

INK, ROLL MEDIA, RIGID SIGNAGE MATERIALS & FINISHING EQUIPMENT: LAMINATORS, COATERS, CUTTERS



LOTS OF REASONS TO ATTEND APPPEXPO 2016

Pablo Martinez and Nicholas Hellmuth

CONTENTS



- All items on this list are hot links. -

After-Market Inks	3
Media & other Printable Substrates	4
Aluminum Composite Panels (ACP)	4
Honeycomb Sandwich Material	5
Pseudo-3D Materials	6
Giclee & Wallpaper Materials	7
Coaters & Laminators	8
Cutters: CNC, Digital Flatbed, and more	9
Shanghai is spectacular to visit	11

AFTER-MARKET INKS

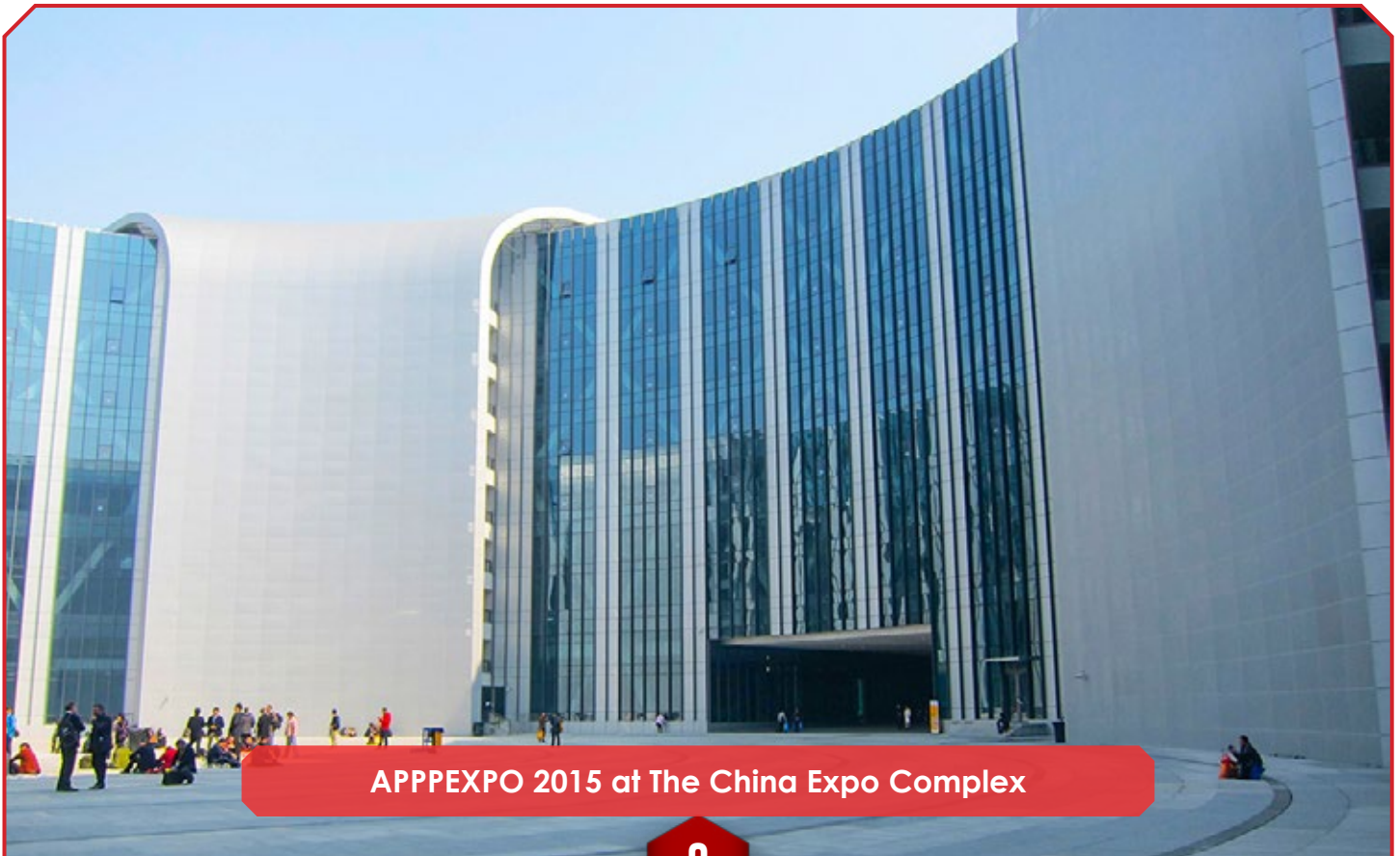
2500 years before the current era, China was attributed with the invention of ink. So no surprise that today, approaching 2016, there are scores of Chinese inkjet ink brands.

Many European and American brands of international inks actually have factories in China, so local ink chemists have double the experience. Yes, you should be careful with iffy and unreliable ink brands. But if you ask around you quickly learn which ink brands have issues and which other ink brands are reliable.

We have also noticed that ink quality changes as a company itself changes. So do not use any old evaluation, since the ink of that year may have been made with quality chemicals yet that same brand of ink today may be using cheap chemicals so the inks are clogging plus fading quickly.

These facts of life are why it helps to visit the actual trade show where you can get to know the products and people of the the factories which are exhibiting their inks. In addition to inks made in China you can also find inks made in Korea at APPPEXPO 2016.

APPPEXPO is one of the biggest trade shows in Asia, so it is no surprise that year after year a lot of inkjet ink companies exhibit at this expo. During 2015 the companies dedicated to manufacture and sales inkjet ink increased multiple percent compared to 2014.



APPPEXPO 2015 at The China Expo Complex

MEDIA & OTHER PRINTABLE SUBSTRATES

APPPEXPO is one of the biggest trade shows in Asia, so it is no surprise that year after year the number of companies exhibiting printable materials at this expo is increasing. Since there are over 170 booths of media at APPPEXPO, we divide the printable materials into different categories.

ALUMINUM COMPOSITE PANELS (ACP)

Some factors that contributed to the preference of the ACP are the variety of finish options these panels offers, the panels are fast and easy to install due to their lightweight and fairly easy to bend and shape to create curves and other design features on a structure.

Beyond their appearance, aluminum composite material products also offer a number of additional advantages to users. They are very lightweight, and require minimal structural support, but also are strong and durable.

You may find up to twice the number of brands, colors, sizes, shapes of aluminum composite materials here at APPPEXPO 2016 in Shanghai.



Xingda Aluminum media booth

HONEYCOMB SANDWICH MATERIAL

Whether it be during trade shows in USA, Europe, or in APPPEXPO Shanghai, the honeycomb kind of sandwiched kraft paper material has won many followers. This kind of composite materials is elaborated by adhering two thin but stiff skins to a lightweight but thick core. The core material is normally low strength material, but its higher thickness provides high bending stiffness with overall low density. Recycled papers can also being used to manufacture the craft honeycomb core, gaining a lightweight, strong, and fully re-pulpable composite board.

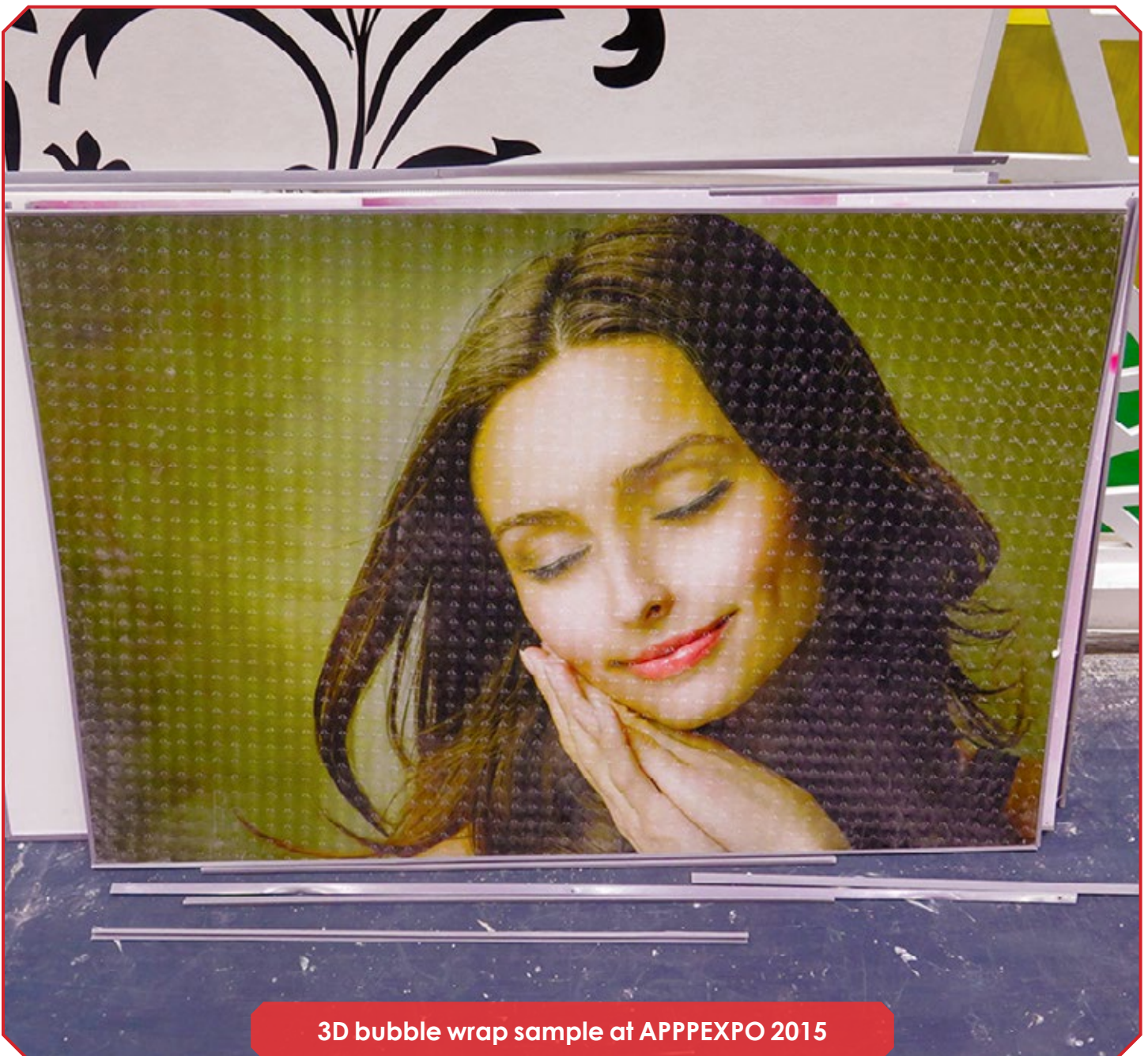
The key reason for attending APPPEXPO 2016 is that only here can you find lots and lots of samples of many different "interior bee-hive-like structures." Some are diagonal, others are rectangular; some are not bee-like at all (corrugated material, for example).



Honeycomb sample at APPPEXPO 2015

PSEUDO-3D MATERIALS

Both in Korea and in China there is a kind of material whose surface attempts to create a 3-dimensional effect even though you do NOT need a 3D printer or any special equipment. Any Epson, HP, Mimaki, efi, or any brand and any kind of ink can print on this pseudo-3D materials. I call this "bubble-wrap substrate" (even though it has no physical bubbles; only an illusion).



3D bubble wrap sample at APPPEXPO 2015

GICLEE & WALLPAPER MATERIALS

At the beginning just few areas were considered as Fine Art (painting, sculpture, architecture, music and poetry, with performing arts including theater and dance); but the evolution of techniques and the technological advances led to the inclusion of additional forms, such as film, photography, conceptual art, and printmaking. Printing giclee is mainly strong in North America but has potential around the world.

The demand for wallcovering media and with this demand also comes the increased number of companies that offer this type of material. Thanks to the popularity of this Shanghai trade show, the increasing of companies dedicated to this area is quite significant; each year can be noticed an increase of approximately 5% of media & substrates companies.

Would be tough to find another trade show to come close to comparing with the sheer quantity. Plus... if you find brands at expos in Europe or USA, they are being manufactured by the companies here in China. So, here in the Shanghai expo, you can interact directly with the factory (though in many cases it does help to intermediate through your local distributor). But to see the key actual true factory brands, Shanghai in March 2016 is the clever place to fly to (we would not fly FIVE of our team if we could find the same brands in our home country or in a European expo).



Wallpaper sample

COATERS & LAMINATORS

In a market in which the printers have gained an important position in the development of advertising, displays, furniture as well as different materials, we must not ignore the additional workflow equipment that provides a better finish.

This equipment plays an important role in the development of advertising and promotional material. If you are using a wide-format printer commercially, sooner or later you will need to coat or laminate your prints. More than 75% of laminator brands sold around the world are actually made in China, so the Shanghai expo is the clever place to visit to learn all the brands.



EASTSING Cold Laminator



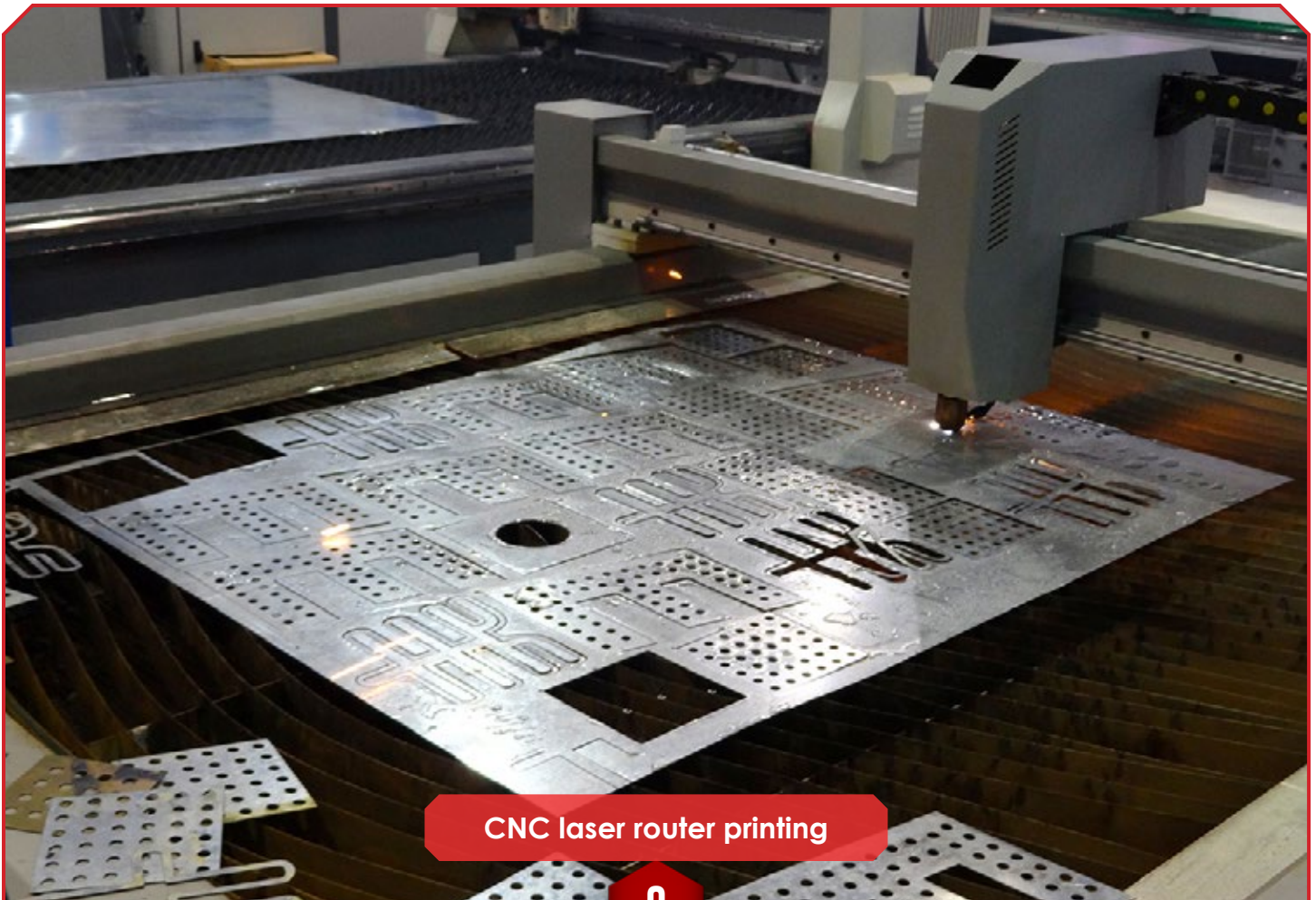
CUTTERS: CNC, DIGITAL FLATBED, AND MORE

CNC Routers come from the era of mechanical kinds of sign making machines. In distinction, digital XY flatbed cutters are software driven (software + firmware). Both types of equipment are an important part of the finishing line during the printing process. The proper handling and application of this equipment may be able to increase the profits of your workflow.

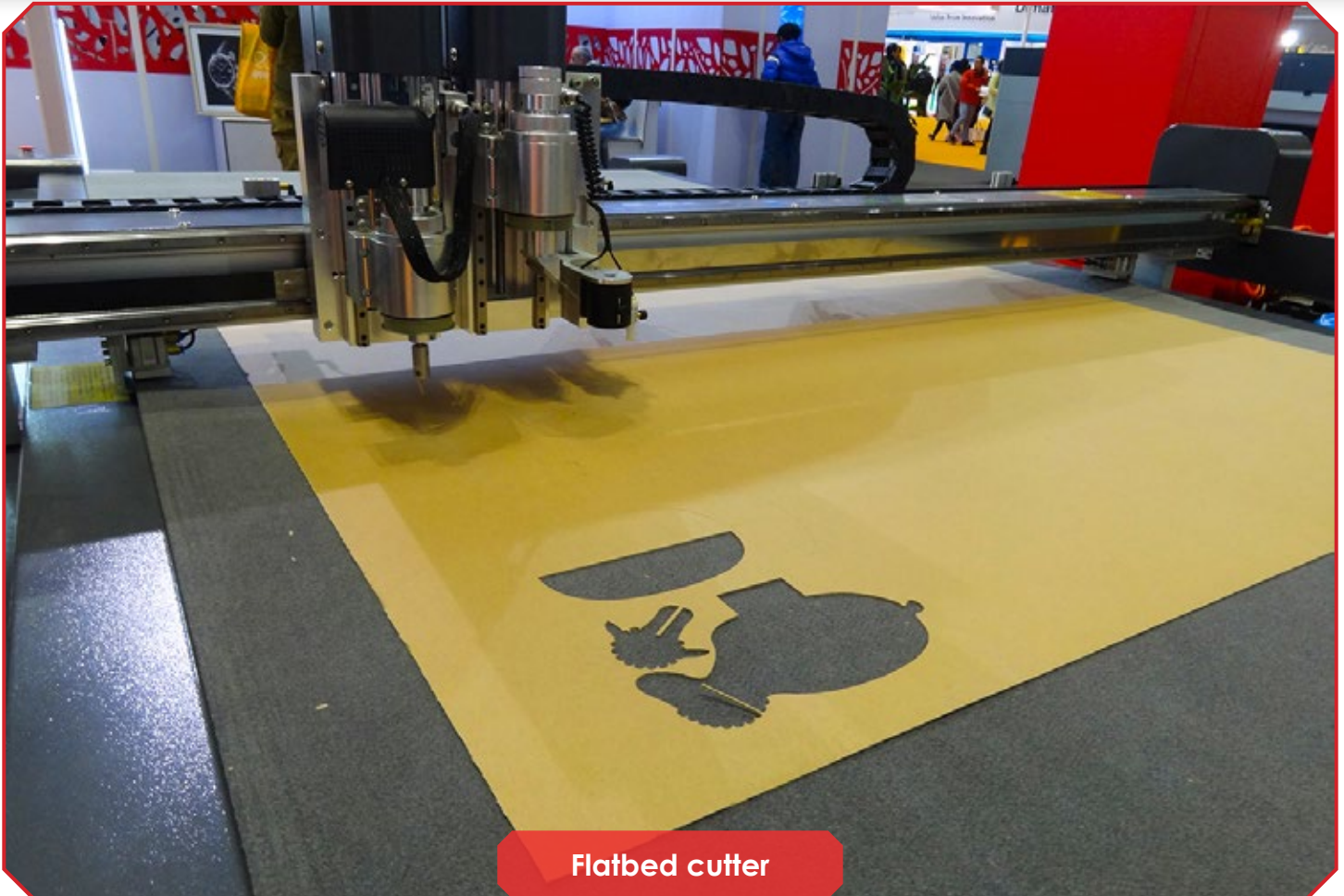
One of many advantages of APPPEXPO is that the entire range of flatbed cutters is available to inspect if you come to Shanghai:

- CNC Routers
- CO2 Laser Engravers
- Digital XY Flatbed Cutters
- Roll-fed cutters (and slitters)

During APPPEXPO 2015 there was a hall completely dedicated to this kind of machinery, but this equipment is so popular that one hall wasn't enough and you could find in other halls companies dedicated to the production or distribution of this type of cutting and engraving equipment.



CNC laser router printing



Flatbed cutter



Large format laser cutter

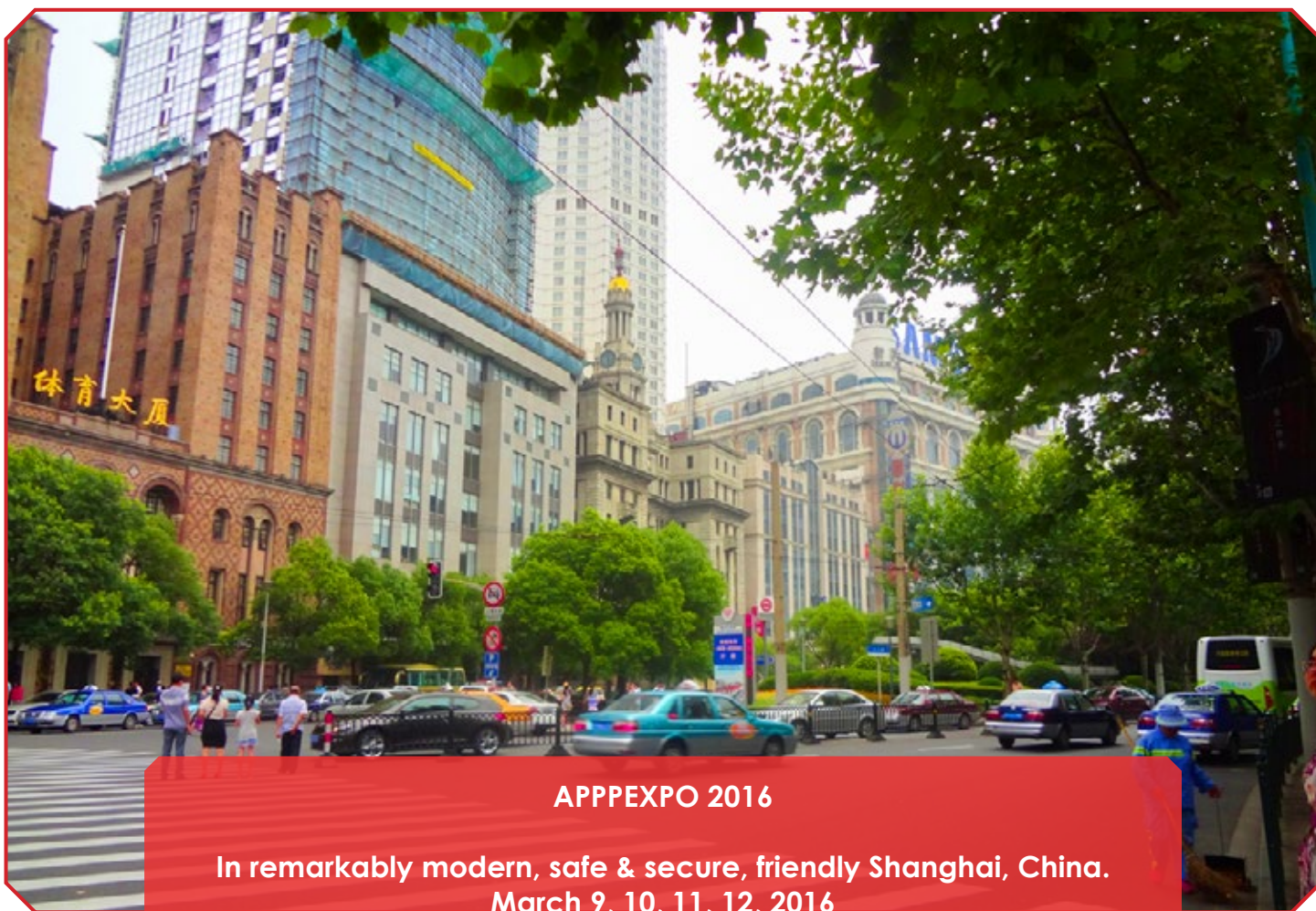
SHANGHAI IS SPECTACULAR TO VISIT



So in addition to attending APPPEXPO, you can experience one of the great cities of the world.

FLAAR has been attending Chinese printer trade shows for about seven years now. Plus four of us lived and worked in Beijing for six weeks (helping a Chinese company transition their web site and their brochures to an international style).

We enjoy returning to China, and really look forward both to APPPEXPO but also to adventures exploring Shanghai.



APPPEXPO 2016

In remarkably modern, safe & secure, friendly Shanghai, China.

March 9, 10, 11, 12, 2016

National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC), Shanghai

www.apppexpo.com

This report has been licensed to Shanghai Modern International Exhibition Co., to distribute, since they are the organizers of APPPEXPO (Advertising, Print, Pack & Paper Expo), Shanghai. But this report has not been licensed to any printer manufacturer, distributor, dealer, sales rep, RIP company, media or ink company to distribute. So if you obtained this from any company, other than APPPEXPO, you have a pirated copy.

Also, since some reports are occasionally updated, if you got your version from somewhere else, it may be an obsolete edition. FLAAR reports are being updated all year long, and our comment on that product may have been revised positively or negatively as we learned more about the product from end users.

PLEASE NOTE

To obtain a legitimate copy, which you know is the complete report with nothing erased or changed, and hence a report with all the original description of pros and cons, please obtain your original and full report straight from www.large-format-printers.org or other web sites in our network such as www.wide-format-printers.net.

Your only assurance that you have a complete and authentic evaluation which describes all aspects of the product under consideration, benefits as well as deficiencies, is to obtain these reports directly from FLAAR, via the various sites in our network.

Copyright 2015

Follow us



FLAAR_Reports



Nicholas Hellmuth



FLAAR.Reports



Free Subscription

