

Textile Printers, UV-cured Printers, Solvent Printers, Inkjet Media & Substrates, Laminators, Cutters (digital & CNC routers)



**SIGNAGE & GRAPHICS IMAGING,
MIDDLE EAST**

SGI 2016

DR. NICHOLAS HELLMUTH



DIVERSITY OF PRODUCTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE ATTENDING FROM MANY COUNTRIES

I have enjoyed visiting Dubai and attending SGI for many years. SGI (Sign & Graphics Imaging Middle East) is a good expo to attend since it is the first trade show of international status of each year. Another nice aspect about the Dubai expo is the diversity of attendees: obviously lots of people from all the Emirates (UAE), and countries around UAE in all directions, such as print shop owners and numerous distributors from Iran. Plus many visitors from mid- and southern Africa. It is good to see an international presence.

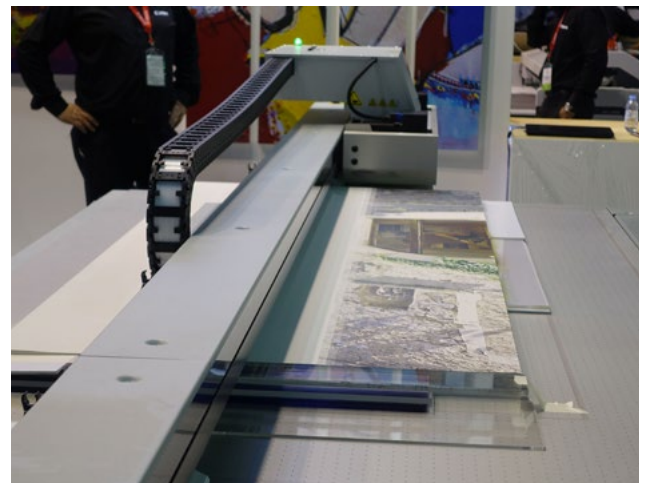
Also inside the booths, personnel spoke dozens of different languages and represented countries from around the world. These are the reasons why FLAAR Reports ranks SGI as the first INTERNATIONAL printer and signage expo of the year.

UV-CURED PRINTERS

Here at SGI you can expect to see, experience, and learn about all kinds of inkjet printers: textile, solvent, latex, water-based, T-shirt, textile (flags and soft signage). We start with the important category of UV-cured printers.



Lots of action in the saga digital booth with their efi VUTEk uv-cured printers, both entry-level (H1625LED) and high-end (HS100). We know the capable and experienced owners of saga digital for many years.



Both the team of Océ Middle East and the team of Heliozid Océ have been hospitable and helpful for many years. We also show their Memjet-powered Océ ColorWave 910 later in this FLAAR Report.

UV-CURED PRINTERS

At SGI 2016, there were indeed lots of new distributors, and a totally new brand of UV-cured printer. And by new brand, I do not mean rebranded from China. This is not made in China, nor elsewhere in Asia. We will show the distributor booth, the printer brand and model name, indicate where it is made, and the other key aspects of this new UV-cured printer in the TRENDS level report (a separate publication series, which you can order by writing FrontDesk "at" FLAAR.org).

We admire companies starting up in this industry, since competition is useful to all other brands. New brands are doubly important since one or two earlier brands are fading (any brand which loses its distributors in several countries, one by one, is most politely described as waning).

Sadly, no Dilli booth, not a single distributor and so no Dilli-branded printer. But key Dilli manager was present, and we hope they can have their nice UV-cured printers on display for SGI 2017 in mid-January. Dilli is definitely not fading; the company is strong; just that their distributor was not present. What is "fading" is when the distributor is present but the brand is not in the booth (or is just an image on the wall, but not really in the booth). Both Dilli and D.G.I. have had me at their factories in past years, plus I see their owners and key managers at expos around the world.

FLAAR Reports has made a list of every brand, every model, every booth which had the following sizes

and shapes and material-handling capability of UV-curing printers.

- Dedicated flatbed UV-cured printers, with R-t-R across front
- Dedicated flatbed UV, with no R-t-R
- Desktop sized flatbeds
- Combo transport belt, R-t-R + flat thick materials
- Dedicated Roll-to-Roll, 1.8m to 3.2m
- Jerry-rigged solvent chassis tweaked to accept UV, with tables to pretend to be flatbed. We call this a faux flatbed, or pseudo-flatbed.

All of these printers will be itemized, with comparative tabulations, in the TRENDS level of FLAAR Reports. To ask to be invoiced, email FrontDesk "at" FLAAR.org



Flora PP 2512UV flatbed, no roll-to-roll, in large booth of FLEX-EUROPA.



TEXTILE PRINTERS

D-gen was in two booths, a Teleios in FLEX-EUROPA booth and Teleios Grande in booth of Giffin Graphics.



Here is a group of FLAAR Reports employees holding one of the test prints of the d-gen textile printer. This is the round-about island for the street in front of our office.



These FLAAR textile printer evaluation photos were printed on the Teleios Grande and then sublimated on a Monti Antonio calender machine, in the booth of Giffin Graphics.

RIP software for the d-gen Teleios Grande is Wasatch. We know this company worldwide, including their distributor in Guatemala.



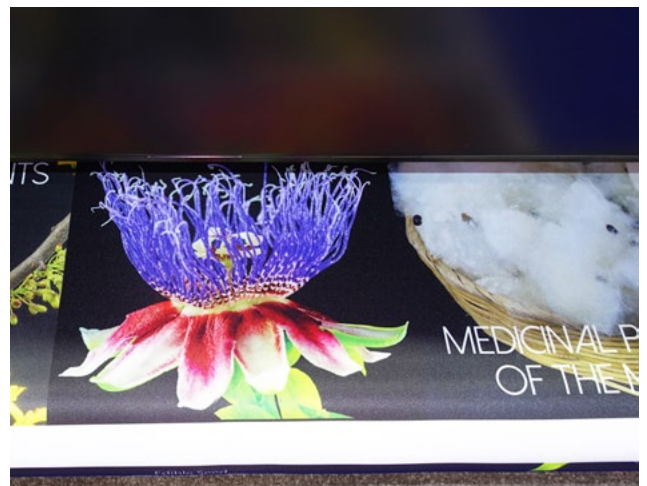
You can see that dye sublimation is outstanding for certain colors (pink-lavender of the wild dahlia flower, red of the opuntia cactus flower, deep orange of the zapote fruit).

Photographs by Nicholas Hellmuth; other photographs by Sophia Monzon (also at FLAAR Reports). Graphic design by Sofia and other graphic designers at FLAAR Reports.

TEXTILE PRINTERS



Here are the images on the GRANADA textile printer before being sublimated.



Here are images after sublimation (featuring a Passiflora flower from our Mayan ethnobotanical research garden in Guatemala).

TEXTILE PRINTERS



Textile print samples before being cut into strips, from the GRANADA textile printer in the Heliozid Océ booth.



Here is part of the FLAAR team holding a print sample from the GRANADA textile printer. These are photographs of jaguars (a melanistic black version at far left) through to a green pit viper at far right.

We evaluate digital photography equipment for photographing birds, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. The local zoos cooperate by taking the snakes out of their cages and putting them on our portable photo studio table, so that we can get macro close-up views of the scale pattern of their heads and bodies.

You can see our digital photography of jaguars, macaws, crocodiles, tarantulas, and scorpions on our www.Maya-ethnozoology.org

Philippe G. Husni, General Manager, Heliozid Océ Middle East Ltd., points out that there is a worldwide trend towards soft signage as it is considered cleaner and more eco-friendly both from media (recyclable polyester vs vinyl) and from Ink point of view (Water-based eco dye sublimation vs solvent).

TEXTILE PRINTERS

In our textile printer TRENDS report we list all brands of textile printers which were not exhibiting. It is important to know who is absent, and especially which brands' absence is a result of issues with the distributor, or issues with the factory-company itself.

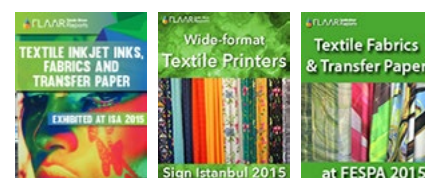
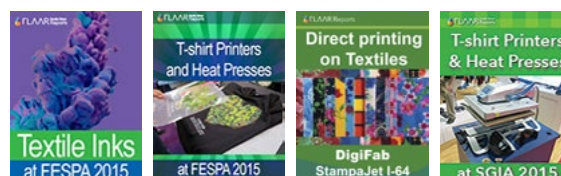
In the textile printer TRENDS report, we also list every single brand and model of textile printer, calendering machine, and T-shirt printers also.

To order the textile printer TRENDS, e-mail FrontDesk "at" FLAAR.org to be invoiced so we can send the report to you.

It was nice to see a textile printer booth clearly documenting that pre-treatment is needed for printing on T-shirts, and openly admitting that post-treatment is also helpful (in this case drying).

So a SCHULZE brand PRETREAT maker II was exhibited (www.SCHULZEship.com) and an Italian oven from DIDO (www.chiossiecavazzuti.com).

The brother booth also offered pretreatment liquid, DTG Polyester pretreatment, for improving wash ability and brightness.



Here are some other reports made in the past about Textiles Printers. Visit www.wide-format-printers.org for more information about our complete collection.



The FLAAR team is holding one of the textile samples that was printed for us at the trade show. We all are satisfied with the quality of each printer output.

T-SHIRT PRINTERS

Seven T-shirt printers, of which two were dual-platform size (so two T-shirts at a time).

What was refreshing to see was the booth which openly displayed the machine which is needed to pretreat the T-shirt cloth. Over and over and over again, PR releases, and advertising claims “forget” to notify the potential buyer that you need coated fabric, or a coating machine.

And the next tsunami of fluff-and-puff PR releases claim that no finishing is needed (or more often, simply works hard to totally ignore mentioning the entire workflow). So it is nice to see pre-printing coaters and post-printing heaters for finishing the job correctly.

This is why people prefer to read the FLAAR Reports than read PR releases, since we do research around the world to learn what is really needed for each application and for each kind of ink.

SUBLIMATION ON OTHER MATERIALS BESIDES CLOTH

You can usually sublimation on metal or other materials if they are coated with polyester. The polyester coating is what accepts the sublimated ink (sublimated by heat which turns the ink into a gas-like substance). Since the ink no longer has its dot structure after sublimation, the surface appearance is gorgeous, especially if a satin or glossy effect is desired.

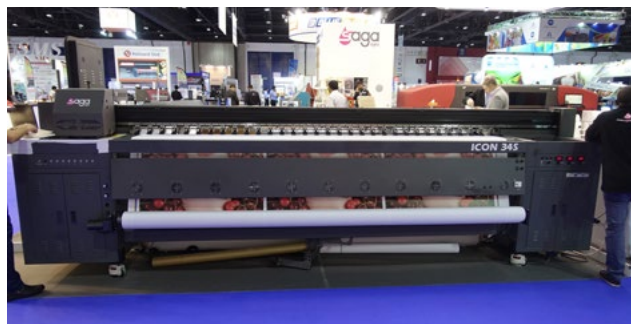
Downside is fading, since DYE sublimation ink is a dye. But if you need to showcase something for only a few days at a trade show booth, or a few months, then sublimated materials are quite handsome decorations (especially on coated aluminum). Just realize that if there is a window which lets in sunlight, the sun will cause the ink to fade. But if deep inside a restaurant, inside a hotel, with no windows whatsoever, then you will not notice the fading for some time.



SOLVENT PRINTERS

All the Japanese brands of solvent printers were on exhibit: Mimaki, Mutoh, Roland, Seiko II, and Epson. SGI is an international expo, so you expect the international brands to be present. Of course now OKI is owner of what used to be Seiko II solvent printers.

Most for eco-solvent; many were mild-solvent, and a few had odors suggesting they were full solvent. We use the generic term "solvent printer" to cover all chemical variations.



ICON 345 solvent printer in the healthy-sized booth of saga digital.

We list all brands and models of each solvent printer at SGI in a separate report, for companies which need to keep track of this information.



Flora LJ320P, Toyo ink solvent printer from RTZ, in the booth of FLEX-EUROPA



This is the Mimaki SWJ-320 S4 Solvent Printer in the Signtrade booth.



Flora HJII, 5-meter solvent printer from RTZ, in booth of FLEX-EUROPA.

LATEX

No Ricoh booth; no latex in Mimaki booth (SIGNTRADE). No more Chinese latex attempt. So the only printers using latex ink were from HP.



HP LATEX 330

The HP Latex 330, 370 and 3100 were presented by the HP booth at the show.



HP LATEX 360

Other of the big brands that distributes HP Latex printers is Dynagraph.



HP LATEX 370



HP LATEX 3100



Jacky's distributes a wide range of printers and signage products.

MEMJET

Printers using Memjet MEMS technology printheads are limited to water-based inks. Although water-based inks are traditional for GIS drawings and CAD renderings, now dye-based ink faces competition from the HP single-pass system which allows for pigmented ink (which lasts longer).



The helpful team at Oce printed samples to test their quality and we end with a very satisfying result.



Oce ColorWave 910, produced handsome images, and very fast.

MEMJET

Gongzheng and RTI VORTEX and Xante were noticeably absent. Since Xante gave up trying to print viewable graphics (probably due to white lines when printheads were clogged or worn out), Xante focuses on pizza boxes (and comparable), since the average pizza user will not notice the occasional issues with the print. But Xante does still offer their Excelagraphix 4200 on their web site (as does RTI with their VORTEX). Nonetheless, the absence of any of these brands is notable.

However Xerox had their IJP2000 and Canon had their (Océ) ColorWave 910. Notice this is the 910, no longer the 900. Océ (and Xerox and I would estimate also RTI) have made changes in their hardware (media feeding systems) and software as feedback comes back from end users.

But all the changes have been mostly in software and printer structure; probably a lot in how the media is handled. The printheads themselves have not evolved any more, despite the typical PR releases of four years ago (good examples of why experienced print shop owners and managers view PR releases as entertainment more than being helpful). In distinction, since we do not accept PR releases of the printer manufacturer, we can publish actual facts about a product.

I have tested the RTI VORTEX, most recently at SGIA 2015 in Atlanta. The results are always nice (only at Sign Istanbul were there hiccups (the files were rejected by the software),

which I estimate was operator error and software glitch on files which were large). But the HP PageWide printer, a few meters away, accepted the same files and printed them so fast even several of us could not gather up the output to keep it from blocking the aisles.

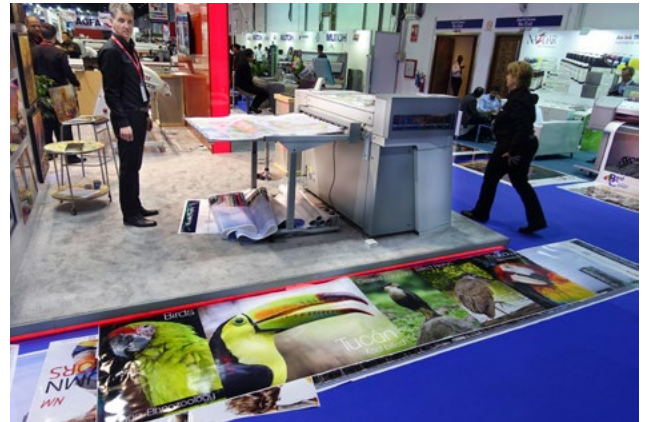
We tend to test the RTI VORTEX since the people know us and recognize that we enjoy seeing our high-resolution files printed on coated stock. We have not tested for CAD since we assume it will print CAD just fine.

Worldwide brands such as Xerox and Océ (and HP) rarely accept testing at a trade show for many reasons. One is often the booth is crowded; second, Xerox said they needed "corporate approval." So it was not possible to test anything whatsoever at the Xerox stand here in Dubai. So we went to Océ for Memjet evaluation (and got nice results); we went to Konica Minolta for toner printers (and got attractive colors and they even bound the pages into a book for us). We appreciate the hospitality and access to testing the printers in the Océ booth and in the Konica Minolta booth. The Océ Memjet printer (CW 910) is sold and serviced through Heliozid Océ.



The test images from photos of Dr Nicholas look nice on the Océ ColorWave 910 in the Canon booth.

MEMJET



Here is part of the helpful Canon Oce booth personnel.

Now you can see our toucan photograph: high resolution because we are allowed inside the toucan cages, so we can take close-ups. The week after returning home (to Guatemala from Dubai) we went to another zoo to study the serrated edges of the toucan beaks, again with close-up photographs.

The parrot or green macaw is another example of our long-range project to find, and photograph, all birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects which were utilized by the Mayan people for thousands of years.

You can see our work on our www.Maya-ethnozoology.org



This sample was beautiful printed, fast and high quality.

DESTRUCTION is a series of reports on the destruction of fragile tropical eco-systems in Guatemala. We are trying to raise funds to show what is happening to the rain forests.

Mining companies, commercial plantations: every kind of agro-business you can imagine is bulldozing the Mayan jungles.

Below are examples of the endangered species of birds which are being exterminated in the process.



MEMJET



Here is a front view of the Océ ColorWave 910 printer, with more print samples at the left. The red is from achiote, a seasoning used by the Maya to color their cacao (cocoa, chocolate) a blood red.

The ancient Maya also used hot chile peppers to flavor their cacao (chocolate) drink. You can learn about all this on our www.Maya-ethnoBotany.org

team are university students, some are at their university doing their studies. Océ also had their ColorWave 700 on exhibit. This we have not yet evaluated.



HP, SINGLE PASS

HP PageWide XL could not be evaluated at this Dubai expo since the printer needed a special tool to put one part into its correct position, a part which had slipped down a few millimeters during shipment or installation. But you can read our comments in our Sign Istanbul 2015 report: we liked the HP PageWide output so much that we put it on our front cover.



Now you can see all the bright colors produced by the Océ ColorWave 910 Memjet-powered printer.

The print sample is held by the FLAAR Reports staff in the first floor of our six-level office in Guatemala. FLAAR has several divisions, this is part of the team which works on digital photography, especially photography of birds, animals and flowers of medicinal plants. Since most of the



Once you subscribe ([follow this link](#)) you can yourself download our Sign Istanbul 2015 report at no cost.

AFTER-MARKET INK

Almost no Chinese ink companies in Chinese exhibitor section (only one). Almost no Korean ink companies in Korean section. No Taiwan ink companies noticeable. There were, however, more Chinese companies than in past years, but most were media or substrates, printers, or other aspects of signage.



NAZDAR was one of the few ink companies which identified their brand. Most other inks were rebranded with local brand names, in booths of distributors.

Both Nazdar and Afford had a focused ink booth. Unfortunately we could not find a photo of the Nazdar booth but did find one of the Afford booth.

NAZDAR, STS (company booth plus one distributor), and Sam Ink (two distributors booths) were noticeable.



Sam Ink booth at SGI 2016 in Dubai, shows the international presence of this brand.

MEDIA & SUBSTRATES

There were so many booths exhibiting media and substrates that we show them in a separate FLAAR Report (72 brands; now you know why these expos such as SGI are actually better than Drupa for many products!).

Probably 80% or more were materials Made in China. A few materials were made in Korea, and perhaps at least one brand of media from Taiwan. It's incredible how China has so much presence in the manufacturing of wide-format inkjet world in general; in the media and substrates they really own the market. A lot of big brands and companies distribute the media under local brand names, but it's almost certain that they are resellers of Chinese products.



LAMINATORS

FLATBED APPLICATORS (FLATBED LAMINATORS)

Having four different brands of flatbed applicators is better than many other expos (there are a total of seven to nine brands worldwide). So far this is one of the few items of equipment where Chinese-made machines have not penetrated the market. I believe that all four brands exhibited at SGI 2016 in Dubai are made in Europe.



CWT 1640, Made in Sweden (Cut Work Table), booth of DREAM WAY (distributor).

Rollover brand of flatbed laminator, was in the booth of saga digital. We will show photos of every brand of flatbed applicator at SGI 2016 and the name of every distributor booth in our separate FLAAR Report on laminators.

BASIC LAMINATORS

FIFTEEN booths had laminators. This is more than many other international expos in Europe and the Americas. It is worth noting that almost all were basic entry-level.

I estimate that over 80% were made in China, though one or two brands may be made in Taiwan. Kala I estimate is (hopefully) still made in France, but I would need to see an actual physical factory in France to document this.

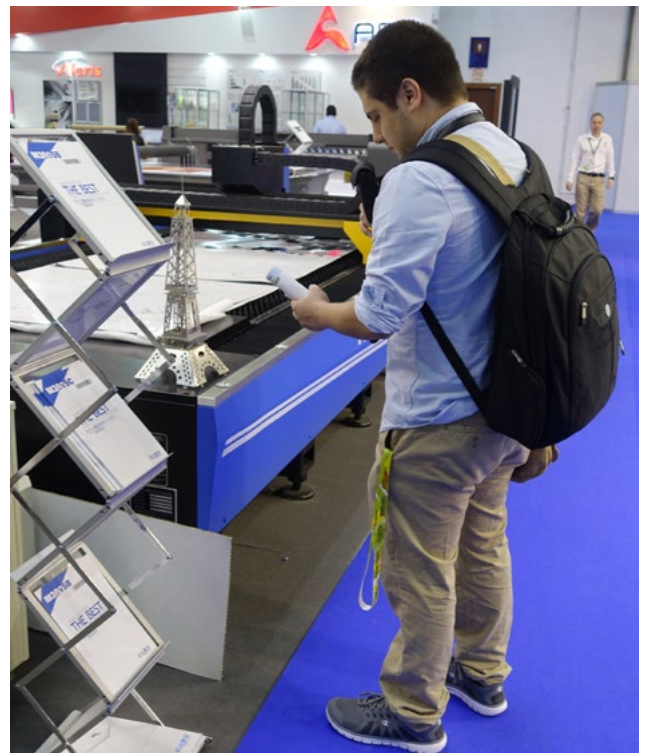
CUTTERS

FLATBED CUTTERS

Two Zund GS L-2500 digital flatbed cutters were on exhibit, one in the Canon booth; another GS L-2500 in the Colourbyte booth

Kongsberg had their digital flatbed cutter in the booth of SIGNTRADE

MultiCam had one machine, but no Aristo actually present, no Cielle visible (if present, not noticeable). Several brands were only pictured or named on the wall of their distributor booth. We discuss a brand only if the machine is physically present.



Juan Carlos Hernandez Tello is one of the web site development team at FLAAR Reports. Here he is inspecting a flatbed cutter: some are CNC routers, others are CO2 laser engravers.

There were about thirteen CNC Routers and also a fair number of different brands of CO2 laser cutters. We show photographs of the cutters in a separate FLAAR Report on cutters at SGI 2016.

TONER PRINTERS

Our focus is on inkjet printers in general and wide-format size in particular. But we also evaluate toner printers.

Some expos lack toner printers. Other expos have lots of toner printers: Graphics of the Americas in Miami (GOA) is an example of a trade show with both wide-format inkjet and lots of toner printers.



Booth of Konica Minolta at SGI 2016. They had their bizhub PRESS C71hc and also bizhub PRESS C1100 on exhibit.

SGI had toner printers in the booth of Océ, Xerox and the new booth of Konica Minolta. Since the Xerox staff said that they required international corporate approval we skipped them and focused on the Konica Minolta booth. Although this was the office printer division here at SGI of course Konica Minolta is also known for their inkjet printheads.



Here you can see the test prints resulting from the nice Konica Minolta toner printers at SGI 2016. This was their first year at SGI.

Holding the test prints from the Konica Minolta printers are graphic designers and illustrators at FLAAR (in our office in Latin America) who are working on educational comic books to help children learn about plants and animals of the tropical world (such as Guatemala).

Dr Hellmuth first visited Guatemala at age 17, to explore the pyramid temples of the ancient Mayan civilization. Actually at age 16 he was already learning about Mayan ruins at Palenque, in Mexico. He wrote his high school thesis on Maya archaeology, which won first prize at his school, and got into Harvard.

Three years later, he spent a year living in the jungle as an intern on an archaeology project. While at the Mayan ruins of Tikal he discovered the tomb of a 9th century king. His Harvard thesis on this royal burial you can download on www.maya-archaeology.org.

TONER PRINTERS

After writing many technical and scholarly books over many years, now Dr Nicholas wants to also provide material for elementary school students, so he started a comic book division. If you Google MayanToons, comic book characters you may find this web site.

The predecessor of the first FLAAR Reports on printers were actually written in Osaka, Japan, while Dr Hellmuth was a visiting research professor at the National Museum of Ethnology, which had hired him to teach them digital scanning (circa 1997). Once he had the then standard Kodachrome and Fujichrome slides scanned, they could be printed on both desktop printers and on inkjet printers.

An early digital camera company, Better Liight, provided Nicholas with a digital camera later that year, which could make panoramas of 29,000 individual scan areas (a tri-linear scanning back on a large format camera). This camera could take a single photograph (composed of thousands of scans side-by-side) of 300 to 600MM. So then we needed a large-format printer for these size files.

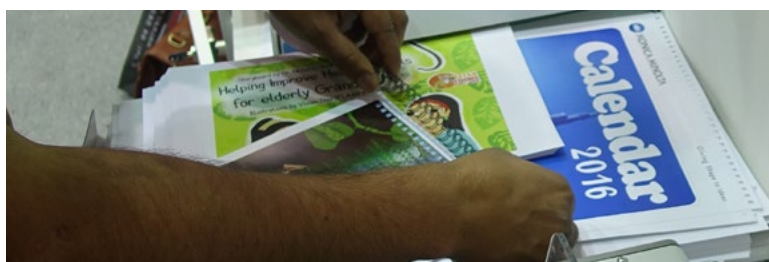
Encad donated a 36" wide format printer to handle these large images, and so now FLAAR evaluations on wide-format inkjet began. Then a few years later HP came out with their new generation printer, and we evaluated each new HP model every year for five years.

By 2000 UV-cured printers had appeared, and by 2008 they were the mainstream kind of wide-format printer, so we evolved from evaluating printers for CAD, GIS, graphics, fine art photos and giclee to evaluating printers for UV-cured applications. Within recent years we have added a focus on textile printers.

But we still keep an interest in toner printers, since toner chemistry has improved noticeably in the last several years. The Konica Minolta office printers are good examples.



The Konica Minolta booth also had equipment for spiral binding of the pages of our test prints of Mayan comic book characters.



TONER PRINTERS

LED & LCD DYNAMIC DIGITAL SIGNAGE



LED and LCD dynamic digital signage are a challenge for expo organizers. If they are showing a cartoon movie of the MINIONS or RIO (rare blue macaws in Brazil) or any other cute animated film, it attracts lots of attention.

If the LCD billboard booth is showing 10 meter wide images of a Korean Girls singing band, that distracts people for several aisles. If the LCD billboard booth is showing female models of Victoria's Secret, that really disturbs people in the aisles as well.

For these reasons, most LED and LCD dynamic digital signage expos are separate. This way you know what to expect. With respect to distractions, the sheer quantity of often blinding light is another issue.

I would suggest for signage and printer expos, if they wish to have more LED and LCD dynamic digital signage, that they do this, literally, in a separate hall, as a co-located expo. That way everyone who enters this hall knows what to expect.

Although I will admit I am a fan of traditional inkjet printing, I fully realize that LED and LCD advertising signs are here to stay. This is why we at FLAAR also study printers for glass, printers for ceramics and other industrial printers. Industrial printers will grow in market share each year.

In a similar vein, in many Chinese expos, most of the CNC routers and CO2 laser engravers are in separate halls. Because the fumes from mechanical or chemical cutters are unbearable for everyone else.

Actually I can remember 10 years ago when even US sign expos, if they featured screen printing machines, it was literally unbearable. I had a headache after 5 minutes and felt worse after several hours. I respect the many hard working screen printing companies, but ironically, at our university 10 years ago (BGSU in Ohio), the university moved us from the technology building (before it was torn down) into a former screen

LED & LCD DYNAMIC DIGITAL SIGNAGE

TRADE MAGAZINES

printing building (off campus). It was so unbearable (even though totally “cleaned out”) that we had to seal off half of the rooms (the ink in the drains was literally intolerable, even though the screen printing company had been gone for several years).

But there were not enough screen printing machines at SGI to cause problems, and odor from solvent ink was more noticeable than odor from CO2 laser engravers on plastics or dust from CNC routers. In general I found the entire trade show fully acceptable (though a few people did complain about the solvent ink from two booths (if their booth was across the aisle from these booths)).



ME Printer is the official magazine of SGI trade show. Dr Nicholas of FLAAR Reports has been contributing articles for many years. Indeed he is now listed as Contributing Editor. We also write for the “Show Daily.”

We began writing for ME Printer when Eskandar Jahanbani was chief editor. Recently Dennis Mathew has been appointed Editor in Chief. And Alex Jahanbani is now a Territory Manager at Dynagraph. We at FLAAR Reports intend to continue writing for this Middle East Print Communication Magazine (and also to remain in contact with Jahanbani in the country where he is now stationed).

PrintWeek had two hospitable staff in their booth, Shilpa Jasani, Editor and T. S. Venkat Raghavan, Junior Editor, so I went to say hello. I see this brand in expos in other countries as well.



TRADE SHOW ORGANIZER BOOTHS

APPEXPO



APPEXPO is now the largest wide-format printer expo in the world. For example, APPEXPO has more brands of media and substrates than any other expo anywhere else. In fact they have so many CNC routers, CO2 laser engravers, solvent and UV and textile printers, and laminators that they are flying five from FLAAR Reports to document APPEXPO 2016, March 9, 10, 11, and 12, in the new expo center.

To register in advance, visit www.appexpo.com/index/2/en

D-PES

We at FLAAR Reports attended D-PES every year, but after the other giant expo across the street (in Canon fair ground area) left Guangzhou (moving to another city) and now for 2016 there is no huge event the same week as D-PES, and so conveniently across the street. So D-PES is evolving into a local expo for the Guangzhou and Shenzhen area, and D-PES will have local expos in several other cities.

KOSIGN 2016

I have enjoyed being at Dilli, DGI, Keundo, plus both Inktec and JETRIX in Korea several years ago. But we have never attended KOSIGN. Perhaps some day this can be sponsored so we can again experience both Korea culture as well as the frankly remarkable engineering technology expertise of Korean printer and media and ink manufacturing companies.

SIGN ASIA EXPO 2016, BANGKOK, THAILAND



Thailand has several expos and two different booths at SGI. The one we are learned about was SIGN ASIA EXPO together with Bangkok LED & Digital Sign 2016. Every year at SGI there is a pleasant dinner, organized by IEC. At our table were Belle Yam (Malaysia), Sakkachat Sivabovorn (Thailand) and their teams. So we had a chance to speak with the Thailand IBRIX Co., Ltd. President & CEO (Sivabovorn).



**PRINT TECHNOLOGY,
4-7 AUGUST 2016,
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

KAIZER Exhibitions & Conferences SDN. BHD

We hope to attend the print, sign, and ad technology expo in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, organized by KAIZER, represented at the Dubai trade show by Belle Yam, Managing Director.

TRADE SHOW ORGANIZER BOOTHS

SIGN ISTANBUL (2016).
THE PREMIER SIGNAGE & PRINTER EXPO FOR THIS PART OF THE WORLD



KAIZER Exhibitions & Conferences SDN. BHD. In this booth they show their expos for Malaysia.

Other trade shows which deserve mention, and which are worth attending

We also have enjoyed attending Sign Africa, co-located with Africa Print expo, Africa LED and the well known FESPA Africa. This year (2016) these are 7-9 September, to avoid the summer when some people may visit Drupa . However realize that Drupa has changed dramatically and is no longer a printer machine expo. We hope that Drupa does not go the way of IPEX (which splattered in so many inconsistent themes it imploded).

We have been flown to Istanbul for many years, to work with the team who capably organize Sign Istanbul (IFO and Tarsus). Two of us look forward to be at Sign Istanbul 2016, 29 September through 2nd of October 2016, so we hope to see you there.

Another advantage of attending Sign Istanbul is that your entire family will enjoy sightseeing at the world-famous architectural history and remarkable museums. So bring your colleagues too, as both the country of Turkey, the city of Istanbul, and the expo Sign Istanbul are worth attending, 29 September through 2 October, 2016.



SIGN Istanbul 2015

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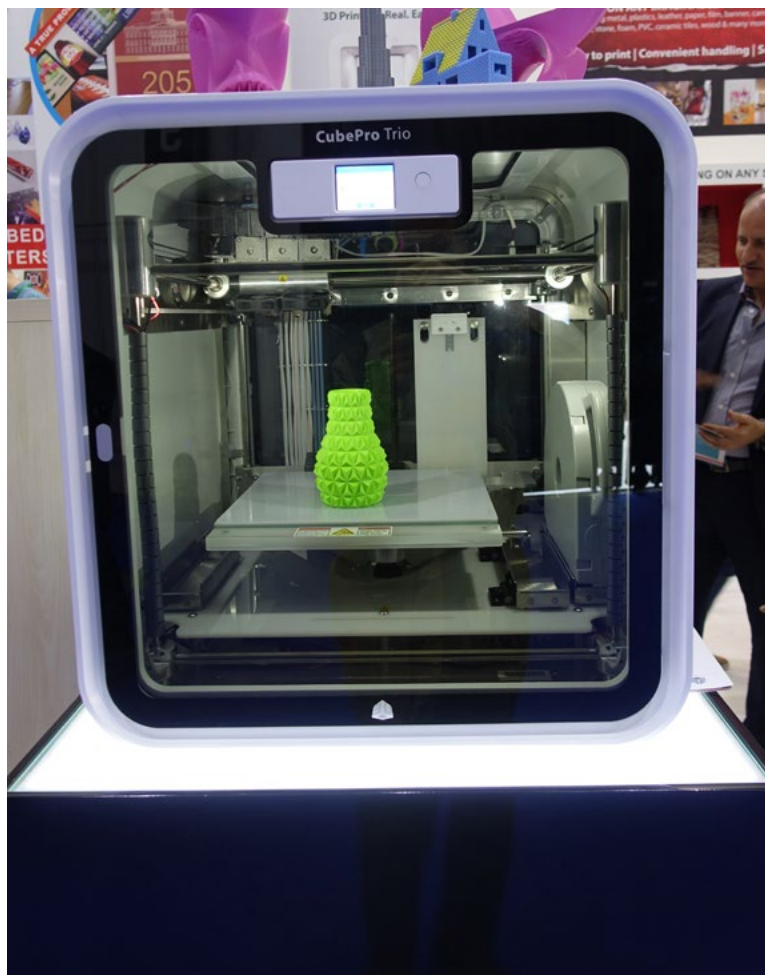
3D SIGNAGE

3D PRINTERS

FLAAR does research on all aspect of 3D imaging, from 3D scanning to 3D software to 3D printers. We also can explain how to create a 3D sign without the expense of a 3D printer.

Some signage expos have a lot of 3D exhibits, and some are still focused on traditional wide-format inkjet printers (a polite way of saying that traditional expos do not yet have a 3D hall or a 3D area). But at least it was nice to find two or three 3D printers.

Just realize that 3D printers are for making models. If you want to create a 3D sign, there are many ways to achieve this without needing a “3D printer.”



CubePro 3D, made by 3D Systems, USA.



PrismaLab Rapid400, closet-sized 3D printer, Made in China (Shanghai). Booth of Sabazu (same booth as DOCAN UV-cured flatbed printer).

3D SIGNAGE



Model of Gothic church by PrismLab Rapid 400



We are often asked to lecture and write articles on 3D signage. Here is the front cover of a PowerPoint presentation.

We give lectures in English, Spanish, and German, for trade show organizers, for Open House events at distributors and factories, and for general signage or printer conferences around the world.

If you wish to fly Dr Nicholas Hellmuth to your home town for a lecture, e-mail us at FrontDesk "at" FLAAR.org

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

VITRO (IN SIGNTRADE AREA)



This technology was shown in the Vitro booth at the Signtrade area on the show.

RICHTECH SYSTEM LTD.

When I am walking the aisles, taking metal notes on what products are being displayed, often product managers come out of their booth to say hello and introduce me to their products. When I am in Chinese sections, the booth personnel

INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS

frequently come out to remind me that they have seen me at APPPEXPO in Shanghai or other Chinese sign trade shows.

At SGI, Yuki Wu, Sales Manager, came to introduce me to the interactive floor effects of the company where she works, RICHTECH.



When I went onto their web site, WOW. This is the best English, and most idiomatic style I have seen. Whoever did their web site deserves a bonus and a raise!

We did not do the RICHTECH web site, but whoever did this work, did an excellent job.



Four years ago a FLAAR Reports team of four of us were hired by a nice Chinese company in Beijing to enhance their web site, both to correct the translation, and to improve the style (to make it more international, so people felt at home on this web site). It was a great experience to live in China for six weeks.

ADDITIONAL FLAAR REPORTS ON PRINTING & SIGNAGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

DISTRIBUTORS



Dynagraph booth, Eskandar (Alex) Jahanbani, former chief editor at ME Printer Magazine, is now at Dynagraph.

We have lists of all distributors from past expos, so we know precisely which exhibitors were missing in 2016: some of these no longer exist. Others have shrunk in size as the brands they handle have moved to other owners. Plus, lots of new distributors. All this is available in our FLAAR Reports on Distributors in the UAE, past and present.

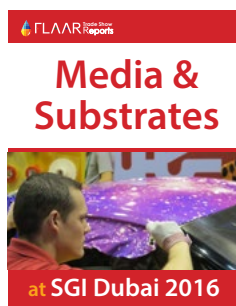
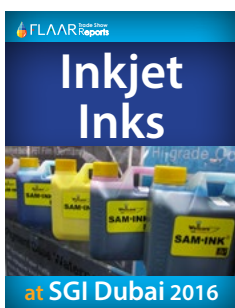
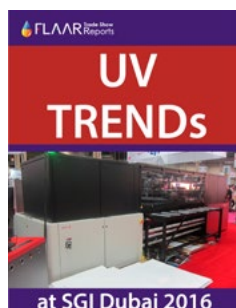
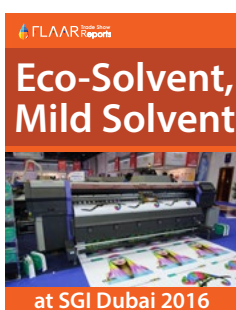


DREAM WAY Printing Equipment & Instruments Trading is an example of a new distributor at SGI 2016.

ADDITIONAL FLAAR REPORTS ON PRINTING & SIGNAGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

If you wish more than one FLAAR Report, the price-per-report is lower (the more you buy at one time).

E-mail FrontDesk "at" FLAAR.org to be invoiced (PayPal, Bank wire transfer, or check in US dollars)



WHAT IS IN THE UV TRENDS REPORT?



These two tiles were printed with a flatbed printer. But with an ink which is totally different than UV-cured.

We show the printer, show more examples, and list the ink, and what curing is used, in the UV TRENDS level FLAAR Reports. Even though this is not UV ink, it is a flatbed, and prints on materials which are tough for UV-cured ink to stick to.

APPENDIX A

THE DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTRE VENUE



Here we have Abdul Rahman Falaknaz, Chairman, International Expo-Consults (IEC), Organizer of SGI Dubai at the opening of the tradeshow.



Welcoming sign at one of the entrances to the Dubai World Trade Centre Venue. This convention center also hosts musicals, weddings, and of course lots of trade shows. Since Dubai is a friendly peaceful hospitable city, the trade shows here are popular, so usually the expo center is booked solid. Fortunately they are building new halls, which should be open in a year or so.



Lots of attendees want to get into the expo.

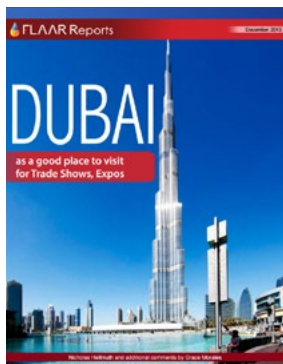
IEC has a hard-working team who do a good job of organizing SGI each year.

One of many reasons why it is good to attend SGI each year is because this is the first printer expo of the year. So if you are an industry analyst, or you have clients who need to know "what's new", it is good for you to fly to Dubai.

APPENDIX B

VISITING DUBAI WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Dubai is a friendly, pleasant, and hospitable country. So for SGI 2017, consider inviting your entire family. Your children (or grandchildren) will definitely remember you for a long time if they get to adventure into the several large Malls at Dubai. These are more than shopping malls, they are like an entertainment attraction.



Here is our free [download](#), a photo-essay on Dubai as a nice place to visit.

APPENDIX C

DUBAI GARDEN GLOW

About five years ago the Missouri Botanical Garden (MOBOT) had an exhibit of my photographs of tropical flowers of Guatemala. While setting up the exhibit I noticed a theme park had been installed in the extensive park-like property of this botanical garden.

MOBOT is considered one of the three best botanical gardens in the world, ranking with Kew Gardens in the UK and the New York Botanical Garden. I have visited all of these (since I enjoy the challenge of learning new things, in this case teaching myself about the utilitarian plants of Guatemala).

I found out that the set-up manager of this theme park installed in St Louis was a friend of mine, botanist and paleontologist Charles Zidar. And I learned about the company that built and installed this theme park (with Charles Zidar being the manager of this set up process).

When I was in Dubai a year or so ago, attending DEAL expo (organized each year by IEC), I mentioned to them about the theme park I had seen in St Louis. By late 2015 this was built in Dubai, literally across the highway from the Dubai World Trade Centre.



I like leaf-cutting ants since we have a lot of these in Guatemala, where they are called zompopos. Often they carry flowers instead of leaves, so their trails are like a rainbow of color. Often these ants hike into our Mayan ethnobotanical garden to harvest some of our flowers.

So while attending SGI 2016 during the day, twice I went to visit the Dubai Garden Glow in the evening.

For 2017, we hope this theme park will have additional themes (it is programmed to change each year). The same event also returned to St Louis recently. In other words, it was so popular after its first staging that it was asked to come back to Missouri Botanical Garden.



Here is another view of Dubai Garden Glow attraction. We will have a more complete report on this ready in advance of DEAL trade show in April.

These illuminated attraction is estimated to attract up to half a million people during a five month period. Due to summer heat, many such locations pause during the summer, and then reopen when weather cools down in the autumn and winter.



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