

PRINT BULLETIN

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06

PAPER SOUNDS GREAT AGAIN

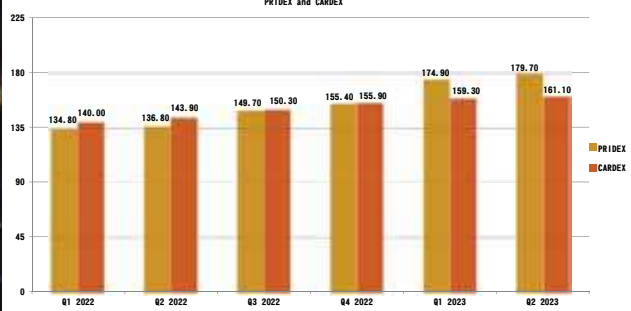
Cutting-edge research is creating new possibilities for paper and paperboard and printing processes. Are you ready to reimagine your product offerings to take benefit of these new developments?

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MIND THE TAX CHANGES

Print Bulletin readers benefit from the advice extended by BMPA's panel of consultants, including up-to-date information regarding tax, banking, export-import and legal updates concerning the print and packaging industry.

PRIDEX and CARDEX



FIND OPPORTUNITIES; CREATE NEW NICHES

Rising domestic inflation in the Q2 FY2023 has also contributed to the northward movement of PRIDEX and CARDEX.

pamex
2023
International Exhibition on Printing and Allied Machinery Industries
Of the Printers - For the Printers - By the Printers

PS23

PRINT SUMMIT 2023

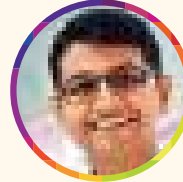
Thursday, 16th February
Tata Theatre, NCPA, Mumbai

OWN THE CHANGE

SPEAKERS



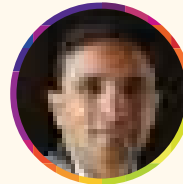
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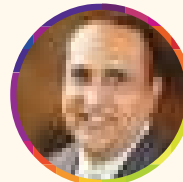
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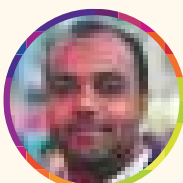
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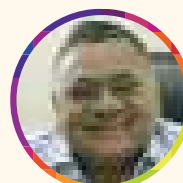
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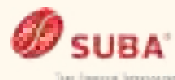
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FROM THE PRESIDENTS' DESK

Dear fellow printers, packaging converters, and suppliers,

We wish you all a very happy new year!

We hope you are confirming your seats for the upcoming Print Summit on February 16, 2023, at Tata Theatre, NCPA, in Mumbai. We are delighted that we have already received confirmation from 10 speakers. Kedar Lele, ED of Hindustan Unilever; Indraneel Chitale, Partner—Chitale Group; Rajneesh Bajaj, Co-founder and Director of VINSAK; Kamal Parekh, CEO of Kokuyo Riddhi Paper Products; Rajiv Thadani, Chairperson of Packfora LLP; are some of the key speakers for the upcoming PS in February 2023. If you have not yet booked your seat, immediately visit <https://bmpa.org/ps2023/> to reserve your seat.

We are sure you are reading about the global recession hitting us. In the winter session of the parliament, opposition is questioning the treasury benches about the 4% contraction of India's industrial output. To quote a Mint (livemint.com) report: "According to the ministry of statistics data, manufacturing saw a contraction of 5.6%, while mining and electricity grew 2.5% and 1.2% each in October. Consumer durables sales, an indicator of demand in the economy, registered a 15.3% decline in October, while production of capital goods contracted by 2.3%." This has had an evident negative impact on our industry.

However, the situation is much better than the markets during the pandemic. We have client orders, even if the order books are not full. Cashflow may be insufficient, but it is not dried out completely. We must rely on domestic demand, expand to export markets, innovate to offer value additions, and meticulously manage our cash flow without compromising operational capability and readiness to deliver products and services to our clients. Value additions are the key differentiators to delivering customer delight to NextGen print buyers.

Whether we are commercial printers or packaging converters, the pandemic has taught us that companies on sound financial footing fared well. Forward-looking companies continued and benefited from their investment plans. On the other hand, we have also seen how the countries performed—sustained, grew or crumpled, crippled under financial pressure—due to their macroeconomic decision-making. The micro and macro situations offer critical insights for long-term economic sustainability. We must also pay attention to innovation, continuous learning and skill development of our workforce, and efficient leadership skill development to keep our business alive and efficient, if not significantly profitable.

Going out of the way to embrace collaborations and digital opportunities is the need of the hour. We must build our capacity to add value to our client's digital journey—by onboarding on their procurement platforms, delivering e-publications, to designing social media content. We must create opportunities for our businesses and workforce based on our core competencies—graphic design, client servicing, and efficient content delivery.

Amit Shah

Prakash Canser

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PAMEX, the flagship event of AIFMP, is organising promotional roadshows in six cities of India to reach the printers, converters, suppliers and brand owners from these areas and invite them to PAMEX 2023

Raveendra Joshi
President of AIFMP



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PAMEX 2023: abuzz with Ahmedabad roadshow

The six-city promotional tour of PAMEX 2023 had its second stop at Ahmedabad, one of the fastest-growing cities in India. The event, held on December 9, 2022, at Hyatt, took the message of 'Convergence in print' further to the grassroots of the printing fraternity.

The second of the six nationwide PAMEX 2023 promotional events was organised in Ahmedabad, structured around a half-day conference and full-day tabletop exhibition. It was organised by the **All India Federation of Master Printers (AIFMP)** and Ahmedabad Printing Press Association, in association with Print-Packaging.com Pvt. Ltd. The local bodies of Vadodara Master Printer's Association, Maninagar Printing Press Owners Association, Printers Association Amdavad and Mehsana Printers Association extended their support to the Show.

The event was inaugurated by Raveendra Joshi, President, **AIFMP**; Anant Vishwanath Joshi, Vice President- West, **AIFMP**; Tushar Dhote, Co-chair, PAMEX; Fallith Pandya, President, Ahmedabad Printing Press Association; Jignesh Shah, President, Vadodara Master Printers Association; Mukesh Padsala, President, Printers Association Ahmedabad; Hiren Parikh, President, Maninagar Printing Press Owners Association; Atul Pandit, President, Mehsana Printers Association and Anil Arora, President, Print-Packaging.com Pvt. Ltd.

"PAMEX, the flagship event of **AIFMP**, is organising promotional roadshows in six cities of India to reach the printers, converters, suppliers and brand owners from these areas and invite them to PAMEX 2023, which is being held from March 27 to 30, 2023 at BEC, Mumbai. The NAEP award ceremony, co-located with PAMEX 2023, is another industry attraction," said Raveendra Joshi, President of **AIFMP**, the organisers of PAMEX. He also shared the details of the proposed **AIFMP Bhavan**, the Research & Training Centre for Graphic Communications, which is being planned at Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana.

The conference was attended by more than 100 delegates, who, with other visitors, also explored the tabletop exhibition, creating a complete networking environment. The participating companies at the show included Vinsak India, Omet India, Manroland Goss, Photokina Chemicals, Zhongke India, S Kumar Multi Products, Simplify Inc., and Gebr. Becker India Vacuum Pumps, LineOMatic Graphic Industries, Unison Machinery, Gujarat Printers Directory and Print and Publishing.

The conference started with a panel discussion on 'Convergence in Print—The Way Forward', led and moderated by Ranesh Bajaj, Vinsak India. The panellists who spoke about the application and need for convergence included Manish Desai, Mudrika Labels Pvt. Ltd., Hyuma Mahadevia, Yamir Packaging Pvt. Ltd., Mudresh Purohit, Surya Offset and Sanat Gandhi, Pelican Rotoflex Pvt. Ltd.

Next was a presentation by Pawandeep Sahni of OMET India titled, 'The Convergence Mindset—How to Encash on the Biggest Opportunity in Print.' Sahni took the example of Apple and the launch of the first iPhone, which



The event was inaugurated by Raveendra Joshi, President, AIFMP; with the presidents of partnering locals organisations and Tushar Dhote, Co-chair, PAMEX

saw the coming together of a wide-screen iPod with touch controls, a revolutionary Mobile Phone and a Breakthrough Internet Communication device in a single instrument to highlight how a convergence mindset can change a company's fortune. However, he cautioned, "It is imperative to combine convergence with an apposite machine to create the difference and have the desired outcome."

Ranesh Bajaj, Vinsak India, then took over the dais to talk about 'Connected Packaging'. He introduced the word 'phygital'—the concept of using technology to bridge the digital world with the physical world to provide a unique interactive experience for the user. "Digitising the packaging of brands and products is important for authenticity, visibility and interactivity- resulting in brand protection, consumer interaction and efficiency," he said. He also spoke about the importance of track and trace, which prevents customers from purchasing counterfeit items and makes it extremely difficult for counterfeiters to mimic packaging.

In concluding remarks, Tushar Dhote, Co-chair of PAMEX, summed up the event by pressing the attendees to explore possibilities of applying convergence in their work areas and to share case studies with team PAMEX.

A networking lunch and a visit to the tabletop exhibition followed the half-day conference.

The next stop of the PAMEX promotional journey will be Pune, where the conference and tabletop exhibition will be held on December 23, 2022, at Hotel President. The event will be organised by **AIFMP** and The Poona Press Owners Association Ltd., in association with Print-Packaging.com Pvt. Ltd. and supported by Solapur Mudrak Sangh, Kolhapur Zilla Mudrak Sangh, Pune District Master Printers Association and Printers Association, Ichalkaranji, BMDPA and MMS. For any further details, send mail to info@print-packaging.com.

Paper sounds great again

Cutting-edge research is creating new possibilities for paper and paperboard and printing processes. Are you ready to reimagine your product offerings to take benefit of these new developments?

Paper and paperboard (PnP) are dynamic materials; we have shaped a variety of innovations in our industry using these materials. Moreover, printing technologies have attracted many researchers to experiment with various innovative ingredients, such as different types of inks, to achieve broad use cases and applications. Paper is abundant, renewable, recyclable, environmentally sustainable, and comparatively cost-effective compared with other materials such as metals, glass, wood or even some composites. The printing process adds additional value to PnP-based product applications and research because it has been efficient, fast, and tried and tested manufacturing technology for many centuries.

Researchers worldwide are trying to marry the two—PnP as a substrate and printing technologies as a manufacturing process—to develop many inventive applications to add features and new dimensions to existing paper products. Such research also opens new opportunities to integrate conventional product functionalities with those made with paper and printing technologies.

Loudspeakers as thin as paper

We are familiar with big, bulky sound-emitting boxes around our houses and offices. Over the years, they have shrunk to smaller sizes, yet they are not as thin as a piece of printed paper. If the Institute for Print and Media Technology at the Chemnitz University of Technology has its way, many loudspeakers of the future will not only be as thin as paper but will also sound impressive.

This is a reality in the laboratories of the Chemnitz researchers, who, back in 2015, developed the multiple award-winning T-Book—a large-format illustrated book equipped with printed electronics. It begins to sound through a speaker invisibly located inside the sheet of paper with each page turn.

“The T-Book was and is a milestone in the development of printed electronics, but development is continuing all the time,” says Prof. Dr Arved C. Hübler, under whose leadership this technology trend is becoming increasingly important worldwide, has been driven forward for more than 20 years.

Five years ago, the sonorous paper loudspeakers from Chemnitz were still manufactured in a semi-automatic single-sheet production process. In this process, ordinary paper or foils are printed with two layers of a conductive organic polymer as electrodes. A piezoelectric layer is sandwiched between them as the active element, which causes the paper or film to vibrate. Loud and clear sound is produced by air displacement. The two sides of the speaker paper can be printed in colour. Since this was only possible in individual sheets in limited formats, the



Printed speakers create a surprising jungle illusion. Printed electronics embedded in a paper web enable 360° surround sound. Varvara Bachul from the Institute of Print and Media Technology at the Chemnitz University of Technology analyses the sound generated inside the T-RING. The sounds come from 56 individually printed loudspeakers that are connected to form seven segments on the circular track, which is almost four meters long. Photo: Jacob Müller.

efficiency of this relatively slow manufacturing process is very low. That's why researchers at the Institute of Print and Media Technology have been looking for a new way towards cost-effective mass production since May 2017.

The possibilities with this technology are endless. For example, a simple printed landscape can also play the sounds when the image was captured, such as the wind blowing and the gushing water stream captured in the shot. Or a mounted artwork in the gallery or the information beside it can play voice to explain things about the work in an art gallery or a museum.

This technology can also give birth to cheaper multimedia campaigns, such as poster-based visuals in shopping complexes, trains, and POS, that can play jingles to engage the customers and enhance brand recall.

From sheet to roll-to-roll printing

Their latest project by the same team, roll-to-roll printed speaker paper (T-Paper for short), was about converting sheet production into roll production. “Researchers from print media technology, chemistry, physics, acoustics, electrical engineering, and economics from six nations developed a continuous, highly productive, and reliable roll production of loudspeaker webs,” reports project manager Georg C. Schmidt.

The researchers used the roll-to-roll (R2R) printing process and developed inline technologies for other process steps, such as the lamination of functional layers. “This allows electronics to be embedded in the paper—invisibly and protected,” says Hübler. In addition, he says, inline polarisation of piezoelectric polymer layers has been



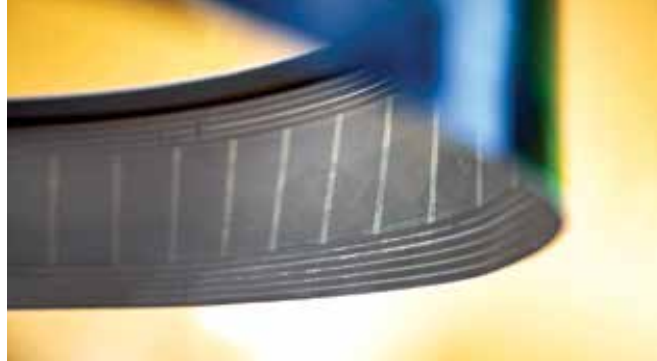
A novelty of the Chemnitz innovation is the acoustic inline characterisation. Project manager Dr Georg C. Schmidt acoustically tests the completely printed paper loudspeaker web on a roll-to-roll printing machine and can thus assess its quality. Photo: Jacob Müller

achieved for the first time, and complete inline process monitoring of the printed functional layers is possible. The final project results were published in the renowned journal *Advanced Materials* in January 2021.

A new circle of possibilities

The potential of a paper loudspeaker is pushed further with the innovation of roll production. A meter-long loudspeaker installation can now be manufactured in web form or as a circle (T-RING). The initial T-RING prototype was almost a four-metre-long track with 56 individual loudspeakers, forming seven segments, making a 3600 circle enveloping space around the listener. The speaker track, including printed circuitry, weighs just 150 gm and consists of 90% conventional paper that can be printed in colour on both sides.

"This means that low-cost infotainment solutions are now possible in museums, trade shows and the advertising industry, for example. In public buildings, for example, very



The printed speakers embedded almost invisibly in the paper web can only be seen in strong backlighting. Photo: Jacob Müller

homogeneous sound reinforcement of long stretches such as corridors is possible. But the process technology itself could also become interesting for other areas, such as the production of inline measurement systems for Industry 4.0," says the project manager, looking to the future.

Transform ideas into possibilities

What does this—and many similar research breakthroughs—mean for us, the print and packaging converters?

It only means that truly transformational times have arrived. And that we have immense opportunities to engage and delight our clients and their customers with awe-inspiring cost-effective, and sustainable solutions. Innovations such as paper loudspeakers and T-RING should inspire us to think in new directions, explore radical solutions for our clients, and experiment with new ideas.



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Labelexpo lights up the subcontinent

The latest edition of Labelexpo India 2022 featured over 250 global exhibitors showcasing the advanced made by the Indian supplier industry since the earlier edition four years ago.

Labelexpo has made a triumphant return to India, welcoming over 12,000 visitors to the India Expo Centre in Greater Noida on the outskirts of Delhi—an increase of 22% compared to the last show in 2018. The aisles were buzzing, and multiple deals were closed through the show's four days.

Among key global launches at Labelexpo India, 2022 was a hybrid press developed jointly by Domino and UV Graphic Technologies, incorporating a retractable digital print bar in line with multi-colour digital and flexo print units.

Multitec premiered its S1 full servo press in an 8-colour 450 mm-wide configuration with combined LED-UV and UV dryers and a multi-layer coupon label kit. Webtech unveiled the 410mm-wide servo-equipped X1 flexo press with a smart E+L inline inspection system.

Monotech showcased a range of machines on the digital side, including the Colornovo hybrid press and an entry-level aqueous inkjet press. The company also demonstrated a blockchain-based track and trace system built on variable QR codes and hidden trigger images.

Pulisi displayed its Aobead DPIM330 digital press, incorporating in-line flexo units, while AKO Flexo LLP launched its Delta flexo press, available in widths up to 520mm. Both machines are built in China, with Indian production sites to follow.

Global suppliers were also present in strength. HP Indigo demonstrated a 6k press, which was sold at the show, while Konica Minolta showed its AccurioLabel 230. Avery Dennison, BST, GEW, Omet, Bobst, DuPont, Esko and Miraclon were also present.

Labelexpo India 2022 featured the Indian Label Association (LMAI) awards, showcased in a gala event at the showground.

The show also featured a Digital Embellishment Trail. Monotech demonstrated its dSpark UV inkjet label digital varnish and cold foiling press to coincide with the trail, while Vinsak promoted laser die cutting and Konica Minolta its MGI JetVarnish3Dweb.

Appadurai A, Country Manager, HP India Sales, commented, "Labelexpo India is an important show for us as far as label business goes. We definitely got focused people at our stand that we don't see in other shows."

Amit Sheth of Pulisi, added, "Labelexpo India 2022 has been very exciting for us. We had been looking for such a platform to network with industry friends. And we look forward to the Labelexpo series."



Grant Blewett, Chief Commercial Officer of Miraclon, said, "Labelexpo India is the premier labelling show within the Indian market. Labelexpo is very important for Miraclon and has been for many years, so it was good to be back. We were impressed with how busy it has been and have seen many good customers and prospects."

Pradeep Saroha, Event Director of Labelexpo India 2022, commented, "Labelexpo India 2022 was the biggest show so far in its history in terms of both participation and visitors. The four-day show was packed with new visitors from the commercial print industry eyeing the labels market and neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. I would like to extend my gratitude to all the associations and partners for their constant support in making the show successful. I look forward to welcoming all of you at Labelexpo India 2024!"

"It was wonderful to see Labelexpo India bouncing back after four years. The show was buzzing with excitement, and many deals were done—it was clear many converters were waiting for the show to make their new investment decisions," said, Jade Grace, Labelexpo Global Series Portfolio Director, who thanked everyone, including partners and exhibitors.

"Our next event is Labelexpo Southeast Asia during February 9-11, which is gearing up to be a fantastic show after an absence of five years in the region due to the pandemic. We are very much looking forward to being back in Bangkok following the successful editions of Labelexpo in the US and India. The region's thriving industry is ready to get together to do business and network, and we cannot wait to hold the event to facilitate this," added Jade.

Labelexpo India partners include the Labels Manufacturers Association of India (LMAI), All India Federation of Master Printers, the World Print and Communication Forum, the World Packaging Organisation, the Printing Industry Association of Bangladesh and the Sri Lanka Association of Printers.

Labelexpo India returns in November 2024. For more information, visit www.labelexpo-India.com.



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Interpack 2023: a trade fair for everyone

Lost in the exhibition halls? Not at interpack. To help our visitors find everything they are looking for, the fully booked interpack 2023 features a concept for the halls based on clear focal points for each industry.

No other industry trade fair can compare to representing the global market in its entire variety and scope. Next year, interpack will again offer the packaging and related process industry the most significant international overview of the market, thereby more than earning its motto “simply unique”. To help visitors not get lost in 18 trade fair halls, the halls feature a custom concept based on the core target groups of food, beverages, confectionery and baked goods, pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, non-food and industrial goods.

Around 2,700 companies from around the world will meet in Düsseldorf from May 4 to 10, 2023, to present cutting-edge technologies and packaging trends from the entire value chain, demonstrate chances for growth and respond to the challenges of the industry.

Confectionery and baked goods

Visitors will find processes and machines for packaging confectionery and baked goods, especially in halls 1, 3 and 4 of interpack. If you need packaging for something sweet, ask consultants from companies like Sollich, Aasted, Theegarten-Pactec, Chocotech, Bühler or Winkler and Dünnebier, and many others. The baking sector will meet with exhibitors like Hebenstreit, Rheon Automatic Machinery, Colussi Ermes, Tonelli, TT Italy or Reading Bakery System.

As in many other sectors, concerning the packaging of confectionery, baked goods, snacks and cereals, much has changed over the recent years. One crucial issue is sustainable solutions. Mechanical engineering companies, for example, are adapting their portfolio to include packaging made from mono-material or novel materials. Digital technology is another focus—as it is for the entire industry.

Food, beverages, non-food and industrial goods

The food sector is among the most favoured target groups of visitors to interpack, which shows in their presentation's breadth. The global demand for packaged foods is increasing. In saturated markets with high incomes, conscious consumption and consumer behaviour also shift towards sustainability, regional produce, organic food, fair trade, and packaging. Like the current challenges posed by energy management and conservation of resources, this causes a process of transformation within the sector. A similar observation can be made for beverages and non-food products, which are presented together with the food sector in halls 5 and 6 and 11 and 14. Around 20% of visitors to interpack are especially interested in solutions for industrial goods. These, too, are to be found in the same halls.

Pharmaceuticals and cosmetics

The industry's development opportunities are excellent in light of global demographic changes. Increasing requirements within drug development result in a parallel increase in those within systems and machine technology concerning the packaging and bottling of medicines. The pharmaceutical companies need universal solutions, which are found in halls 15 to 17 at interpack, where the focus is on presenting processes and machines for packaging pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. The requirements for machines and systems producing pharmaceuticals and cosmetics are, by necessity, strict concerning product safety, protection against counterfeit manufacture and traceability. Cosmetic products are also a focus of the sustainability movement.

Packaging materials and packaging

Halls 7 and 7a, 8a, 9 and 10 of interpack are the most important for the sector. This is where visitors can view at least a third of all exhibitors' materials and finished packaging products. This presentation, which is not only for users of packaging, packaging materials and packaging aids, is already the largest packaging trade fair in the world. This also makes interpack unique. Here is where all packaging materials are represented, and there is an exceptionally high number of innovations in the sustainability and conservation of resources, for example, in using new materials, sustainable raw materials, or increasing the number of recyclates used in packaging.

Labelling, marking, finishing

Inform, decorate, customise—packaging carries information. How to implement this for different products and requirements is presented by the exhibitors in halls 8a and 8b. There are labelling and marking technology machines, such as Bluhm Systeme, Langguth, Domino Printing Sciences, Videojet Technologies, Herma or Possehl. Solutions from packaging production and integrated packaging printing complete this offer. You can visit companies like Starlinger, Totani, Fujifilm Europe, the Brückner Group or HP Germany.

Exhibiting companies can present their businesses individually and introduce their contact persons at interpack and their product innovations in the exhibitor and product database during the trade fair. The exhibitor and product database is now available at www.interpack.com and is constantly being updated with new information and products.

New interpack exhibitor and product database is online

Search, find and be found: The exhibitor and product database for interpack 2023 is now available. Here, visitors can get an overview of the unique range of products on site. The exhibitor profile, where exhibiting companies can present their businesses in detail, is at the heart of the database.

The approximately 2,700 exhibitors at interpack will offer possible solutions and consultations in the coming year. Exhibiting companies can present their businesses individually and introduce their contact persons at interpack and their product innovations in the exhibitor and product database in the run-up to the trade fair. The relaunch of the exhibitor profiles was rolled out in mid-July via all the Messe Düsseldorf online portals and boasts several new features.

Expansion of digital services

"Companies need to present their businesses and products optimally, not only in the trade fair halls but also online. The new exhibitor profile makes this possible," explains Wolfram N. Diener, CEO of Messe Düsseldorf. "We are increasingly focusing on platforms that we can offer our customers in both physical and digital form. On our online portals, our trade fairs run 365 days a year."




drupa Prize winner Friederike Danebrock together with Wolfram N. Diener, President and CEO of Messe Düsseldorf and Erhard Wienkamp, Managing Director of Messe Düsseldorf. Image: Hojabr Riahi

Here's what you can already discover now

The database gives visitors a better overview of exhibitors and the products they offer. The convenient sorting of products, a modern and clear design and the option to filter according to personal interests make this possible. The option of quickly making contact before the trade fair facilitates planning. In the run-up to interpack, the platform also offers the feature of saving preferred exhibitors, products and events in the "myOrganizer".

The exhibitor and product database is now available at www.interpack.com and is constantly being updated with new information and products. interpack will take place in Düsseldorf from May 4 to 10, 2023.




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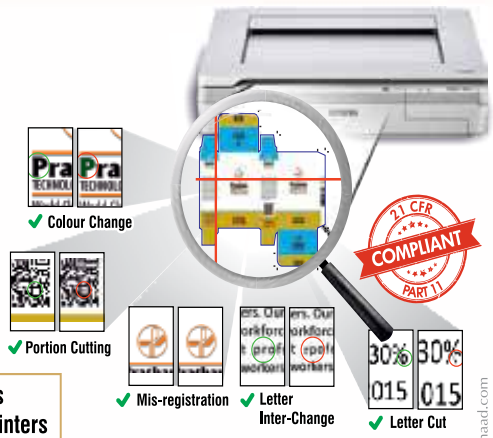
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Squaring off the leadership position

Latest amongst the spree of Canon's experiential stores, Lucknow has the new Image Square 4.0 outlet, inaugurated in the presence of Manabu Yamazaki, President and CEO of Canon India.

Canon India announced the launch of its innovative and futuristic Image Square 4.0 store in Lucknow. The brand-new Image Square 4.0 store seeks to provide customers with engaging experiences and serve as a one-stop solution for all photography and videography needs. Keeping up with the changing consumer needs and industry trends, Canon has adopted a better-crafted and curated approach by showcasing its complete line-up strategy and offering exclusive technical support for professional photographers in the new version store. Making the new store accessible for all service needs, the latest version stores will also have service collection and CPS registration desks to meet all consumer needs.

Engaging and delighting customers

As the ambit of photography and videography continues to expand, there is a rising need to cater to emerging new segments. To cater to all those growing genres, the new store will be equipped with four interactive zones specially designed to allow customers to gain comprehensive knowledge of genre-specific imaging requirements. The four zones that will be a part of the stores are the Wedding, Wildlife, Vlogging, and the Family zone, enabling the customers to walk into these zones and seek an understanding of the specialised solutions by engaging in roundtable discussions with highly trained technical staff.

Commenting on the launch, Manabu Yamazaki, President and CEO of Canon India, said, "With customer delight as the core, we at Canon have strived to ensure a widespread retail presence focused on educating and empowering consumers. In this endeavour, Image Square

stores have always been an instrumental platform for us to establish a deeper customer connection, address their diverse imaging needs and help them to make the right investment. Having seen a tremendous rise in the professional segment, especially in the field of the wedding, wildlife and vlogging, through our Image Square stores, we aim to further strengthen this ecosystem by providing genre-specific end-to-end photography and videography solutions. Aimed towards nurturing the imaging culture in India, we are confident that the new upgrade to our Image store in Lucknow will help photographers and videographers with a one-stop shop for all their photography needs and help them scale their career to newer heights."

End-to-end Imaging product powerhouse

C Sukumaran, Senior Director—Consumer Systems Products and Imaging Communication Business, Canon India, added, "With an incredible history, Lucknow is the artistic and cultural centre of India with some of the greatest architectural marvels make it a visual delight for photographers to capture. To further strengthen the existing love for imaging arts in the city, we are delighted to unveil the new Image Square 4.0 store in Lucknow—the fourth such store in India. Weaving together technology, lifestyle, and innovation, the new version stores make the world of imaging more accessible and comprehensible for customers and enhance the immersive experience of professional and semi-professional photographers with our new all-encompassing range of imaging solutions."

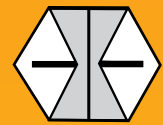
An exciting addition to these stores is the introduction of third-party essentials such as memory cards, lights, tripods, bags, gimbals, etc. Providing a comprehensive perspective on imaging, Image Square 4.0 stores will showcase the entire Canon product range, including DSLRs, mirrorless cameras, film cameras, EF and RF series lenses, digital cameras, and photo printers.

To make the shopping experience seamless, EMI financing options will also be available at the Image Square 4.0 store. In addition, the store complies with the COVID-19 protocols established by various authorities to offer customers a safe and healthy shopping experience through a fully vaccinated workforce.

The brand-new Image Square 4.0 store seeks to provide customers with engaging experiences and serve as a one-stop solution for all photography and videography needs.



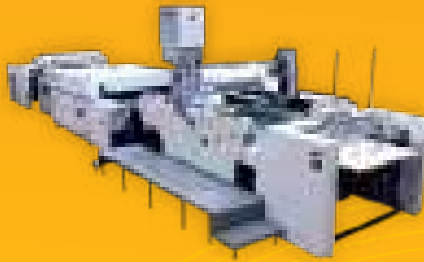
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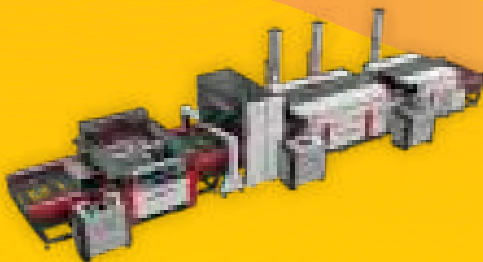
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Epson relaunches SurePress in India

After a 4-year break, Epson India is all set to relaunch its globally successful digital label press for the domestic label converters in India.

Vasudevan, General Manager—Large Format Printers/Industrial Equipment, says, “Even though we were not directly present in the market for the last few years, we were getting enquiries for our label press. We have relaunched these products in the Indian market and are confident we will get a positive response from the market.”

He adds that the adaptation from analogue to digital technology for labels has been slow in India, despite India being a big market in companies to other western countries such as Europe and US, where label converters are actively adopting digital technologies.

Epson India is relaunching its SurePress range of digital label presses in the local market after a four-year break. The company has started preliminary activities to relaunch its successful SurePress digital label press in the market.

“In India, the label printing cost is significant. Converters prefer to use analogue presses to compete on pricing deterring the adoption of digital technologies. When we launched the printers earlier in 2014, we were ahead of time in the market, but still, we managed to sell these digital presses in India. We realised that the market was not ready to adapt to new technologies then,” says Vasudevan.

Another reason for discontinuing the products was that converters compared digital productivity with analogue. “Earlier, we had one model to offer, and its productivity was not comparable with analogue presses. Even the customer expected the printing speed to be at least 45-50 m/min. With the launch of the new product—the Epson SurePress L-6534VW, we should be able to meet customers’ expectations on productivity,” Vasudevan says.

The company has started its promotional activities, including reaching out to customers to assess their requirements and showcasing how digital can support their existing setup. Satyanarayana, Director of Visual products and Robots, Epson India, says, “We have started speaking to the customers. We are also in the process of rebuilding our ground-level activities to reach out to new customers. We will be actively present in the market by the end of this quarter. We expect the sales to begin starting this year.”

Epson built a new demo centre in Japan in May 2022 equipped with its latest SurePress label printer.

“The potential customers are taken to Japan to visit the demo centre for a product demo, and those unable to travel are provided with an option of the virtual demo. When customers request print samples, we arrange the same from our demo centre in Japan. As we progress, we could tie up with one customer in India and set up a demonstration centre in the future,” Satyanarayana explains.

The company will primarily sell the label press directly to end customers and are also open to partnering with distributors.



Vasudevan says that label converters in India are happy with their current analogue presses. Epson intends to show how digital presses can offer customers value-added services and business expansion opportunities.

“We will attempt to identify the unproductive process in the current analogue label printing set-up at the customers’ place and suggest how they can improve efficiency by adding digital and analogue machines. Our whole idea is to create a model where both analogue and digital printers work parallel, thus improving efficiency and profits analogue to the customers.”

Primarily aimed at short-run jobs and variable data printing, digital presses can support new start-up brands to connect and engage with customers. Vasudevan explains, “If a brand wants to run a campaign for high customer engagement, digital presses can play a major role. It can also help start-up brands to conduct market research and test their products in certain demography.” For example, brands could produce limited edition and customisable products targeting individual cities and markets. Such campaigns help them understand what products customers prefer and perform well. With digital printing, brands can quickly make these products available in the market.

Vasudevan also emphasises that he wants to encourage customers to use digital machines and analogue printers. He adds, “We don’t expect them to move away from analogue but co-exist to improve efficiency and provide customised solutions to their customers. It gives them the freedom to accept all kinds of short- and long-run jobs from their clients. The idea is to increase the awareness of the benefits of digital printing and how it can add value to the existing lineup.”

Epson is committed to co-creating sustainable and enriched communities by addressing solutions to environmental problems and other societal issues. This commitment is aligned with the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations. “By 2030, we aim to achieve sustainability in a circular economy and advance the frontiers of the industry through creative and open innovation,” concludes Vasudevan.

Source and image: labelexpo-india.com

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Mind the tax changes

Print Bulletin readers benefit from the advice extended by BMPA's panel of consultants, including up-to-date information regarding tax, banking, export-import and legal updates concerning the print and packaging industry.

Goods and Services Tax

Amendments in the CGST Rules, 2017



Consequent to the appointment of the Competition Commission of India as the authority for anti-profiteering cases under the GST law, the provisions related to anti-profiteering authority as provided under the CGST Rules, 2017 have been amended as below.

The following rules have been omitted:

1. Rule 122: Constitution of the Authority
2. Rule 124: Appointment, salary, allowances and other terms and conditions of services of the Chairperson and Members of the Authority
3. Rule 125: Secretary of the Authority
4. Rule 134: Decision to be taken by the majority
5. Rule 137: Tenure of the Authority

Further, Rule 127, which provides for 'Duties of the Authority', has been amended to substitute the word 'Duties' with the word 'Functions'.

Furthermore, in the Explanation provided after Rule 137, the meaning of 'Authority' has been amended to mean the authority notified under sub-section (2) of section 171 of the Act.

The above amendment became effective on December 1, 2022.

Notification No.24/2022-CT dated 23.11.2022

GST changes in filing return

Following important changes have been made in Return Filing Process:

- Taxpayers must file previous tax periods' GSTR-1 before filing the current period's GSTR-1.
- GSTR-1 for the current period need to be filed before filing GSTR-3B for the said tax period.
- QRMP taxpayers have to file quarterly FORM GSTR-1 by the 13th of the month following the relevant quarter.
- Late filing of GSTR-1 will attract a late fee. This is as per amended section 37 and section 39 of CGST Act, 2017, applicable for returns to be filed in November 2022 and onwards.

Public Holidays in Maharashtra in 2023

| Holiday | Date | Day |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Republic Day | January 26, 2023 | Thursday |
| Mahashivratri | February 18, 2023 | Saturday |
| Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti | February 19, 2023 | Sunday |
| Holi | March 7, 2023 | Tuesday |
| Gudi Padwa | March 22, 2023 | Wednesday |
| Ram Navami | March 30, 2023 | Thursday |
| Mahavir Jayanti | April 4, 2023 | Tuesday |
| Good Friday | April 7, 2023 | Friday |
| Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti | April 14, 2023 | Friday |
| Ramazan Id (Id-UI-Fitr) | April 22, 2023 | Saturday |
| Maharashtra Din | May 1, 2023 | Monday |
| Buddha Pournima | May 5, 2023 | Friday |
| Bakri Id (Id-Uz-Zuha) | June 28, 2023 | Wednesday |
| Muharram | July 29, 2023 | Saturday |
| Independence Day | August 15, 2023 | Tuesday |
| Parsi New Year | August 16, 2023 | Wednesday |
| Ganesh Chaturthi | September 19, 2023 | Tuesday |
| Id-E-Milad | September 28, 2023 | Thursday |
| Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti | October 2, 2023 | Monday |
| Dussehra | October 24, 2023 | Tuesday |
| Laxmi Pujan (Diwali Amavasya) | November 12, 2023 | Sunday |
| Diwali (Bali Pratipada) | November 14, 2023 | Tuesday |
| Guru Nanak Jayanti | November 27, 2023 | Monday |
| Christmas | December 25, 2023 | Monday |

Note: Vide circular dated December 2, 2022, the Government of Maharashtra hereby declares the days mentioned above as public holidays in the state during the calendar year 2023 u/s 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

Source: CBIC

Advisory on HSN Codes in GSTR-1

The taxpayers must report a minimum of 4 or 6 digits of the HSN Code in Table 12 of GSTR-1 based on their Annual Aggregate Turnover (AATO) in the preceding financial year. Implementation of this is being done in a phased manner.

Taxpayers with AA TO of up to 5 crores

- (i) In Phase 1, Part 1 and Part 2 (Already implemented from April 1, 2022, and August 1, 2022, respectively), mandatorily reporting 2-digit HSN codes for goods and services is required. Manual user entry is allowed for entering HSN or description, and taxpayers can file GSTR-1 after manual entry.

- (ii) In Phase 2 (To be implemented from 1-11-2022), mandatory reporting of HSN at 4 digits is required.

Taxpayers with AATO of more than 5 crores

- (i) In Phase 1, Part I, mandatorily reporting 4-digit HSN codes for goods & services is required. Manual user entry is allowed for entering HSN or description, and taxpayers can file GSTR-1 after manual entry.
- (ii) In Phase 1, Part 2 and Phase 2, mandatory reporting of a 6-digit HSN Code is required.

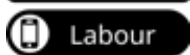
Source: Notification No. 78/2020-CT dated 15.10.2020 read with <https://tutorial.gst.gov.in> dated 22.10.2022]

To read the complete GST report for November 2022, particularly the CBIC clarification on refunds, scan the GST QR code.

Labour Law

Maharashtra Government offices to go paperless from April 1, 2023

As per a PTI report dated December 2, 2022, the



Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Eknath Shinde, announced the implementation of the e-office system at all government offices in the state from April 1, 2023.

The e-office system will enable faster functioning, and the business will also be paperless. It will help

speed up work. The officials could access files from anywhere and on their mobile phones too.

Maintainability of Writ when an alternate remedy is available

The appellant preferred a writ appeal before Apex Court by way of a Special leave petition against the dismissal of the writ in BM Construction, Coochbehar vs Additional Commissioner of CGST-CO No.72 of 2021 decided on December 14, 2021, by Calcutta High Court.

In view of the fact that appellate remedy was available under section 107 of CGST Act, 2017, the Apex court held that the writ jurisdiction was not maintainable against the High Court order and that High Court was correct in not entertaining the writ petition.

The appeal was therefore dismissed.

ICEGATE Helpdesk for redressal of RODTEP-related grievances

ICEGATE Helpdesk is now available to resolve and examine exporters' grievances related to RODTEP Scheme: scroll out of shipping bills, generation of e-scrips, and transfer of e-scrip.

The Helpdesk will be functional 24/7. An exporter can lodge grievances via voice interaction, by calling the Toll Free 1800 3010 1000, or by emailing icegatehelpdesk@icegate.go.in.

After that, a unique ticket/incident number is generated. The exporter can follow up by referring to this ticket number. In case the RODTEP grievance continues, the exporter may approach the higher authority by email at jsdbk-rev@nic.in.

Centre Likely to Increase EPFO Wage threshold

According to an Economic Times article dated November 24, 2022, the Union Government is likely to revise the wage ceiling for EPFO (the flagship retirement savings scheme) from the present ₹15,000 per month to ₹21,000 per month. The change will align the EPFO threshold with the wage ceiling of ESI, which will bring parity between the two social security schemes run by the union labour ministry.

This would increase the mandatory contribution by both employees and employers helping employees to save more for retirement. The increase will also bring more employees under the EPFO's social security coverage.

To read the complete Labour law report, scan the Labour QR code.

EXIM and Banking

Government ends GST exemption on export transportation

There was an exemption of GST on Ocean and Air freight for exports. This exemption expired on September 30, 2022. There is no exemption offered after the expiry date. From October 1, 2022, export Air Freight and Export Ocean Freight will attract GST at the prescribed rates.

Export Ocean Freight services by transporting goods by a vessel from a Customs station of clearance in India to a place outside the country; the tax rate shall be 5% as per clause (ii) of serial No. 9 of notification No.8/2017-Integrated Tax (Rate).

Provided that credit of Input Tax charged on goods (other than on ships, vessels, including bulk carriers and tankers) used in supply the services has not been taken condition same as for Import Freight Services. SAC will be 996521.



Import of Printing Machinery

Japan, Korea, and ASEAN contribute 18.18% to India's imports of printing machinery. China's contributions are 24.86%.

Japan is in the 9th position in global exports, which implies that although it is at a lower rank than China (4), it has the sufficient export capability. Despite it, Japan has a smaller share in India's imports basket. On the other hand, the Indian printing machinery industry ranks 20 in global exports; growing Chinese imports threaten it.

| Geography/Country | Sub-sector: Printing Machinery | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| | Share in imports | Tariffs |
| Japan | 15.05 | 0 to 10 (CEPA) |
| Korea | 1.37 | 0 to 10 (CEPA) |
| ASEAN | 1.76 | 0 to 5 (FTA) |
| China | 24.86 | 0 to 15 (MFN) |

Source: ITC Trade Map

| Product Panels | Printing Machinery |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Increase in imports | 10.02 |
| Imports from China before that tariff | 515.64 |
| Imports from China after that tariff | 525.67 |

Source: SMART Simulation Tool from WITS

Export Air Freight services by way of transportation of goods by an aircraft from the Customs Station of clearance in India to a place outside the country, the tax rate shall be 18% as per the residual clause (vii) of serial No. 9 of notification No.8/2017-Integrated Tax (Rate). SAC will be 996531.

Foreign Trade Policy extended for six months

The Government of India has received requests from Export Promotion Councils and leading exporters that we should continue with the current Foreign Trade Policy (2015-2020), which has been extended from time to time. It has been decided to extend the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020, valid till September 30, 2022, for six months, w.e.f. October 1, 2022.

Relief in average export obligation in EPCG

Chapter 5 deals with EPCG licenses. The license holder is required to maintain the average exports of the last three financial years. Para 5.19 of the Handbook of Procedures (HBP) provides relief to exporters of those sectors where total exports in that sector/product group have declined by more than 5% compared to the previous year.

The Average Export Obligation for the year may be reduced proportionately to the reduction in exports of that particular sector/product group during the relevant year as against the preceding year.

Following are the relevant product groups showing the percentage decline in exports during 2021-2022 as compared to 2020-2021.

| Serial Number | HSN | Item Description | Export figures (value in USD million) | | Decline |
|---------------|------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | | | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | |
| 40 | 4904 | Music, printed or in manuscript, whether or not bound or illustrated | 0 | 0 | -60 |
| 185 | 4902 | Newspapers, journals and periodicals, whether or not illustrated or containing advertising | 0.95 | 0.89 | -6.62 |

DGFT Office will re-fix the annual average export obligation for EPCG authorisations for 2021-2022, as mentioned above. Appropriate endorsement on the license/in the file will be done. Discharge of export obligation will be considered accordingly.

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Four IFCA Star Awards for Huhtamaki

Dhananjay Salunkhe, Managing Director of Huhtamaki India, said that the recognition further reinstates the brand's commitment towards innovation and customer convenience.

Huhtamaki India Limited, a leading provider of primary consumer packaging and labelling solutions in India—and part of Huhtamaki, a key global provider of sustainable packaging solutions based in Finland—recently won four awards at the prestigious IFCA STAR Awards 2022, organised by the Indian Flexible Packaging and Folding Carton Association. This is the second consecutive win for the company to receive the award. The IFCA STAR Award recognises creativity and continuous improvement in packaging. The award honours packaging innovations designed by various Flexible Packaging and Carton Packaging industries.

Huhtamaki's flexible solutions were awarded in the innovation-Enviro products category, which includes biodegradable barrier PE pouches and paper-based soap wrappers, and innovations and creativity for the products - insulator pouch for online food deliveries and soft thermoformable lidding for wine/juice cups. Huhtamaki's winning entries focused on enhancing packaging functionality, creativity and end-user experience with technical excellence.

Biodegradable Barrier PE Pouches for Dry Pet Food

This is a PE-based biodegradable stand-up pouch meant for dry pet food packaging. This pack degrades naturally in open-air or a standard terrestrial environment without generating microplastics. It requires no specific condition to degrade—just moisture, oxygen and sunlight. It comes with a press-to-close zipper that helps maintain freshness between usages. The zipper is biodegradable too. This mono-material biodegradable PE pouch is an efficient and sustainable alternative to existing PET/PE solutions, helping brands and consumers extend shelf-life and care by naturally reducing pack waste everywhere.

Paper-based Soap Wrappers

These paper-based soap wrappers eliminate the usage of conventional PET-based wrappers. It offers brand partners the choice of switching from conventional and non-recyclable materials to PET-free recyclable monolayer structures. Additionally, this solution provides a recycling option with easy paper recovery for re-pulping. This is not possible with laminated soap wrappers (PET-based). The wrapper is made of FSC-certified paper and has a reliability index of 80%, boosting recyclability and waste reduction.

Insulator Pouch for Online Food Deliveries

This pack is a multipurpose reusable insulator thermal bag for delivering warm and cold foods. Made with high-performance thermal insulation, it maintains the food temperature and quality. It is lined with foam and nylon PE to provide excellent cushioning and protection during transit. It is moisture-resistant/waterproof and is specially designed to maintain heat and prevent cold ambient temperatures from entering. It ensures hot food deliveries to customers, maintaining consistent food quality every time. This tamperproof pouch enables extended shipments and provides high-performance protection for temperature-sensitive foods.



Soft thermoformable Lidding for Wine/Juice Cups

This is a ready-to-serve, pre-filled communion cup with both wafers and juice/wine. It comes with a double peelable lid. There is an unleavened wafer under the top lid and the second lid covers the grape juice. The cup uses two lidding films—a foil-based primary lid for juice and a PET-based lid to cover the wafer. The lid material is easy to peel off and provides strong coverage against spillage. The lidding material is made of soft thermoforming. Individual wine cum wafer cups are a convenient and hygienic way to distribute communion. Huhtamaki India believes in providing sustainable, innovative solutions that offer ease of use. The products are designed to ensure hygiene, safety and minimum wastage. The company is committed to achieving carbon-neutral production with its entire range of products becoming recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2030.

Speaking about the awards, Dhananjay Salunkhe, Managing Director, Huhtamaki India, said, "We are committed to providing reliable, responsible and innovative packaging solutions to brands at all times. We aim to offer effective and innovative packaging solutions in India with our partners to help drive towards a circular economy. These awards recognise our efforts in this direction and acknowledge that Huhtamaki delivers innovative solutions to help unlock value for our customers."

Speaking about the recognition, Ashwini Kumar Singh, Head of Innovation and Product Development at Huhtamaki India, expressed, "Huhtamaki India believes in keeping customer convenience at the core of its products and solutions. We synergise with our consumers by creating sustainable and flexible packaging solutions with a strong focus on innovation. We are delighted to receive this industry accolade and hope to continue to make our customers proud."

The company recently received a silver award for its product innovation for its technical excellence, sustainable performance, and enhanced consumer experiences in DOW Packaging Innovation Awards 2021. Before this, Huhtamaki India was also felicitated by the Economic Times Polymer Excellence Award for 'Excellence in Packaging'. The brand also won two awards at the 5th edition of the SIES School of Packaging (SOP) Star Awards 2021 in a similar category.

Visit www.huhtamaki.com to learn more about how the company protects food, people and the planet

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Evonik increases production capacities for ACEMATT® matting agents



The ACEMATT® matting agents manufactured in Taiwan exhibit the same properties as the products which are currently manufactured at Evonik's production site in Bonn, Germany. Image: Evonik

Evonik's Coating Additives business line is expanding the production capacity of its ACEMATT® precipitated matting agents at its manufacturing facility in Taiwan. The significant capacity increase will help to meet the rising demand for matting agents in Asia, with the capacity expansion scheduled for completion by the second half of 2023.

"The capacity expansion of our leading matting agents in Taiwan further emphasises our commitment to the growing markets in Asia and to all our regional and multi-national customers," says Maximilian Morin, Head of Industrial and Transportation Coatings at Evonik Coating Additives. "We are continuously expanding our position as a truly global partner for our coatings customers by offering the same high-quality products from manufacturing locations in multiple regions. In times of rising logistical challenges, such an investment will also directly benefit our partners and customers across the globe by further improving our supply situation worldwide."

The ACEMATT® brand offers a variety of products to the formulator to find the right balance of effectiveness for matting properties and easy integration into the coating system. Furthermore, ACEMATT® products can enable formulators to reach the full spectrum of matting levels from semi-gloss to ultra-deep matt. The various industrial and transportation application areas range from textile to plastic, leather, can and coil coatings.

Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The company is active in more than 100 countries around the world and generated sales of €15 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of €2.38 billion in 2021. The Specialty Additives division combines the businesses of versatile additives and high-performance cross-linkers. They make end products more valuable, more durable, save more energy and are simply better. As formulation experts in fast-growing markets such as coatings, mobility, infrastructure and consumer goods, Specialty Additives combine a small amount with a big effect.

For more information, please visit www.coating-additives.com.

Secure stand space at Print and Digital Convention 2023



Level-up with Print and Digital Convention 2023. Image: drupa

Interested companies can now register to participate in the 'Print and Digital Convention 2023'. A total of four exhibitor packages are available, which can be individually extended. The exhibitor documents are available at www.printdigitalconvention.de/en/Aussteller.

From May 16 to 17, 2023, the journey into the print universe of multichannel & dialogue marketing will start again in Düsseldorf: with the motto "Level-Up!", Print and Digital Convention will enable visitors to experience the range of digital printing, digital media technology, print applications and multichannel solutions. Exhibiting companies can present their innovations, trends and visions to participants in nine theme worlds: Dialogue Marketing, Value Added Printing/Print Creative, Label and Packaging, Post-press, Printed Electronics, Brand and Product, Interior and Exterior Design, Sustainable Media Production and Programmatic Printing.

The trade fair and the accompanying lecture and workshop programme establish a connection between technology, conceptual planning and concrete application and offer valuable knowledge transfer. For the next event, more presentations are being planned in English as the convention is becoming more and more international.

The unique "Highlight Guide" format of Print and Digital Convention is a visitor favourite. It stands for the presentation of best practice and applications. Exhibitors have the opportunity here to show their product highlights in actual implementation. Exhibitors automatically receive all information on project scenarios and participation opportunities with their registration.

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Koenig & Bauer's significant step towards enhanced sustainability



A new rooftop photovoltaic array produces around 200,000 kWh of electricity per year. It is the first of several installations that the company intends to use to contribute to climate protection while boosting its energy autonomy. Image: Koenig & Bauer

With the expansion of its own green energy sources at the company headquarters in Würzburg, Koenig & Bauer is continuing the implementation of its sustainability initiative. The target set within the framework of the corporate strategy 'Exceeding Print' is for the group's production facilities to achieve full carbon neutrality by 2030. The massive investments in photovoltaic arrays will allow Koenig & Bauer to cover a proportion of its power requirements on the basis of sustainable on-site generation. Besides contributing to climate protection, this also aims to boost the level of energy autonomy. The first array is already in use, and more photovoltaic and solar thermal installations are set to follow in the months to come.

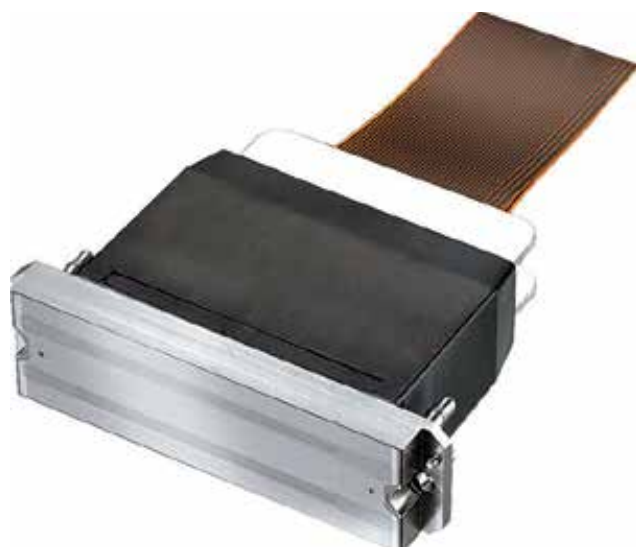
Positive impact on the global carbon footprint

At the beginning of October 2022, Koenig & Bauer commissioned a photovoltaic array for on-site power generation on the roof of the Customer Technology Centre at group headquarters in Würzburg. An annual yield of around 200,000 kWh of electricity is now available for direct consumption at the Würzburg facility with immediate effect. Based on the specific greenhouse gas emissions for the German power mix overall, the photovoltaic array will benefit the environment by saving more than 80,000 kilograms of CO₂ emissions per year.

Additional investments in solar thermal and PV installations planned

Already in the summer of 2022, a new hot water system that uses solar thermal modules was commissioned to supply Koenig & Bauer's factory vocational school in Würzburg. More solar water heating systems are currently being installed at the canteen in Würzburg and in other common areas used by employees. In addition to two more photovoltaic arrays that are scheduled for completion at the Würzburg facility this year, concrete plans are also being drawn up to expand green power generation by using photovoltaic installations at the other Koenig & Bauer group locations.

RICOH MH5420/5421 series printhead sales hit the 5,00,000 milestone



Confidence in the versatility of these printheads and their ability to deliver consistent and repeatable high-quality results in testing industrial environments has been central to the achievement of this milestone. Image: Ricoh

Ricoh Company, Ltd. has announced that more than 5,00,000 RICOH MH5420/5421 series printheads, the fifth generation of printheads, have already been chosen by worldwide solutions developers to drive tremendous digital transformation revenue across all industrial sectors.

Ricoh's MH5420/5421 series printheads are compatible with a broad range of inks, from water-based to UV, solvent, and oil. And OEMs who have invested use them for a wide range of applications (including signage, textiles, labels, and industrial décor) and developments in printed electronics, 3D, pharmaceuticals, and DNA printing. Extensive technical and integration support for waveform design and jetting optimisation is core to the product offering.

Agfa's Head of Materials Technology Centre, Dr Karin Vercauteren, highlighted the printhead's wide viscosity range, its strong and stable piezo technology that supports a long lifetime, and its small footprint that facilitates integration.

Durst uses RICOH MH5420/5421 series technology, in conjunction with proprietary data electronics and automated matching algorithms, in many water-based and UV ink applications and as an integral part of its modular machine systems.

Doug Edwards, EFI Inkjet CTO, adds: "The Ricoh printhead compatibility with EFI inks offers the highest versatility available, allowing EFI to address many application segments." He also valued the ability to deliver the highest print quality at production speeds while offering best-in-class ROI and Ricoh's technical support in enabling EFI to bring products to market faster.

drupa: 900 exhibitors from 45 countries

Drupa is achieving some impressive milestones months before the commencement of the trade fair in 2024. This diverse and overwhelming response from the global printing industry makes it the #1 global trade fair for print technologies.

From renowned global players to up-and-coming new entrants—the list of registered exhibitors is impressive. It includes the Who's Who of the print and packaging industry along the complete value chain. Well-known and longstanding exhibitors like Bobst, Comexi, Duplo, EFI, Epson, ESKO, Fujifilm, Heidelberg, Horizon, Koenig & Bauer, Kolbus, Komori, Konica Minolta, KURZ, Landa, Müller Martini, Screen, Windmüller and Hölscher, to name but a few, have registered and will be showcasing their innovations, technology trends, product portfolios and global launches in Düsseldorf from 28 May to 7 June 2024.

"2024 still sounds far away, but drupa is already pretty near for Koenig & Bauer. There is great anticipation to experience exciting innovations hands-on again at the world's most relevant industry trade fair. Many things have changed compared to planning in previous years. The gap between the digital world and the machinery in operation needs to be bridged. For visitors, this means new worlds to be experienced." Dr Andreas Pleßke, Spokesman of the Board/CEO at Koenig & Bauer AG and Chairperson of the drupa Committee, adds, "As an exhibitor, we will do our utmost to make the leading topics Digitalisation and Sustainability graspable. Fortunately, the industry is pulling in the same direction here, and Messe Düsseldorf sets the stage for this."

Leadership position

About a year and a half before the start of the trade fair, drupa has reached a significant milestone: over 100,000 sqm of net exhibition space has already been booked by around 900 exhibitors from 45 nations. This underlines the relevance and the USP of drupa as the world's No. 1 trade fair for print technologies.

Thus, participants can look forward to a unique customer journey because complex, automated workflows, processes and new machinery will again be presented in operation. An overview of all exhibitors registered so far is available at www.drupa.com.

Even now, after the official deadline for registrations at the end of October, Messe Düsseldorf continues to register a strong demand for exhibition space, which can still be accommodated. Germany is again the strongest exhibiting nation among the top 10, followed by such countries as Belgium, China, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the USA.

"Current booking levels and the positive verdict received by exhibitors make us very confident and optimistic—despite the geopolitical and economic challenges—that drupa 2024 will again be the world's most important industry meeting place," confirms Sabine Geldermann, Director drupa, Portfolio Print Technologies Messe Düsseldorf. She adds: "with around 75% international attendance on the exhibitor side, drupa occupies a unique position by global standards. The range, variety and staging of innovations are unique and will once



again provide a glimpse into the future of this industry. With ideal prerequisites for exhibitors and visitors to network intensely and drive forward-looking projects."

"drupa 2024: The world's leading trade fair for printing and packaging provides an excellent networking opportunity. We expect ground-breaking innovations and sustainable solutions in line with global challenges. We are already counting the days and are excited to showcase our new range of products to the world market at drupa 2024. Our product range will help our customers gain high production volume with lower running costs. In a way, it will create a competitive edge to sustain a highly competitive world market," comments Swapnil Patel, Management Executive, Line O Matic Graphic Industries.

The cutting edge of print tech

The in-depth knowledge transfer and interaction with experts from all over the world on the impacts of global mega-trends and the associated new business models and opportunities for the sector will be in focus here. Special forums like the drupa cube (conference area), drupa next age (DNA), the exhibition area for Newcomers, Startups, and Young Talents alongside long-established exhibitors of cross-sectoral technologies as well as the touchpoint 'packaging' for visionary and smart packaging solutions, the touchpoint 'textile' including the installation of a textile micro-factory, and the touchpoint 'sustainability', which is dedicated to sustainability and circular economy themes, all provide highly relevant and valuable insights into tomorrow's high-potential themes at the event. With its agenda, drupa hits the tempo of the time and reflects a highly creative industry that constantly taps into new vertical markets in the field of industrial and functional applications and solutions – thereby bearing witness to its high degree of futureproofing.

"drupa is the bedrock for our industry. Educational, informative and inspirational—there is a real appetite for live events, and we can't wait to be there." Olaf Lorenz, General Manager of Global Brand Management, Konica Minolta, Inc., assures that "as a global technology leader, Konica Minolta will again have a major presence at the exhibition. With our commitment to sustainability and social responsibility goals, we are looking forward to welcoming visitors to our stand to help them rethink possibilities, ignite their creative ideas, and see the potential in print."

MOVING WORDS

In this snippet column, Vishwanath Shetty of The PrintWorks shares real life stories with anecdotal messages.

The days of plastic worship

Vasudhendra, the author of a collection of articles in Kannada (Five Paise Varadakshine), talks about his orientation in a scooter factory in Pune.

Vasudhendra narrated the story of one of his trainers from when he was a management trainee in the factory. The trainer had returned from the USA. He was enamoured by the use of plastic bags and their convenience in the US. He personally thought it was a luxury to go to a shop with those cloth bags we carry in India. Then, the paper pouches in which the grocer packed the grocery and put in our cloth bags impressed the US-returned trainer even more.

Soon plastic bags invaded our country and dominated for over 20 years. By then, the world had realised plastic is not eco-friendly. It had already created a challenge for disposing of the used plastic. The plastic waste clogged the drain and sewage pipes, posing a significant challenge to keeping the city's sewers unclogged and overflowing.

How quickly the tables turned! Once a favourite for all shopping, plastic bags became an all-pervading threat to nature and wildlife, including oceanic creatures, and the

enemy of all nature lovers and city administrators.

We all got used to the convenience of free plastic bags available at all shops and vegetable vendors.

We don't bother if they are made of low-micron, poor quality and good for only one-time use. Paper bags are now expensive, and shopkeepers are averse to spending more on paper bags for environmental sustainability or compliance.

It is a great challenge we are facing today. We need to quit using plastic bags to save the environment. We must get back to those paper bags made from recycled paper. Better yet, we learn to make those paper bags from the waste paper lying in our homes. It is neither that time-consuming nor expensive.

Would you like to give it a try? I say, let us!



Innovative AQUACode Inks and Coatings and XEIKON IDERA by Flint Group

Flint Group Packaging, one of the largest consumable suppliers to the global print and packaging industry, will showcase its latest range of sustainable ink and coating technologies and IDERA digital print engines at Corrugated Week 2022. Dedicated to the needs of the corrugated industry, Corrugated Week 2022 takes place September 19-21, 2022, in San Antonio, Texas. The exhibition attracts critical decision-makers from across the corrugated and printing sectors, all looking toward the next generation of solutions set to drive the market.

The Flint Group Paper and Board team invite attendees to explore its AQUACode range of water-based ink and coating technologies. Among the portfolio, the company will highlight OctaCode, a water-based dispersion technology that provides excellent performance on porous and non-porous substrates, high pigment loading for superior graphics and stability on and off-press.

Jeff Ashburn, SVP for Flint Group Paper and Board, comments: "Corrugated Week 2022 is an excellent opportunity for us to meet with printers and converters and demonstrate to the broader corrugated industry exactly why we are the go-to name for sustainable inks and coatings today. We'll put our AQUACode range in the spotlight at the expo, focusing on our high-resistance OctaCode dispersions.

"We want to highlight that we are creating chemistry with an environmental focus. We do that by formulating a water-based solution free of harmful solvents that will not compromise aesthetics, press performance or mechanical resistance. We're tearing down the idea that inks and coatings must make compromises elsewhere to be sustainable. They don't – today's printers can have it all."

The AQUACode range delivers high-speed and advanced-quality printing, providing industry-leading performance. Developed with raw materials sourced through a secure and ethically managed supply network, AQUACode can be implemented on existing presses without disruption.

Flint Group's digital printing division, Xeikon, will be on the stand to discuss IDERA, a breakthrough digital solution platform for high-quality corrugated packaging. IDERA combines Xeikon's decades-long digital printing expertise with Flint Group's corrugated know-how and manufacturing footprint to deliver brand-new digital post-print technology, making corrugated printing easy, adaptable and sustainable.

"As a fully integrated and comprehensive digital platform, IDERA makes corrugated packaging easy, adaptable and sustainable, so converters can future-proof their operations and be ready for the inevitable disruption of the market structure," says Sebastien Stabel, Market Segment Manager, Carton Packaging, Xeikon.



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(1) Based on third-party published market report, 2019. Market-proven solution based the HP Indigo 6000 Digital Press, with over 2000 installations worldwide as of November, 2019.
(2) Requires purchase of the KURZ DM-Jetliner® solution.

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