

Printers, Inks, Substrates & Flatbed Cutters



Observed at European tradeshow
before FESPA Hamburg
at **sign & digital UK**
2011



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Introduction

This year Nicholas couldn't attend to sign & digital UK but FLAAR was there taking notes on the printers exhibited at this trade show. We did not want to miss this exposition because it was the last European trade show before FESPA Hamburg and also because EFI launched their new textile printer EFI VUTEk TX3250r. They exhibited a prototype but they mentioned they want to exhibit a final version at FESPA Hamburg.

The attendance was okay, more people interesting on buying printers than what we observed at Graphispag, and other curious was that almost all the companies and distributors exhibited the printers with the price, which is not common at other markets.

The location of the trade show it's well thought, NEC (National Exhibition Center) is at the airport. Plenty of hotels near and another option can be stayed at the center of the city and take the train that will take about 15 minutes from the center to the airport. This year it was a shuttle bus service, every 10 or 15 minutes from the NEC to the hall so you don't have to walk. So in resume we can say that sign & digital UK it's a small trade show in proportions but a very consistent in content and well organized.



This is a general view of the Hall of sign & digital UK and one of two shuttle buses, one was the car park shuttle and the other the train station shuttle.



sign & digital UK 2011, registration and entrance area.



General view of some corridors at sign & digital UK 2011.



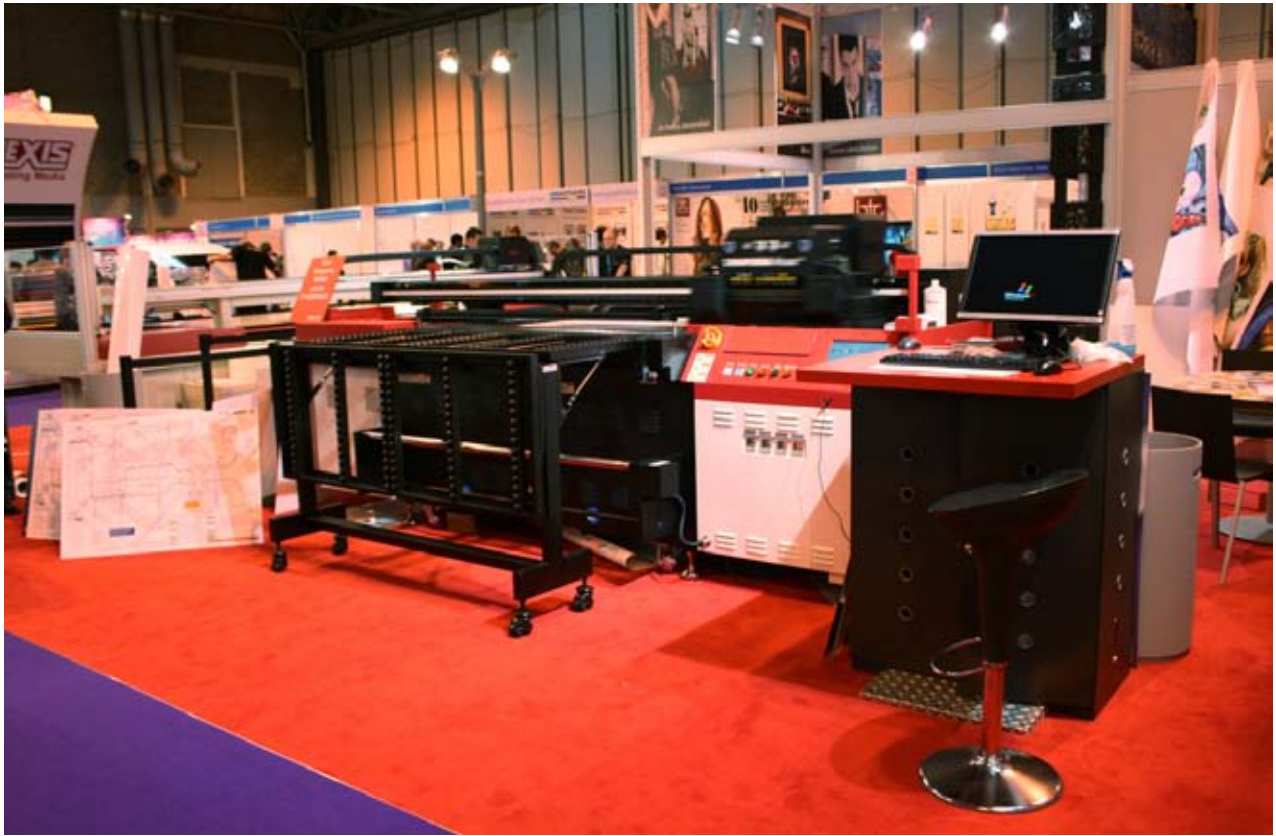
UV-cured wide-format printers

Agfa was exhibited at two booths, at the company booth and at GPT booth, located in front of Agfa. The AGFA :Anapurna M1600 hybrid UV printer was at the two booths, and just at the company booth also was the :AGFA JETI 3020 Titan a flatbed UV printer with flat to roll option.



AGFA JETI 3020 Titan printing some samples at AGFA booth.





AGFA :Anapurna M1600 at AGFA booth, just in front of GPT booth, that exhibited the same printer.



This was the AGFA :Anapurna M1600 at GPT booth.

Durst was there in a booth smaller than usual but good booth, they exhibited their new printer Omega 1 and the Durst Rho 320R. Nice was to see that they were printing some courtesy photos provided to them by FLAAR Reports.



Durst booth, this had an interesting design, not usual booth design.



*Durst Rho 320R
printing some
samples.*



Durst Omega 1 front view.



Durst Omega 1 back view.

EFI, they focused their exhibition on the new EFI VUTEk TX3250r textile eco-solvent printer, but we will mention this printer at textile section. Now we will say that at one side of the booth they exhibited they combo UV printer, EFI Rastek H652 UV.



*efi Rastek H650
combo UV printer.*

FUJI FILM was there exhibiting the AcuityAdvance HS HD3545, and some nice applications on keyboards, metal and other media.





FUJI AcuityAdvance HS HD3545, flatbed UV printer.



GRAPO, exhibited their flatbed UV GRAPO Gemini with a roll to roll option, both times I was at their booth they were printing, not many companies print all the time considering most of the exhibitors at sign & digital UK were distributors.



Grapo gemini flatbed printer at their booth. It is really nice to see the solidness of this printer.



Surprisingly, no UV printers at **HP** booth, just Latex and Water based.

Jetrix 2515 at Inktek Europe booth.

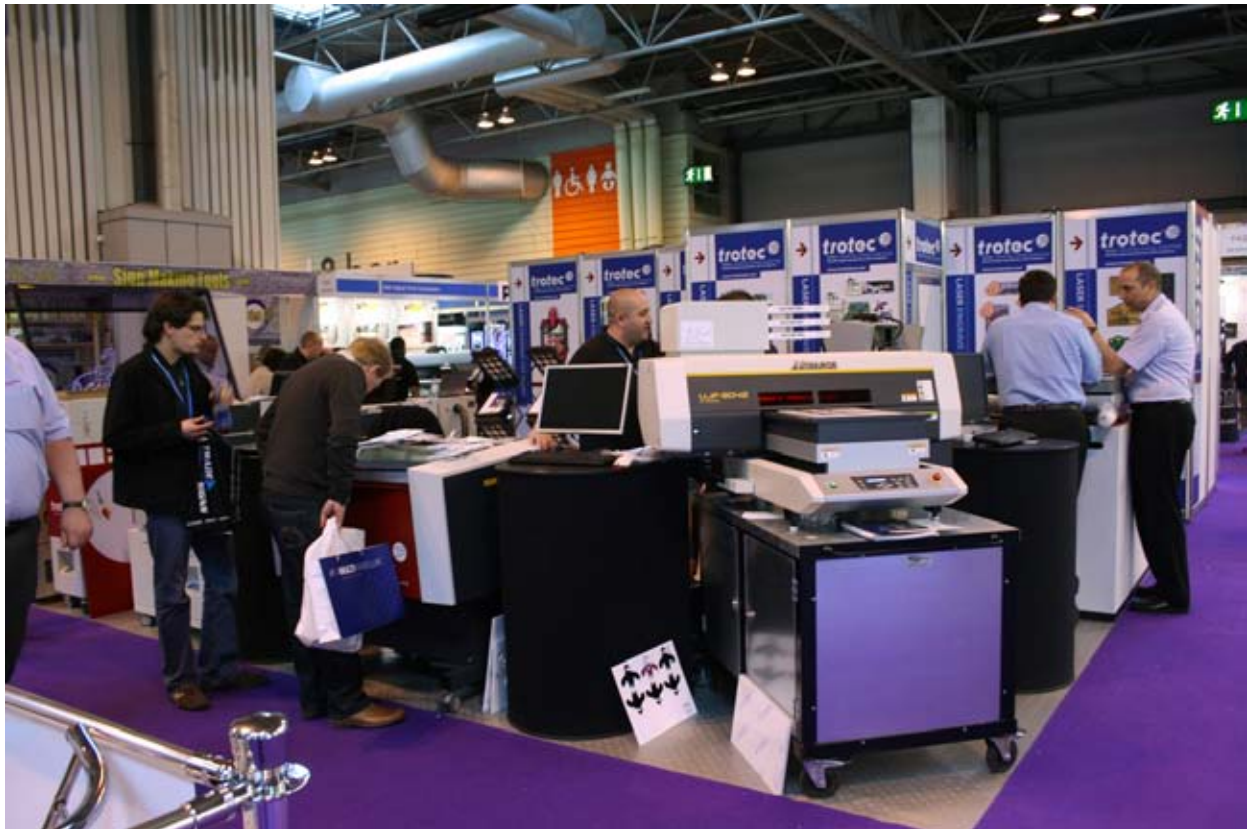
A **Mimaki** UVF 3042 UV LED, A3 format at Mimaki booth and other at GPT booth. Trotec showed one of these printers at their booth also.



Mimaki UJV 3042, at Mimaki booth.



Mimaki UJV 3042 at GPT booth.



Mimaki UJV 3042 at Trotec booth.

The UJV-160 UV printer was exhibited just at Mimaki booth. In addition they exhibited the Mimaki JFX-1605 plus, flatbed UV LED printer.



Mimaki UJV-160 UV printer at Mimaki booth printing some samples.



Mimaki UJV-160 UV printer at GPT with accessory tables.

Mutoh promoted new 3D inks stretchable with Mutoh Zephyr UV printer. These inks are focused on wrapping and corrugated surface. FLAAR had not evaluated this inks jet but we will be glad on learning more about Mutoh new inks including they eco-solvent bio-lactite.



Mutoh Zephyr printing some samples with 3D inks, at the right we can see some wrapping sample printed with same inks.

Neolt were printing some flexible media samples at their booth with the Neolt ASTRAJET 2200, hybrid UV printer, they were not using any roll to roll accessory.



At **Océ** booth were exhibited the Océ Arizona 350GT and the Océ Arizona 550GT, people at the booth were pleasant. They were printing on Dibond and then cutting some applications with ZUND cutter. At the last tradeshow we had observed this kind of partnerships, media plus printer plus cutter companies to create new applications for new markets.



Océ Arizona 350GT with roll to roll option at front.



Océ Arizona 550GT with roll to roll option at front.



Applications samples at Océ booth.

Roland exhibited the Versa UV LEC-640 and the UV LEC-330.



Roland UV LEC-640.



Roland UV LEC-330

Screen were interacting with people through some shows at their booth, not many affluence as usually visit HP workshops or Adobe for example, but it was a way to attract the attention of the people walking through the halls.

They exhibited the SCREEN TruepressJet 1600UV a flatbed UV printer with roll to roll option and the SCREEN TruepressJet 2500UV.

Truepress flatbed is rebranded Mimaki; strangely totally without the added curing lamp. If Mimaki itself was not able to get the system to cure without retrofitting it, it is surprising that Screen would exhibit the older model that lacks the curing system upgrade.



SCREEN
TruepressJet
1600UV.



SCREEN
TruepressJet
2500UV.

SUN Innovations was one of the companies printing and showing different applications, they were printing on water with SUN UV LED, as they did at Graphispag, this is the result of a play with different densities and maybe a new trend; we will see what new application born from this.

Interesting the marketing promotion “I can’t walk on the water but I can print on it”, we should say they have a lot of creativity with all the marketing campaigns.



SUN UV LED hybrid printer.



SUN UV LED printing on water.



RIP Software

At last trade shows Caldera usually don't have a booth as a company, but they team walk around the floors going between their partnerships booths and they also visit other booths trying to find some new clients. This is a good strategy in my opinion, maybe Caldera has more brand presence because they walk with shirts with his logo, but some others RIP companies are present at different distributor booths, companies as Shiraz and ErgoSoft.



Here you can see a Shiraz banner at GPT booth

Water based and Eco-Solvent printers

Recently we observed more eco-solvent printers at trade shows, more than other kind of printers, solvent printers are almost disappear but eco-solvent are gaining prominence in the market.

Element Print Science, a company from UK exhibited two of their Atom 44 printers, able to print with H2O ink, is almost certainly Sepiax. We will try to learn more about these printers, their inks and their media.



Mimaki JV34 260; we will mention this printer at eco-solvent printers but this printer can afford sublimation inks also.



Mimaki JV5-1605 at Mimaki booth.



Mimaki JV33-130 at InkTec Europe booth.



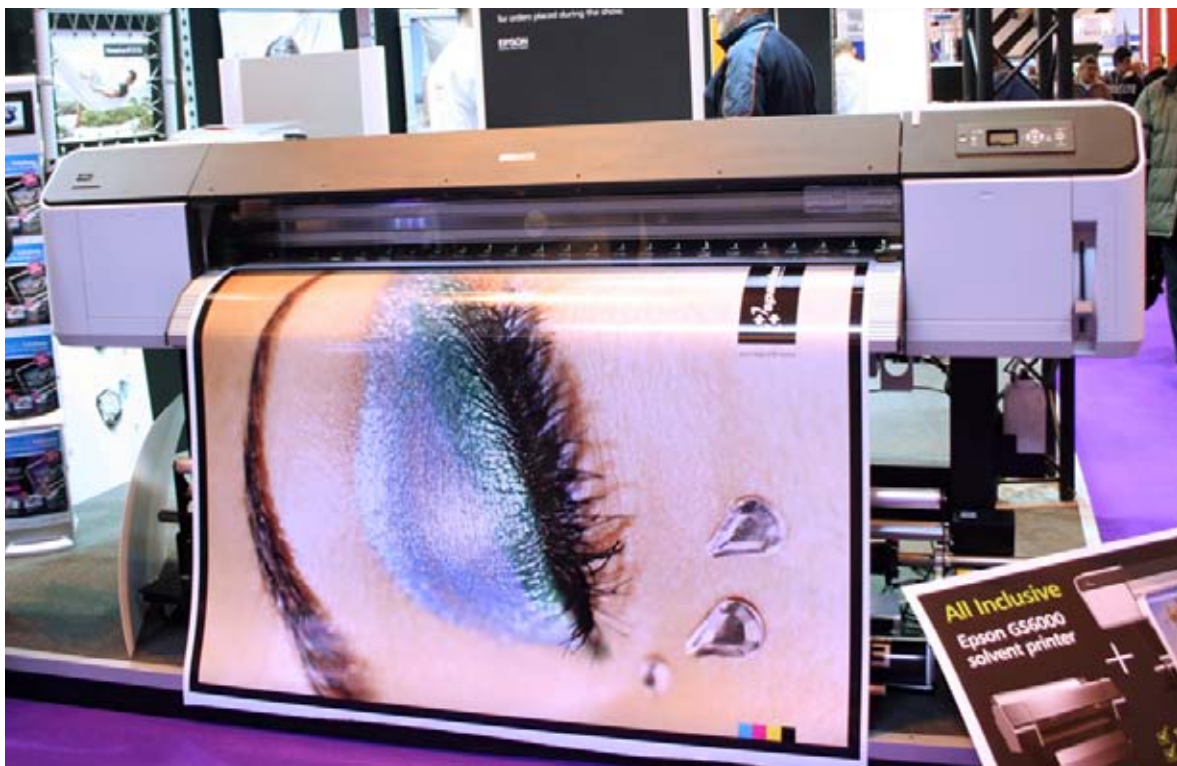
MubioHybrid ValueJet VJ-1608 printing with **Mutoh** Lactite inks was one of the printers showed at their booth; the entire printer was wrapped with corn texture. Spandex booth showed the same printer without Lactite.

Bio-Lactite ink was no longer exhibited even by the Mutoh booth at Graphispag, so it is a bit curious that they are still exhibiting this ink elsewhere. But probably the ink is good for a few applications.





MubioHybrid ValueJet VJ-1608 at Mutoh booth, promoting Bio-Lactite inks.



MubioHybrid ValueJet VJ-1608 at Spandex booth.

Two Mutoh Blizzard, one at Mutoh booth and the other at GRAFITYP booth.



Mutoh Blizzard at Mutoh booth.



Mutoh Blizzard at GRAFITYP booth.

There were two more Mutoh ValueJet 1530, one at Mutoh booth and the other at GRAFYTYP booth.



*Mutoh ValueJet 1530
at GRAFYTYP booth.*

As usual **Roland** exhibited most of their eco-solvent printers and other Roland's were exhibited at distributor's booths.

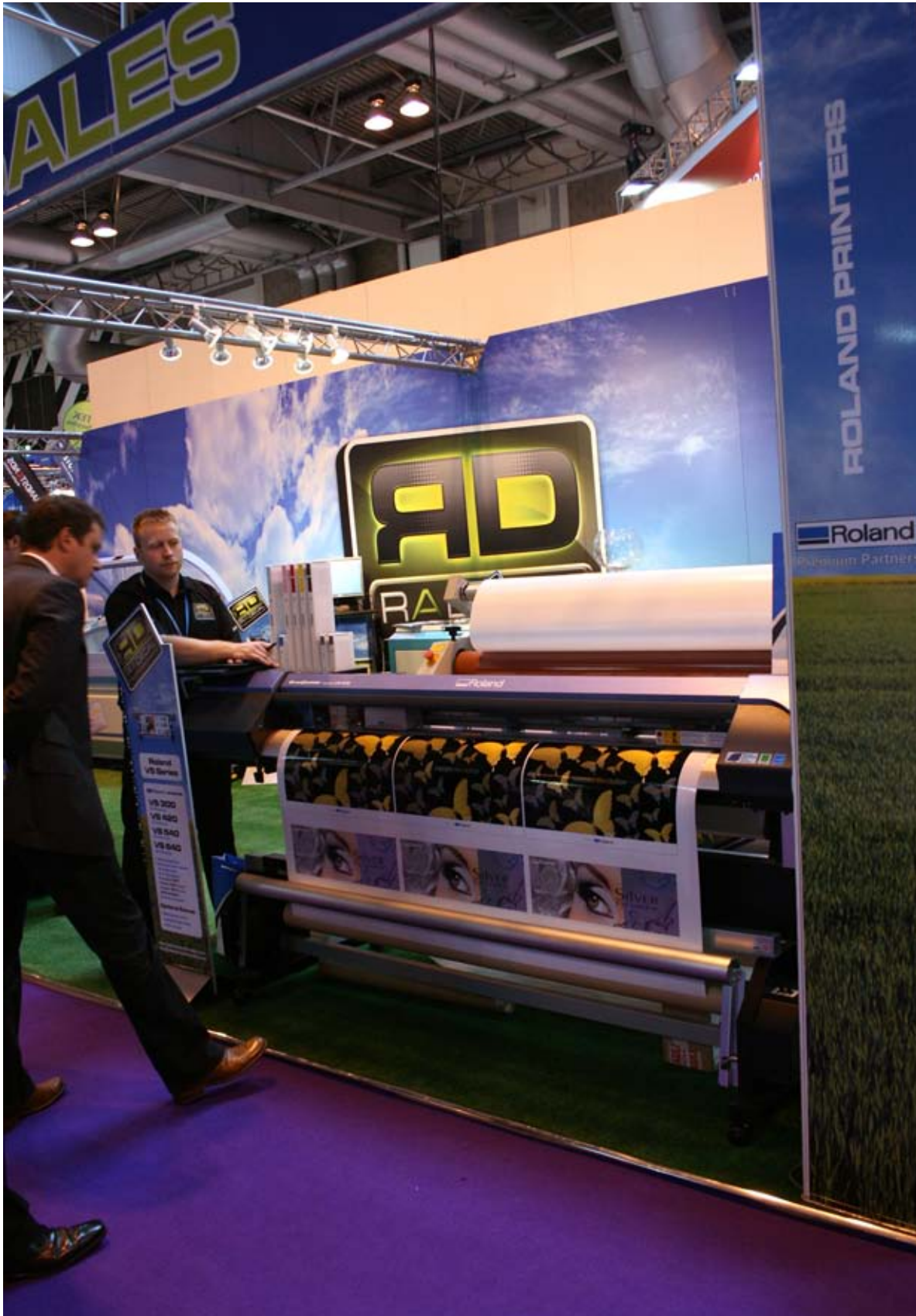
Roland VersaCAMM VS-640, one at Roland and other at Radecal Machines Sales. One more at GRAFYTYP booth.



VersaCAMM VS-640 at Roland booth.



VersaCAMM VS-640 at GRAFYTYP booth.



VersaCAMM VS-640 at Radecal booth.

Roland VersaCAMM VS-540



Roland VersaCAMM VS-420 at Roland booth.



Roland VersaCAMM SP-540i at Roland booth and at Quality Print Services LTD booth.



Roland SOLJET PROIII XJ-740



Roland VersaArt RS-640 at Roland booth and one other at GRAFYTYP booth.



Roland VersaArt RS-640 at Roland booth.



Roland VersaArt RS-640 at GRAFYTYP booth.

One **Seiko** ColorPainter H-104S was exhibited at Digital Print Innovations booth, same distributor of Polytype. During the last year there has not been any Spuhl or WP Digital printer in any Polytype booth other than FESPA Germany.



Dye-sublimation Printers & Textile Printers

As we mentioned before, **EFI** launched their new EFI VUTEk TX3250r, a 3.2 meter textile printer, which works with new VUTEK RIP and new eco-solvent dye sublimation inks.

EFI showed a prototype at sign & digital UK but they are working on some details before FESPA Hamburg. FLAAR will be there with five members of FLAAR team including Dr. Nicholas Hellmuth, so there we will learn more about this printer. By the moment we are working on a first version FLAAR Report of this printer, so visit our web pages after FESPA Hamburg to learn more about EFI VUTEK TX3250r.

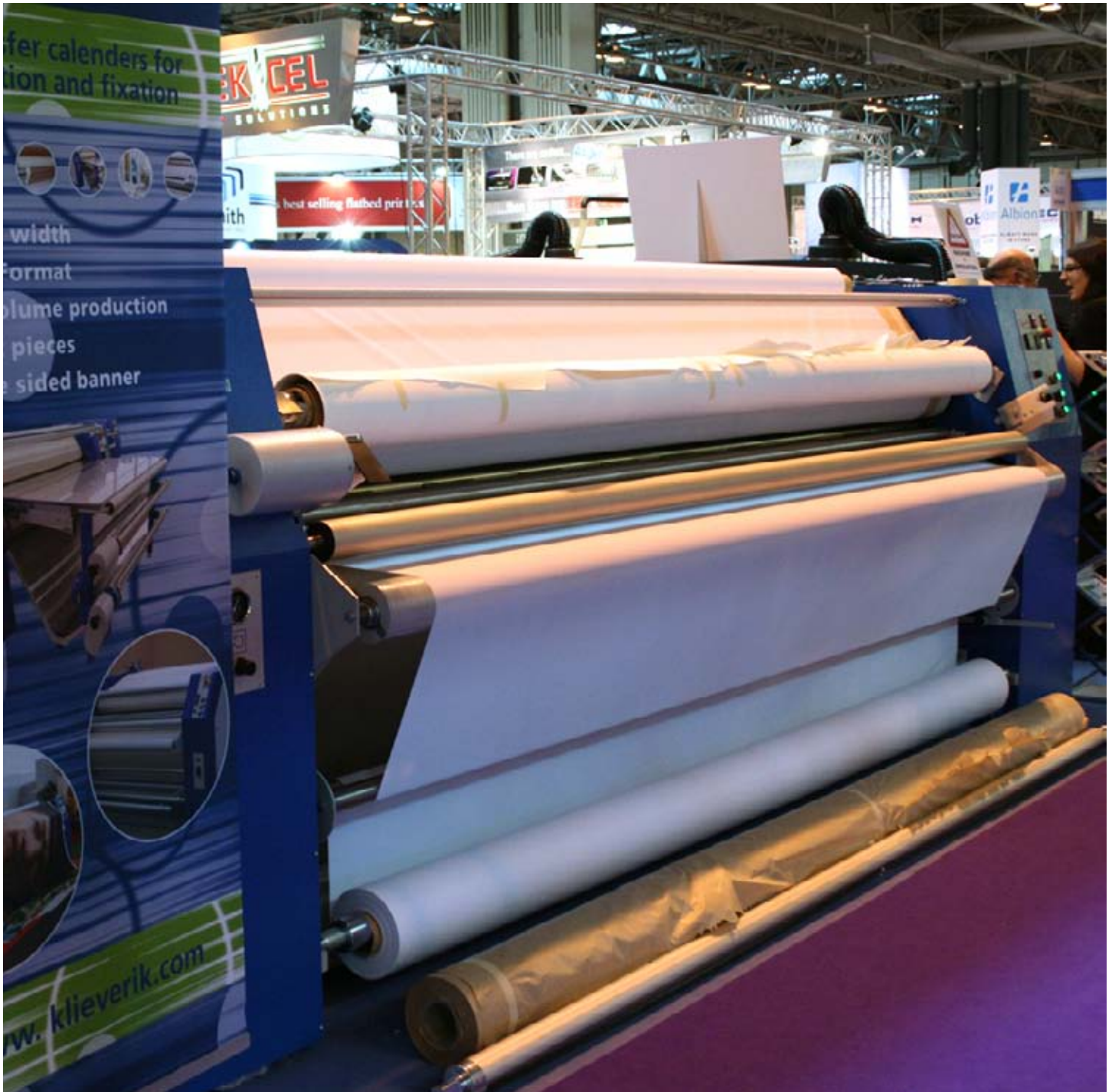


Here is the EFI VUTEk TX3250r printing some samples, as you can see at the photo you will need a calendaring machine to fixate the colors.



EFI VUTEk TX3250r ready to print.

As a complement of this printer at EFI booth was a Klieverik GTC 101 Series that you will need to fixate the color on the textiles when you printed with EFI VUTEk TX3250r.



Mimaki TS3-1600 Dye Sublimation Transfer Printer was one of the dye-sublimation printers exhibited at sign & digital UK 2011.



We will mention as textile printer **MUTOH** Vipe xtreme, since they didn't exhibit any MUTOH Viper TX. The Viper Xtreme is an option for people that have a calendaring machine or a Mutoh fixer unit, so you print on transfer paper and then you transfer to textile.



HP Latex ink printers

HP Designjet L25500 at their booth, one at William Smith booth and other at HPDESIGNJETNET booth.

Aftermarket latex ink for the HP Designjet L25500 is now available from Sam Ink. Aftermarket latex ink for the HP Scitex LX600 and LX800 will be available later this year or early 2011 (because that ink is a tad different in the industrial-strength HP latex version of the latex line).

At HP booth was showed the HP Scitex LX800.

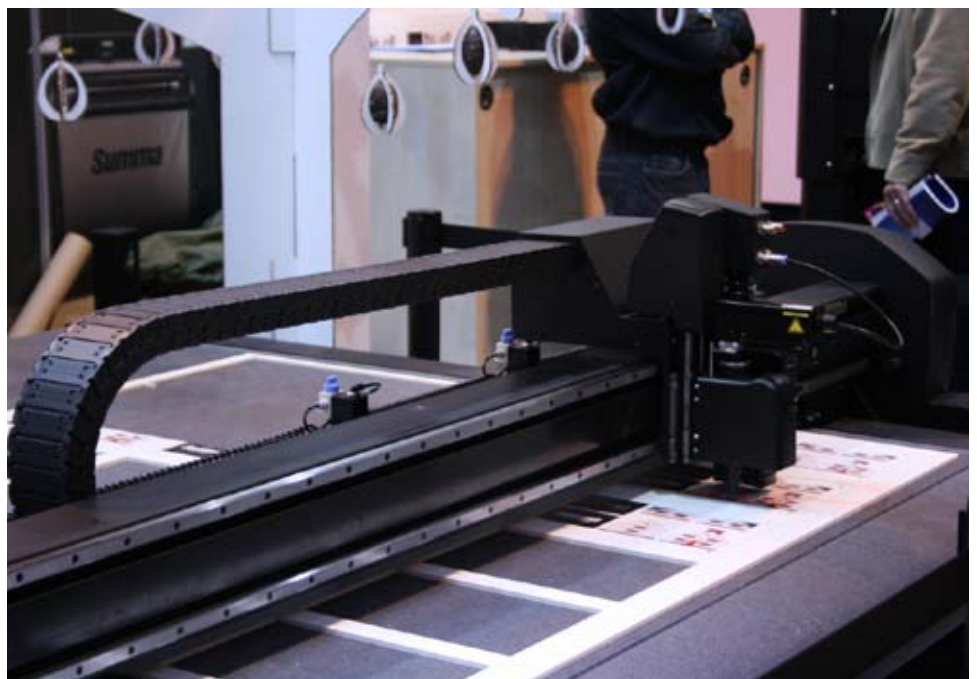




HP LX800 printing some samples at HP booth, you can print some textiles with this printer with extra accessories.

Flatbed cutters

Summa launched the Summa F Series.



A Kongsberg XP 24 cutter was in a larger booth.



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Kongsberg XL Series Cutter-Routers



Esko Kongsber cut samples.

Zünd 3G at Océ booth and GPT.



Zünd at Océ booth.



Zünd at GPT booth.

Aftermarket Inks

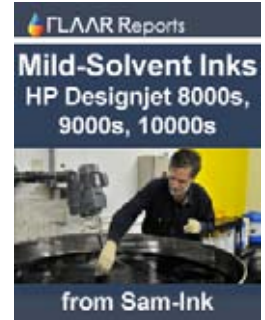
SAM*Ink at their booth and at Colour Mill Ltd booth.

The booth of Sam Ink was busy all day long. Sam, Tan, and their local distributors were busy every day with customers. It seems their ink is popular in UK. Sam Ink also makes inks for

- HP Designjet water-based printers;
- for HP Designjet mild-solvent printers (HP 8000s, 9000s, 10000s):
- and inks for Roland, Mutoh, Mimaki, AstarJet and all printers with Epson DX 5 printheads.



SAM*Ink booth.





SAM*INK® Ink-Cartridges for Roland, Mimaki, and Mutoh Eco-Solvent printers.



Jetbest was also at Colour Mill Ltd booth.



Color Mill booth, distributor for Jetbest.

Laminators

Drytac laminators and coaters. Drytac offers an impressive range of sophisticated coaters and laminators, but primarily at FESPA, ISA, SGIA, and sign expos of international status. At sign & digital UK they offered new applications combining different kind of media with lamination, for example applications for windows, for canvas and floor applications.



Drytac Bamboo base unit.



Window graphic films at Drytac booth.



Panel with different applications proposed by Drytac.



Floor application printed on removable media overlaminated by Drytac.



Removable media now distributed by Drytac.