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SEPTEMBER 2005

PIA/GATF InterTech Technology 2005 Awards

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Honoring Excellence in 2005

By Roger Ynostroza  Editorial Director

A record 17 technologies from a record field of 52 total entries earned top recognition in the 2005 InterTech Technology Awards program, which since 1978 has recognized promising technological innovation in the printing industry.

Indeed, of the more than 200 technologies that have now earned top honors in the program, more than 80% have gone on to achieve commercial success, according to the Printing Industries of America/Graphic Arts Technical Foundation, Sewickley, PA, founder of the program.

Since all but a handful of companies submitting nominations this year are exhibitors at the Print 05 & Converting 05 show taking place in Chicago this month, most of these technologies are on display in the industry, are being discussed and are in use by early adopters.

Thus, the InterTech program is a wonderful scorecard of current industry innovation and an accurate barometer of evolving trends and priorities.

Increasing throughput

"Vendors have responded to the industry’s emphasis on increasing throughput while improving productivity and providing tools for consistent color reproduction," observes PIA/GATF executive VP and COO George H. Ryan. "Binding and finishing productivity has improved, color management tools are now very reliable, and press innovations are delivering on productivity we once thought was impossible."

Adds John Lind, PIA/GATF senior research scientist who is in charge of the program, "It’s important to note that many of these technologies are giving print service providers who thought they could not compete in certain markets a chance to do just that—and do it easily, efficiently, and profitably. Take in-line digital coating or software that makes it easy to do lenticular printing, or inks that will get coldset printers into the insert market."

Under Lind’s direction, an independent selection committee—composed of business and production specialists, technicians, and researchers, whose identities remain anonymous—convenes to examine the InterTech entries and discuss their award-worthiness.

Judged against specific criteria

Each nominated technology is carefully judged against specific criteria developed to identify promising innovations; each must (1) be proven in industrial application, (2) be available in the marketplace, but not yet in widespread use, and (3) be beyond beta testing.

Recipients of the 2005 InterTech Technology Awards will accept their trophies from PIA/GATF in November at the association’s Fall Administrative Meetings in San Francisco. While some years in the 1970s and ’80s saw the presentation of only four or five awards, many more have been given in recent years, testimony to the heightened pace of innovation.

In a special arrangement with PIA/GATF, Graphic Arts Monthly publishes this 32-page InterTech Technology Awards booklet.

2006 Competition

Companies interested in sharing their latest technologies with the industry are urged to submit entries in next year’s InterTech Technology Awards program. They should contact John Lind, PIA/GATF senior research scientist, at (412) 259-1815 or jlind@piagatf.org via e-mail.

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2005 PIA/GATF InterTech Technology Award Recipients

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2005 PIA/GATF InterTech Technology Award Nominees

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<tr>
<td>Goss Sunday 200/32 web offset printing press from Goss International</td>
<td>Impressia Metal PlateSetter from XANTE Corporation</td>
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The specially formulated rubber compound used in the Chameleon dual-purpose roller enables printers to switch freely among conventional oil-based, UV and hybrid printing jobs without changing rollers and without sacrificing roller life (typically, rollers used for combination UV/conventional jobs last only about half as long as rollers used solely for oil-based inks) or performance.

The rubber compound does not contain PVC or other fillers, which tend to generate and retain heat, thus ensuring that the dynamic properties of the roller needed for combination printing on today’s high-speed sheetfed presses are intact.

Cool under stress

The manufacturer notes that the unique compound runs cool under stress in the ink train, which is important for maintaining good ink/water balance and color consistency, and does not shrink or swell, even when used in the most demanding ink and wash-up environments. Retention of roller size is necessary for maintaining appropriate roller diameter and hardness (durometer) for consistent ink and water transfer and reduced makeready times.

The compound significantly reduces heat load in the roller train, which is especially important for UV inks, and helps reduce misting.

In switching between UV-to-conventional and conventional-to-UV, the Chameleon compound cuts downtime required for changing out rollers, resetting rollers and conducting wash-ups, plus it eliminates the need to inventory additional rollers in different compounds.

The Chameleon compound is called the only dual-purpose roller that is OEM-approved by the major press manufacturers.

Performance and quality

Since Williamson Printing Corp., Dallas, installed the new Böttcher rollers on all its Speedmasters in August 2004, Bob Linsninski, sheetfed pressroom manager, says he’s been very happy with the performance of “this amazing new compound” in the saving of time when switching between conventional and UV printing.

Linsninski says, “We can now switch back and forth without roller change or damage, while maintaining the high-quality printing that Williamson is known for in the industry.”

After The John Roberts Company, Minneapolis, retrofitted its six-color Heidelberg Speedmaster CD in January 2003 with complete interdeck UV capability, “The Chameleon roller enabled us to bypass hybrid inks and go directly to true UV inks on the market today,” according to Keith Kuebelbeck, sheetfed pressroom manager.

“This capability opened the door to business that we never had before, and substrate limitations became a thing of the past,” he adds. “We’ve monitored the durometer of the rollers monthly since their installation [a year earlier] and found no visible signs of wear or swelling.” Previously, roller life averaged six to eight months.

“Best of all,” Kuebelbeck notes, “they’ve held their initial settings, which has freed up more productive press hours because of less roller maintenance.”

Solution in the UK

Wetzel Brothers, Cudahy, WI, produces point-of-purchase displays and printed material. Last year, it bought a new six-color Komori press to print conventionally and with full UV, mostly on nonporous substrates. Its research into combination printing led it to the United Kingdom, where company representatives learned that hybrid printing can be done economically and efficiently with the right rollers, blankets and UV equipment.

Reports Tim Zandron, pressroom manager, “In 10 months of operation, the Chameleon rollers performed well while printing both conventionally and UV. We haven’t experienced dimensional change caused by swelling or any heat buildup in the roller train; the rollers also have remained stable when cleaned with conventional washes and even with the frequent wash with UV.”
Editing ICC profiles is as easy as manipulating a file in Adobe Photoshop using Kodak Colorflow Custom Color Tools V3.1 software, designed to allow users to facilitate color matching across an extensive variety of input, display and output devices.

The software delivers maximum color management capability when combined with other proofing, digital color printing and workflow products.

For example, users can employ the software to create a Selective Color Edit device link for the Kodak Approval Digital Proofing System; modify the Look profile used by Kodak digital cameras and KPG MatchFlow ImageMapper so that the input profile is built to preferred aim values; and modify the output profile for more accurate proof simulation via the Matchprint Virtual Proofing System.

Tuning device color

Software users can optimize the color performance of an entire workflow by tuning the color of each component device. Through patented Tracer pixel technology and plug-in architecture that enables the use of familiar Photoshop controls, the software optimizes ICC-based workflows by allowing users to:

- build Selective Color Edit device links from “No Color Management” profile
- make edits to any ICC-compliant profile in CMYK or RGB using familiar tools
- build custom input profiles for RGB or CMYK scanners
- apply an ICC abstract effect or device link effect to images or to an existing profile
- use the supplied Color Evaluation Target to establish a balanced system that supports multiple inputs to multiple outputs.

With the Tracer method, a reference image is displayed with a strip of pixels added at the bottom. As global edits are defined, the results are accumulated in the Tracer pixels; this is converted to a grid table-based ICC transform stored as an ICC Device Link or Abstract “effect” profile. This innovative method makes it as easy to edit a profile as to correct an image in Photoshop.

Proof matches press

“Custom Color Tools allows us to reverse the way we conduct press OKs,” says Gregory Hill, manager of prepress systems for Sandy Alexander, Clifton, NJ. “Instead of trying to match the proof on press, now we generate press proofs, create ICC profiles, use Custom Color Tools to optimize the ICC profiles, then go to press with a proof that we already know matches the press. This dramatically reduces the make-ready process, saving us turnaround time and money.”

Quickly, easily and effectively editing ICC color profiles for optimal color fidelity wasn’t possible until Custom Color Tools, says Hill, who adds, “Now, for the first time, companies like ours can truly deliver on the promise of ICC color management.”

For Quad/Graphics, Kodak Colorflow Custom Color Tools broke a bottleneck of having one person handle ICC profile tuning for all its 19 U.S. imaging locations. That person, Tom Collins, a prepress technical specialist located in Quad’s Hartford, WI plant, describes the software as “amazing” in its simplicity and power, and reports that it was installed in all 19 locations.

Quad tunes color

The software optimizes the color performance of the entire Quad/Graphics color-managed workflow by tuning the color of each component piece; the result, says Collins: operational efficiencies, enhanced turnaround times and valuable cost savings.

At Hone Studio, Philadelphia, Kodak’s Colorflow Custom Color Tools enable principal Stephen Hone to manage his digital workflow from the press back to the camera, which he says is the only way to guarantee the viability of a digital color workflow. He declares, “By maximizing our ICC profiles, we know our press is going to match what our client sees on screen as the image moves from capture to layout to printed piece.”

Kodak Colorflow Custom Color Tools, V3.1

Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, NY
(203) 845-7115, www.kodak.com
The fifth imaging unit solutions for Kodak’s NexPress system are in-line, operator-replaceable imaging units that add a broad new set of valuable production capabilities—digital color, coating and glossing—to the NexPress 2100 digital production color press. As the field of digital printing grows more competitive, the versatile fifth imaging unit solutions will position NexPress users to compete for a wider spectrum of jobs, while maintaining a cost-efficient, streamlined workflow.

The NexPress intelligent color solution adds a fifth color of dry ink—red, green or blue—to a CMYK-printed piece, an option that enables printers to reliably match Pantone, HKS and custom spot colors, essential for corporate-branded printing. Adding the fifth imaging unit expands the NexPress four-color printing system color gamut by 50%, and produces up to a 75% wider color gamut than competitive digital color printing systems.

Also, the fifth imaging unit can automatically apply a clear dry ink coating to a printed piece, providing additional protection to the surface from mail-stream smears, smudges and scratches. Printers can also use the intelligent coating solution to create authenticating watermarks on coupons or to communicate copyrights on proofs. Like a fifth color, intelligent coating is applied in an efficient in-line workflow.

Adding a high gloss

Finally, the fifth imaging unit solution is accomplished through an intuitive graphical user interface on the NexStation front end in a changeover that takes 20 minutes. All current NexPress 2100 customers can upgrade their four-color digital presses to include one or more fifth imaging unit solutions, with no change in full rated speed of 70 A4 pages per minute.

The additional unit is designed to add either a fifth color of dry ink or a clear dry ink coating to digitally printed sheets.

Parker Pad & Printing Ltd., Markham, ON, uses its fifth imaging unit and NexGlosser for in-house production of durable, high-gloss tabs on heavy-stock divider pages for binders, an operation it previously outsourced for laminating and diecutting. Parker Pad uses the fifth imaging solutions most often for printing blue and red colors and for applying clear, high-impact gloss coatings to postcards, point-of-purchase displays, card stock and even offset-printed materials.

“We have been very satisfied with the quality and reliability of the NexGlosser, which we use primarily for variable-data postcards, covers for perfect-bound books, and point-of-purchase self-talkers,” says Carmine Iannacchino, principal, Landmark Document Services, Stamford, CT.

Valuable alternatives

By using the NexGlosser as an alternative to UV coating and outside laminating for book covers, Landmark offers a new service for customers and adds a new revenue source, plus it cuts turnaround time.

Finally, BatesJackson LLC, Buffalo, NY, uses its fifth imaging unit to create custom print jobs with higher quality, which has helped attract new business while keeping its current clientele. Managers expect that being able to add high-gloss protection and print additional colors will help the company increase digital printing revenues by 25% to 50% as a percentage of sales.

Owner E.J. Flammer not only favors the expanded color gamut but he notes that applying a clear coating saves production time in finishing: “Instead of having to go to off-line coating or lamination, the pieces can come off the press and go right to the cutter.”
These software plug-ins for the Creo Prinergy and Powerpack workflow systems manage the correction cycles in a prepress workflow efficiently and cost-effectively, ensuring that the design master file and the production file do not fall out of sync.

PDF Compare, a quality control tool, analyzes two PDF files— as native PDF—and identifies the differences between them. It examines a PDF saved or created from the design master file and compares it with the existing “plate-ready” PDF, highlighting the differences visually by displaying the common elements and change elements on individual Adobe Acrobat layers.

For example, the Ink Differences feature will highlight any gradation changes to images and blends so that small changes in subject matter can be easily identified.

PDF Merge, a prepress production tool, allows the operator to extract all of the prior work that was done on the plate-ready file (traps, screening assignment, geometry, overprint settings, etc.) and merge all of those elements into a new revised production file.

Incorporating last-minute changes

Together, PDF Compare and PDF Merge provide an automated way for prepress operators to incorporate last-minute changes when preparing files for production. They can change graphic elements in a master design file, save that file as a revision and extract all of the reusable production settings from the original plate-ready file. The result is a revised design file that is ready for production in a much shorter period of time.

Vancouver Sharp Imaging, Vancouver, BC, began using the plug-ins in November 2004, the first company to test the software. According to plant manager Marc Lebel, “PDF Compare and PDF Merge are helping us to be more efficient when we send and receive files from the client.”

He explains, “Our customers don’t always tell us what they’ve changed on a file; it could be just one typo or several changes. Either way, we have to re-output our original proof along with the new proof, and compare them side-by-side on the light table. PDF Compare and PDF Merge allow us to do this really quickly on-screen, without the expense of outputting proofs. They are also saving us a lot of time by making it easy to compare the old file with the new file, and to copy work that was done on the old file to the new file.”

In addition, notes Lebel, work done to a file can automatically be migrated to a new, revised production file, eliminating a redo of the old work and the usual manual notation of work done from one prepress operator to another.

Vancouver Sharp Imaging, says Lebel, is also using the plug-ins for consistency in versioning, ensuring that a base file with, say, five different overlays can be delivered to the customer with exactly the same output quality on several different jobs.

Two key benefits of use

At one field-test site, Southern Graphic Systems/Midwest (an Alcoa business), Plymouth, Minn., Tim Staut notes two key benefits of the new tools:

—saving time and shortening correction cycles, primarily by eliminating operator guesswork about, for example, how a file was trapped, and
—decreased chance of error, by being sure that only requested changes are reflected in the revised file while maintaining the same traps from the old file.

At Banta Publications Group, Liberty, MO, says systems administrator Dan Kinney, the new programs are helping prepress staff members avoid problems in three areas when customers send in pages for processing: a minor correction that could be overlooked by eye, a “corrected” page that’s actually the same page, and the wrong page altogether.

In addition, adds Kinney, Banta’s proofreaders use PDF Compare to spot a correction or verify that a correction was made.
especially formulated for coldset web presses equipped or retrofitted with a UV lamp on each side of the web delivery, Flint’s Arrowlith inks will enable coldset printers to enter the lucrative insert market.

Coldset printers will be able to use their equipment to print full-color, high-volume coated inserts, Sunday sections, glossy book covers and other special projects completely in-house. Previously, coldset web printers could run only absorbent substrates such as newsprint, groundwood and offset sheets. Developers say the new inks allow print jobs such as booklets containing a mixture of pages on newsprint and coated or supercalendered stocks to be run in-line, incorporating such steps as inserting and stitching.

Wide range of substrates

The patent-pending inks are called the first UV products that can print on coated and supercalendered substrates as well as newsprint. Their tack range, similar to conventional news ink, allows the ink film to split effectively in the coldset roller train. Formulated using proprietary photoinitiators, monomers and oligomers that promote hard curving, the inks wet-trap and cure on the surface of the substrate, demonstrating high lithographic performance at high press speeds similar to conventional coldset inks.

As a result, the dry (hard-cured) inks exiting the lamps create no pipe-roller or former-board buildup, no rub or marking and no page-to-page setoff. The finished product thus exhibits superior color reproduction, with sharper dots and much higher gloss than standard coldset inks.

Finally, coldset printers using Arrowlith inks benefit from a substantial reduction in start-up waste, at least a 50% improvement in ink mileage and decreased stacker waste. The new inks are free of volatile organic compounds and carry the Soy Seal of Approval, which indicates that they are environmentally friendly and recyclable.

Scott G. Stewart, president of Nebraska Printing Center, Lincoln, NE, foresees a major breakthrough when thousands of coldset web presses can be adapted to print much higher quality (“much more vibrant colors”) on coated substrates using UV inks, with zero VOCs. He reports that a number of customers have switched their weekly advertising inserts from newsprint or groundwood grades to SCA or #5 sheets.

“We could never participate in the coated paper arena, but now the new UV inks have made it possible for us to open new doors and expand our marketplace,” reports Michael R. Gehring, manager of Eagle Web Press, Salem, OR, “We’ve added new clients, but moreover we’ve enhanced the products of our present customers by offering them a mix of cold web printing and coated web printing in one pass on press.”

More positive outlook

He says at a time when cold web printing is shrinking as a business, the new process has served to strengthen his company’s position and encourage a more positive outlook. Gehring notes, “Flint UV inks are very easy for us to work with on all substrates, from newsprint to book stocks, coated groundwood and #3 coated book.”

At Alliance Press, Inc., Knoxville, TN, president Matt C. Edwards says that the Arrowlith UV product line removes the impediments of earlier UV efforts in coldset, mainly poor runnability and high costs. He says, “We’ve been using one of our Goss 4-High towers to print on coated, supercalendereds and uncoated stock for more than 18 months, producing vivid colors and strong blacks and eliminating marking and setoff on uncoated papers.”

Edwards adds, “We expect [use of this product line] to have a significant impact on our sales growth for years to come.”
his high-performance liquid ink additive helps conventional oil-based inks dry faster and with more rub resistance on any substrate, from matte stocks and coated papers to synthetics, by increasing the solubility of its catalysts in the inks but causing no significant impact on print quality or ink properties. This more uniform distribution in the ink increases the molecular cross-linking interaction rate, producing faster drying and better immunity to paper with pH variations; as a result, drying time on many uncoated (acidic) stocks go from 24 hours or more to four hours. As a result, printers using SpeedyDry can offer customers more types of jobs, a wider range of substrates and shorter turnaround times. SpeedyDry’s chemistry also makes it easy to solve age-old problems associated with using reflex blue, purple and violet inks, which contain high concentrations of cobalt driers, heavy metals that repel water and dry or oxidize very slowly. Normal set time for reflex blue falls from about 24 hours to about six hours, violet from 12 to 4.5 hours.

In addition, the additive enables inks containing cobalt to stay “open” on the rollers longer, up to 1.5 hours during a complete press stop and up to 12 hours with the press set on crawl speed. No marking, no powder Use of SpeedyDry reduces or eliminates marking of sheets in postpress equipment and can eliminate the use of offset powder, depending on the stock and job, bypassing those costs. In certain cases, the product added to the ink can bypass the need for infrared equipment to help dry inks in the delivery pile.

Finally, the additive has been shown to improve the resistance of offset printed sheets enduring heat in laser and thermal printers.

“SpeedyDry has reduced the drying time dramatically on all the substrates that my customers have tried it on,” notes Chuck Schultz, technical service manager for Arjobex Synthetic Papers, Charlotte, NC. “I have seen benefits in much shorter drying times, ease of use, reduced cost of ink, quicker turnaround time especially on work-and-turn jobs, expanded number of substrates that can be printed and fewer washups, plus it works very well with aqueous coating, reducing its tendency to block.” Four hours, not four days In Cincinnati, Stevenson/The Color Company used SpeedyDry for the first time on a job requiring two hits of opaque white on silver foil, an operation that normally requires from one to four days for set-up and drying. Color manager Bill On, pressroom manager Larry Wagon, the plant manager and press crews were all surprised that the inks containing the additive needed just two hours to set up and were dry in less than four hours. The company has been using SpeedyDry on foils and styrene jobs, reporting that the product is easy to use; stays open in ink fountains, rollers and blankets; washes up with ease; and gives a smooth, clean laydown of inks and dots. Quebecor World MIL Inc., Don Mills, ON, has used the additive for a year, mainly for matte and offset coverweight stocks and heavy solids. “We’ve been very pleased with the results SpeedyDry has given us,” states Rick Sherrard, director of manufacturing.

One 2005 InterTech judge comments about SpeedyDry, “Once you put it in your pressroom, you won’t be able to get it out of there.”

SpeedyDry Ink Additive
Genesis LLC, Charlotte, NC
(704) 400-7028, www.speedydry.com
Goss Automatic Transfer Feature
Goss International, Bollingbrook, IL
(630) 755-9300, www.gossinternational.com

Versioning and short runs
Web printers producing multiple versions or recurring product formats can take advantage of the AT feature. For web printers unable to offer versioning and short-run jobs, the AT function can provide production and cost efficiencies that improve their competitive edge and expand their product offerings.

Since Goss Sunday press cylinders do not require bearers, AT units can be mounted in pivot boxes to achieve the wide blanket-to-blanket throwoff necessary for the web to pass through when units are taken off impression. Independent AC motors, a standard feature on Sunday presses, allow operators to “silence” individual printing units for plating or maintenance while the other units in the press line continue to print.

AT technology is complemented by the function of Autoplate (which received an InteTech Award in 1999), which allows plates for the next job to be loaded and waiting in cassettes on the AT units while those units are printing. As the units come off impression on the current job, the Autoplate cassettes unload the old plates and reload the new plates while the rest of the units continue to print.

In a plant producing multiple version changes with an average run length of 50,000 impressions and 12 make-readys per day at 20 minutes per make-ready, the time savings—or additional press time available—with AT could be as much as four hours per day.

In addition to reducing operator effort and downtime, AT can minimize print quality and web tension changes associated with starting and stopping a press repeatedly.
Technology leadership delivering exclusive advantages

Value innovation aimed at real customer benefits

Ingenuity delivering industry firsts

Innovation... Cornerstone of our business

www.gossinternational.com
The modular design of the Stahlfolder series provides both an immediate startup and an expandable “future-proof” investment.

The high-performance TH/KH family of modular buckle-plate and combination folders focuses on productivity, maximum flexibility and intelligent automation to keep today’s bindery output up with today’s press productivity levels at a time of shrinking job sizes and reduced changeover times.

Modularity is important, say users, because the design provides for both an immediate startup and an expandable, “future-proof” investment.

Key features of the TH and KH folders include an Airstream table with patented sheet control to ensure simple, fast make-ready and sheet transport without marking; a control system with user-friendly touch screen; spindle-driven motorized buckle plate adjustment; side guides with digital readouts; a servo-motor sensor that adjusts roller settings using a single sheet of stock; and the choice of a flat-pile, round-continuous or pallet feeder.

Optional features include a knife shaft lift for buckle plates, which speeds job changeovers, and motor-driven folding roller adjustments.

A unique Production Data Management module provides a real-time overview of ongoing production and costs, allowing operators to plan more reliably and managers to obtain dependable data for more precise estimating purposes.

Typical folder configuration

A typical TH Stahlfolder 82 three-station configuration might consist of a continuous feeder, a slitter shaft lift kit in the first and second station, a pre-slitter shaft in the first station and a double rear-mounted slitter shaft in the second station, with motorized buckle-plate settings and fold roller settings in all stations.

Stahlfolder TH technology paid off for an early adopter, Typed Letters Corporation, Wichita, KS, which bought three machines a year ago. “We can attribute some of our 30%-plus growth to the fact that we were able to get jobs out faster than ever,” says VP Randal A. Johnson. “In some cases, our output has doubled and makereadies plummeted, which alone make the investment worthwhile.”

He says Typed Letters is a believer in workflow integration and plans to be fully integrated and seeing benefits in the finishing area.

In a side-by-side comparison next to previous-generation machines at Eller Repro + Druck, Villingen-Schwenningen, Germany, new Stahlfolder TH 82 systems achieved about 15% higher performance on two big orders, reports manager Bjorn Eller. Since the company uses several folders to produce large orders, he says, being able to easily transfer the set-up values from one system to another is wonderful since the company can cut set-up time, both for both machines and for repeat orders.

Eller adds, “Should the higher performances and reduced set-up times prove true over the next eight weeks, we will order another two folders of this type to replace our older systems.”

French bookbinder adds five

Last October, SDNF, a bookbinder in Paris that is a long-time Stahl user, bought three KH folders and two TH folders. Reports president and general director R. Courbassier, “The simple set-up and fast speed allowed us to cut production time by 50%, plus change quickly from one job to another.”
atented simplified software from HumanEyes significantly eases a printer’s entry into an upcoming, profitable but previously specialized, expertise-essential market for three-dimensional lenticular effects such as high-quality flip and morph as well as natural, highly realistic photographic 3-D. All advertising media, from 3-D capable electronic display to conventional print, packaging, and backlit and extra-wide format signs, can take advantage of this treatment.

Using off-the-shelf digital cameras, printers and presses, HumanEyes 3D Software uses mathematical algorithms instead of optics to create stereo panoramic 3-D pictures up to 360 degrees and special/lenticular effects, including morph zoom and layered 3-D. The automated approach bypasses the expensive, time-consuming and difficult-to-produce special effects developed over the years by highly skilled technicians.

**Photography, processing, printing**

Three simple steps, which do not require advanced operator skills, are involved: digital photography, processing using Mac-based HumanEyes software and printing using existing printing technologies. Also, captured scenes can be reused for multiple printing sizes and depth effects in the same way they are with 2-D; in other words, there’s no need to reshoot a scene to alter parameters since a single mouse click controls changes to the parallax and focal point.

In creating effects, the software assigns depth using graphic tools, calculating depth automatically and generating any number of multiple viewpoints automatically. A unique, compressed PostScript output format eliminates prepress system and network bottlenecks.

A composite feature allows users to combine graphics, text and logos with the 3-D effect, enabling full control of depth positioning and focal points.

Kevin Schrader, operations VP for Blanks Printing & Imaging, Dallas, says, “In short-cutting the old, difficult lenticular processes without compromising quality, HumanEyes 3D has opened up several significant new revenue paths for us. We look forward to exploiting the benefits of this technology.”

**Something new to offer**

Blanks, which began using the software in January, says it was extremely encouraged by the initial production runs for its select clients. “Giving our customers an array of special, or lenticular, effects from one easy-to-use application is something new for Blanks and for the overall graphic arts marketplace.”

Within three months of installation, Druckerei Staffner, known as “the plastic printer” in its native Austria, was producing “amazing” 3-D projects for its customers, primarily composed of ad agencies, industrial concerns, commercial enterprises and hotels. Managing director Gabi Staffner says that HumanEyes 3D software enables the company to offer clients “incredibly” powerful 3-D effects that no one else can produce, allowing the company to become a leading lenticular producer in Austria and southern Germany.

**Adding to profitability**

Soon after installing the 3-D software, reports president George Amann, Unimac Graphics, Carlstadt, NJ, was able to produce quality results. “We’ve been so pleased with our results that we’ve been able to take on numerous 3-D projects, which have added to our profitability and expanded our client base.”

HumanEyes offers systems for offset printers printing directly on plastic in small-, medium- and large-format sizes, plus systems for medium- and wide-format inkjet printers; all the systems can be upgraded to the next higher model.

Observers comment about the dramatic increase in potential uses of 3-D images, from posters and point-of-purchase signs to packaging, cell phones and computer monitors.
he high print quality and low makeready times of the KBA Rapida 205 system, the world’s largest sheetfed offset press, take this technology to an acme of productivity in a sheet size–59.5x81”–that has never been printed before, at the respectable output rate of 9,000 sheets per hour.

The versatile new machine is designed to enable large-format printers, book printers, packaging houses, poster printers, screen printers and general commercial printers to enter new markets with an economic, reliable, efficient and brand-new solution.

Four times the format
For commercial printers, the large sheet size can be equal to four 40” sheets, which is ideal for fast return on investment on long-run signature work. An internal register system, monitored and controlled from the press console, ensures that all sheets are in perfect register. Stock changeover can be accomplished in minutes.

Printers can replace two to four older presses with just one high-tech Rapida 205, and they can run paper and board stock ranging from 50 lb. to 64 pt.

The press features a fully automatic plate changer, automatic multipurpose washing systems (for plate, blanket and impression cylinders), in-line anilox coating and drying options like IR, UV or hybrid. Further features include an accurate shaftless feeder, declutchable and low-maintenance inking system, speed-compensated delivery, Qualitronic inline sheet inspection system and Densitronic quality control system, and in-line perforating and slitting.

Bob Lothenbach, president of Imagine! Print Solutions, Shakopee, MN, reports, “We’ve moved new jobs and special work to our new Rapida 205 and our customers are delighted with the high technology and extremely interesting format size. The automation on the press has been a real draw, enabling us to put more work on the press, turn jobs around much faster and use new substrates that we couldn’t use before. Our estimate is that the new press will quickly pay for itself.”

Seeking differentiation
At Loupe, Gahanna, OH, president Kathleen Bird says, “We turned to KBA’s Rapida 205 when we were in the market for a large-format press that would offer versatile and advanced printing technology, as well as differentiation from competition. Our customer base has expanded and we’ve created more business since we bought the 205 for a quick return on our financial investment.”

She adds, “The press size allows our customers to print special formats with high quality; we owe this to the unique concept and size of the press, the short makeready times leading to increased production output and the machine’s ability to support several applications.”

The world’s first Rapida 205 user, Ellerthold Grossplakate of Dresden, Germany, had been looking for a way to move into new markets and be able to handle all of the different types of work it receives.

Now, says manager Klaus Gerlach, “We can serve new markets and take more jobs from our existing customers while printing everything under our own roof. At the same time, the press has differentiated us from our competitors by showcasing how we can handle this press’s unique extra-large-format abilities and provide them with products they didn’t know they could afford.”

He says Ellerthold has become a showcase plant because “everyone wants to see how fast and efficient this huge press works.”
Metrix is an automatic layout calculator intended to capture the cost savings in commonly known but underutilized production strategies such as gang printing, in which every ganged job saves one or more press make-readies, along with accompanying sets of printing plates and stock waste. The software, which employs a print-specific, patent-pending algorithm, is designed for use by estimators, customer service representatives, production planners and press operators in commercial printing companies.

While many printers previously passed up gang printing because the layouts are so complex and manual methods the only means available, Metrix is designed to quickly calculate and create the most efficient, cost-effective press sheet layouts, even those with varying run lengths. The software can plan up to 100 print products consisting of different sizes and quantities, mixtures of flat and folded work, each with different bleeds and grain-direction requirements.

Two versions available

Version 1.5, the Production Edition of Metrix, can be integrated with MIS systems and imports JDF data and exports JDF, CIP3 and Preps template files both to prepress and to finishing departments downstream. This product streamlines the building of complex imposition templates and reduces the risk of data entry errors.

The Standard Edition (Version 1.0) of Metrix, which does not accommodate data export for digital process integration, can be used by estimators and production planners to try various “what-if” scenarios in seconds, enabling them to find the most efficient layouts.

For Whirlwind Communications, Victoria, Australia, using Metrix has cut the total work time in its prepress department by 20% to 25%. “Metrix automatically calculates all our ganged layouts, and enables us to easily edit these layouts where necessary while simultaneously checking that our edits don’t cause any errors,” reports Andrew Cester, director.

Cester says Whirlwind routinely produces more than 500 jobs in one shift on two presses using the program.

“Works like magic”

Frank Romano, professor emeritus, Rochester (NY) Institute of Technology, School of Print Media, observes, “Metrix works like magic. It optimizes sheet layouts for ganging multiple products, eliminates the complexities of gang printing and minimizes stock waste, placing as much product on a press sheet as possible. It does all this while considering printer/press capabilities and product specs such as grain direction.”

“The speed of Metrix to supply alternative options and fixed back stock usage and sizes is astonishing,” says Frederick T. Moss, vice president and general manager of National Graphics, Inc., Vancouver, BC. “I can easily estimate that Metrix saves us 10 to 12 hours per week in job planning and prepress, in addition to the savings in stock usage and shop floor inventory management efficiencies.”

At Graph Expo & Converting Expo 2004, live demonstrations were conducted of Metrix CIP4 folding data being fed into MBO America’s CIP4/JDF integration software, Datamanager, to set up an MBO Perfection folding machine with Navigator control.

While Metrix ships with a library of more than 80 common folding schemes, it also allows users to build custom folds simply, bringing “unprecedented intelligence to computerized folding” according to Rohan Holt, founder of LithoTechnics and developer of the software.
Using this remote press diagnosis and service support system, MAN Roland’s Rapid Response Team experts can troubleshoot any of the company’s sheetfed presses, monitor the press system’s vital signs in real time and provide detailed error reports that map out the historical performance of the press.

Using this knowledge, the press manufacturer’s technician can direct the press crew how to carry out repairs, via telephone or chat box. As a result, downtime is reduced and the time and expense of a technical service call is eliminated.

Analyzes performance, too

Equipped with a feedback loop that looks at productivity as well as problems, the system functions as a pressroom performance analyzer, capable of reporting the operational status of every important assembly in the press, from feeder to delivery, over days, months and years.

Also, plans call for TelePresence to serve as a maintenance enabler, providing operating statistics on the equipment so that routine maintenance is performed at the precise intervals required.

The TelePresence system is available on any MAN Roland sheetfed press, including Roland 300, 500, 700 and 900 models equipped with the PECOM digital operating system since 1995. It can be retrofitted on any post-1995 machine.

For complex issues, members of the company’s research and development team at the factory in Germany can remotely collaborate with Rapid Response Team experts in the U.S. to help interpret the data and convert the analysis into effective repair solutions.

“Standing with us at the console”

“TelePresence is like having a team of MAN Roland technicians on site here at Finlay, around the clock. Rapid Response Team members monitor the operation of the press as if they were standing with us at our PECOM control console,” says Kevin D. Kalagher, CEO of Finlay, Bloomfield, CT, one of the largest printers in the state. “As a result, the highest level of technical support, regardless of what shift or day it is, continually covers us.

Finlay equipped both its 10-color Roland 700 perfector and six-color 700 with in-line coating, installed in the past year, with TelePresence.

Pictorial Offset Corporation, Carlstadt, NJ, used TelePresence even before it began running its new eight-color Roland 700 equipped with in-line coating and hybrid/UV capabilities, using the remote diagnostics system to accelerate the installation and “shakedown” of the press.

“We believe that TelePresence will bring the efficiency of digital networking to the technical support process and make the offset printing process more dependable than ever,” says Gary B. Samuels, managing partner in charge of manufacturing.

Proves immediate value

For Van Lanen Printing Co., Inc., Green Bay, Wis., the TelePresence system demonstrated its value the day after its installation with a new six-color Roland 700 earlier this year. “The press dryer would not operate,” recalls Robert E. Kissel, general manager, “so we activated the system to notify MAN Roland. Technicians responded immediately and with the use of the system’s E-Eyes video monitor, we found the problem and were in operation in 15 minutes.”
y using a multistage vacuum distillation process that automatically separates clean water and solvent at lower than boiling point temperatures, the Solvent Saver System can transform waste blanket wash back into solvent that’s reusable on the press, rather than disposed of off site.

A post-distillation blending option removes all traces of contamination from the waste solvent so that the distilled solvent can be combined with water and additives to serve in the place of fresh chemistry, with the distilled water discharged to the drain or reused on press.

Thus, by recycling both water miscible and non-miscible waste solvent or blanket wash, the system offers users savings in both reduced solvent purchases (up to 75% less) and significantly less waste disposal (up to 90% reduction in costs).

Any solvent, many capacities

Since the system does not require the user to switch to a specific solvent, the technology has a broader audience than similar solutions. Several recycling capacity levels are available, from 10 gallons per day up to more than 500 gallons per day; multiple vacuum and temperature stages allow recycling of a wide variety of blanket washes.

Safety is assured with the explosion-proof design, numerous automatic shut-offs and monitoring sensors. Also, operator involvement, which encompasses placing a drum by the unit and pressing a few buttons, can be reduced via varying levels of automation, from start-up to automated sludge discharge to automatic shut-off. Labor for maintenance similarly can be minimized.

For printers, the system can help lower emissions and RCRA generator status and help in compliance with lower VOC regulations coming into effect.

As pure as new

In six months of using the Maratek system, Cenveo Anderson Lithograph, Commerce, CA, has been able to reclaim more than 90% of its waste sheetfed blanket wash solvent for reuse in its sheetfed press operation. “The purity of the reclaimed solvent is excellent and there’s no discernible difference in quality compared to the virgin product,” says Frank C. Barnett, director of environmental, health and safety. Each day, he says, the system can process more than four 55-gallon drums of waste solvent.

Battlefield Graphics, Burlington, ON, has been using the Solvent Saver system since 2003, reducing both the amount of waste solvent sent off-site for treatment and its expenditures on new blanket wash.

Plant manager Bob Smith says the unit does an “excellent” job of separating the water and the contaminants from its waste blanket wash so that the recycled product meets the company’s requirements in producing top-quality printing.

“At Standard Printing Company, we’ve realized a 95% reduction in our press wash waste-handling volumes” using the Maratek system, says Vince Waechter, pressroom supervisor. He adds, “With the increasing EPA and local regulations, the unit allows us to manage and reduce our hazardous waste and cut our overall solvent spending. This is a beneficial capital investment that would help the printing industry as a whole by reducing hazardous waste and associated costs.”

Solvent Saver Solvent Recycling System
Maratek Environmental Inc., Bolton, ON
(905) 857-2738, www.maratek.com

For printers, various distillation stages in this automatic system permit the reuse of solvent, instead of its usual disposal off-site.
On-demand finishing at commercial-quality levels is now achievable by digital, commercial and in-house printers by means of this comprehensive yet versatile series of coordinated modular units for digital printing, trimming, collating, stitching and perfect binding.

Printers of all sizes can use the units singly or combined in a fully integrated production system to create short-run printed products in a single operation with speed, ease and economies of scale not previously possible. The independent-unit design of all SigmaLine modules allows printers to complement their existing printing and finishing capabilities by adding one or more components to attain increased speed, diversity and quality to their operations.

Alternatively, an entire end-to-end on-demand platform can be created, presenting new strategies and business opportunities to printers seeking marketplace advantage and differentiation.

Besides providing the highest degree of automation, the SigmaLine components require no time-consuming prepress, no manual makeready and almost no labor.

Eight possible units

Components include SigmaPress, SigmaFolder, SigmaCollator, SigmaBinder perfect binder, SigmaTower cooling station, SigmaTrimmer, SigmaStitcher and SigmaControl with a JDF interface to coordinate and control all functions. Those functions involve production activities as well as job reporting, product tracking and management information, including job-status updates.

Developers note that the modular SigmaLine concept addresses major trends affecting the printing industry: shorter run lengths, faster turnarounds, sharper targeting and greater production versatility. For example, they say, the equipment can be configured for short-run production of books, catalogs, manuals, direct mailers, financial documents, journals, guides and many other printed pieces.

As many as eight components can be configured into an end-to-end on-demand platform for digital finishing.

All components, they add, are designed to operate independently or with other units.

“At Offset Paperback Manufacturers, our SigmaBinder and SigmaTower, running in a near-line configuration, can bind up to 1,000 variable-size books per hour,” says William Rogers, engineering VP of the Dallas, PA-based firm. He says quick laser measurements of the compressed book block set all binder parameters, allowing nonstop production of books regardless of size.

Rogers notes, “Expensive manual labor used to be part of every job but now SigmaLine automation allows us to set up a job very efficiently in literally moments, plus the binding quality is impeccable.”

One U.S. manufacturer requesting anonymity is using a SigmaBinder as part of a super-automated inventory management solution or “roll-to-box” system for short-run book production in which blank paper enters at one end and a finished book emerges at the other, entirely without human intervention.

Wide range of services

To help meet its customers’ continually evolving communication needs, Commercial Communications, Inc., Hartland, WI, is pursuing print-on-demand capabilities, offering a range of services from e-solutions and fulfillment to the bindery. One of its activities is running variable-size books from a rollfed system directly into the SigmaBinder, streamlining its finishing operations and enabling it to better fulfill more customer demands for shorter runs and faster turnarounds.

“The SigmaBinder requires no manual makereadies, which has made our binding workflow more productive than ever before,” says Steve Henck, production VP. “We also like the modular aspect of the SigmaLine concept so that, if our business calls for it, we can add other components to continue growing in the future.”
his easy-to-implement software package helps print service providers with limited Web development programming expertise to access the variable printing market by making it easy for them to quickly set up an on-line literature management and ordering site with document customization capabilities.

The turnkey, server-based product has two primary components: Storefront Administrator, a browser-based tool used to set up the site, and Pageflex Studio, a desktop application providing layout tools with variable data and customization capabilities.

With the latter interface, users can develop a catalog of customizable documents, set up user access, customization workflows, site skins, and user profiles, shipping and purchasing options.

Documents can “flex”

Storefront includes Pageflex technologies for customizing form-filling and direct-manipulation, plus a database merge for document personalization. Thus, documents “flex” to accommodate variable content within sophisticated designer-specified guidelines.

With Storefront, users can quickly generate multiple private-label sites, each with a look and feel unique to a particular valued corporate customer.

Customers at the site follow simple guided workflows in a Web browser to select documents, customize them using easy-to-follow editing steps and save and order their documents using a standard shopping-cart interface. Storefront provides server-side composition of documents and produces high-quality previews in the Web browsers.

Customers have password-protected logins, personal-profile information and a personal image and order history.

Sites were well received

DMM, a direct marketing services firm in Scarborough, ME, first bought Pageflex Storefront to serve a leading health education services provider, but, says DMM marketing VP Theresa Cloutier-McCann, “Our initial proof-of-concept sites were so well received that projects immediately expanded, and we received additional business.”

At the initial portal, staff members at HMOs that have signed up for the service can order customized and personalized print materials to support their health education and marketing initiatives. Cloutier-McCann adds, “We spent just one afternoon with our client on training,” a testament to the software’s ease of use.

Thomson West, Eagan, MN, got its Pageflex Storefront system in operation in just one day last December, without training, according to Arlene Berenson, technology lead.

To communicate with customers and prospects, Thomson West salespeople can use the site to select invitations, sell-sheets, proposal templates, brochures and letters, then use their Web browser to customize the documents and upload their contact database to further automate personalization of the documents.

Single-project payoff

“One project alone this year will pay for [our investment in Storefront] and we’ll utilize it for a number of projects,” Berenson adds.

For Rastar Digital Marketing, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT, acceptance of the Storefront solutions by its customers (mainly from the beverage and medical industries) has been “tremendous,” reports CEO Kevin Despain, who adds, “We’re selling solutions utilizing Storefront faster than we can implement them! In May we had nine customers customizing documents and ordering printing through this implementation.”

Earlier, Rastar Digital Marketing had found ASP-based print ordering systems too limited in their functionality and too rigid to adapt to specific customer needs. Despain says the Pageflex Storefront solution, simple and quick to put into place, fills a valuable spot between ASP models and expensive one-off custom-ordering sites that require a lot of expertise and preparation time.
armonizing color consistency across devices—scanners, printers, monitors and even digital cameras—is the goal of the Pulse ColorElite System, a tailored spectrophotometer kit for calibrating and profiling devices. The system features the DTP 20 measurement device, used for remote hand scanning or patch reading; Pathfinder, a 12” integrated hand scanning guide that enables users to align the DTP 20 against intended targets; an integrated barcode that can be used for target indexing and a state-of-the-art colorimeter for monitor profiling.

Advanced profiling software is intended to put users in control of color measurement throughout their work process, including data uploading and file processing. The system can be set up to take measurements at the location the user desires, at the speed they prefer, without compromising precision. Once the target has been measured, the user can return to their workstation for fast data upload in a few easy steps.

Expert systems help minimize errors; for example, the Pulse system includes unique encoded data in the targets, which helps eliminate measurement errors, saving time and money.

**Output profiles. I am extremely impressed with the overall performance in all areas of the Pulse ColorElite package.**

After several months of intensive use, I find that output profiles that usually take hours now take minutes, with effectiveness and accuracy unlike any I have ever seen. Monitor calibration is quick, easy and effective, and the design and feel of the Pulse with the motion sensor and barcode feature is truly inspiring.

Lizza concludes, “I use the input profile features many times a day and find the results very consistent...Your product has enabled us to evolve to a new level of accuracy and speed in a very short time. Your product is helping to revolutionize the fine art reproduction industry, in turn benefiting artists and collectors everywhere with much more authentic reproductions.”

Richard Milott, a professional advertising photographer operating his own business in Richmond, Victoria, Australia, has been using the Pulse ColorElite System since December.

“What I like most is that the profile building, which is wizard based, does not necessarily require a sophisticated understanding of color management to get great results. The package is very user friendly.”

Milott adds, “The Pulse software lets me keep my monitor regularly profiled; I am also alerted when it is time to re-profile, which I find very helpful. The package allows me to edit my output profiles, if I so desire, and also comes with a great gamut viewer, which I use regularly to compare my profiles and their effect on the images I work with.”

**Hands-on color training**

ShootSmarter University is a photographic education facility in Aurora, IL that strives to advance the skills of professional photographers into the digital age. To do so, it provides all the lighting, shooting and printing equipment in house for student use.

“You can imagine that controlling the color between all these devices is quite a challenge,” says Will Crockett, “but we’re completely in control using the X-Rite Pulse system on all our photo components and could not be happier.”
Industry experts can’t say enough about Pulse ColorElite® System

“X-Rite has sensibly taken the best aspects of Eye-One, improved on any weak points and thrown in a better software bundle.”
- PrintWeek UK (Product of the Week)

When recognizing the Pulse ColorElite System with the 2005 Intertech Technology Award, the judges lauded its “upstream impact and potential in soft proofing” as well as its “great results.”
- PIA/GATF Intertech Technology Award Committee

The Pulse system is “a well-thought-out, highly accurate, software/hardware combination…”
- Steve Baczewski, Professional Photographer and Editor, Photoshop User Magazine

Join the experts and experience color management results. Visit www.xrite.com/promotion/gampulse for more info.
eikon Print Protector technology for 320- or 500-mm-wide Xeikon digital rollfed presses consists of a duplex aqueous coating system that uses application rollers to apply an operator-adjustable, non-proprietary water/wax/silicone oil emulsion to both sides of documents so that they can be finished and handled swiftly under all circumstances.

The emulsion, which is so thin it dries instantly, forms an invisible protective layer that makes all Xeikon-printed documents stand up to everyday wear and tear, keeps the colors bright and accurate and significantly reduces the buildup of static charges. The applicator provides only enough mixture so that the water rehumidifies the substrate while the wax and silicone remain on the surface in such a small layer that it remains invisible.

Low cost, easy operation

The technology is said to be the first implementation of a non-UV, in-line coating unit that leverages low-cost supplies and easy operation to eliminate finishing and mail-processing problems for digital prints.

The Print Protector technology reduces paper jams in post-press finishing operations and extends the image life for books, catalogs and other printed products. Media weight ranges from 27 lb. test to 16 pt. stock, in lengths from 8.3" to 29.5".

The unit is designed for in-line use (placed between the print engine and either the stacker or rewinder) or off-line use, accommodating manual feeding of sheets, the production of banners or when no sheet feeder is available. An in-line configuration easily saves half of the cost of an operator compared with off-line equipment.

Mandelos Alexandros, managing director of New Light S.A. in Greece, says he was very pleased with the performance of the Xeikon Print Protector after using the system for a few months. He says the unit eliminates static from the digital prints so the output can be fed into folding or stitching equipment, and it eliminates friction marks on the digital prints. "This is an excellent product because it uses very simple and cost-effective technology to eliminate static and marking," says Alexandros. "The investment is half of the cheapest UV coating equipment and the supplies costs are almost nothing."

At the RR Donnelley/Moore Response Marketing facility in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, general director Hans Van Lith reports, "Previously we didn't have a good solution for high-speed finishing off line with market-standard finishing equipment. But with this new feature on our Xeikon 5000 press, we are able to use automated converting, folding and other methods without investing in our own design of proprietary finishing technology."

Turnaround doubles volume

With a significantly lower investment, says Van Lith, the company can offer much more comparable prices in the industry. He says the quicker turnaround of the finishing department has resulted in more than doubling total volume of finished products.

At Vertis Digital Production Services, Monroe Township, NJ, field tests showed that the Xeikon Print Protector clearly offers substantial protection of the toner in finishing equipment and automated postal equipment, according to Paul M. Sansouci, operations VP. He adds, "Our clients were extremely concerned about toner marking, but this product addresses their concerns directly and economically."
2005 GATF Intertech Technology Awards Nominees

Adobe Acrobat 7.0 Professional
Adobe Systems Incorporated, San Jose, CA
(408) 536-6000, www.adobe.com

This new software provides a complete printing workflow solution based on industry-standard Adobe PDF technology, allowing print service providers and their customers to go beyond simple PDF output and viewing. Now they can dependably share files for quick commenting and proofing, fixing print output errors and optimizing PDF files for production.

Providers and customers can set up project reviews and consolidate and compare comments, create JDF files to provide end-to-end digital job ticket specifications and accurately preflight jobs. Acrobat 7.0 Professional, part of Adobe Creative Suite 2, checks for PDF/X compliance within a document, eliminating many of the troublesome color, font and trapping variables.

:Sublima XM Screening
Agfa-Gevaert N.V., Mortsel, Belgium
(011-32) 3444-3940, www.agfa.com

By combining Agfa Balanced Screening (ABS) and frequency modulated (FM) screening, patented Sublima “cross-modulation” (XM) technology achieves full continuous-tone reproduction on press, increasing the quality and screen ruling (up to 340 lpi) across many printing methods and substrates. Printers using “drop-in” Sublima technology need not change anything on press to print at twice the line ruling.

One user, Ramsey Press, Inc., Mahwah, NJ, saved press time and eliminated moirés and banding in gradients. Another, City Stamp Works, Ludlow, MA, a flexo prepress company, better competes with offset by eliminating PDF output and viewing. Now they can dependably share files for third-party applications.

Cenveo ColorScience Global Remote Proofing with ColorSciences’ Process Control System
ColorSciences, LLC, Austin, TX
(512) 345-2493, www.colorsciences.com

This end-to-end solution, Cenveo ColorScience Global Remote Proofing with ColorSciences’ Process Control System (collectively, CPCS), provides enterprise-wide color control and closed-loop on-line remote color correction and proofing, from digital file creation to final output.

The system can be scaled from a single user to hundreds globally. CPCS ensures color control throughout the supply chain, offering instantaneous delivery of contract color (both soft and hard copy) while cutting cycle time and proofing costs. It uses spectrophotometry-based color measurement and real-time remote monitoring, diagnostics and corrective action. Consistency is maintained across multiple devices, sites, vendors and key points in the digital workflow, regardless of location.

:Azura Chemistry-Free Plate
Agfa-Gevaert N.V., Ridgefield Park, NJ
(201) 440-2500, www.agfa.com

This “chemistry-free” digital plate system provides a new, convenient computer-to-plate system that is more sensitive to the environment and offers most advantages of “processless” systems while providing pressroom compatibility and on-press performance of conventional digital plates.

Simple and easy to use, :Azura utilizes ThermoFuse, a non-ablative imaging mechanism based on thermal bonding of small latex particles, which eliminates any chemical development step. The high-grade aluminum plate uses no water and requires only a single “washout and gum” step with a dedicated plate gum.

Flare Print Communications, Inc., Minneapolis, found that the :Azura plate, imaged on an Agfa Acento CTP, rolled up easily and resulted in much shorter press make-ready times.

DuraBoard Racking System & DuraCorner Support System
Durac Development International, LLC, Orange, CA
(714) 282-9659, www.duracsystems.com

Patented DuraBoards, injection molded from metal-reinforced engineering polymer, improve the operational, safety and efficiency rates of workers handling output at delivery units of 40” sheafified presses.

The boards, 40% lighter than laminated hardwood or plywood boards and lasting about 10 times longer, feature ergonomic handling access that make them easy to manipulate. In on-press tests, use of DuraBoards have resulted in more than a 5% rise in net output of printed sheets per day while eliminating almost all related worker injuries. Also eliminated are wood splinters that torment workers racking output at delivery units of 40´´ sheetfed presses.

Providing enterprise-wide color control and closed-loop on-line remote color correction, proofing, and viewing. Now they can dependably share files for third-party applications.
2005 GATF Intertech Technology Awards Nominees

Kodak Color Management Tools
Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, NY
(585) 451-2700, www.kodak.com

The primary component of Kodak Color Management Tools, the technology supporting a wide array of Kodak products (and incorporated in the Nexus Workflow from Artwork Systems), is the Color Fidelity Module, which gives customers automated control over the accurate, consistent conversion of color from one space to another.

This new feature of the PreInk 3.0 prepares workflow management systems. Rules-based Automation introduces the concept of "intelligent" process automation, allowing administrators to set up workflow conditions to initiate automated processes in production using predefined "rules," each of which specifies how to respond to any event, defining the event and action required by that condition. Rules can be triggered by events that occur in the Prinergy system, such as files arriving, by manual actions performed by operators; or by external events from other systems. To create rules, users select, drag and drop "event" icons; rules can be applied system-wide, per customer or job, or linked into rule sets.

Kodak NexGlosser Glossing Unit
Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, NY
(800) 386-8868, www.kodak.com

This intelligent glossing solution, which takes advantage of the optional fifth imaging unit on the NexPress 2100 digital printing system, uses heat and pressure to create a high-gloss surface coating on printed pieces for higher marketing impact. The integrated near-line NexGlosser unit applies a cost-effective clear dry ink that achieves higher gloss than UV-coating processes and equivalent to lamination. In six months of using the NexGlosser, PrintMix24 of Germany gloss-coated more than 135,000 prints; even with continuous use of 20 hours non-stop, the system performed well, say managers, who report that customers appreciate the value that the unit adds to their work.

GMG ColorProof o4
Developer: GMG GmbH & Co. KG, Tuebingen, Germany
(011-49) 7071-938740, www.gmgcolor.com

This fully integrated, easily installed turnkey application suite generates cost-effective, repeatable, color-accurate contract proofs. Users need only run a single printer calibration process when using SWOP and GRACoL, profiles (GMG has received both certifications). GMG ColorProof o4 also supports all standard spot color systems, including the supplied Pantone Color Library, with up to 64 individual separations per image, handling over 100,000 impressions per hour.

The suite, which is compatible with standard ICC profiles, allows numerically verifiable color results between any locations via GMG’s 4 Color Transformation Engine. It accepts standard file formats, including PDF, Photoshop, PostScript, TIFF-IT and Sibel CT/UV.

Goss Sunday 3000/32 web offset printing press
Goss International, Bolingbrook, IL
(630) 755-9300, www.gossinternational.com

The Goss Sunday 3000/32 press is the first single-circumference web system configured with eight pages across the cylinder (and two pages around), web widths up to 72” allows the press to print 32 magazine-size pages per revolution at speeds up to 100,000 impressions per hour with no compromise in print quality. Goss utilizes blankets eliminate blisters normally created by a wide gap-type cylinder, and the 32-page output is a productivity improvement over 16- and 24-page presses. A one-web 3000/32 press is an ideal replacement option for the large installed base of two-web 16-page systems common in catalog and publication printing.
Internet-based, the AKSESS suite of management tools enables print customers to selectively store, manage, share and distribute digital and physical assets so that users across the organization can deliver printed messages consistently to audiences across all its markets, around the clock.

Modular asset drivers, custom drivers and inventory drivers in AKSESS perform independently or in unison, allowing versatility and scalability. Assets, which are stored safely and securely, can be quickly retrieved globally via drop-down menus, based on user ID and predefined permissions.

The easy-to-use, cost-effective on-line tools are called ideal for client-controlled brand-building and support, marketing and communications efforts.

Heidelberg Remote Service Technology
Developer: Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG, Heidelberg, Germany
(011-49) 6221-926501, www.heidelberg.com
Marketing: Heidelberg USA Inc., Kennesaw, GA
(770) 419-6600, info.us.heidelberg.com

This round-the-clock Web-based system for U.S. service support of Heidelberg workflow and press and postpress equipment is also the first technology that can connect any Presstek print shop equipment with Heidelberg’s Global Expert Network based in Germany.

Heidelberg Remote Service, which features expert remote diagnostics of operational issues and equipment and electrical problems, is intended to maximize equipment productivity, product quality and cost efficiency by targeting downtime—planning for it, reducing it or eliminating it altogether.

HP Indigo Press 5000
Hewlett-Packard, Atlanta, GA
(800) 289-5986, www.hp.com/go/graphic-arts

Geared for mid-size to large-scale commercial printers, this seven-color sheetfed digital press can produce up to 4,000 full-color pages per hour. Its robust front-end, the open standards-based HP Production Press Manager, enables complete variable data capability on each page.

New features include multi-tray input to allow load-while-running operation; a high-capacity paper output system that allows convenient sampling; and use of HP CMYK Plus liquid ElectroInk and HP Adaptive Halftoning for rich color and sharp imaging.

One user operating nine HP Indigo presses installed a six-color 5000 model in three days, achieving full production in one week, and achieving 15% to 20% higher productivity compared to its other sheetfed units.

Remoistening System for Goss Ecocool Dryer
Goss International, Bolingbrook, IL
(630) 755-9300, www.gossinternational.com

By adding a mixture of concentrated silicone and water to the paper web during the chilling process, the Remoistening System for Goss web offset presses can raise the moisture content of the paper by a full percentage point, making the substrate more flexible and allowing it to better withstand postpress functions such as folding and perforating. Adding moisture also reduces broken fibers, curling of the paper, breaking out of staples, dust and expansion of the finished signatures.

The silicone and water, mixed in the Goss Ecocool dryer in two half-liter tanks, is adjustable to web width and speed and spread evenly by silicone rollers.

JUST proofStation 20/22
JUST Normlicht Inc., Bristol, PA
(215) 781-2200, www.justnormlicht.com

The JUST proofStation 20/22 is a color-corrected lighting system featuring a new prismatic, optical diffusion screen that allows for unmatched luminance levels and light evenness when viewing 20x28”-size proofs or prints for color accuracy. The prismatic diffuser also eliminates reflection, shine or glare for critical viewing. The freestanding unit exceeds all requirements of the current ISO Standard 3664:2000.

“We’re extremely pleased with the quality and consistency of this system,” says Eric Frank, marketing VP of KBA North America/Sheetfed Division, who installed the proofStation in the corporate customer center. “It offers ideal lighting conditions for measuring and analyzing print quality.”

WebsitesForPrinters.com
Imagine That!, Fargo, ND
(800) 736-0688, www.WebsitesForPrinters.com

This technology helps printers of any size easily set up their own fully functional, PDF-enabled Web site in less than an hour at minimum expense, enabling them to compete on line with virtually any printer in their community or across the nation. Printers can customize their Web sites in 25 different ways, based on a recommended “template” that includes a brochure, a confidence, trust and credibility element; e-commerce functions; and a loyalty-building element.

Ron Woodruff, general manager of Milford Printers, Milford, OH, says customers on his Web site can send a file, place an order, track inventory or view a proof all in one order in the same transaction.

AKSESS management tools
Great Lakes Integrated, Cleveland, OH
(216) 651-1500, www.glintegrated.com

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2005 GATF Intertech Technology Awards Nominees

KBA Rapida 105 sheetfed offset press
KBA North America, Inc., Williston, VT
(802) 764-6150, www.kba-usa.com

This is the world’s first commercially available 41´´-wide sheetfed press rated at 18,000 sheets per hour and able to run the widest range of stocks, from 40-lb. to 48-point without adjustment of the press grippers. Mechanical highlights include a new side guide that uses no sidelay, a shaftless feeder, single-suction belt feeder, convertible perfecting option, configuration of up to 12 printing units and multiple coaters, drying options of IR, UV or hybrid and Qualitronic in-line sheet inspection system.

Advanced automation, one user commented, has enabled it to put more work on the press, turn jobs around much faster and use new substrates it could not use previously.

MAN Roland EnergyLink
MAN Roland Inc., Westmont, IL
(630) 920-2000, www.manroland.com

To satisfy the energy demands of today’s digitally controlled presses and protect them from power variations, MAN Roland EnergyLink automatically conditions, stabilizes and purifies pressroom power. The result is longer life for a press’s critical electronics and its digitally controlled motors, plus improved consistency of print quality.

Developed with Powervar, this power conditioner, connected between a facility’s power source and its presses, protects against fluctuating loads, power spikes (when other large machinery starts up) and catastrophic events such as lightning strikes. The power management package includes a monitoring computer that identifies cost areas.

simultanXPose! Platesetter
Lüscher AG, Leutwil, Switzerland
(011-41) 62 767 7677

Designed specifically for printers of securities, banknotes and passports, the simultanXPose! computer-to-plate system combines thermal CTP, laser diodes and patented internal/external drum technology for the daylight exposure of thermal as well as wet and dry offset plates at a standard resolution of 4,000 dpi, optionally available at 3,600, 5,080 and up to 8,000 dpi.

The simple technology presents an alternative to the complexities of standard film imagesetting long used in security printing, plus use of the new platesetter is 60% to 75% faster than the conventional method. Swiss banknote printer Orell Füssli Security Printing Ltd., Zurich, co-developed the simultanXPose! system.

ChemSaver CTP Developer Recycling & Management System
Maratek Environmental Inc., Bolton, ON
(905) 857-2738, www.maratek.com

Utilizing advanced filtration technology and a PLC control system to allow reuse of spent chemistry, the ChemSaver unit works with computer-to-plate processors to reduce chemistry consumption by up to 50%. By measuring and displaying conductivity, pH and temperature of the blended chemistry, the system ensures optimal processor performance and no compromise in plate quality.

Instead of sent for off-site disposal or on-site treatment, CTP processor overflow goes to the ChemSaver unit, which filters out contaminants from the chemistry and blends it back with fresh replenishment chemistry for reuse in the processor. Reductions in both chemistry purchases and waste disposal result.

Diamond 3000TP Tandem Perfector
MLP U.S.A., Inc., Lincolnshire, IL
(847) 634-9100, www.mlpusa.com

An alternative to conventional sheetfed convertible-type perfectors, the Diamond 3000TP from Mitsubishi Lithographic Presses is a dedicated perfecting system in the 28x40” size, designed to print the front and reverse sides of the sheet in one pass at a top rated speed of 13,000 sheets per hour, without turning the sheet. The system maintains the same gripper over as many as 12 printing units and a coater.

Users include packaging printers producing one- and two-color back-ups on cartons or in-line blister coating and commercial printers printing high-end work and turn or sheetwise forms in four or five colors. Stock range is from 24 points up to 32 points.
ProFire Excel & ProFire Digital Media
Presstek, Inc., Hudson, NH  
(603) 595-7000, www.presstek.com

ProFire Excel plate imagers for DI (direct imaging) applications are offered with either six laser diodes (24 beams per head), capable of imaging four plates in 4.5 minutes, or three diodes (12 beams per head), which can image four plates in nine minutes. Both models utilize a 16-micron spot to achieve up to 300-line screens that support stochastic or hybrid screening technology.

ProFire Digital Media is manufactured on polyester-based spools, each sufficient to provide for 28 full-size jobs and rated for 20,000 impressions.

KBA, Kodak Polychrome Graphics and Ryobi market DI presses enabled by ProFire Excel imaging.

VarioStream 9000 Printing System
Océ North America, Inc., Boca Raton, FL  
(800) 877-6232, www.oceusa.com

Designed to print monochrome, highlight color and full-color work at production-class speed and offset-class quality, the VarioStream 9000 is a digital, webfed system capable of single-pass duplex imaging. The system can be configured with as few as two toner stations or as many as 10 by the use of Océ TriboPrint multi-stage imaging technology, featuring infrared fusing. Also, Océ CustomTone allows use of any number of highlight colors, new Océ FlexiDark technology allows toner density adjustment, and Océ Quick Change Color Systems allows multiple highlight or full process color use. Variable data and personalization are possible in form sizes up to 11” and edge-to-edge printing.

Prepress Training Solution
Prepress Training Solution, Bloomington, IN  

Now serving more than 4,000 users, this technology provides highly interactive, usually based on-line training on such popular applications as Adobe InDesign CS and Photoshop CS, Corel Prepa, Dynagram DynaStrip, Enfocus PitStop Professional, Markzware FйтhCheck and QuarkXPress.

For an annual subscription of $300 or less, users have unlimited anytime access to a library of courses that are current with the newest software versions. Training, delivered in a modular format and featuring “benchmarking” integrates testing with training so individuals receive a custom curriculum based on skill gaps. A hosted Learning Management System offers a wide range of reporting features to administrators.

Dimension Excel CTP System
Presstek, Inc., Hudson, NH  
(603) 595-7000, www.presstek.com

This chemistry-free computer-to-plate thermal laser imaging system streamlines workflow and minimizes environmental impact by imaging digital files directly to high-resolution thermal plates. All four Dimension Excel models yield 2,540-dpi resolution, up to 300 lpi, utilize pin registration, use an enhanced set of software tools and support popular RIPs and workflows.

Thermal plates yield up to 100,000 impressions without chemical processing, guming or pre- or post-baking. Two- and four-page models output 11 plates per hour to an automated water wash and/or plate stacker; all can be configured to produce 17 plates per hour. External components include a chiller and air management system.

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AirFlex Oscillating Rider Roller
RotaDyne/Advanced Graphic Technologies Division, Grapevine, TX  
(877) 559-1355, www.rotadyne.com

This pneumatic frictionally rotated roller, designed to be used in an ink or dampening system, utilizes an internal air piston-cylinder that causes the axial motion but permits the roller to rotate freely so it can redistribute ink to minimize ghosting or fountain solution to control ink build-up. A special covering eliminates glazing and poor ink transfer and stripping.

Benefits include reduced ghosting and cleaning of the water forms, better ink/water balance and fewer start-up waste sheets. One user with AirFlex rollers on 26 Komori press units gained an hour a day in less cleaning and eliminated ink piling and ink starvation lines.

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**2005 GATF Intertech Technology Awards Nominees**

**Riteonline print-ordering system**  
*Screen (USA)*, Rolling Meadows, IL  
(847) 870-7400, www.screenusa.com

Riteonline is Screen’s Web browser-based print-ordering system and one of the modular workflow components developed under the JDF-based TrueFlowNet business solution. The turnkey software application is designed to establish and maintain direct communication between small to medium-size commercial printers and their new and existing customers ordering or reordering products online.

Printers can use Riteonline to create a dynamic Web site, tailored and custom-branded for each of their customers, that allows round-the-clock order processing, document creation and approval, previewing and proofing. The system is computer platform-independent and supports multiple languages.

**PrintEasy Publication Inks**  
*Sun Chemical North American Inks*, Northlake, IL  
(708) 562-0550, www.sunchemical.com

This line of web heatset inks, designed to improve print quality, consistency and productivity, is organized by paper-use applications, each with a standard formula and two improved ink grades to satisfy strength and performance needs.

Brands and applications include: Solar, for use on newsprint and uncoated groundwood papers; SunShine, for lower basis weight supercalendered papers; Challenge, for lightweight coated substrates; and UltraPrint, for medium- to high-basis weight coated sheets.

**Xeikon X-800 Digital Front-End**  
*Xeikon International/Punch Graphix*, Lier, Belgium  
(011-32) 3443-1311, www.xeikon.com

With open standards, a modular configuration and smooth scalability defined by the customer, the X-800 digital front-end features an architecture that provides an expansion path for users. The system, which handles DCS, EPS, JPEG, PDF 1.5, PostScript 3, PPML, PPML/VDX and TIFF formats, is built on an Intel Xeon dual-processor platform that’s expandable via the simple addition of software licenses and the customer’s choice of Windows-based hardware.

Speed increases of 10 times for variable data jobs are said not to be uncommon, with the X-800 yielding additional time savings for multiple-press or multiple-RIP environments.

**Impressia Metal PlateSetter**  
*XANTÉ Corporation*, Mobile, AL  
(251) 473-6502, www.xante.com

This process-free, direct-to-metal plate technology for two-up offset presses produces environmentally safe Aspen metal plates that require no further steps or processes before use on the press. Using electrophotography instead of lasers, the system outputs more than 60 plates per hour, 15mm thick and made of traditionally-grained aluminum, safe for daylight loading.

One user, Jeff Tanach of the corporate services department, City of Winnipeg, calls the system “a pretty astonishing device” and says its most innovative feature is that “it’s basically plug and play; within an hour of installing it, we were pumping out plates and haven’t stopped since.”

**DocuColor 8000 Digital Press with VCSEL ROS Laser**  
*Xerox Corporation*, Webster, NY  
(585) 423-5090, www.xerox.com

To achieve milestone 2,400x2,400-dpi resolution—comparable to offset—the DocuColor 8000 digital press makes use of 32 beam “Vertical Cavity Surface Emitting Laser” (VCSEL) technology utilizing Xerox’s Raster Output System (ROS), which exposes each pixel twice across a photoreceptor at a record-setting eight billion bits per second, delivering 80 four-color pages per minute.

Says Barb Southard, distribution center manager for Integrity Life Insurance, Louisville, KY, “Our marketing executives see no difference between offset and our DocuColor 8000 output...also, our 200,000-page run of quarterly statements originally took five 24-hour days to complete, but the DocuColor 8000 finished the job in two and a half days of regular shifts.”

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From the Genius 52 to the Rapida 205, KBA offers the widest range of printing presses in the business. Our sheetfed solutions are tailor-made to handle sheet sizes from 20" all the way up to 81".

In fact, Ralf Sammeck, our 6’ 5” CEO, fits comfortably on a sheet printed by the Rapida 205, our super large format 81” press. At KBA, no matter what size or configuration you need, we’ll make you stand out from the crowd.

The perfect fit in any size
Fold into the future.

Introducing a whole new folder generation from Heidelberg, the leading solution provider for the print media industry. The modular design of the Stahlfolder TH/KH buckle-plate folders allows configurations according to your automation and performance needs. All while shortening makereadies drastically to improve total throughput. It’s just the performance you need to offer your customers high-quality folding well into the future.