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Graphic Arts Magazine

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Less is more:
**A journey to
sustainable
innovation in the
printing industry**

*Embracing automation and
digitalisation - a global solution
to labour shortages*

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TURNING POINT**

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PRINTING AT A TURNING POINT

From machines that print to intelligent systems that think, connect and perform

The printing industry has never stood still. From the first mechanical presses to today's highly automated digital production lines, every major technological shift has changed not only how we print, but also what print businesses can achieve. Today, however, the industry is entering a particularly significant phase.

The conversation is no longer simply about faster presses, higher resolutions or better colour reproduction. The real transformation is taking place around intelligence, connectivity, automation and the ability to produce more with fewer resources.

Printers are being asked to respond faster to shorter runs, greater personalisation, tighter deadlines and increasing cost pressures. At the same time, skilled labour shortages, energy costs and sustainability requirements are forcing businesses to rethink established production models. Automation and digitalisation are consequently moving from being desirable investments to becoming strategic necessities. A recent industry study highlighted in this issue found that 91 per cent of surveyed SMEs believe an economy cannot remain competitive without digitalisation and automation. This transformation is already visible on the factory floor.

Today's generation of presses increasingly communicates with pre-press, finishing, work-flow and management systems. Data is becoming as important as ink and paper. Automated make-ready, intelligent quality control, predictive maintenance, cloud connectivity and work-flow integration are reducing manual intervention while improving consistency and productivity.

Artificial intelligence will take this evolution even further.

AI is gradually moving from an experimental technology to a practical production tool—helping businesses analyse data, optimise work-flows, identify inefficiencies, predict maintenance requirements and support decision-making. The objective is not to replace people, but to allow skilled people to spend less time managing repetitive processes and more time

creating value.

Digital printing is another important part of this transition. The emergence of high-productivity ink-jet and toner platforms is narrowing the traditional gap between conventional and digital production. Today's systems can combine short-run flexibility, variable data and fast turnaround with increasingly impressive productivity and quality. The technologies featured in this issue—including the latest developments from major international manufacturers—illustrate how rapidly that boundary is disappearing. But technology alone will not determine who succeeds.

The successful printer of tomorrow will be the one who understands how to connect technology with business strategy. Buying a sophisticated press is only one part of the equation. The real return comes when equipment, software, people, data and work-flow operate as one intelligent production ecosystem.

Sustainability is equally becoming inseparable from competitiveness. Reducing waste, energy consumption, make-ready time, rejected sheets and unnecessary production is not merely an environmental responsibility—it is sound business. Doing more with less is increasingly becoming the definition of efficient printing.

As you explore this issue of Printing Review, you will find a common thread running through many of the stories: the industry is moving from isolated machines towards connected production ecosystems.

The next chapter of printing will not belong simply to the biggest press or the fastest machine. It will belong to companies that can combine technology, intelligence, efficiency and imagination to respond to a rapidly changing marketplace.

The future of print is already being built. And it is smarter, more connected—and considerably more exciting—than ever before.



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Less is more: A journey to sustainable innovation in the printing industry



Compactness and Precision Transform Production

Compact and high-precision equipment is another important element of sustainable printing. Machines with smaller footprints can make better use of production space, while precision engineering helps

reduce material consumption and waste.

Digital printing is a strong example of this transformation. Production can be carried out according to actual demand, reducing the need for excessive print runs and limiting unused inventory. Advanced digital systems also enable variable and personalised printing without requiring extensive setup or additional tooling.

Precision throughout the printing process further contributes to sustainability by reducing rejects, misprints and unnecessary consumption of substrates and inks.

Technology Enabling Smarter Production

The printing industry is increasingly moving from traditional mass production towards smarter, more flexible and resource-efficient manufacturing. Automation, digital workflows, energy-efficient curing systems and advanced ink technologies are helping printers achieve greater output while using fewer resources.

These technologies demonstrate that sustainability does not necessarily require a compromise in productivity or quality. Instead, better technology can enable businesses to achieve both environmental and commercial objectives simultaneously.

Building a More Sustainable Printing Future

The “less is more” philosophy provides a useful framework for the future of printing. By combining efficiency, compactness and precision, manufacturers and printers can reduce energy use, minimise material waste and improve production performance.

Sustainable innovation is therefore becoming more than an environmental responsibility—it is a strategic advantage. As the industry continues to evolve, technologies that enable higher productivity with lower resource consumption will play an increasingly important role in creating a cleaner, more efficient and competitive printing sector. ♦

As businesses and industries face growing pressure to operate more sustainably, the printing sector is increasingly turning to technologies that deliver greater efficiency with fewer resources. The principle of “less is more”—doing more with less through efficiency, compactness and precision—offers a practical path towards a more sustainable printing future.

This approach encourages manufacturers and printers to rethink conventional production methods and adopt technologies that minimise waste, reduce energy consumption and optimise the use of materials without compromising quality or productivity.

Efficiency as a Driver for Sustainable Printing

Efficient production technologies are becoming central to sustainability in printing. Modern presses and digital printing systems are designed to consume fewer resources while delivering higher productivity and consistent quality.

Energy-efficient equipment can significantly reduce power consumption, while automated workflows and advanced process controls help minimise setup time, material waste and production errors. These improvements not only reduce environmental impact but can also lower operating costs and improve overall production efficiency.



Women in Print Alliance Brings Networking, Leadership, and Community to

PRINTING United Expo 2026

A full lineup of pre-show planning, networking events, and community experiences brings women together through exclusive Expo programming

Women in Print Alliance, a division of PRINTING United Alliance, is once again bringing a dynamic lineup of networking, professional development, and community-building experiences to PRINTING United Expo 2026, taking place September 23-25 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. Designed to help women maximize their Expo experience, this year's programming includes pre-show education, exclusive networking events, leadership development opportunities, and dedicated spaces to build meaningful industry connections. Visit <https://womeninprintalliance.org/expo-events/> for a complete Women in Print Alliance guide to this year's PRINTING United Expo.

"PRINTING United Expo is an incredible experience, especially when you have a community to experience it with," says Lisbeth Lyons Black, director, Women in Print Alliance. "From our Expo 101: Tips & Tricks webinar - designed to help first-time women attendees arrive empowered - to making meaningful connections at our booth on the show floor, and our annual networking luncheon with its inspiring keynote address, Women in Print Alliance creates opportunities for women to connect, learn, and build relationships that last well beyond Expo."

Kick Off Your Expo Experience with Expo 101

The Women in Print Alliance experience begins before attendees arrive in Las Vegas. Join fellow women in print on September 10 for "Expo 101: Tips & Tricks for Women in Print," a complimentary webinar designed to help women confidently prepare for PRINTING United Expo 2026. Attendees will hear practical advice from experienced Expo veterans covering everything from navigating the show floor and building an agenda to networking strategies and must-attend Women in Print Alliance events.

Connect at the Women in Print Alliance Member Reception

Women in Print Alliance members are invited to kick off their Expo experience at the Women in Print Alliance Member Welcome Reception, taking place on Wednesday, September 23, from 5:00 p.m.

– 7:00 p.m. PT at the Wynn/Encore Resort. This exclusive gathering is designed to foster meaningful conversations and strengthen professional relationships in a relaxed setting. An RSVP is required, and invitations will be sent to members directly via email.

Gain Fresh Leadership Perspectives at the Annual Networking Luncheon

One of the signature Women in Print Alliance events at PRINTING United Expo – the Women in Print Alliance Annual Networking Luncheon – returns on Thursday, September 24, from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. PT, featuring keynote speaker Corrie Lo on "The Five Overwhelm Culprits." During her presentation, Corrie will share actionable strategies for overcoming the hidden drivers of overwhelm and

pragmatic tactics professionals can use to reclaim focus, energy, and effectiveness in both their careers and personal lives. Learn more about how to purchase your tickets here: <https://womeninprintalliance.org/event/annual-networking-luncheon-2/>.

Visit the Women in Print Alliance Booth

Throughout PRINTING United Expo, attendees are encouraged to stop by the Women in Print Alliance Booth N6543 to learn more about the different membership types, discover upcoming events and initiatives, and connect with the growing community of women shaping the future of print. To learn more and register to attend, visit <https://womeninprintalliance.org/expo-events/>.

About Women in Print Alliance

Women in Print Alliance is dedicated to supporting and promoting the success of women in the printing industry. Through advocacy, education, and community-building initiatives, the Alliance seeks to bridge gender-based gaps and foster an inclusive environment where all members can excel.

Subscribe to Women in Print Alliance's bi-weekly newsletter to be the first to know about the latest events, and engage with thought-provoking content highlighting important industry research, trends, and women driving the industry forward, here: <https://womeninprintalliance.org/subscribe/>



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Cosmo First Ltd Invests in Advanced KARO®IV Laboratory Stretching Machine to enhance India's Specialty Film Capabilities

- **Domestic development of niche films to reduce dependency on imports**
- **Will aid collaboration with academic institutions and support talent development in polymer science**



Cosmo First Ltd, a leading manufacturer of specialty films, announced the procurement of Brückner Maschinenbau's state-of-the-art KARO®IV laboratory stretching machine, positioning India amongst global leaders in film technology development. This strategic investment aligns with the country's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative of reducing dependency on imports and advancing India's manufacturing capabilities. This initiative also strengthens Cosmo First's position among an elite group of global film manufacturers with advanced R&D capabilities.

The KARO®IV technology will significantly enhance India's capabilities in specialty film development by minimising development time and costs for films designed for specialised applications. It will enable domestic development of niche film applications which are currently being imported and support in-house development of proprietary film technologies, enhancing self-reliance in high-performance flexible packaging. The technology will allow Cosmo First to conduct extensive research and development, accelerating R&D timelines through cost-effective laboratory-scale testing before moving to production trials.

"The KARO®IV will transform how we approach film development in India," said Mr Kulbhushan Malik, Business Head, Cosmo Films, the flagship company of the Cosmo First group. "By enabling precise testing of films in both sequential and simultaneous

stretching modes, we can now develop new film recipes and evaluate properties at a fraction of the cost and time previously required. This technology represents a significant leap forward in our ability to innovate. It opens doors for collaboration with academic institutions, supporting talent development in polymer science and reinforcing India's position as a serious player in the global R&D landscape."

The KARO®IV features high stretching ratios from 1.01 x 1.01 up to 10 x 10, heating capability up to 400°C with up to 3 independent heating modules, an advanced EPC control panel with programmable test sequences, and state-of-the-art measurement equipment for stretching forces, displacement, and temperatures. The machine is equipped to handle a wide range of film types, including BOPP, BOPET, and BOPA, with consistent and accurate control over test film processes. The technology positions India to compete at the highest levels of specialty film innovation. Key competitive advantages include faster prototype-to-market cycles compared to traditional development methods, enhanced ability to develop eco-friendly, mono-material films aligned with circular economy goals, and the capa-

bility to partner with global brands for co-development of advanced film solutions.

The Indian packaging industry, historically, has lacked advanced lab-scale film stretching systems that could accurately simulate commercial production conditions, as most Indian manufacturers rely on full-scale production lines for R&D, making innovation costly and less agile. Additionally, the packaging industry is facing a regulatory and consumer pressure to shift from non-recyclable multi-material plastics to recyclable mono-material films. The installation will address significant gaps in India's packaging innovation infrastructure.

Cosmo First recently commissioned a new BOPP line taking its BOPP production capacity up by approx. 40% to 2,77,000 MT per annum. The investment in KARO®IV reinforces Cosmo First's commitment to sustainable manufacturing by enabling rapid development of recyclable films, addressing India's growing environmental concerns. It allows for testing of new barrier coatings, laminates, and formulations that meet recyclability targets and supports the creation of domestic expertise in advanced polymer science through potential academic collaborations. ♦

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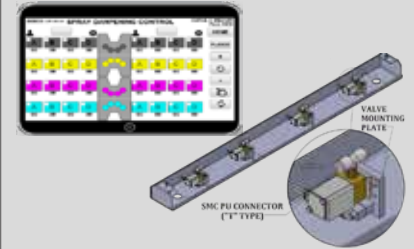


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hubergroup Print Solutions strengthens presence in France with new mixing station in Sainte-Sigolène



With the commissioning of a new mixing station on the economically significant Sainte-Sigolène plateau, hubergroup Print Solutions is sending a strong signal for growth, customer proximity, and responsiveness. Inaugurated on June 20, the station for solventbased Gecko inks encompasses on-

site storage, mixing, technical support and a laboratory. This marks a significant milestone for the printing and packaging industry in France.

With the investment in this new mixing station, hubergroup emphasizes the importance of the French market for the company. "The new site is a real game-changer for us and our customers in the region," says Adrien Pflieger, Managing Director of hubergroup France. "Geographical proximity, our technical expertise, and our quick response create a new level of efficiency for flexible packaging manufacturers."

With a short-term capacity of around 100 tons per year – and potential for growth – hubergroup positions itself in the midst of one of France's most important packaging clusters: Sainte-Sigolène represents almost 50% of national extrusion activity. The local packaging companies benefit from shorter delivery routes, faster availability, and on-site technical service – even for malfunctions or special colour requests.

Local expertise, global support

The hubergroup team in Sainte-Sigolène consists of two sales engineers, a sales representative as well as a mixing station manager and is supported by a partner

for logistics. In addition, it is supported by the European hubergroup network and the laboratory staff as well as product managers based at the headquarters in Germany.

Adrien Pflieger adds: "The responsiveness of our team in France, but also of the international hubergroup network, combined with a solid understanding of the specific challenges of the French market, will enable us to meet the needs of local customers and support the growth of the sustainable packaging market in France."

Sustainable flexible packaging

Dedicated to hubergroup's solvent-based Gecko products, the new mixing station is specifically targeted at flexible packaging manufacturers. The portfolio thus offers various options for designing smart, eco-friendly packaging products. This includes the NC-free, PU-based series Gecko Platinum and deinking solutions as well as support in complying with thresholds for printing with NC-based inks. In an effort to provide customers with everything they need to produce sustainable flexible packaging, hubergroup additionally offers a broad range of varnishes, barrier coatings, primers, whites, additives, and laminating adhesives. ♦

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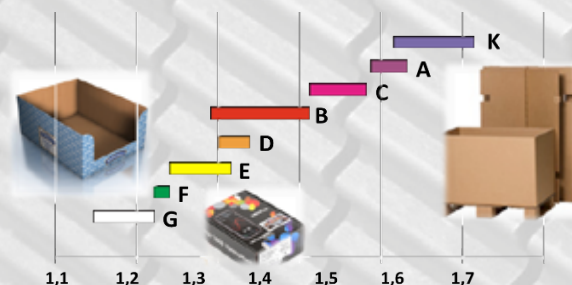
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Our specialists are certified to
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and have been familiar with the coating of
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Tungsten carbide (TCC)

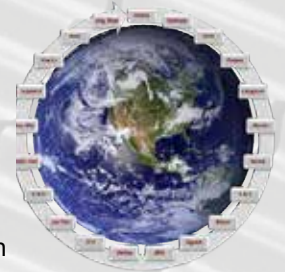
- Superior mechanical features
- Best wear protection
- Special pre-treatment of surfaces before coating
- Superfinishing of the surface

This high-quality standard will be ensured by our own metallurgical laboratory as well as coating expertise from other industrial sectors, such as aviation. Our tungsten carbide coatings are featured by an extra fine microstructure. Individually calculated process parameters determine the final profile shape for each corrugating roll.



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Profile grinding into the deep-hardened roll shell

Surface finishing by special coating with hard chrome

- Creates a perfect surface
- Good wear protection at lower costs
- Alternative for less used corrugating rolls
- Not applicable at some machine types

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Quality management

- Monitoring of all manufacturing processes
- Surface and contour measurement
- Concentricity, crown shape, cylindrical shape
- Heat test at operating temperature
- Roll certificate





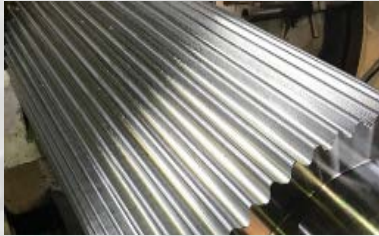
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FGM Fritz Gradert Maschinenbau GmbH & Co. KG is specialized in turning, milling, grinding and measuring high-precision machine components, including their assembly into complete assemblies and machine components and the production of rolls with the necessary coatings for printing machines, film coating machines, corrugating machines, textile and paper machinery, etc.

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Durst Group's Innovation

PRINTING United Alliance



Durst Group has once again been recognized for their innovative technology and their contributions to the print industry by the PRINTING United Alliance. With an incredible eleven (11) PRINTING United Alliance Pinnacle Award wins this year, they maintain their status as the most highly awarded group three years in a row.

"Receiving this magnitude of awards again this year is a strong testament to the enduring excellence of Durst Group

technology," said Tim Saur, President and Managing Director of Durst North America. "We take great pride in our role as a technology leader, constantly pushing the boundaries on hardware, software, and workflow solutions. Our continued recognition underscores the commitment of our R&D team to cutting-edge technology, our customer-centric approach and our desire to continue to shape the future of the print industry with innovation that drives real-world value."

Durst Group, comprised of Durst North America and Vanguard Digital Printing Systems, members of Durst Group, celebrate their success as a whole, but also as individuals. Vanguard Digital Printing Systems, for the second consecutive year, has established itself as the most awarded single entity in the Pinnacle Product Awards, securing seven (7) awards recently. The Durst product line, specifically the P5-TEX platform, reached a notable milestone by securing Pinnacle Awards for five (5) successive years and accumulating a total of nine (9) awards since its inception in 2021.

This achievement underscores the enduring longevity and sustained success of the Durst product line.

"To once again be recognized and honored this way is a reflection of the passion, dedication and talent of the Vanguard Digital team," said Jim Peterson, COO and Founding Partner of Vanguard Digital. "This recognition is not just about our technology – it's about the ideas, the growth, and the hard work of the people behind it, and about the customers who believe in what we do. We can't

on Honored with Eleven nce Pinnacle Awards



wait to showcase these award winners at the PRINTING United Expo later this year and show everyone what is possible with Vanguard and Durst Group technology."

The Pinnacle Awards celebrate exceptional products and technologies that advance quality, capability, and productivity. These prestigious awards are given by a highly qualified panel of judges across the printing industry, who evaluated over 150+ entries in more than 50 categories spanning analog,

digital, output, and non-output technologies.

The following products won last year's Pinnacle Awards:

- **Durst P5 TEX:** awarded Roll-to-Roll Direct Disperse Ink on Textile
- **Durst P5 TEX iSUB:** awarded RTR Dye Sublimation on Textile (more than \$100K)
- **Durst P5 350 HSR:** awarded Roll-to-Roll UV (Over 80 in.)
- **Durst P5 350 HS:** awarded UV/Latex Hybrid – more than \$500K
- **Vanguard VR5D-E:** awarded UV/Latex Flatbed (under \$70K)
- **Vanguard VK300-HS:** awarded UV/Latex Flatbed (\$100K-\$200K)
- **Vanguard VK300-HS:** awarded UV/Latex Flatbed + White (\$100k-\$200K)
- **Vanguard VK300-HS:** awarded UV/Latex Flatbed (\$200K-\$500K)
- **Vanguard VK3220T-HS:** awarded UV/Latex Flatbed + White (\$200k-\$500K)
- **Vanguard Radnor:** awarded UV/Latex Hybrid (\$100K-\$500K)
- **Vanguard Radnor:** awarded R2R/hybrid/flatbed New Technology

Lindsay Ferrari, Program Administrator, PRINTING United Alliance offered, "Each Pinnacle Award recipient reflects the bold thinking and technical excellence that continues to elevate and move our industry forward."

The Durst Group is honored to receive these accolades, and looks forward to showing the industry these award-winning solutions at the upcoming PRINTING United Expo in Orlando, Florida. ♦

Advanced UV/IR/LED Printing Solution by Korea Lichtzen

Latest printing technologies by Korea Lichtzen, a leading manufacturer of UV lamps and equipment



Founded in 1995, Korea Lichtzen was the first company in Korea to produce CE certified UV lamps (Mercury, Metal Halide, and Gallium). Today, the company offers a wide range of high-performance solutions including UV LED retrofit systems, IR (NIR/MIR) and LED drying systems, and UV inks specifically optimized for label and packaging applications.

Lichtzen's UV LED retrofit technology enables conventional printing equipment to be upgraded with energy-efficient LED curing systems. The solution can reduce energy consumption and operating costs by up to 70%, while extending equipment life and supporting improved productivity. The company also offers UV offset and screen printing inks developed in collaboration with ink manufacturers across key global markets. Designed for LED curing systems, these inks are ozone-free and VOC-free, providing a safer, cleaner and more sustainable solution for modern printing environments.

In 2025, Lichtzen also launched a dedicated printing solutions company in Vietnam and expanded its global distribution network through LTZ Trading, which delivers high quality printing products from Asia to customers worldwide. Through its participation in Labelexpo Europe 2025, Korea Lichtzen aims to strengthen global partnerships and introduce its eco-friendly innovations to the international label and packaging community.

Pioneering BOPP Synthetic Paper with Advanced Coating Solutions

Lichang, renowned as China's premier BOPP film supplier for label and graphics, has proudly introduced its advanced clear and matte white top coated products.



These coatings are meticulously designed to cater to a diverse array of printing techniques, ensuring exceptional results across applications. The company currently operates four BOPP production lines, with a fifth line under installation, accompanied by five top coating lines (with plans to expand further to align with the fifth BOPP line). Additionally, Lichang has in-house masterbatch production lines, which streamline the supply chain and enable the delivery of superior cost-effective products tailored to client's needs.

Lenze presents i950 cabinet servo drive

The intelligent i950 cabinet servo drive for demanding servo applications.



Integrate the i950 easily into modular machine solutions with ready-to-use technology applications for parameterization instead of programming.

Highlights:

- Prepared technology applications, e.g. table positioning, electronic gearbox, winder
- One Cable Technology (OCT)
- Modular scalability for feedback system and fieldbus connections
- Autotuning function for quick and easy controller adjustment
- Integrated safety technology with a wide range of functions, complies with up to SIL 3/PL e Cat. 4
- Available in 0.37 ... 110 kW

LemuGroup to show 4 live demos

The all new 660 mm GTU Glue turret, capable of producing rolls up to 400 mm by LemuGroup

**GTU GLUE TURRET REWINDER +
ULTRACOMPACT**
FULL AUTOMATIC CONVERTER
EQUIPMENT



**DIGITAL INKJET AND
FOILING**
DIGITAL EMBELLISHMENT



**LI 220 RFID + VOYANTIC RFID
INSPECTION SYSTEM**
RFID TECHNOLOGY

It applies hot melt with a Nordson applicator, handles cores from 19 to 76 mm, and reaches 250 m/min. The UltraCompact automates end-of-line operations, boxing and palletizing the finished product. LemuGroup also presents a digital finishing equipment with an inkjet module for high-volume varnish application without waste or tooling, and a digital stamping module that requires no primer or pre-varnish. Additionally, the LI 220 RFID will be on display with an integrated Voyantic inspection system.

Lemmaco presents cold foil, BOPP films and new adhesives

At this year's Labelexpo, Lemmaco highlights cost-effective flexo cold foil technology - a modern alternative to hot stamping - with lower production costs and broader application.



Alongside its proven hot foil color range, Lemmaco expands its offering with new flexo adhesives and innovative BOPP film categories, including biodegradable solutions.

The main messages of Lemmaco stand are sustainability, large-scale slitting capacity, flexible logistics, and a commitment to helping partners navigate a fast-changing industry. With reliable service and forward-looking materials, Lemmaco ensures stability and innovation for every customer.

LANG engraving machines for the graphic industry

LANG offers end-to-end solutions from data creation to the finished embossing or punching die.



LANG offers end-to-end solutions from data creation to the finished embossing or punching die. The machines are equipped with state-of-the-art technology and a vibration damping granite structure, ensuring the highest quality and process reliability. The CNC engraving machines of the IMPALA series are specially designed for 2½D and 3D milling of embossing dies, male female dies, and smaller cylinders. For bigger cutting and embossing cylinders LANG offers the RM series. The complete system also includes the Pulsaris 300fs laser engraving machine with ultra-short pulse laser for special effects and a sophisticated 3D software package for creative and complex designs.

Labeltech presents Reit RFID and Stelvio IML among its rewinding and converting range

The Italian manufacturer showcases its complete range of rewinding and converting solutions, including the signature machine ORTLES slit rewriter with automatic slitters (rotary and razor blades) and 100% inspection.



The lineup includes SCILIAR, the horizontal bidirectional rewinder with variable data print&verify, and the STELVIO modular machine, offering full flexibility from blank label die-cutting to embellishment with cold foil and a semi-rotary flexo unit.

A key highlight is the compact REIT, ideal for short-run digital or doctoring jobs, equipped with 100% inspection and the innovative 4.JET multilayer label applicator for RFID tag insertion. Labeltech also unveils its new STELVIO IML roll-to-sheet die cut machine for in-mould and glue-applied labels, with collecting belt and pick-up robot.

Kocher + Beck present GapMaster EM alongside their new Variable Gap System

Kocher + Beck is committed to reducing carbon emissions and waste through sustainable practices.



Their new exhibition stand is constructed from materials previously used at Labelexpo 2023, and they are reusing all furniture and UV equipment.

On the stand, the GapMaster EM (Electronic Move) will be showcased interactively alongside the new Variable Gap System. Additionally, they are introducing a new generation of anti-stick coatings for flexible dies that deliver a revolutionary non-stick performance, resulting in less adhesive residue on the cutting edges. This new coating is certified for all applications, including pharmaceutical and medical uses, and is compliant with environmental standards.

Advancements in die-cutting technology include the new Industry 4.0-ready digital KMS Pressure Gauge System and the latest motorized version, which is equipped with various sensors and provides higher stability under varying loads. Another highlight is the Quick-Change die-cutting station, which allows magnetic cylinders to be pre-mounted during the current job and exchanged in seconds.

TecScreen has improved the ever-popular processing unit. The unit now features the capability to store and recycle water, further demonstrating its commitment to sustainability.

Avery Dennison unveils a comprehensive suite of labeling solutions

Avery Dennison unveils a comprehensive suite of labeling solutions, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability, innovation and enhancing brand appeal.



Visitors can experience first-hand product activations that focus on enabling packaging recycling and reuse with solutions for every packaging

substrate.

The company is also presenting an extensive suite of solutions designed to improve traceability and connectivity, featuring high-performing functional materials and RFID solutions for automotive and EV batteries alongside pharmaceutical labels designed to improve patient safety through advanced adhesives and RFID.

“We’re incredibly excited to connect with label and packaging converters at Labelexpo 2025,” says Roberto Martínez Porta, vice president sales at Avery Dennison Labels and Packaging Materials EMENA. “Our goal is to collaborate and empower them with sustainable and intelligent labeling solutions that help address some of today’s and tomorrow’s key challenges, helping them to thrive in a continuously evolving industry.”

Atlantic Zeiser presents CodeVault Software

Atlantic Zeiser is launching CodeVault at Labelexpo Europe 2025.



This integrated application empowers brand owners to securely generate, store, and distribute serialized codes – all enriched with standardized, security-focused data formats.

With CodeVault, you gain full control over your anti-diversion activities, effortlessly managing code distribution across multiple printing and production sites. Stay ahead with real-time insights into code usage and ensure product integrity from a single, centralized platform.

Wenzhou Denchern machinery presents their DCFM370-PRO finishing machine

Wenzhou Denchern machinery, a professional factory in China, produce after-printing machines.



Wenzhou Denchern Machinery Co., Ltd. is a professional factory in China. For the past ten years, they have been dedicated to producing machines and serving customers from various countries, receiving numerous favorable comments. They mainly produce after-printing machines, such as slitting machines, rotary die cutting machines, inspection machines, and finishing machines.

Their finishing machine, the DCFM370-PRO, includes an unwinder, web guide, semi-rotary flexo printing unit, semi-rotary die cutting unit, slitting unit, and up and down rewinder. It adopts advanced full servo motor technology. The speed of the semi-rotary can reach 300 times per minute, and the machine can handle materials with thickness ranging from 20µm to 300µm.

Open Data announces that their new production plant is now ready with new labelling equipment, new presses and finishing lines.

Open Data is happy to announce their new production plant is now ready with new labelling equipment, new presses and finishing lines.



Open Data is happy to announce their new production plant is now ready with new labelling equipment, new presses and finishing lines.

Customers are invited to meet them at Labelexpo Europe 2025, stand 4D11, to get a

comprehensive outlook on their new production capacity and full range of products.

From hand-held labellers to self-adhesive labels and thermal rolls, OPEN DATA can meet all customers' demands.

Future is Flexo" vision

Nilpeter presents the next level of its *The Future is Flexo* vision with two advanced press configurations: a 7-colour FA-26 and a 9-colour FA-17.



At Labelexpo Europe 2025, now taking place in Barcelona for the first time, Nilpeter presents the next level of its *The Future is Flexo* vision with two advanced press configurations: a 7-colour FA-26 and a 9-colour FA-17. While these platforms may be familiar to some, the configurations on show are radically reimagined and packed with innovation.

Visitors can expect a new benchmark in print efficiency, automation, and quality, designed to tackle today's production challenges head-on. These press lines reduce human interaction to a minimum, accelerate throughput, and deliver exceptional print results, whether for labels or flexible packaging. Driven by real-time OEE data insights and cloud-based job databases, Nilpeter continues to push towards its *Dark Room* vision for fully optimized and automated production environments.

Packaging Printers

OKI Europe will exhibit its latest digital toner-based label printers at Labelexpo Europe 2025.



OKI Europe will exhibit its latest digital toner-based label printers at Labelexpo Europe 2025, including the new PLAVI ES9542R label press bundle (OKI printer + DPR winder), the Pro1050 with finishing equipment including a robotic arm for inline production, and the Pro9542dn for direct printing onto pouches.

PLAVI ES9542R is a 5-colour roll-to-roll label press that prints in CMYK+White and supports media up to 330 mm wide. Designed for short-run jobs, it prints on transparent, coloured, coated, and synthetic substrates. The printed labels are durable and resistant to water, oil, and alcohol.

Maxcess' web handling brands will be highlighting several new innovations at Labelexpo 2025



Rotometrics:

- EcoPrint Print Cylinder – Economical print cylinder alternative
- Longest Running Flexible Dies – 2X the durability vs competitors
- RotoScan Adjustable Anvil – Proactive die strike monitoring with AI enhancements
- RD Scorer HP – High performance scoring for film and paper applications

Tidland:

- SmartSlit – More operator safe automated narrow web slitting system
- RD AutoScore – Automated back scoring increase uptime

Fife:

- New Digital Sensors and Guiding Systems Componex
- New Plasma Coatings and FDA compliant coatings for better release and enhanced wear and abrasion resistance

Maxcess' portfolio of industry leading brands from unwind to rewind ensure press parts complement each other and work better together. Maxcess experts understand how winding equipment influences tension, how tension affects guiding, and how the interplay of guiding and tension enhances your capability to effectively die-cut and slit the web. No other supplier can deliver on that advantage. Offering a sole source from end-to-end creates tremendous value for converters to save time and money. Providing the converting industry's largest global service and support organization ensures Maxcess has local resources in the places you do business. ♦

MATHO spotlights its Cuttobag (CB) all-in-one system



With over 25 years of experience, MATHO delivers end-to-end solutions covering everything from planning and production to installation and service.

MATHO recently introduced its Cuttobag (CB) all-in-one system—a compact unit that integrates cutting, extraction, and collection into a single, space-saving design. Ideal for film, label, and edge-trim waste, the CB offers quiet operation, low operational costs, and high cutting performance, making it a smart choice for modern production lines.

Also featured will be MATHO's versatile line of cutters, engineered for precise, energy-efficient granulation of production waste across a range of industries. ♦

Martin Automatic to Spotlight Innovative Unwind Technology



Martin's high-performance web handling technology combines advanced butt splicing and unwinding solutions to support continuous, efficient production. Its MBS butt splicer enables non-stop web feeding into downstream converting and laminating equipment, helping maintain consistent production without interruptions.

The system accommodates rolls up to 26" (660 mm) in diameter and can operate at speeds of up to 250 m/min (820 fpm) in its standard configuration. An alternative configuration incorporates a 90-degree turnbar, reducing the in-line footprint and making the technology particularly suitable for space-constrained pressrooms, while maintaining reliable performance at speeds of up to 152 m/min (500 fpm).

UV curing and IR drying solutions by Excelitas

The full spectrum of UV curing and IR drying solutions for labels and packaging



Phoseon Nexus ONE™ UV LED

Phoseon Nexus ONE™ UV LED air- and water-cooled systems are ideally suited for flexographic printing applications, delivering the highest total UV power output to achieve increased print speeds, increased press uptime, and double the product lifetime. Nexus ONE comes with real time remote monitoring capabilities for Industry 4.0.

Phoseon FireJet™ UV LED air-cooled system is capable of curing at the highest speeds for small, medium, and grand format digital printing systems. It's also ideal for many large single pass UV inkjet applications.

Phoseon FireLine™ UV LED water-cooled system is designed for a wide variety of web/conveyor-based UV curing applications. The FireLine architecture is designed to allow the systems to be scalable and built up to 2 meters in length.

Noblelight Infradry® Compact IR Heating System is ideal for labels and packaging applications that utilize water-soluble inks and coatings with water-based inks.

Noblelight Amba® Mercury Arc Lamps come available in various lengths and power classes and are ideal for use as replacement UV curing lamps for a wide range of labels and packaging applications.

Wampolet to expand thermal product solutions portfolio

Wampolet to expand thermal product solutions portfolio
Wampolet is a professional manufacturer specializing in direct thermal materials and expanded product solutions.



Wampolet specializes in direct thermal materials and advanced solutions for label and printing applications, offering a comprehensive portfolio of functional and converted materials.

Its functional materials include thermal paper with thermal-sensitive coatings, matte white thermal BOPP film with protective top coatings, and white BOPP label film with specially formulated surface treatments. The portfolio also includes thermal transfer paper featuring a specially treated top coating for thermal transfer printing systems.

For end users, Wampolet provides customized converted products such as thermal adhesive labels in roll and fan-fold formats, as well as slit thermal receipt paper rolls for point-of-sale applications.

The company also offers specialty materials including premium white BOPP pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA) film for high-quality label conversion and polypropylene in-mold label materials designed for both blow molding and injection molding. These materials are available in a range of finishes, including transparent, white, silver and holographic options.

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Embracing **automation** and **digitalisation** - a global solution to labour shortages

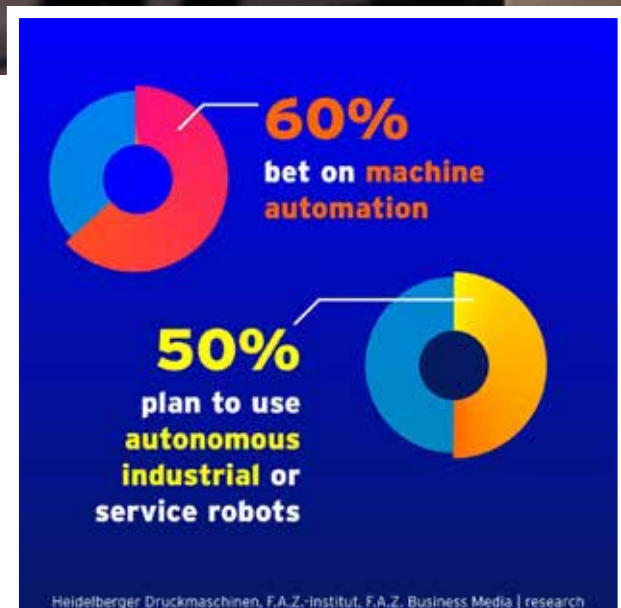
The challenges of labour shortages, especially of skilled labour, are not unique to Germany or the printing industry. Developed and ageing economies around the world are facing similar circumstances. The European Commission, for example, predicts that while overall population growth will stagnate, the proportion of people aged 65 and over will rise from 20 to 30 per cent by 2050. Businesses therefore need to adapt to these changing circumstances and develop strategies to deal with them. A study conducted by the F.A.Z.-Institut for Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG highlights the strategies being pursued by German small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and provides insights into how automation and digitalisation can help SMEs to adapt.



Lack of skilled labour hampers business opportunities

The results of the study reveal a clear trend: automation and digitalisation are no longer optional, but essential for survival in today's economy. In the study, nine out of ten German SMEs report a skills shortage, with almost half experiencing a serious impact on their business. This reflects wider global challenges as industries struggle to fill critical roles amid changing demographics.

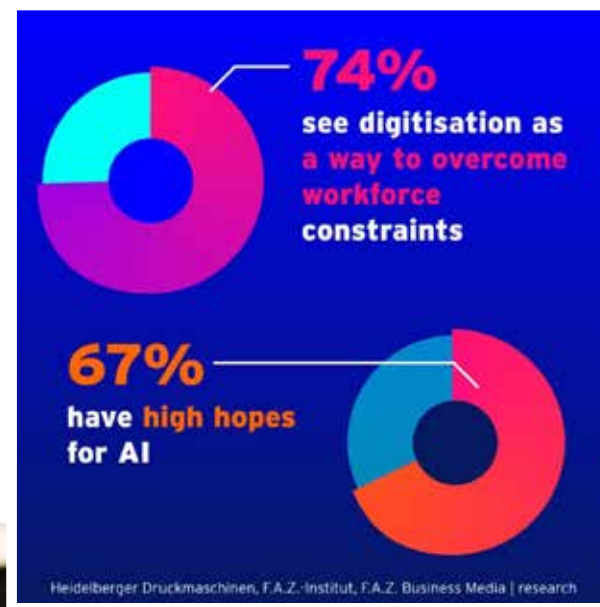
For the printing sector, companies such as Heidelberg and others at #drupa2024 showed how automation can help address this shortage. They are already tackling the issue by providing all kinds of automation solutions from prepress to postpress and everything around it. The introduction of advanced technologies in print shops, such as the implementation of robotic systems



that work alongside human operators, helps to streamline workflows and reduce dependency on large numbers of staff. Automation therefore helps companies maintain or increase productivity. But it also redefines jobs, making them more attractive to a wider range of workers. For example, companies can use automation to improve routine processes and focus their workforce on higher-value tasks.

Big hopes for AI

In conjunction with automation, the role of digitalisation is equally critical. The study found that 74 per cent of German SMEs see digitalisation as a solution to staffing challenges, with 67 per cent citing artificial intelligence as a particularly effective tool. In general, digitalisation is seen as a way to improve operational efficiency, enhance decision making and increase resilience to labour short-



ages. While the benefits are clear, the journey to adopting these technologies isn't without its challenges.

High costs, bureaucracy and resource constraints often hinder progress, according to participants in the German study, where seven out of ten SMEs rated German companies' digitalisation efforts as mediocre at best. Three strategies in particular could help overcome these barriers: Partnering with technology providers can help businesses adapt scalable, affordable tools. By advocating for policies that encourage digital transformation, such as subsidies or tax breaks, they can secure government support for their modernisation efforts. And by investing in training and upskilling programmes to prepare employees for a more technology-driven workplace, they can ensure that their workforce has the necessary skills to operate efficiently in the new environment.

Automation and digitalisation: A shared responsibility

To remain competitive in the face of chronic skills and labour shortages, SMEs need to embrace digitalisation and automation. Some 91 per cent of SMEs surveyed agreed that Germany's economy is not competitive without digitalisation and automation, so German companies say they have a lot of room for improvement. The tools, from artificial

intelligence to digitalisation and automation, are becoming more sophisticated and easier to implement. B2B platforms for consumables and service parts, software for controlling the entire workflow in the printing process, and web-based remote diagnostics for press maintenance are just a few examples that are already on the shelf. But you need the vision to use it. Visitors to drupa were able to catch a glimpse of a future that is just around the corner. ♦

CHEETAH 2.0 SERIES

Quality, modularity and productivity
in a league of its own

SELF-ADHESIVE LABELS AND MORE

The Xeikon Cheetah (CX) Series of digital presses are known for superb self-adhesive label production. And these powerhouse presses also produce heat transfer labels, paper cup flats and so many more applications. Based on Cheetah 2.0 technology, the series excels in productivity and high quality printing. The presses are designed for overall maximum Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) to provide maximum efficiencies to your shop. The Man to Machine interface enables operator efficiencies enhanced with visual indicators; built-in reporting and cloud connection - allowing for real time fact-based decision making. The optimized interface manages streamlined communications starting with feeding and ending with finishing. The Machine to Machine interface provides real time information throughout the manufacturing process contributing to the overall OEE.

With a top speed of 98 ft/min, the Xeikon CX300 and Xeikon CX500 outperform all digital label presses in its class. Furthermore, one can choose between a narrow web version (13 inch) or a 20.47 inch wide web version. Converters that do not need the top level productivity can opt for the Xeikon CX30 or Xeikon CX50 and still keep all options open for upgrading speed or width.

On top of this modularity, the presses offer all the other benefits that make Xeikon toner-based label presses unique. Including full rotary printing, a print resolution of true 1200 dpi with variable dot density, toners that meet FDA regulations for food contact, and one pass opaque white toner. Last but not least, the Xeikon Cheetah 2.0 Series of digital presses are driven by the renowned, built-for-digital X-800 digital front-end ensuring industry-leading productivity for the next decade!



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Impremia NS40

40-inch Sheetfed Nanographic Printing® System



A new B1-size digital press to pioneer new business fields, utilizing Komori's full range of offset technologies.

Introducing a new digital press, with the impressive productivity and profitability needed to expand customers' businesses by meeting growing demand for short and medium runs including variable printing and versioning for immediate turnaround on jobs such as packages, displays and point of purchase.

Features

- Impressive productivity and profitability for small to medium runs
- B1 printing speeds of 6,500 sph
- Excellent post-press compatibility
- Compatible with a range of papers
- Reduces time spent on corrections and on-site confirmations
- Reduces costs, environmentally friendly

J-throne 29

29-inch Sheetfed UV Inkjet Digital Printing Press



Revolutionary Inkjet Technology.
The B2 sheetfed UV inkjet digital printing press realizes the world's highest-class ROI.

Impremia IS29s

29-inch Sheetfed UV Inkjet Digital Printing System



Quality, Reliability and Stability Advanced Digital Printing System

The Impremia IS29 professional-spec UV inkjet digital printing system has evolved once more—now introducing the advanced Impremia IS29s.

In addition to the full range of highly-received basic features—such as suitability with a wide range of printing stocks and sheet thicknesses, stable high print quality thanks to its superior tone reproduction and register accuracy, and instant curing/one-pass doublesided printing for immediate finishing—a variety of options to further increase usability and create added value are also available.

The J-throne 29 marks a significant milestone in the evolution of printing technology, blending the legacy of offset printing expertise with cutting-edge advancements in UV inkjet technology.

Boasting faster speeds, up to 6000 sph, and unparalleled precision in sheet transport, this next-generation B2 sheet-fed printing press represents the culmination of a century-long journey in printing innovation.

The combination of high-speed production and advanced digital capabilities opens up a world of possibilities for businesses, enabling them to meet tight deadlines, accommodate ultra-small print runs, and adapt quickly to changing market demands.

Let the J-throne 29 lead your business into its next phase.



1-4 February 2028

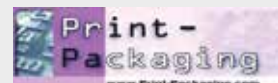
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The Digital Print Ecosystem. **Jetfire 50.**



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With the Digital Print Ecosystem from HEIDELBERG, you can set new standards. Thanks to the combination of state-of-the-art digital printing technology, smart hybrid workflows and intuitive operation, you can produce efficiently and cost-effectively right from the first print run.

The Jetfire® 50 inkjet digital printing press combines speed, precision and reliability – a real performance talent that enables you to achieve profitable, fast and reliable on-

demand production thanks to its flexible application options.

With a print speed of up to 4,560 SRA3 sheets per hour in duplex mode, it prints quickly and reliably. The Jetfire 50 is the right system for you

if you want to expand your commercial printing with a new, future-proof production method.

As part of the Digital Print Ecosystem, you not only benefit from the inkjet

digital printing press, but also receive real added value with HEIDELBERG® access. By connecting to Prinect® and the customer portal, you have the opportunity to automate and digitally map your processes – achieve greater efficiency with the help of digital services such as direct access to the e-shop or live monitoring of your production, with helpful software, cloud-based solutions, training and advice. We accompany you into the future. ♦



→ heidelberg.com

Developed for efficiency. Jetfire 50.

The Jetfire 50 effortlessly changes or adapts to customer requirements and market challenges or conditions. Thanks to its intelligent control and versatile media support, it enables efficient, high-performance production with maximum flexibility.

A high degree of automation and intuitive user guidance makes operation easier

and reduces training time. Maintenance and servicing are reduced to an absolute minimum thanks to auto-

mated processes – for a smooth workflow high-performance production.

With a resolution of 1,200 dpi and the Color Grip process, the Jetfire 50 delivers razorsharp print images on both coated and uncoated substrates. Automatic nozzle and register controls ensure consistently high quality at all times.

The Jetfire 50 supports different print media – allowing you to produce across different grammages.



→ heidelberg.com/en/Jetfire50



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Bonding Solutions for the Corrugating Industry





Providing solutions to the corrugated

Corrugating, a World of Diversity

The Corrugating Industry produces a very wide range of boxes made from a variety of board types which go from lightweight micro-flute to multi-wall heavy duty. The boxes provide low-cost, high-performance solutions for packing every imaginable product including machinery, electrical goods and fruit and vegetables as well as being a medium for providing information and advertising for the contents.

These fundamentals place multiple demands on a corrugated case and it all starts with the production of a strong, flat board on the corrugator ■



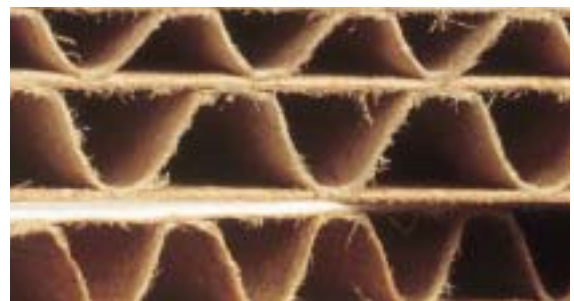
Simple and Versatile Adhesive Solutions

While the combination of papers chosen is critical, the adhesive and its application play a vital role in obtaining the best board at the end of the corrugating machine.

Glues must be versatile while maintaining high quality bond and high productivity through the whole range of boards produced.

A simple, easily adaptable recipe is required for optimum performance ■

For more information: <https://www.roquette.com>



HEIDELBERG and Gallus to Unveil New Solutions for the Growing Label Market



HEIDELBERG and Gallus bring brand new solutions to the growing label market to address key customer challenges

- **New solutions from HEIDELBERG and Gallus set to address key customer challenges, including demand for high-volume digital production**
- **Expanded portfolio strengthens the group's position across all market segments and applications, whilst extending Gallus' System to Compose concept – enhancing agility and flexibility for label converters**
- **HEIDELBERG also showcases sheetfed offset solutions for efficient production of wet glue and in-mold labels**

HEIDELBERG and Gallus are expanding their portfolio of smart, connected printing technologies to help label converters address shorter production runs, faster turnaround times and increasingly complex manufacturing requirements. Their solutions combine digital and conventional printing technologies with integrated workflows designed to improve efficiency, productivity and print quality.

At the core of this approach is a modular production concept that allows different technologies and equipment to work seamlessly together across the production line. This flexibility enables converters to configure solutions

according to their specific applications and production requirements while creating a connected, end-to-end manufacturing environment.

The portfolio includes advanced sheetfed offset solutions for the efficient production of wet-glue and in-mold labels, alongside digital workflow technologies such as HEIDELBERG Prinect. Complementary solutions including Gallus Screeny, Gallus Services and Gallus Classics further extend the technology ecosystem.

Connectivity and intelligent workflow management are increasingly important as converters seek to reduce manual intervention and improve production consistency. Integrated software and automated processes can help streamline job preparation, monitor production parameters and optimise the movement of information between different stages of manufacturing. This creates greater transparency across the production process and enables operators to

make faster, more informed decisions.

The modular approach also supports greater flexibility as production requirements evolve. Converters can combine different technologies and capabilities rather than relying on a single production platform, making it easier to handle diverse substrates, label formats and order volumes. This is particularly valuable in an environment where customers increasingly expect customised products, shorter lead times and consistent quality.

By integrating equipment, software, services and partner technologies, HEIDELBERG and Gallus are helping converters improve workflow efficiency, optimise production processes and respond more quickly to changing market demands. The combination of modularity, connectivity, automation and scalable production provides a technology-driven approach to modern label manufacturing, supporting consistent quality while maximising productivity and operational efficiency.





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