

Digital textile

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1324/1624 Eco printers with new print-head technology and the ValueJet TD series of direct-to-fabric printers, available in 1.65m and 2.6m widths.

According to Mutoh, its ValueJet 1324/1624 printers are targeted at the sign and display market for long-term outdoor posters, signs, banners, backlit signage, POS displays and vehicle graphics. The machines also incorporate its award-winning Intelligent Interweaving technology, delivering print production speeds of 14.5sqm per hour and top speeds of 29sqm per hour.

Mutoh was a sponsor of FESPA's Print Shop Live initiative at the event, where visitors were able to see live demonstrations of a 2.6m ValueJet TD in-line with SETeMa's fixation unit, the I-Fix.

Kornit Software Launch
Kornit Digital announced the launch of its QuickP Breeze 2.0 program, for use with its Breeze garment printer. The company said the new software enables improved fabric hand and better control of ink consumption achieved by layer separations of white and CMYK. In addition, the colour-management system is supported by industry-standard ICC profiles and provides image previews for CMYK, white and highlights layers.

Yuval Neria, director of product marketing and business development at Kornit, said: "We were able to develop an easy-to-use, friendly GUI, fast and simple workflow that allows operation by novice users with no need for graphic

design knowledge of any kind. At the same time, for the sophisticated and the experienced users, the software provides extended control of parameters through the setup editor.

"QuickP Breeze 2.0 features web-to-print capabilities and is pre-integrated with self-service touch screen kiosk applications that provide the ability to customize T-shirts in a visual, creative and fun manner."

In addition, Kornit says its Breeze printer has been designed for commercial use and is ideal for direct-on-garment solutions for commercial garment printers and apparel retailers.

It also offers a small footprint for space-constrained shops, with online e-commerce solutions, meaning small businesses can benefit from the system's advantages that until recently, only industrial printers and power houses enjoyed, according to Kornit.

New Ink Family from Sensient
Sensient Imaging Technologies launched three new sublimation inks under the ElvaJet brand – ElvaJet SY 170, ElvaJet DE 200 and the ElvaJet TS-E 600.

Its ElvaJet SY 170 is a sublimation ink developed for transfer printing on machines using Kyocera print heads, while the ElvaJet DE 200 has been created specifically for direct printing. ElvaJet TS-E 600 is a new set of CMYK + White inks, said to offering outstanding printability for DTG printers.

In addition, Sensient had collaborated with Reggiani Macchine and to launch ElvaJet ReNOIR Subli, an ink developed for the ReNOIR and ReNOIR-Compact printers.

GMG Premieres ProductionSuite
GMG, a developer of high-end colour-management software solutions, launched its new ProductionSuite, its first wide-format solution, which comes as a modular system, comprising Editor, RIP, SmartProfiler and PrintStation technology.

According to GMG, the solution will help establish new standards in quality and productivity for users with its recalibratable spot colours, powerful editing options and the support of around 800 output devices.

Agfa Graphics Showcases Printer Portfolio
Agfa Graphics showed a broad range of its inkjet applications, including Jeti models for textile printing. Its display and live demonstrations included the six-colour Jeti 3324 Aquajet Pro, an aqueous-based textile printer, and the Jeti 3020 Titan FTR, a combined flat-bed and flat-to-roll engine that offers users high-speed production in a versatile, upgradeable 3.2m platform.

Ingrid Merckx, COO for inkjet at Agfa Graphics, said: "At this year's FESPA Digital we are taking the challenge by demonstrating a choice of solutions from our most complete range in wide-format

inkjets. Next to the Jeti Aquajet Pro for industrial textile markets that we are showing, we maintain a strong focus potential on the professional UV-curable print solutions."

Cluster Technology from J-Teck3
J-Teck3 reported positive results at FESPA Digital for its innovative 'Cluster Technology' applied to J-Next Subly ink. This is a system that consolidates the ink molecules into clusters, allowing them to pass through the piezo print heads without alteration and thus giving extreme stability to the ink.

J- Next Subly was showcased in the new 'Extra' version, with concentrated CMYK as well as three new shades, Orange, Blue and Grey – allowing for an extension of the chromatic gamut for the optimal reproduction of images full of details and tones.

J-Teck said its booth was visited by people from all over Europe, from Turkey to Latvia, who appreciated its constant commitment to study and develop new, ecofriendly and innovative digital inks.

Marabu Fluorescent Sublimation Inks
Marabu's TexaJet DX-SHE sublimation ink for digital-textile printing attracted a great deal of attention at the show, according to the company.

"Our print samples featuring fluorescent inks drew many attendees to our stand," said Gianni Robertazzi, product manager for digital inks. "Printing with this sublimation



Brother GJ-3



The J-Teck3 stand



The ReNOIR-Compact attracted interest on the Reggiani stand

ink produces rich, intensive colours that provide a perfect contrast with very deep blacks."

Versatile Teleios Grande
In co-operation with d.gen, Multi-Plot showcased the new Teleios Grande, with a printable width of 3.20m. Consisting of a fixation unit, suction unit (fume buster), a take-up unit, RIP software as well as the latest generation of Ricoh print heads, it was said

to have printed streak-free on elastic materials throughout the entire exhibition. Multi-Plot said it also showed its class when it came to using different inks – either disperse or pigment textile ink.

Chinese Machine Uses Epson DX6
Maxunion Corp, of China, showed a wide-format textile printer based on the latest Epson DX6 print head. The iTTEN FBJET 1620/1820

high-speed digital textile printer with flat-bed conveyor is equipped with two staggered lined of print heads, making 7200 nozzles in total. Maxunion says this tremendously increases the mechanical resolution provided by the printer and gives higher print speeds than machines based on the widely used DX5.

The company says the most attractive features of iTTEN FBJET 1620 are high-speed

printing (around 50 sqm/hour), high precision, with the smallest variable dot down to 3.5 picolitres, a wide colour gamut and long durability.

Maxunion has worked with RIP supplier Ergosoft in developing the machine, which can be configured with 4, 6 or 8 colours and has a pressurised-bag continuous ink system. Maxunion also supplies an optional automatic media-take-up system and forced hot-air dryer.

CONFERENCE SHEDS LIGHT ON DIGITAL MARKET GROWTH

A free conference programme ran in the Textile Talk Theatre – a space set aside in FESPA Fabric – throughout most of the show. The second day was hosted by *Digital Textile*, when the keynote speaker was technical editor Dr John Provost.

He placed the digital-textile-printing sector in the broader context of all textile printing worldwide, estimating that even after the growth rate experienced in recent years it was still only around 1% of the total. World textile-printing production was estimated at 28 billion sqm in 2011, with digital-textile at around 300 million sqm. Pigment inks accounted for most traditional production, with disperse and sublimation inks for polyester dominant in digital – partly as

a result of the booming soft-signage market. Provost pointed out that, with total print production rising at 2.5% a year as result of population growth and increased affluence, digital printing would have to exhibit massive growth rates in order to take a bigger market share.

Mike Horsten, marketing manager at Mimaki Europe, put values against digital-textile production and offered an estimate of the division between traditional markets and signage. He said that in 2012 the world market for digitally printed roll-to-roll textiles would reach \$1.6 billion, of which more than 70% would be signage.

Later in the day further market insights were given by Aditya Chandavarkar, CEO of Inkjet Forum India, who put some figures against