exclusively distributed by Heidelberg, Diana Eye is fully supported by Heidelberg's global sales and service network.

Versafire LV

Completing the lineup, the Versafire LV is HEIDELBERG's versatile digital press for creative, commercial, and hybrid applications. Designed to complement offset printing, it enables short runs, versioning, and on demand production with maximum flexibility, delivering consistent, high quality results across a wide range of substrates.

Driven by Prinect Digital Frontend, the Versafire LV benefits from intelligent automation that streamlines job changes, speeds up production, and ensures reliable, standardized digital output through automated preflight, color management, and imposition.

Beyond showcasing technology, the Heidelberg Indonesia Showroom has become an important platform for discussion and knowledge exchange. Through open houses, technical training, and dedicated customer sessions, visitors can experience quality, productivity, and workflow performance firsthand. This hands-on environment helps customers build clarity and confidence when making investment decisions.

Heidelberg Indonesia Showroom is not just a display—it is a place to learn, explore, and experience how technology translates into real business advantages.

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Revoria Press™ series wins prestigious Red Dot Design Award

In a remarkable achievement, the Revoria Press™ series by FUJIFILM Business Innovation has clinched the coveted Red Dot Design Award for Product Design 2026. This accolade recognizes the series' cutting-edge features, sleek design, and industry-leading technology that set a new standard in professional printing.

At the forefront is the Revoria Press™ PC2120, a high-end production printer crafted for the discerning needs of professional print environments. Its minimalist design, characterized by horizontal lines and a monochromatic palette, ensures seamless integration into any workspace. The metallic dark gray workstation complements the print server, creating a unified aesthetic that allows operators to maintain focus.

The PC2120 boasts proprietary AI technology that revolutionizes printing. This smart system optimizes paper settings, image quality, and corrections, making it accessible even to those without specialized expertise. Its Substrate Profiler uses AI to analyze paper characteristics and recommend optimal settings, supporting a range of media, including specialty papers like films and metallics. This innovation, an industry first, automatically adjusts transfer output values to enhance image quality.

For superior image results, the AI embedded in the print server evaluates input documents, suggesting enhancements like text sharpening and fine line adjustments. It also applies scene-specific corrections to photos, ensuring skin tones and landscapes are rendered flawlessly.

Color capabilities are expanded with one-pass six-color printing that includes CMYK plus two specialty toners. A newly developed green toner enriches the palette, offering vivid RGB color matches that enhance creative possibilities.

Revoria Press™ EC2100S / EC2100 and SC285S / SC285: Mid-Range Excellence

The mid-range Revoria Press™ EC2100S / EC2100 and SC285S / SC285 models feature an additional specialty toner station, enabling five-color printing in a single pass. Their compact design, achieved through Vertical Toner Development Technology and LED printheads, ensures they fit seamlessly into any space while maintaining high performance.

These models deliver exceptional print quality with a 2400 dpi resolution and Super EA-Eco toner, which boasts one of the smallest toner particle sizes in the industry. The EC2100S / EC2100 prints at a rapid 100 pages per minute, perfect for commercial and quick printing needs, while the SC285S / SC285 operates at 85 pages per minute, ideal for quick and in-house printing. Both models support various paper weights and sizes without compromising speed.

Equipped with a Smart Monitoring Gate, these printers automatically detect and correct color variations and front-to-back misalignment during printing, ensuring premium quality without sacrificing productivity. This capability is invaluable for producing small runs and meeting tight deadlines.

The Revoria Press™ series exemplifies the fusion of design and technology, offering AI-driven automation, expanded color systems, compact forms, and automated quality control. These features secured its place as a Red Dot Design Award 2026 winner, highlighting FUJIFILM's commitment to innovation in the printing industry.

EC2100S

SC285

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Japan

Mr. Kenji Ebizuka, President

Pioneering the future of packaging with the RMGT 1060LX

Employing an integrated system from planning and design to production and shipping, Hoshiyu Corporation is a long-established company in Tsubame City, Niigata Prefecture, that creates packages based on the concept of "The box is the product." The RMGT 1060LX-7+CC+LED-UV B1-size offset press that Hoshiyu purchased in December 2024 represents the company's commitment to the future of the packaging market.

Overcoming three hurdles to meet future challenges.

Founded in 1957, Hoshiyu Corporation, started out as a vendor of metal polishing cloths, later venturing into the production of shipping cartons for dinnerware, and today focuses on "packaging as a communications tool for connecting things and people." To develop packaging that best expresses a product's appeal, the company concentrates on high-value-added surface treatments such as velvet varnish coating, chemical embossing, and foil stamping. One of Hoshiyu's strengths is that they are able to produce each individual box from start to finish, including printing, surface treatment, interleaving, die-cutting, gluing, and window pasting.

Hoshiyu cites three main reasons for selecting the 1060LX. First, their existing presses were aging. Improving the efficiency of their equipment, which the company had been using for up to 19 years, was an urgent issue. Second was the rising cost of electricity. It was essential to replace their existing high-power-consumption equipment. And third, they wanted to meet new challenges. Having earned a reputation for their high-value-added package products, Hoshiyu decided that they needed to take on the challenge of new technology to make the next leap forward. President Ebizuka said, "We are confident that this investment will lay the foundation for our future growth."

Development of various unique products

Further advancing varnish processing with the introduction of 1060LX-7

The newly introduced machine is a seven-color press with a varnish coater, so they can easily handle most printing work, including process + special color + varnish, chemical embossing, and velvet varnish. The addition of a 7-color press has opened up new possibilities, such as 6-color + OP varnish in addition to conventional UV varnish and water-based clear coat, and it has

RMGT 1060LX-7+CC+LED-UV

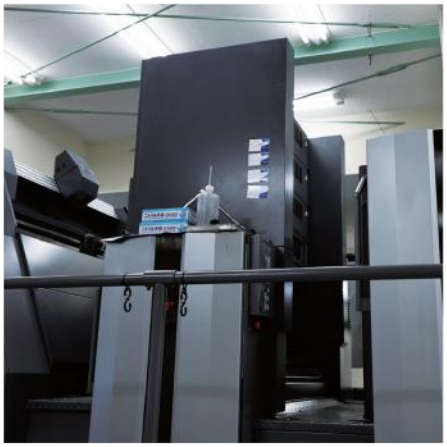
become easier to perform spot varnishing. Hoshiyu's high level of varnishing expertise is evidenced by their use of anilox rollers for fine matte finishes and rough finishes, with a lot of unevenness when performing chemical embossing, and in their expertise in applying a thin coat for velvet varnish. Installation of an anilox roller replacement device has eliminated the labor required for replacing the rollers and reduced operator burden. Manager Hirose commented, "One of our strengths is our expertise in press settings and material selection, which enables us to control the texture."

Benefits of automation and labor saving devices

Color stability from the start of printing has markedly improved, and once color matching is performed, a high level of stability can be maintained. Installation of a Simul Changer Parallel system for automatic plate changing has shortened makeready time, greatly improving overall productivity.

Moreover, installation of an automatic non-stop feeder has significantly reduced the burden on operators. This enables production consistency regardless of differences in operator expertise, resulting in improved work efficiency and quality.

General Manager of Manufacturing Dept. Kurotori said, "Looking ahead, we are thinking of taking on challenges in new areas, such as G flutes and printing on thin substrates. We're also looking to optimize personnel allocation by taking advantage of the labor-saving functions of the 1060LX and accelerating the operator training cycle."



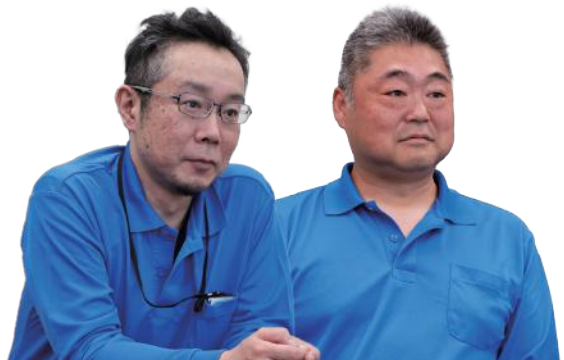
Anilox roller changer

Utilizing new technologies and developing human resources

Hoshiyu aims to promote "ambidexterity in management" to emphasize the unique characteristics of the company while strengthening the ability to cope with the growing demand for high quality and the need for systemization. As efficiency continues to improve, operators are being encouraged to use the time saved to come up with new ideas and innovations.

Hoshiyu Corporation's purchase of the 1060LX represents the company's long-term commitment to the creation of new value through technological innovation and human resource development.

Automatic non-stop feeder



Left : Mr. Hirose, Manager of Manufacturing Dept.
Right : Mr. Kurotori, General Manager of Manufacturing Dept.

CMYKhub continues growth with new Komori technology.

- CMYKhub installed Australia's first Lithrone GX40RP advance to strengthen production capacity. - The two-sided LED UV press enables stable, high-speed printing without sheet flipping. - An advanced camera system improves quality control by detecting defects in real time.

Strengthening its partnership with Komori and local distributor Print & Pack, CMYKhub has boosted its production capability with the installation of the Lithrone GX40RP advance offset press featuring Australian-first technology.

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Australian-first Lithrone GX40RP advance in Melbourne

CMYKhub has continued its longstanding relationship with Komori and its local distributor Print & Pack with the installation of the new Lithrone GX40RP offset press. The new press, installed within the new 7,000 sqm custom-built manufacturing facility at Keilor Park in Melbourne near Tullamarine Airport, features Australian-first technology.

The Komori Lithrone GX40RP advance is a two-sided LED UV press that delivers high productivity without the need for a perfector, resulting in stable printing, no sheet flipping, reduced waste, and eco-conscious function. The Komori Lithrone GX40RP advance was installed in May this year while the new CMYKhub premises in which it is located was still under construction.

According to CMYKhub CEO Dayne Nankervis, a second Komori owned by the business and purchased in 2013 remained operational while the new offset printer came online.

"We installed the new Komori Lithrone GX40RP advance while we were still building our new factory, and it was commissioned in June," Nankervis said. "It commenced production in July. During this time, we ran both machines for six weeks, then halted production on the other Komori at our Heidelberg factory. Since then, the new machine hasn't stopped."

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Print & Pack engineer Peter Tidswell

"The other Komori remains in storage, and we have allocated space for it to be installed at the new Keilor Park premises in the near future. As a trade printer, we like to have two identical presses so that we have redundancy and never need to stop printing.

Our goal is to always have the capacity to run 24 hours a day. We make a very clear promise to our customers that if one of our machines goes down or has a mechanical issue, we have another on standby to keep running. This is why we have two CTP machines, two offset machines, two digital machines, three laminating machines, and two rotary die-cutters."

High Productivity and Quality Control Features

The new Komori Lithrone GX40RP advance operates consistently at between 14,000 and 15,000 sheets per hour and completes a range of core work for the CMYKhub business. "The Komori predominantly handles our major 24-hour work that CMYKhub does for its clients--business cards, flyers, and brochures. We have the opportunity to print light packaging on the Komori as well, and this is something we will look at in the future."

"This new LED UV machine is 30 percent faster than its predecessor and features PQA-S, a unique advanced camera system that can detect inconsistencies such as blemishes or roller marks during production. It captures an image of every sheet and compares it directly to the original PDF file. If there are inconsistencies, the system immediately alerts us. This level of quality control is a major upgrade and something we didn't have on the older press."

The new facility's layout has been designed for efficient production flow. The factory's consolidated operations aim to create a purpose-built, climate-controlled, and sustainable facility. The area for the new Komori Lithrone GX40RP advance has been ergonomically designed around the machine, featuring a built-in pit to optimize working conditions for operators.

Operational Advantages and Automation Benefits

Nankervis said it was one of his production managers, Ryan TBC, who advised company management to invest in the new Komori Lithrone GX40RP advance during the initial research phase that commenced three years ago. "This machine can print on both sides without turning the sheet around, and that is very unique," Ryan said. "It makes the sheets going through the machine far more stable and this results in fewer stoppages. With improved automation, it increases output and productivity, which is what these machines are designed to deliver."

"On the pallet, there can be up to 2 mm difference between sheets, which will often cause the perfector to drop the sheet, resulting in the need to start again. But with this new Komori, it doesn't affect us whatsoever. We are sitting at 14,000 to 15,000 sheets per hour, running 24 hours a day now, and it is doing it easily," Ryan said.

Strong Partnership with Print & Pack Australia

The Australian distributor of Komori is Print & Pack Australia. Carsten Wendler, managing director of Print & Pack, shared insights into the partnership with the CMYKhub team. "Dayne, Troy, and Alan are like brothers to us--it has been a true partnership for over a decade. It works both ways: they have been good to us, and we have been good to them. It has been a great relationship and one that will continue into the future," Wendler said.

"It is great to see the first Komori Lithrone GX40RP advance in Australia at the new CMYKhub premises in Keilor Park. This commercial printing facility is second to none in this country. We have been very successful with Komori installations over the past five years in various industries, from commercial print to packaging print. We are very proud to support Komori--it has been a great achievement, and we look forward to continuing our strong future together."

"I would like to thank my team for their hard work with this installation. One of the instrumental people in our team is our print instructor Steve Harper, who has been working with Komori for more than 40 years. I am also very proud of my sales and engineering team--I have only praise for them."

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Asian Print Awards & Asian Packaging Excellence Awards

CTV Excellence Awards

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CTV COLOUR TONE VALUE by APTEC

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.

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.

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)

Asian Print Awards & Asian Packaging Excellence Awards

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 Print Awards dinner **Oct 15, 2026** at Shanghai
Asian Packaging Excellence Awards dinner
Nov 13, 2026 at Jakata

☐ 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)

Send all entries to -

CTV Excellence Awards 2026
c/o The Thai Printing Association
311, 311/1 Rama 9 - Soi 15
Huaikhwang District, Bangkok,
10310, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 719 6685

For more information and registration, please contact
Ms. Brenda Pang, APTEC Executive Director, **brendaok@aptec.hkprinters.org**

Packaging specialist Keshoram Manufacturing gets four new presses

Keshoram Manufacturing acquires four identical Rapida 106 presses with seven inking units and coater - Installation in several phases: Two presses in 2026, two more in 2027 - High level of automation enables industrial folding carton production at the highest level

Major investment marks the transition from pre-owned machines to state-of-the-art high-end production for the folding carton segment

Koenig & Bauer has recorded a major strategic order from India: Keshoram Manufacturing recently ordered four identical Rapida 106 medium-format sheetfed offset presses. With this investment in the four seven-color presses equipped with coaters for inline product finishing, the packaging manufacturer is making the transition from its previous use of pre-owned printing presses to state-of-the-art, highly automated folding carton production on an industrial scale.

To support the customer's ambitious growth plans in a timely manner, Koenig & Bauer will deliver two of the presses in 2026, while the remaining

Shiv Singh Chauhan, Vice President of Keshoram Manufacturing, and Vikas Goyal, Managing Director of Keshoram Manufacturing, alongside Shashank Surana, Executive Director of Indo Polygraph Machinery, at the contract signing

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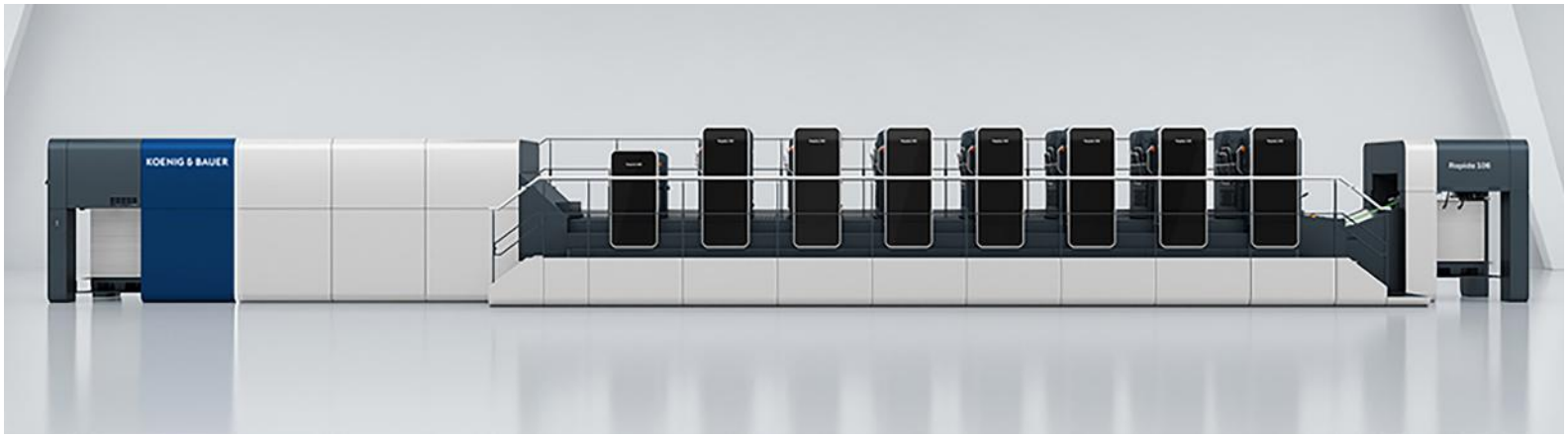

two presses will begin operation in 2027.

From corrugated board specialist to folding carton heavyweight

Keshoram Manufacturing was founded in 2000 by Vikas Goyal in Greater Noida, near the Indian capital of New Delhi. Operating under the names Kesho Packaging and Keshoram Manufacturing, the company primarily focuses on corrugated board production and currently runs two manufacturing facilities.

The management already demonstrated foresight in 2012 by establishing a state-of-the-art, automated corrugated board plant. From there, Keshoram serves customers in the demanding e-commerce, electronics, FMCG, beverage, and heavy industry sectors – both in the domestic market and for export.

After the company gained its first experiences with folding carton production on a smaller scale using pre-owned sheetfed offset presses, a comprehensive expansion is now slated for the next two years.

Technologies that reduce make-ready times and costs

For this massive expansion, Keshoram is placing its trust in Rapida technology from Koenig & Bauer. The four combination presses ordered for conventional and UV production can process substrates with a thickness of up to 1.2 mm.

By utilizing fully automatic FAPC plate changers and the sidelay-free infeed DriveTronic SIS, a unique selling point of Rapida sheetfed offset presses, Keshoram drastically minimizes manual interventions on the machine and significantly shortens make-ready times. This efficiency package is rounded off by automatic colour and register measurement systems, as well as automatic washing systems for blanket and impression cylinders, and rollers.

Vikas Goyal, Managing Director of Keshoram Manufacturing, explains: "This investment represents a pivotal milestone in our transformation into a future-ready, high-performance packaging company for the domestic and the export market.

Our decision to partner with Koenig & Bauer and invest in Rapida 106 technology is rooted in our commitment to automation, process stability, and uncompromising quality. As we scale our presence in the folding carton segment, our focus is on serving leading FMCG, electronics, and consumer brands with speed, consistency, and precision at global standards.

This expansion not only strengthens our current capabilities but also establishes a robust foundation for sustainable, long-term growth. We are building capacity not just for today's demand, but for the next decade of packaging excellence."

"Keshoram Manufacturing's decision to opt for four identical high-performance presses demonstrates how crucial scalability and absolute process stability are in today's packaging market," explains Shashank Surana, Executive Director of Koenig & Bauer's sales partner, Indo Polygraph Machinery.

"With this fleet of highly automated Rapida 106 presses, we are not only equipping our partner with printing presses, but providing a comprehensive solution that reduces waste, cuts make-ready times, and generates profitable growth in the folding carton segment."

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Hell Gravure Systems highlights seven levers for measurable savings

At a recent customer event held at its headquarters in Schwentinental, Germany, Hell Gravure Systems presented a compelling vision for the future of gravure production, demonstrating how innovation and digitalization can deliver measurable economic benefits throughout the print production chain.

Under the theme "Efficiency by Choice," the company outlined a strategic framework designed to help gravure printers, cylinder manufacturers and brand owners navigate the growing pressures of rising energy costs, increasing raw material prices, labor shortages and shrinking time-to-market requirements.

According to Hell Gravure Systems, competitiveness in today's market is increasingly determined by the ability to deploy intelligent technologies that improve productivity while reducing operational costs. The company's latest developments focus on transforming these industry challenges into tangible opportunities for profitability and sustainable growth.

Seven Areas of Measurable Savings

During the Open House event Hell identified seven key efficiency levers that can have a direct impact on production economics:

- Ink savings through optimized cell geometry and improved ink laydown.
- Proofing savings by eliminating physical proofs through fully digital verification.
- Documentation savings via complete digital record-keeping and workflow transparency.
- Copper savings by reducing copper consumption during cylinder preparation.
- Remake savings through early defect detection and process control.
- Labor savings by increasing automation and reducing manual intervention.

HelioKlischograph

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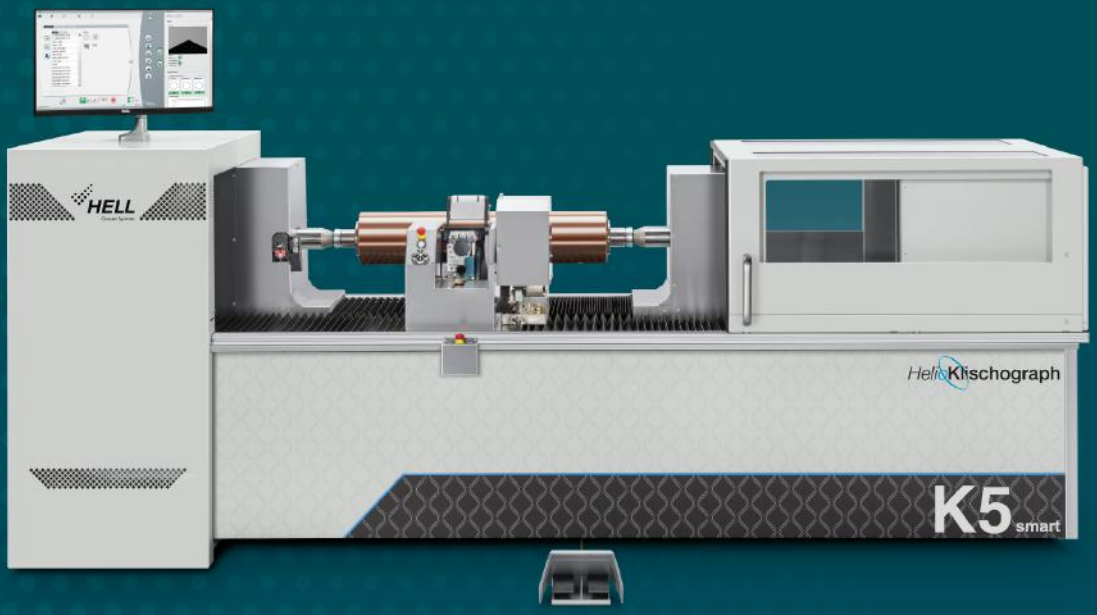

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Gravure Systems

• Investment savings through flexible licensing and rental models that lower capital expenditure.

Together, these efficiency drivers create a comprehensive approach to improving profitability across the gravure value chain.

Technology Portfolio Designed for Efficiency

To illustrate how these savings can be achieved in practice, Hell showcased five core technologies that form the foundation of its efficiency strategy.

Cellaxy, the company's direct laser engraving solution, enables highly precise cell geometries while requiring lower copper thickness compared with conventional electromechanical engraving. The technology not only reduces material consumption but also offers greater design flexibility and enhanced print quality.

Hell also demonstrated CYON, its digital twin technology for automated gravure production. By collecting and analyzing production data in real time, CYON provides operators with actionable insights, increases transparency and supports predictive

By integrating technologies such as Cellaxy, HelioKlischograph, Q-Trac, CYON and CFM MI, gravure producers can address multiple cost drivers simultaneously while improving consistency and operational performance.

TheLatestgenerationHelioKlischograph systems continue to automate quality control and documentation processes. Integrated digital proofing capabilities help identify engraving defects before cylinders enter production, reducing waste and minimizing costly remakes.

Another highlight was Q-Trac, a digital proofing and quality assurance platform that replaces traditional physical proofs with a fully digitized workflow. By scanning cylinders immediately after production, Q-Trac can detect surface defects and verify critical parameters such as diameter, roughness and engraving quality before the engraving process begins.

maintaining the quality standards required for gravure applications.

Addressing Industry Challenges

The event underscored the growing importanceof automation, digitalization and data-driven manufacturing in an increasingly competitive marketplace. With skilled labor becoming harder to find and production costs continuing to rise, printers are seeking solutions that deliver immediate and measurable returns on investment.

Hell 's message was clear: efficiency is no longer simply about producing more with less. It is about creating a connected production environment where quality, transparency and profitability are built into every stage of the workflow.

Looking Ahead

As gravure printers continue to face economic and operational challenges, Hell Gravure Systems believes that innovation remains the most effective path to long-term success. The company's "Efficiency by Choice" strategy provides a practical roadmap for achieving measurable savings while strengthening competitiveness in a rapidly evolving market.

The event served as a reminder that the future of gravure manufacturing will be defined not only by print quality, but by the ability to combine automation, digital intelligence and resource efficiency into a single, integrated production platform.

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FrontPac is one of Scandinavia's most comprehensive manufacturers of printed corrugated board and cardboard packaging. The company operates production sites in Arlöv, Simlångsdalen, and Gävle, Sweden, and offers a wide range of packaging solutions, including for the food and pharmaceutical industries.

In 2023, FrontPac invested in a new CtP line at its Arlöv facility, consisting of a Krause Autoloader, a Cron CtP, and a Glunz & Jensen processor. The system was delivered and installed by Koenig & Bauer Press Consum in Denmark, who also supply Nova Nemo Pro plates as well as Universal ECO-2 Developer and replenisher.

In 2024, FrontPac decided, in cooperation with Koenig & Bauer Press Consum, to add conductivity-based replenishment by installing a conductivity probe on their InterPlater HDX 165.

According to FrontPac, the upgrade has been a remarkable success. Sebastian Dymling, who operates the CtP line, states: "We have achieved savings of up to 35% in developer consumption. Even better, we have doubled the time interval between cleanings and replacement of the developer."

An additional benefit is that cleaning has become much easier. After draining the used developer, the tank can simply be flushed with a small amount of water; no intensive scrubbing is required. Furthermore, the system has proven to be very stable, with measured dot variation of less than 1% between developer changes.

How does it work?

Installing a developer conductivity probe is easy and cost-efficient. It can be ordered as a factory-installed option or retrofitted in the field after installation.

Conductivity is measured in milliSiemens (mS). When fresh developer is filled into the tank, the conductivity probe measures the mS value of the developer. This value is set as the target to be maintained until the next developer change. Once the software function "Conductivity-based replenishment" is activated, the processor continuously monitors the conductivity of the developer and replenishes with fresh replenisher to maintain the target value.

At FrontPac, Universal ECO-2 Developer is used, with a conductivity of 83–87 mS at 25 °C. Depending on the selected processor temperature, a corresponding target conductivity is set based on the fresh developer. Replenishment is carried out using Universal ECO-2 Replenisher, which has a conductivity of 96–99 mS at 25 °C. This ensures that the target conductivity can be maintained easily between cleanings and developer changes.

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Why Flexo Plate Choice Matters More Than You Might Think

We talked to Dr John Anderson, Director of Advanced Print Applications, about how plate choice directly impacts press performance.

Q. How has flexographic printing changed the way printers should think about plate choice?

Print quality alone is no longer the primary factor in flexo plate choice, and it is no longer a meaningful way to compare plate technologies. Most plates today can achieve an acceptable print quality with enough time for fine-tuning and room for compromise.

The real question is how that quality is achieved and whether it is repeatable. When evaluating flexo plate performance today, printers need to look beyond image quality alone and consider the impact on press performance, consistency and overall production efficiency.

Plates are often one of the lower cost items in the packaging job and can be as little as 1% of the total cost. Yet they are one of the biggest levers for controlling press performance and overall process efficiency. The right plate can be the difference between dramatic improvement and eroded efficiencies.

Q. How can flexo plate choice affect productivity and profitability?

Speed is one. How fast the press can run day in and day out, how often you need to stop, and the reasons why.

Consistency is another. How consistently your plates can hold color, and how long it takes to get to that color to get sign-off. These all have an impact on how stable the job is over the full run. You can measure that stability in distance or time, but the predictability of your results is what really matters most to productivity and profitability.

The strength of a plate's performance comes from many areas. It's critical that plates are consistent and robust over long and repeated print runs. The whole print operation benefits from the precision and control you expect from the right flexo plate.

Q. Can the right flexo plate improve press efficiency?

The right plate means fewer press stoppages, a faster start-up, more stable colors, higher average press speeds: all while generating less waste. It's a better use of your labor and equipment, delivering positive sustainability benefits at the same time. The right plate helps you get the maximum return on investment, and that financial impact adds up quickly.

Q. What role does the plate play in press performance?

The plate is at the center of the flexo process and is crucial to the whole production journey. There are so many variables in the flexo printing process, and it's easy to think that plates are just the vehicle for image transfer. In reality, the plates connect the whole process. They interact directly with everything: the substrate, the inks, anilox, and the press – all work together.

Q. How does this role in the print process relate to the cost of plates?

The final question I would put to printers is this: is your current flexo plate enabling your press to perform at its true potential?

FLEXCEL NX Plates have set the benchmark for flexographic printing performance for more than a decade. FLEXCEL Prime is the next-generation plate from Miraclon designed to preserve all the industry-leading characteristics of FLEXCEL NX Plates, while introducing new features that significantly extend these operational efficiencies.

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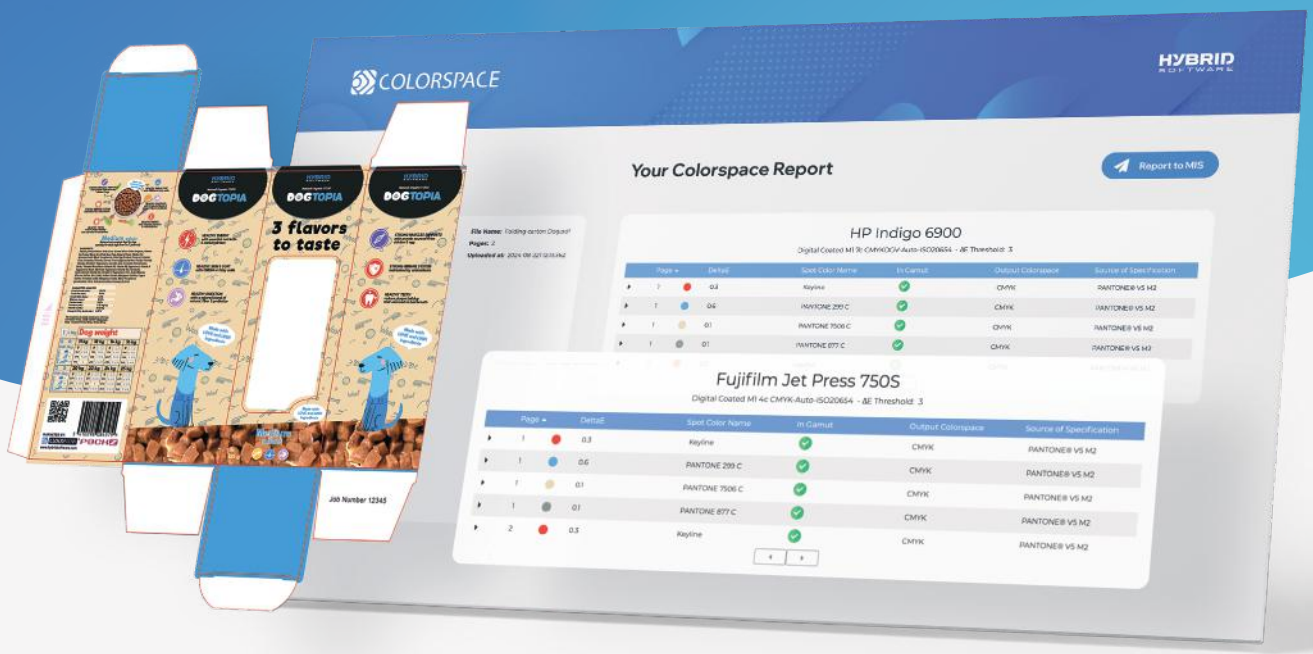

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HYBRID SOFTWARE | We Share Your Heartbeat

New ColorStream 7000 Series for Mid-range Workloads

Building on the success of its highly rated ColorStream platform, which has achieved sales of over 2,000 units to date globally, Canon today announces the addition of the ColorStream 7000 series to its web-fed inkjet portfolio.

Delivering robust and reliable performance, the new range of industrial presses has been designed to meet the needs of customers operating at mid-range production volumes on standard offset uncoated and inkjet-treated paper. Developed on an advanced modern technology platform that offers long-term serviceability, the series offers high efficiency for transactional applications in particular, while also supporting the growth in direct mail and book production.

The new ColorStream 7000 series comprises three models – the ColorStream 7075, ColorStream 7100 and ColorStream 7127, which are available in both mono (1/1) and colour (4/4) configurations. Offering production speeds ranging from 48 to 127 metres per minute and a monthly duty cycle of up to 56 million A4 impressions, the series

The series offers high efficiency for transactional applications in particular, while also supporting the growth in direct mail and book production.

enables customers to select the most appropriate configuration for their current requirements, while offering flexibility to scale as needs evolve.

The series is built on Canon's latest web-fed inkjet architecture and features an intuitive user interface to help print service providers operate more efficiently in demanding production environments where continuity is essential. All models feature native 600 dpi printheads and highly pigmented, water-based inks with Canon DigiDot multi-level inkjet technology, delivering smooth tones and rich density that achieve perceived 1200 dpi print quality.

Robust and reliable performance

The printheads in the ColorStream 7000 series are equipped with an advanced water-cooled system that surrounds the printhead to regulate its temperature, keeping the viscosity of the ink at an optimal level for continuous supply during high-speed printing.

In addition, Canon's pre-fire technology maintains nozzle condition by keeping ink circulating inside the ink chamber when some of the nozzles are not activated during printing. Furthermore, Canon's professional colour management helps to ensure consistent print and colour reproduction quality throughout print runs and across batches.

The ColorStream 7000 series is optionally supported by PRISMAproduction and PRISMAlytics Dashboard, an easy-to-use, cloud-

We said “entry level” – and created a beast

WINDMÖLLER & HÖLSCHER

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Building on the success of its highly rated ColorStream platform Canon today announces the addition of the ColorStream 7000 series.

based management information tool that provides comprehensive data overviews through multiple views of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), trends and timelines, enabling customers to optimise productivity.

PRISMAproduction provides an integrated, scalable, high-performance workflow and production management platform that automates and integrates data input and conversion, prepress and print output. It enables AFP/IPDS workflow and PDF pre-flighting and make-ready, data enrichment and page composition in one flexible print workflow via a single platform, resulting in efficient output handling.

Waste-free print pause, print-in-ramps and inspection mode further allow operators to check and adjust print runs without unnecessary paper loss, enhancing productivity, while inline automation functions, including slow request, enable seamless communication with inline finishing equipment and ensure continuous productivity.

A modern technology platform that offers high efficiency

The ColorStream 7000 series has been built on an advanced technology platform that combines the latest press software, preventive maintenance and regular software updates, reducing downtime and improving overall equipment efficiency. A wide range of sensors constantly monitor the press's condition and help to control the entire printing process and to deliver high-quality output results.

The ColorStream 7000 series features a modern, intuitive touchscreen user interface as the operating control panel. The user-friendly WebUI makes it easy to find the desired menus and online support. By analysing historical operational data, the press can recommend the next maintenance schedule to keep the press in an optimal status. The proposed maintenance time window is provided, which gives operators the flexibility to arrange the maintenance in line with their production plans.

Featuring the same technical infrastructure as the ColorStream 8000, the new ColorStream 7000 series includes Canon's latest SRA Massive Parallel (MP) controller, delivering improved RIP performance compared to previous models. The SRA MP controller is the powerhouse for processing the print data and transmitting it to the press at high speed.

The controller performance can be upgraded and reach an even faster speed by adding more RIPs and other servers. The scalable architecture makes it feasible to upgrade from a lower speed to a higher one and from monochrome printing to CMYK colour printing.

Sustainable by design

The ColorStream 7000 series has been designed with sustainability in mind, offering low power usage in both production and idle modes. The presses feature an efficient contact drying system and an advanced infrastructure design that offers low energy usage and further minimises power consumption in the idle mode that supports reliable output on uncoated and inkjet-treated papers, while precise control of paper movement and ink jetting ensures clean, sharp-edged print results with consistent colour reproduction.

The ColorStream 7000 series also supports customers seeking to meet Nordic Swan Ecolabel and Blue Angel 195 certification requirements.

Peter Wolff, Senior Vice President at Canon Production Printing, says: "Print service providers operating at mid-range production volumes are increasingly looking for a partner they can trust to deliver reliable and efficient technology and services, consistent high-quality output and clear total cost-of-ownership benefits.

"In direct response to those needs and based on real-world production environments, we have developed the ColorStream 7000 series in close collaboration with customers to bring the renowned reliability and ease of use of the ColorStream family to a broader range of customers.

The ColorStream 7000 series will be available directly from Canon during the second half of 2026, though exact timings may vary from region to region.

If you expect accurate brand colors, you'll love Multicolor

Spot colors are used particularly frequently in packaging printing. But how do you accurately reproduce spot colors in digital printing? And how can jobs be flexibly exchanged between conventional- and digitalprint? GMG ColorServer Multicolor automatically converts all spot colors into the desired output color space.
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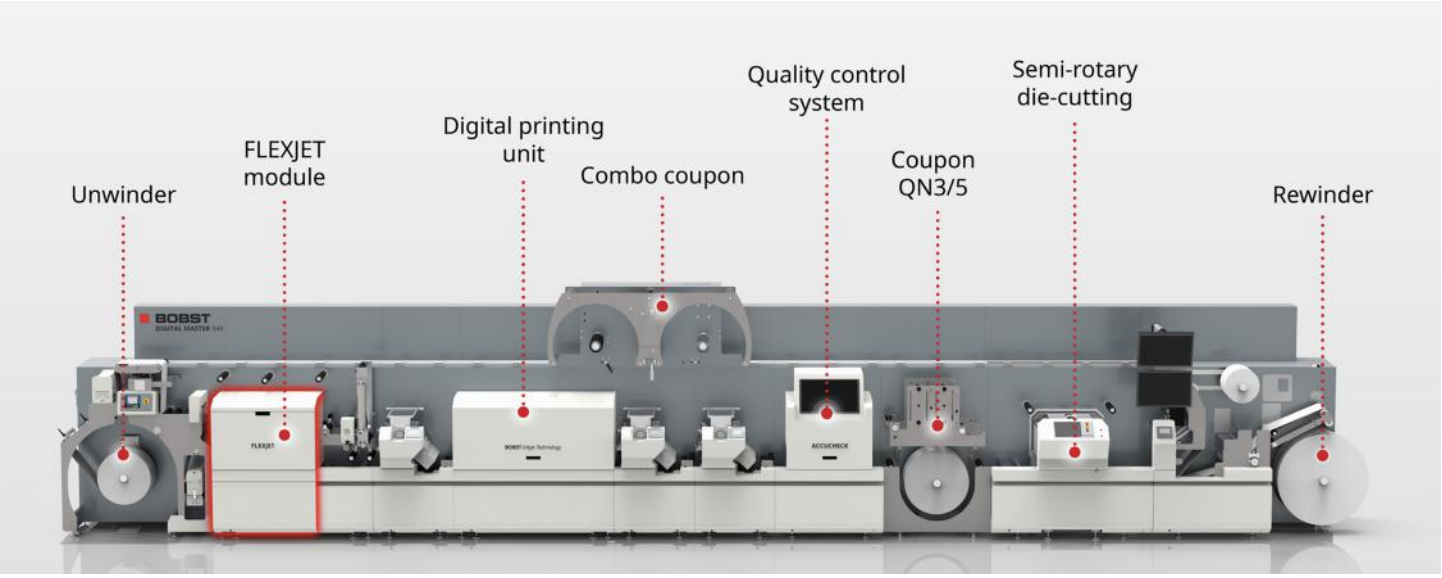

Redefining digital label production with BOBST's FLEXJET module and Thalia UV Inks

The label industry is undergoing rapid transformation. Shorter runs, increasing customization, and regulatory demands are reshaping production requirements. Converters and printers must balance productivity, flexibility and compliance, while responding faster to market needs.

To address these challenges, BOBST has developed a fully integrated digital ecosystem for label production, combining advanced press technology with high-performance, compliant consumables. At the core of this approach are two key innovations: the FLEXJET module and Thalia UV Digital Inks, which together enable a powerful combination of efficiency, versatility, and regulatory confidence.

These solutions have just been recognized by the European Digital Printing Association (EDP). Both FLEXJET and Thalia UV Digital Inks have received EDP Awards, prestigious industry honors that celebrate innovation, quality, and technological advancement in digital printing, highlighting their role in pushing the boundaries of modern label production.

FLEXJET is integrated into the BOBST DIGITAL MASTER series platform, a modular, all-in-one press designed for end-to-end digital label production. It enables a fully digital, single-pass process for complex applications such as multilayer labels, sandwich printing, backliner printing, and glue-side printing. This simplifies production while reducing start-up time by up to 60%, cutting waste by 30%, and doubling output.

With this level of efficiency, converters can profitably handle short runs and complex jobs while meeting brand owner expectations for traceability, compliance and customization.As new regulations such as the Swiss Ordinance 2026 and German Ink Ordinance 2027 demand stricter control over ink formulation and migration behavior, compliance has become a major challenge.

Thalia UV Digital Inks are specifically designed to address these requirements: TPO-free and excluding more than 20 groups of substances of concern, including PFAS, phthalates, and bisphenols, Thalia inks for label printing ensure alignment with current and future regulations.

In addition to compliance, Thalia inks deliver strong performance, including speeds up to 100 m/min at 1200 x 1200 dpi, high color consistency, and no need for primer or inert gas in most applications.

Together, FLEXJET and Thalia inks form a complete, integrated digital solution. FLEXJET drives efficiency and flexibility, while Thalia inks ensure compliance and quality. This combination allows converters to transform complexity into a competitive advantage—unlocking new application opportunities, improving profitability, and ensuring long-term readiness for evolving market and regulatory demands.

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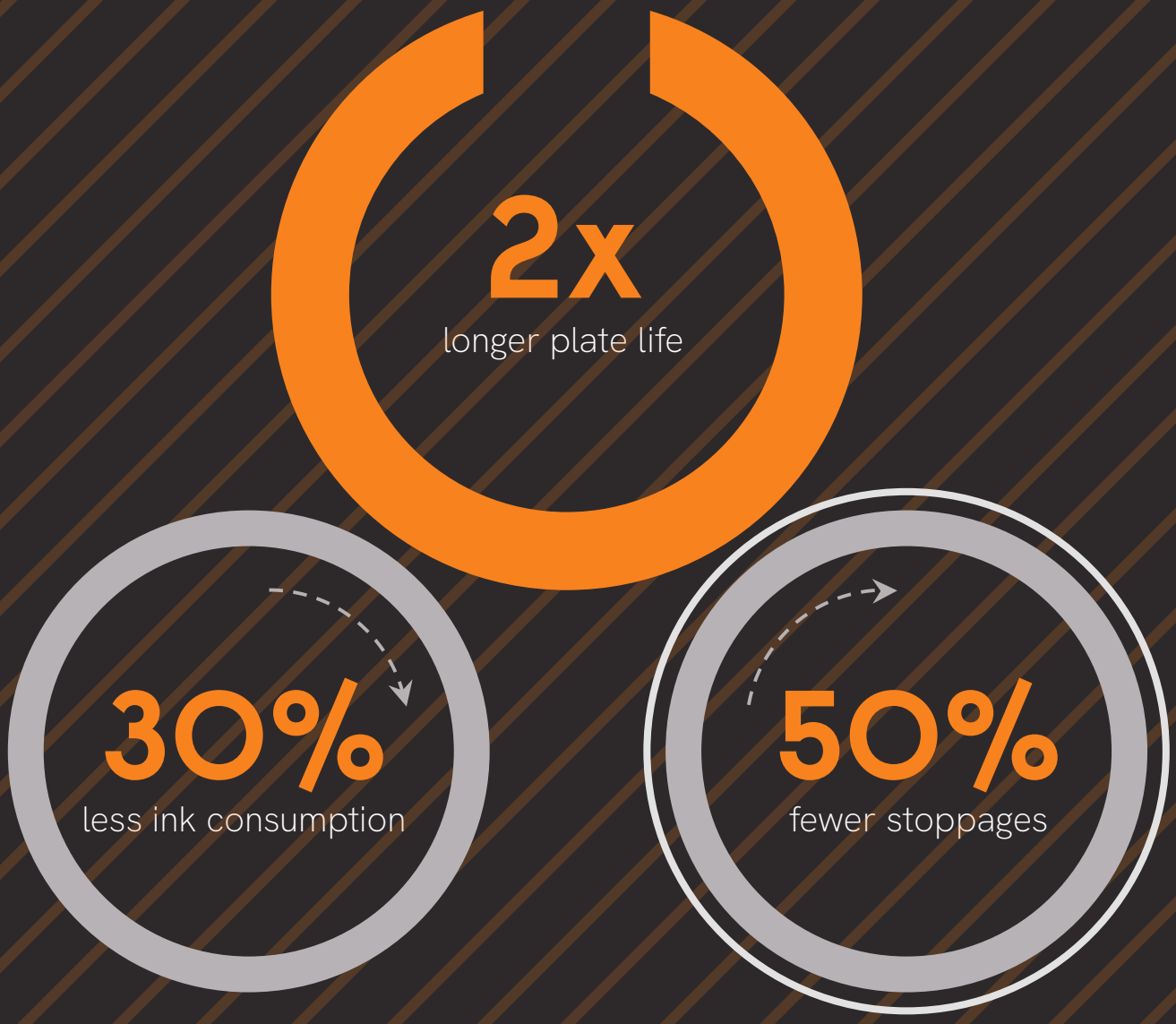

Our unique **FLEXCEL NX** System has delivered these print results.

What impact will you make with modern flexo?
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Achieving Stable Th

Sansho Printing Co., Ltd. has built an integrated production system covering prepress, printing and delivery under its corporate slogan, "Advancing Through Technology." Through proactive c investment, the company has continuously strengthened its manufacturing capabilities

Through proactive capital investment, the company has continuously strengthened its manufacturing capabilities. Since 2024, Sansho Printing has renewed three printing presses within a short period, resulting in more stable operation in the thin and ultra-thin paper segment as well as enhanced productivity.

At the core of this achievement are two Lithrone G44 advance EX Edition presses. With a fleet of eight Komori H-UV presses across 37-inch, 40-inch, 44-inch, why did the company choose the advance EX Edition, and what results has it delivered? We spoke with Chairman Isao Kanazawa, President Tsugihiro Kanazawa, Yukihiro Oba, Plant Manager of the Kawaguchi Plant, and Yuusuke Yoshida, General Manager of the Kawaguchi plant.

Phased Equipment Upgrades Toward an All advance EX Edition Fleet

Sansho Printing Co., Ltd. was founded in 1977 as a prepress company specializing in plate making. Over the years, it has established an integrated production system covering prepress, printing, finishing, and delivery. Today, Built on this long-standing relationship of trust, Sansho Printing has highly evaluated the advance EX Edition not only for its performance, but also for its operational efficiency and support system, and is steadily moving forward with phased equipment upgrades.

The trigger for the investment came from a printing test of the Lithrone GX40RP advance EX Edition conducted at KGC in March 2023.

"The key question was whether it could handle ultra-thin paper," recalls President Kanazawa. During the test, deliberately challenging thin paper were used, including A-size gloss 25.9 kg and A3 coated 35 kg paper. The results far exceeded expectations.

"The print quality was remarkably great. I felt it was an outstanding press, and on the drive home I thought, 'I want to replace all of our presses with advance EX Edition.'"

To strengthen its capabilities in thin and ultra-thin paper printing, the company installed a Lithrone G37 specially configured for enhanced ultra-thin paper handling in November

in Paper Printing

, finishing,
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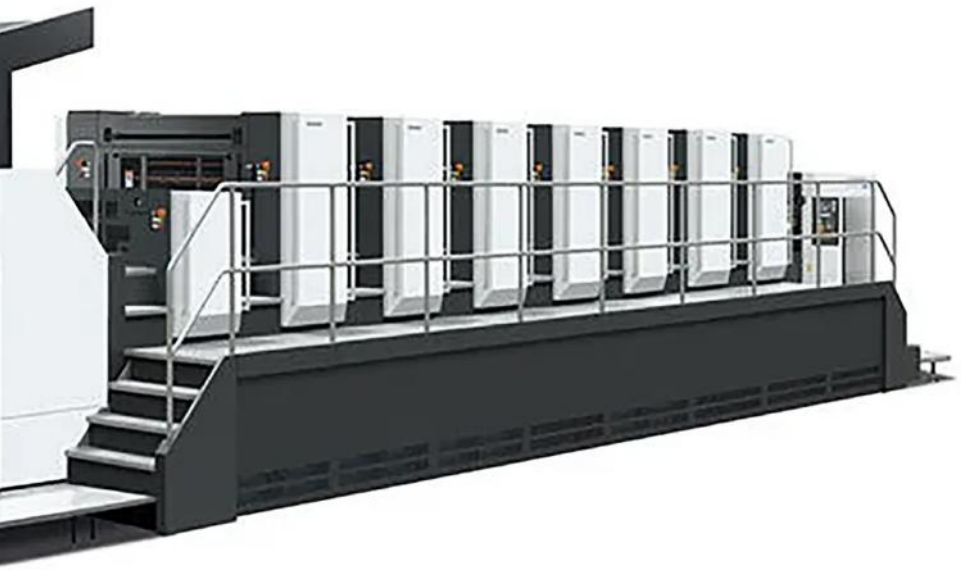

2024, positioning it as a press for short-run jobs. Building on the success of that investment, the company installed two 44-inch presses, Lithrone G44 advance EX Edition (GL-544A and GL-444A) in November 2025. With the addition of these two presses, the company now operates a total of five 44-inch presses.

"The three existing presses are mainly used for thick stock applications, while the two newly installed advance EX Edition presses take full advantage of their performance capabilities to handle thin and ultra-thin paper jobs," says President Kanazawa.

The company plans to continue upgrading its equipment in phases. A project is also underway to replace one of its 40-inch presses with a Lithrone GX40RP advance EX Edition this summer.

Enhanced Feeding and Delivery Performance with e-Mist

When asked why he highly values the advance EX Edition, President Kanazawa points to its improved feeding and delivery performance.

"The improvements that stand out most are the wider front lay width in the feeder section, e-Mist, and the fan zone control in the delivery section," he says.

Speaking about the benefits seen on the production floor, General Manager Yoshida explains:

"The sensor area of the front lays has been improved so that sheets are properly registered even when the paper has curl or other irregularities. In the past, thin paper could occasionally overshoot the front lays and cause feeder stoppages, but that is now rarely a concern."

He also highlights the significant effect of e-Mist in suppressing static electricity.

"Thanks to e-Mist, we no longer experience situations where static electricity causes the next sheet to be pulled in unintentionally," he says,

emphasizing the improvement in feeding stability.

Plant Manager Oba also notes the benefits in day-to-day production. "We can clearly see the improvements in registration accuracy and sheet alignment. Because the sheets are delivered in neat, well-aligned piles, we can turn the pile over and immediately start printing the second side without having to re-stack the paper."

He adds that these improvements have reduced setup time and contributed to higher production efficiency. As a result of these benefits, the company is now considering retrofitting e-Mist to all of its existing presses in the future.

Productivity Increased by 10%; Higher Press Speeds and Reduced Waste

The introduction of the new presses has led to significant productivity gains.

"Since installing the advance EX Edition, our productivity has improved by approximately 10% to 15% compared with our previous presses," says President Kanazawa.

Regarding thin paper production, General Manager Yoshida notes: "We have been able to increase printing speeds by 1,000 to 2,000 sheets per hour or more compared with before."

One of the key features of the advance EX Edition is its Smart Inking Flow, which incorporates an optimized roller configuration based on advanced analytical technology. This design improves responsiveness to changes in ink conditions, making color adjustment during makeready more stable and consistent.

Plant Manager Oba comments: "The system responds more quickly and accurately, making it easier for press operators to make decisions. As a result, we have been able to reduce the amount of waste paper used during makeready."

He values the contribution this makes to shorter makeready times and improved production efficiency.

General Manager Yoshida also highlights the maintenance benefits: "With fewer rollers, roller replacement and maintenance have become much easier. We can check the roller nip simply by removing the cover, and routine daily maintenance can be completed in about five minutes."

Plant Manager Oba also points to the energy-saving benefits of the DC blower.

"We have been using DC blowers since our previous Komori presses, and they have contributed to reducing our electricity costs."

These improvements in productivity, maintenance efficiency, and energy savings have further strengthened the company's confidence in the advance EX Edition.

"Advancing Through Technology" and Expectations for Komori's Continued Innovation

Looking ahead, President Kanazawa reaffirmed the company's commitment to its corporate slogan, "Advancing Through Technology."

"We will continue striving to enhance customer satisfaction, with our sales team working hard to secure orders and our production team dedicated to delivering high-quality printed products. We will continue to put our corporate slogan into practice."

The company utilizes KP-Connect Pro to centrally manage all eight presses. "From the office, we can monitor the status of every job in progress and track production efficiency as well," says Plant Manager Oba. The system has made progress sharing much smoother and reduced the amount of communication required between the production floor and the office.

The Lithrone G44 advance EX Edition and the Sansho Printing team. For the installation of the new presses, the company made use of both energy-efficiency subsidies and financial support programs provided by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. "We replaced three presses within approximately one year, which represented a significant financial investment. However, Komori's support played a key role in helping us move the project forward," says President Kanazawa.

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IST METZ celebrates 50 years of innovation

50 years of innovation, three days of cutting-edge technology: from 8 to 10 June 2027, IST METZ invites you to the UV Days in Nürtingen. In this anniversary year, visitors from all over the world can look forward to a unique mix of innovative UV, LED and excimer technologies, live demonstrations, specialist presentations and networking – and the opportunity to shape the future of UV curing together.

From 8 to 10 June 2027, IST METZ GmbH & Co. KG is once again inviting visitors to the UV Days in Nürtingen. This international in-house exhibition is regarded as the world's largest event of its kind for UV, LED and excimer technologies, bringing together users, machine manufacturers, research institutions and industry experts from all over the world.

UV Days 2027 will be held under a special theme: 50 years of IST METZ. Together with customers, partners and long-standing associates, the company is celebrating half a century of technological innovation, successful partnerships and pioneering developments in UV curing.

International platform for innovation and exchange

Since their launch in 2002, UV Days has established itself as a major industry get-togheter. The event offers a unique platform for knowledge transfer, technology demonstrations and face-to-face meetings across the entire value chain.

The last UV Days in 2025 impressively underlined this significance: around 1,000 visitors from some 30 countries, as well as 44 international exhibitors, took the opportunity to engage in professional exchange and present innovative solutions.

In 2027, visitors can once again look forward to a varied programme featuring:

- *Innovations in UV, LED and excimer applications*
- *Live demonstrations of state-of-the-art systems and production processes*
- *International specialist presentations by renowned experts*
- *Workshops and practical application examples*
- *Networking with industry representatives from around the world*
- *Daily 'Come Together' in the UV Lounge.*

Focus on the technological future

With innovations such as the UV system FREEcure and the intelligent SMARTcure technology, IST METZ has set new standards in UV curing in recent years. At UV Days 2027, the spotlight will be on LEDcure NX, the latest generation of high-performance LED UV curing systems, amongst other things. The technology was developed for maximum energy efficiency, flexible integration and sustainable production processes, and underlines the company's commitment to actively shaping the future of UV technology.

Save the Date: 8 to 10 June 2027

When the international UV industry gets together in Nürtingen, the focus for three days will be on innovation, technology and personal exchange. IST METZ looks forward to celebrating 50 years of company history together with customers, partners and industry experts, and to setting new trends for the future of UV technology.

Further information on the event programme, exhibitors and specialist presentations will be published in the coming months. Registration is expected to open in early 2027.

Endless possibilities and applications with UV, FREEcure and LED UV.

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Predictive Design: *How AI makes the success of print layouts measurable*

Whether a packaging design stands out on the shelf or a mailer ends up in the bin used to be more or less a matter of luck. Brand owners relied on gut feeling or waited for expensive market research. That is over. What began as an early software demo at drupa 2024 improves the workflow today.

Traditional guesswork is making way for hard data. Predictive design platforms use neural networks to simulate in seconds how the human eye reacts to printed layouts.

The end of guesswork

The design process was based on creative intuition informed by experience, accompanied by endless correction loops. When a new layout for the point of sale or a campaign was due, creative teams and marketing managers made subjective decisions on colours, contrasts, and placements. Those wanting certainty sent drafts to physical focus groups or tested them in a laboratory using infrared eye tracking. The problem is that such tests cost significant money, eat up time, and massively delay market launches.

Today, physical focus groups are redundant for pure attention measurement. Predictive design platforms use artificial intelligence and findings from brain research to simulate immediately where the consumer's gaze will wander. Brand owners and converters check and optimise layouts long before the first drop of ink hits the substrate.

How AI simulates the human eye

What emerged in 2024 with systems like EX KANSEI from Konica Minolta is standard today. Instead of sitting test subjects in front of screens and filming their eye movements, current platforms access massive databases. They predict human perception with precision.

One example is Attention Insight with the Visual Usability Checker. This deep learning model learned from over 5.5 million eye-tracking data points. It achieves a predictive accuracy of up to 96 per cent on the MIT Saliency Benchmark. Designers now test their drafts in real time directly within the layout software.

Dragonfly AI takes a different approach. The software does not rely on statistical historical data. It uses a

biological algorithm from Queen Mary University that imitates the human visual cortex. The system calculates how the brain and eye process differences in light, contrast, and form. It assigns an exact saliency value to every pixel of the design.

Neurons Predict AI works with one of the world's largest neuropsychological databases. The software automatically detects where logos, texts, and faces are located and calculates a Brand Attention Score. These metrics replace classic laboratory values. Where fixation duration, saccadic eye movements, or pupil dilation were previously measured physically, algorithms calculate the visual hierarchy instantly today.

The measurable ROI of design optimisation

Predictive design pays off in hard numbers. Correcting layout errors before printing prevents expensive relaunches. The Tropicana packaging flop of 2009 is a prominent example. The logo moved from the centre to the edge. A later analysis with Attention Insight made the visual problem clear: the attention value for the brand name plummeted from 15 to 2 per cent.

Consumers overlooked the product on the shelf. Sales collapsed.

The consumer goods brand Reckitt proves that the principle works in the other direction. The company analysed the design of the Durex brand with Dragonfly AI. In an e-commerce scenario, the result for the packaging showed an attention share of only 5.7 per cent. Minimal, data-driven contrast and layout adjustments increased this value by 89 basis points. The conversion rate rose by 23 points. This generated a potential sales increase of around 500,000 US dollars for the brand.

Analyses of Bonduelle salad packaging also revealed that customers hardly noticed some important information on the pack. A redesign with high-contrast elements ensured an immediate sales increase of 15 per cent. Such optimisations are not limited to graphics. A snack brand found that its printed QR code lay in a visually dead zone. The new positioning and adjusted contrasts increased QR code scans by 35 per cent. The general prominence of the product on the shelf rose by 20 per cent. Optimised packaging drives total sales strongly upwards.

The psychology of colour: prominence versus purchase intent

Pure attention is not enough, however. Trusting data blindly often misses the target. An experiment by EyeLogic with organic packaging illustrates this. A matte black design drew the eye immediately and for an extremely long time to the organic seal. At the same time, it looked absolutely unappetising. A green layout fitted the theme contextually but was completely lost on the shelf due to weak contrasts. The red variant won the test. The organic seal was slightly less noticeable here. However, the colour red immediately raised positive taste expectations and generated the highest purchase intent.

New business models for printers and converters

This technology opens up entirely new business models for commercial printers and packaging converters. With high cost pressure, simply operating printing presses is not enough. Modern businesses now can offer a cognitive pre-check. They receive the customer's PDF and can deliver an AI heatmap of the visual performance alongside the classic proof. The customer sees immediately whether the nutritional table remains readable or the barcode gets lost.

Genuine added value is created particularly in the area of print embellishment. If the AI identifies a cold spot on the packaging that actually carries the strongest sales argument, the printer specifically suggests a haptic spot varnish or blind embossing. The embellishment loses its image as an expensive luxury. It becomes a measurable tool for directing attention.

Security for creative professionals

Data does not stifle creativity. In fact, it provides a safety net that enables designers to test their ideas from the outset and provides them with solid evidence to support their decisions. Brand owners can therefore determine whether their layout works before the first proof is even printed. Printers can differentiate themselves by offering data-driven advice rather than competing solely on price. The service provider becomes a strategic advisor.

VAREO PRO

For Offset and Digital
The Vareo PRO perfect binder is the most ideal perfect binder for print finishing specialists and printing plants that use conventional printing modes or are engaged in digital printing. Whether for medium, short or ultra-short runs, right down to runs of one copy, the Vareo is an all-rounder and stands for outstanding binding quality. The first book produced with the three-clamp perfect binder is already available for sale.

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MÜLLER MARTINI

Purpose-built adhesive solutions for demanding label applications

UPM is simplifying adhesive selection with purpose-built solutions designed for demanding label applications.

UPM PharmaSure™ for pharmaceuticals, UPM Vetro™ for wine and spirits, and UPM Endurance™ for oil and industrial chemicals help customers choose the right adhesive performance for each end-use. All are part of the UPM Raflatac™ label material offering.

Demanding label applications place requirements on adhesives that general-purpose solutions cannot meet. Pharmaceutical packaging must maintain integrity through sterilization cycles, cold-chain storage and small-diameter vials. Wine and spirits labels face humidity, chilled display and ice bucket immersion.

Industrial labels must hold on to challenging substrates under chemical exposure, mechanical strain and hot-fill conditions. Each of these environments carries its own technical requirements, regulatory context and consequences when a label fails.

UPM's adhesive formulations are built on decades of experience in these challenging applications and on a global innovation network. UPM PharmaSure, UPM Vetro and UPM Endurance address the range of conditions relevant to each respective industry and are supported by pre-assessed performance data and application documentation. This supports qualification and regulatory processes for converters and brand owners.

"With demanding label applications, adhesive selection is a critical decision. Our purpose-built adhesive solutions help our customers choose the right performance for their end-use," says Christian Szameit, Senior Vice President, Global Markets at UPM Adhesive Materials.

CLEAN RECYCLING

EASY REPOSITIONING

ULTRA CLEAR

UPM

UPM Raflatac

R711 film labeling solution

- Clean recycling for rigid PET packaging
- Easy repositioning across different rigid packaging types
- Ultra-clear appearance for a premium shelf look

UPM Label Materials

Siliconization in Narro

How Release Liners, Linerless Labels and New Curing Technologies Are Reshaping the Label Industry

Few processes within the label industry receive less attention than silicone coating, yet few have a greater influence on productivity, material efficiency and product performance.

The global pressure-sensitive label market continues to expand, driven by logistics, food packaging, pharmaceuticals and e-commerce. At the same time, converters face increasing pressure to reduce waste, improve sustainability and maintain profitability in a highly competitive environment.

Three developments are currently reshaping silicone coating operations: First, linerless label technologies are gaining market share in selected applications where material reduction and logistics efficiency deliver measurable economic benefits.

Second, LED UV curing is moving from a niche technology toward mainstream adoption as silicone suppliers expand their portfolio of LED-curable products. Third, converters are increasingly evaluating photoinitiator-reduced silicone formulations to reduce raw material costs and address growing concerns regarding extractable substances in sensitive applications.

For narrow-web converters, the next decade will be defined not simply by curing speed, but by the ability to combine productivity, sustainability and economic performance.

The Market: Why Siliconization Matters More Than Ever

Pressure-sensitive labels remain the dominant label format worldwide. According to industry analyses from FINAT, TLMI, AWA and Smithers, self-adhesive constructions account for the majority of label production globally and continue to outgrow many conventional print segments.

Behind every pressure-sensitive label stands a release liner. Although rarely visible to the end user, the liner often represents one of the most expensive components within the entire label construction.

Release liners are commonly based on:
- Glassine paper
- Supercalendered kraft papers
- Clay-coated kraft papers
- PET films
- Polyolefin films

Glassine remains the dominant substrate in narrow-web label production due to its balance of release performance, dimensional stability and cost.

The Asia-Pacific region represents the largest growth market for label materials. Increasing consumer goods production, expanding pharmaceutical industries and rapid growth in logistics infrastructure continue to drive demand throughout China, Southeast Asia and Korea.

At the same time, sustainability initiatives are forcing converters and brand owners to evaluate every gram of material used in packaging. This trend is creating renewed interest in both lightweight release liners and linerless technologies.

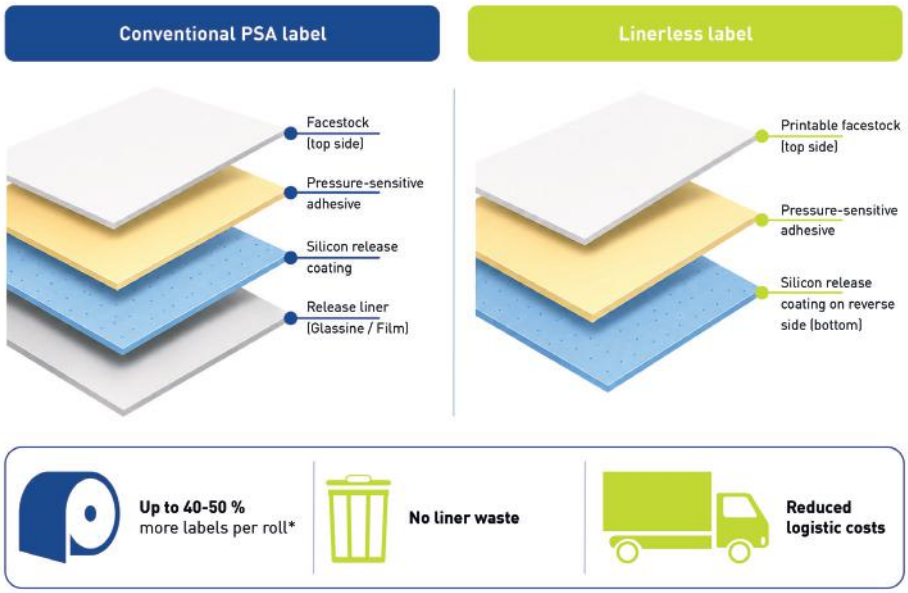
Release Liners and Linerless Labels

Traditional pressure-sensitive labels consist of three functional layers:
1. Facestock
2. Adhesive
3. Silicone-coated release liner

The release liner protects the adhesive during storage and processing while enabling controlled dispensing during label application.
This architecture has proven extraordinarily successful and will remain dominant for the foreseeable future.
However, it also creates a challenge.

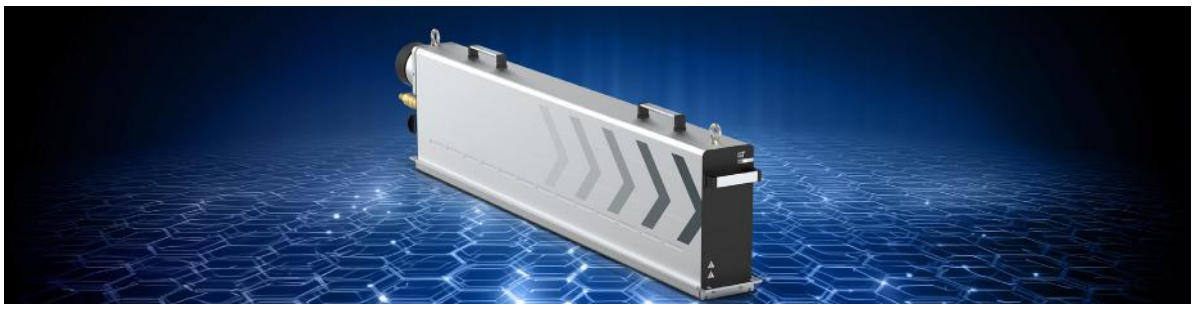
Figure 1: Conventional pressure-sensitive labels versus linerless labels

The traditional pressure-sensitive label consists of a facestock, adhesive layer and silicone-coated release liner. In linerless constructhtions, the release liner is eliminated and the silicone release coating is applied directy to the printable facestock. This significantly reduces material consumption, transportation volume and waste generation while increasing the number of labels per roll.



* Application dependent. Benefits very depending on label size, adhesive, facestock and winding configuration.

ow-Web Converting



After dispensing, the release liner immediately becomes waste.
For converters processing millions of square metres annually, liner disposal has become both an environmental and economic issue.
Linerless labels eliminate the release liner entirely. Instead, a silicone release coating is applied directly to the printable face material.

The benefits can be significant:
- More labels per roll
- Reduced transportation costs
- Lower storage requirements
- Reduced waste generation
- Longer production runs

Studies published by AWA and technical papers from Evonik demonstrate that linerless constructions can substantially reduce material consumption while improving logistics efficiency.

Nevertheless, linerless technology introduces additional challenges:
- More demanding silicone performance
- Greater sensitivity to curing quality
- Higher requirements for release consistency
- More complex dispensing systems

Consequently, linerless labels are expected to complement rather than replace traditional release liners.

The Science Behind Silicone Release Coatings
Silicone release coatings perform a deceptively complex task.
The coating must:
- Maintain adhesion to the substrate
- Release consistently from the adhesive
- Resist aging
- Remain stable during storage
- Cure completely at industrial production speeds

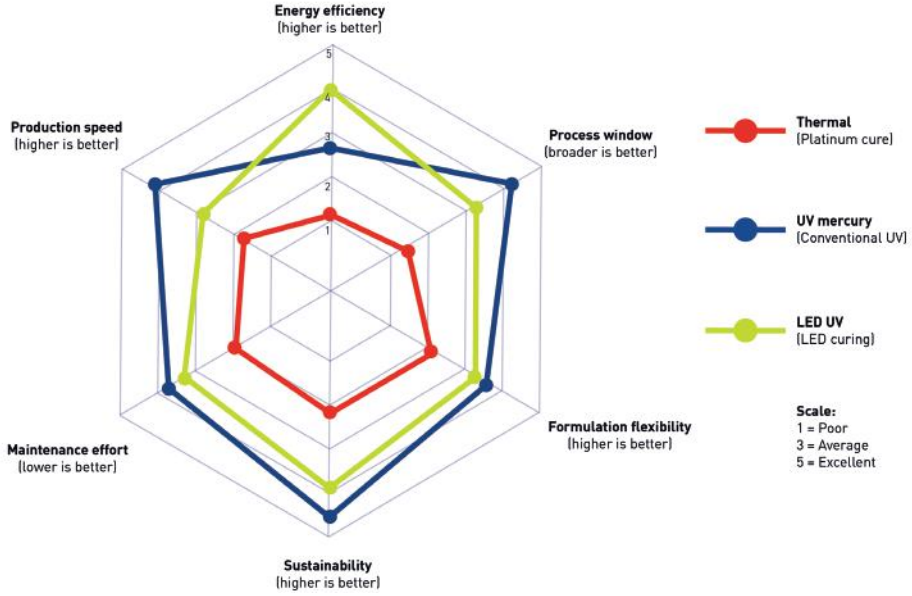
These requirements are controlled by several critical parameters:

Release Force
The force required to separate adhesive from liner.
Anchorage
The coating's adhesion to the substrate.
Cure Degree
The completeness of the silicone crosslinking reaction, enhanced by inertisation of the process.
Migration Resistance
The tendency of low molecular weight components to migrate from the cured coating.
Slip Characteristics
The friction behaviour of the coated surface.
Small variations in any of these parameters can significantly affect label performance.

Narrow-Web Production Reality
Many discussions about silicone coating focus on chemistry while overlooking production realities.
In narrow-web operations, productivity depends on maintaining stable coating quality over long production runs.
Typical process conditions include:
- Coating weights between 0.8 and 1.5 g/m²
- Line speeds between 50 and 300 m/min
- Precise web tension control
- Uniform coating transfer

Figure 2: Relative performance of thermal, UV Mercury and LED UV silicone curing technologies

Thermal curing remains the benchmark for formulation flexibility, while UV mercury offers the broadest processing window at high production speeds. LED UV technology delivers significant advantages in energy efficiency, sustainability and maintenance, but currently requieres more specialied silicone formulations.



▪ Consistent curing across the web width in inerted atmosphere.

The most common application method remains flexographic coating using specially selected anilox rollers.
Anilox volume selection directly influences:
▪ Coat weight
▪ Release consistency
▪ Silicone consumption
▪ Overall process stability
Even minor variations can result in significant performance differences.

The Most Common Production Problems
Despite decades of industrial experience, silicone coating remains one of the most sensitive converting processes.
Under-Cure
Incomplete curing reduces anchorage and increases extractable components.
Typical consequences:
▪ Silicone transfer
▪ Release variation
▪ Reduced aging stability
Silicone Transfer
Poorly cured coatings can partially transfer to the adhesive surface.
Consequences include:
▪ Adhesion loss
▪ Printing defects
▪ Converting problems
Anchorage Failure
Insufficient bonding between silicone and substrate may result in coating delamination.
Variable Release
Even small fluctuations can affect dispensing behaviour and application reliability.
Blocking
Adjacent layers within the roll adhere unintentionally due to inadequate release performance.
Misting
At high speeds, coating materials can atomize and contaminate surrounding equipment.

These issues become increasingly critical as production speeds rise.

Thermal, UV and LED UV Technologies
Thermal Silicone Systems
Thermal platinum-catalysed systems remain widely used throughout the industry.
Advantages:
▪ Proven technology
▪ Broad formulation flexibility
▪ Excellent release performance
Limitations:
▪ High energy consumption
▪ Large oven systems
▪ Significant floor space requirements
For high-volume operations, energy costs have become a growing concern.

Conventional UV Curing
UV-curable silicones transformed release liner production.
Benefits include:
▪ Compact equipment
▪ Immediate curing
▪ High production speeds
▪ Broad industrial acceptance

Mercury UV systems continue to provide one of the widest processing windows available.
This remains a major advantage in demanding production environments.

LED UV Curing
The strongest technological momentum currently belongs to LED UV curing.

Major suppliers including Evonik, Elkem and Dow have introduced dedicated LED UV silicone technologies.
Advantages include:
▪ Lower energy consumption
▪ Instant operation
▪ No mercury
▪ Reduced maintenance
▪ Lower substrate temperatures

However, LED UV systems are not universally superior.
Converters must also consider:
▪ Higher formulation costs
▪ Narrower absorption windows
▪ Greater formulation sensitivity
▪ More demanding process optimization

As a result, technology selection should be driven by production requirements rather than trends.

For many converters, the decision increasingly depends on total operating cost rather than energy consumption alone.

UV Mercury versus LED UV

Parameter	UV Mercury	LED UV
Energy consumption	Higher	Lower
Warm-up time	Required	Immediate
Mercury	Present	None
Ozone generation	Possible	None
Process window	Very broad	Narrower
Formulation flexibility	Excellent	Improving
Maintenance	Higher	Lower
Sustainability profile	Good	Excellent
Silicone cost	Lower	Typically higher
Installed base	Dominant	Rapidly growing

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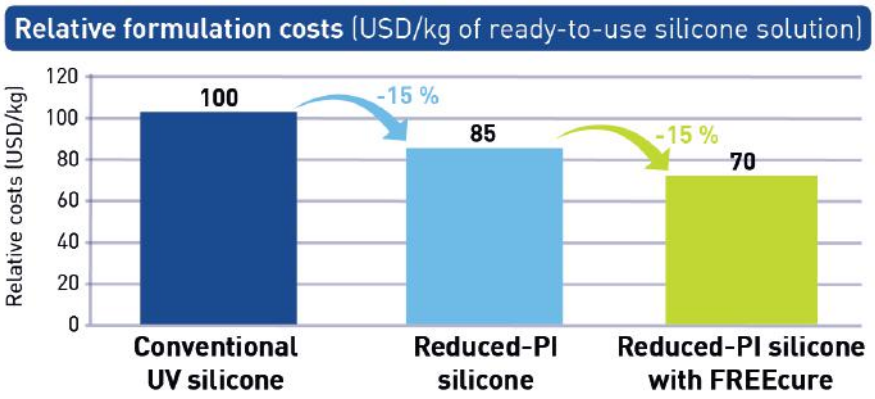
Figure 3:Potencial economic impact of photoinitator reduct formulations

Photoinitiators are among the most expensive components in many UV curabl on trials have shown the significant reductions in photoiniator content can lo maintaining industrially relevant production speeds. Depending on formula savings of up to approxiamentaly 3 $/per kilogram of ready-to-use silicone for trated.



* Savings depend on formulation, raw material prices, local market conditions and production setup. The data shown are based on application trials and should be considered as in

Migration and Food Packaging
Migration has become one of the most important topics in packaging production.

Although silicone coatings themselves are generally not intended to migrate, low molecular weight constituents can potentially become extractable if curing is incomplete.
Particular attention is therefore paid to:
- Photoinitiators
- Photoinitiator fragments
- Low molecular weight siloxanes
- Unreacted reactive species

The most effective strategy remains complete curing.

A higher degree of cure generally reduces the concentration of extractable components and improves long-term coating stability.
This explains the growing interest in curing technologies capable of achieving higher curing efficiency while minimizing formulation complexity.

The Next Generation of Silicone Curing
Historically, production speed and photoinitiator reduction were often conflicting objectives.

Lower photoinitiator concentrations frequently resulted in reduced curing performance. Recent developments are beginning to change this relationship.

New silicone systems are being designed around:
- Improved photochemistry
- Enhanced curing efficiency
- Lower extractable content
- Better economic performance

These developments align closely with broader industry trends toward sustainability and material efficiency.

Economics: Where the Real Opportunity Lies
For many converters, raw material cost exceeds energy cost by a substantial margin.

Consequently, small improvements in formulation efficiency can generate significant savings.
Consider a release liner producer consuming 300 tonnes of silicone annually.

Photoinitiators often represent one of the most expensive components within UV-curable formulations.

If formulation developments enable a significant reduction in photoinitiator content without compromising performance, annual savings can become substantial.

This economic effect frequently exceeds savings generated solely through energy reduction.

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Up to USD 3/kg savings

in application trials compared to conventional UV silicone formulations.*

As a result, converters are increasingly evaluating curing technologies not only on energy efficiency but also on their ability to support more economical formulations.

Case Study: Photoinitiator-Reduced Silicones and FREEcure Technology

One example of this trend is the FREEcure technology developed by IST METZ.

The technology utilizes a UVC-rich curing approach designed to improve curing efficiency in specific silicone and coating applications.

Production trials have demonstrated:

- Up to 200 m/min using a single FREEcure lamp
- Up to 400 m/min using two FREEcure lamps

Actual performance depends on formulation, substrate, coating weight and process configuration.

Trials with photoinitiator-reduced silicone formulations have further demonstrated raw material savings of up to approximately USD 3 per kilogram of ready-to-use silicone formulation.

For high-volume release liner manufacturers, this represents a potentially significant economic benefit.

Importantly, these values should be regarded as application-specific trial results rather than universally achievable production outcomes.

Looking Toward 2035

Several developments are likely to shape the next decade of siliconization. Linerless labels will continue gaining acceptance in applications where waste reduction and logistics efficiency create measurable value.

RFID-enabled labels will require increasingly sophisticated release systems.

Digital printing will demand greater consistency and tighter process control.

Brand owners will continue pushing for lower environmental impact.

Regulatory scrutiny of packaging materials will increase globally.

At the same time, converters will continue seeking technologies capable of reducing total manufacturing cost rather than merely reducing energy consumption.

In this environment, curing efficiency, formulation optimization and raw material economics may become just as important as production speed.

Conclusion

Silicone coating remains one of the most critical enabling technologies in modern label production.

While thermal curing, conventional UV and LED UV systems each offer distinct advantages, future investment decisions will increasingly be driven by overall process economics rather than individual performance metrics.

For narrow-web converters, the challenge is no longer simply to cure silicone faster. The challenge is to achieve higher productivity, lower material consumption, improved sustainability and consistent product performance simultaneously.

Those who successfully combine chemistry, process control and curing technology will be best positioned to compete in the next generation of label manufacturing.

New Ink for high-speed trading card manufacturing

Sun Chemical will launch SunGame™, a product line specifically for the fast-growing trading card and gaming industry, consisting of high-quality inks, durable coatings, advanced brand protection solutions and innovative smart packaging concepts.

The range supports high-speed, vibrant color and high-quality output while meeting stringent toy safety requirements.

The range enables exceptional visual appeal, smooth application and consistent color reproduction in high-speed production environments. It also offers fast setting with minimal misting to reduce ink overspray and deliver sharper images. Its low-VOC formulations reduce adverse environmental impact, while its full compliance with strict industry toy safety standards ensures suitability for products intended for children and collectors alike.

Kim Barham, Business Development Executive, Sun Chemical, comments: "The trading card and board game market continues to grow, which is driven by collector culture and rising consumer popularity. This ink was purpose-built for the industry, where speed, vibrancy and durability are non-negotiable.

Thanks to its rapid color development, quick setting and minimal misting, the range is optimized for high-speed print runs that demand precision. Whether running perfecting or straight presses, the ink adapts to existing workflows and delivers results that collectors and gamers will love."

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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 Catergories

Categories 8- 17

8. Flexographic Labels

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10. Offset Labels

11. Gravure Labels

12. Combination Printing (different processes)

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6. Have you left enough time for shipment?

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