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June-July 2024

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President's Note

Forward Movements at drupa 2024

The recent edition of drupa, held in Düsseldorf from May 28 to June 7, 2024, highlighted the critical role that global trade shows continue to play in fostering innovation and collaboration within the printing and publishing industries. As the premier international expo for our sector, drupa is not just a venue for showcasing the latest technologies but also a vital platform for networking, learning, and strategic partnerships.

Despite the challenges faced over the past few years, including significant shifts in global business dynamics and communication practices, drupa 2024 managed to draw a substantial crowd. The event brought together over 1,500 exhibitors and attracted around 1,70,000 visitors, reflecting a resilient and adapting industry eager to reconnect and rediscover its momentum.

The overwhelming presence of high-level discussions about automation, software solutions and potential applications of AI within our industry points to a future where technology integration will become even more critical. The conversations at drupa 2024 served as a precursor to what we might expect in the coming years—more streamlined operations, enhanced customization, and increasingly sophisticated consumer engagement strategies through technology.

The growth in the fiber-based packaging sector, driven by heightened environmental regulations and consumer expectations, was prominently featured. This aligns with a broader industry acknowledgment that sustainability is no longer just a niche but a crucial element of future operational strategies.

The insights garnered from drupa 2024 are invaluable, particularly for those of us who rely on these global touchpoints to gauge industry health and anticipate future trends. It is clear that while the format and execution of such large-scale events may continue to evolve, their importance in fostering dialogue, spurring innovation and facilitating significant business transactions remains undiminished. While each drupa offers a snapshot of the industry at a particular moment, the true value lies in its ability to foster long-term relationships and ideas that will flourish long after the event has concluded. With anticipation, we look forward to seeing how the seeds planted at this year's event will evolve by the next gathering in 2028.

As we continue to reflect on the opportunities presented at drupa 2024, I urge the distinguished members of PPOA who visited drupa 2024 to share their experiences and insights with the readers of this magazine in our subsequent issues. Your stories and perspectives are essential for understanding our industry's path forward and ensuring our collective success.

Rahul Marulkar,
President, PPOA

Editor's Note

Navigating New Frontiers in the Printing and Packaging Industry

The recent gathering at drupa 2024 has left the global printing and packaging industry abuzz with innovations and strategic insights that promise to redefine the landscape of our field. As we dissect the plethora of information presented across various sections in this edition of Mudran Prakash, it is clear that technological advancements and sustainability are steering the industry towards a future where efficiency and environmental responsibility converge.

In our special section, 'drupa exklusiv', we bring the highlights of drupa 2024 to those who could not attend the event in person. This section digs into groundbreaking developments such as the debut of Komori's J-throne 29, a digital press that combines high-speed functionality with sustainability and Canon's varioPRESS iV7, which is setting new benchmarks in the digital printing arena. These innovations not only exemplify the technological strides being made but also reflect the industry's commitment to integrating more environmentally friendly practices.

Furthermore, the introduction of the autonomous printing room by Heidelberg at drupa demonstrates a significant shift towards automation and efficiency in production processes. These advancements are not just about enhancing speed and quality; they are about transforming operational workflows to be more sustainable and cost-effective.

Beyond the technological showcases, drupa 2024 also underscored the importance of global trade shows in fostering collaboration and innovation within the industry. As detailed in our coverage, the event facilitated numerous strategic partnerships and provided a platform for in-depth technical discussions that are vital for driving the industry forward.

This edition of Mudran Prakash also includes a technical article by Prof. Anjan Kumar Baral, which explores the characteristics and uses of water-based versus solvent-based printing inks. His analysis provides crucial insights into how different inks play into the broader themes of sustainability and performance in the industry.

The advancements and discussions highlighted in this edition are not just informative; they are imperative for anyone involved in the printing and packaging industry. We look forward to the continued sharing of experiences and insights from our distinguished members in subsequent issues, enriching our journey towards a more innovative and sustainable future.

Dr. Ganesh Datye,
Editor, Mudran Prakash

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Partnerships, Innovations, Sustainability, AI: drupa 2024 had it All

As drupa 2024 wrapped up on June 7, the global print industry celebrated a successful event buzzing with excitement, technology advancements and strategic partnerships. Following the 2020 cancellation due to COVID-19, this highly anticipated event exceeded expectations with groundbreaking announcements and collaborations. Enlisting key takeaways from drupa 2024.

Strong Alliances

Strategic partnerships were a highlight at drupa 2024. Heidelberg teamed up with Canon to market inkjet cut-sheet printers, such as the varioPRINT iX3200 and the new varioPRESS iV7 B2 press. HP collaborated with Canva, while Landa partnered with Gelato, and Ricoh joined forces with Scodix. These alliances are pivotal for growth, allowing companies like Heidelberg to leverage their offset market presence to help Canon reach new customers, and enabling HP and Landa to tap into the vast communities of print enablers like Canva and Gelato.

Acquisitions and Expansions

Prior acquisitions also played a significant role. Kyocera's purchase of NIXKA in April 2023 has enabled it to expand into industrial and photo applications, highlighting how acquisitions can fuel growth and innovation.

Technological Advancements

Canon's varioPRESS iV7 B2 press was among the major announcements, notable for its speed—8,700 B2 full-color impressions per hour—and modularity. Its ability to feed long edge first at 29.5" hints at potential future upgrades to a B1 press, and its print module tower design suggests the possibility of additional colors beyond CMYK.

Innovative Approaches

Fujifilm introduced the Jet Press 1160CF, featuring a tower/module that removes moisture from paper before printing. This innovation addresses challenges like consistent print color quality, speed maintenance in high-quality modes, and wrinkle reduction on heavier media.

Focus on Software, AI and Sustainability

Ricoh promoted its Pro Z75 and Pro VC80000, both using the same printheads and inks, under the banner "See the Potential in the Future of Print". Konica Minolta showcased the new AccurioJet 60000. Komori emphasized the role of AI in enhancing productivity and uptime of its offset presses through automatic adjustments, and highlighted sustainability by displaying the electrical consumption of its offset presses per job on control panels. HP demonstrated how it helps its PSP customers with sustainability efforts by enabling factory environmental assessments.

Key Takeaways from drupa 2024

Partnerships:

- *Heidelberg & Canon: Inkjet cut-sheet printers*
- *HP & Canva: Collaboration for print communities*
- *Landa & Gelato: Efficiency and quality enhancements*
- *Ricoh & Scodix: Advanced printing solutions*

Innovations:

- *Canon varioPRESS iV7 B2: High-speed, modular printing*
- *Fujifilm Jet Press 1160CF: Consistent quality and speed*

Sustainability:

- *HP: Factory environmental assessments for sustainability*
- *Bobst: Retrofit model for sustainable packaging solutions*

AI:

- *Komori J-Throne 29: AI-driven productivity and energy transparency*
- *Koenig & Bauer/Durst: Hybrid analogue and digital technologies*

Bobst's Visionary Approach

Bobst impressed with a booth devoid of equipment, instead presenting a retrofit model that highlighted its commitment to sustainability and seamless end-to-end workflows, aimed at alleviating industry pain points.

Canon's Storytelling and Innovations

Canon's 'Power to Move' theme captured the audience's imagination, showcasing its vision for the future of print. The new LabelStream LS2000 attracted significant interest for its advanced capabilities.

EFI's Digital Solutions

EFI's booth featured the popular Nazomi 14000 AQ press and the new Packsize EFI X5 Nazomi, designed for the e-commerce market. This system efficiently delivers right-sized packaging in 6-7 seconds.

Landa's Nanography Technology

Landa's opening event, led by Benny Landa, spotlighted Nanography technology and partnerships with Gelato and ESP Colour, promising enhanced efficiency and quality in print and packaging.

Screen's Innovative Presses

Screen showcased the Truepress PAC 830F for flexible paper packaging and the new Truepress JET 560HDX, which does not require pretreated papers or primers.

HP's Comprehensive Display

HP dedicated an entire hall to various print solutions, demonstrating vibrant samples from commercial print to packaging, with the Indigo 120K and 18K digital presses showing productivity improvements.

Koenig & Bauer/Durst's Digital Integration

Koenig & Bauer/Durst impressed with modern designs and a focus on post-press, digital printing, and flexible packaging, introducing a hybrid concept that unites analogue and digital technologies.

The diverse and innovative approaches showcased at drupa 2024 underscore the event's significance. Each exhibitor brought unique solutions and visions, linking to print buyers' criteria of quality, productivity, cost, and sustainability, making drupa 2024 a forward-looking trade show experience.

(Source: Jean Lloyd & German Sacristan, Key Point Intelligence)

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drupa 2024 Records Unparalleled Success

drupa 2024, held in Düsseldorf from May 27 to June 7, marked a milestone for the global print industry with its record-breaking international presence and a plethora of innovative technologies unveiled. Over 1,643 exhibitors from 52 nations showcased their latest advancements, drawing 1,70,000 visitors from 174 countries. This grand event not only highlighted the industry's operational excellence but also served as a testament to its resilient adaptability and future-oriented vision.

drupa 2024 exceeded all expectations. It received top marks from visitors from all over the world, who left the trade fair with new ideas and clear prospects for the future. Numerous contracts signed and technological innovations inspired the print and packaging industry.

drupa 2024 in Düsseldorf, the world's No. 1 trade fair for printing technologies, drew to a successful close on 7 June after eleven days. It impressively demonstrated the progress of an entire sector and gave proof of the operational excellence of the industry.

1,643 exhibitors from 52 nations presented an outstanding showcase of innovations in the Düsseldorf exhibition halls and thrilled the trade visitors with unforgettable performances. The international share of the visitors was 80%, with attendees coming from 174 countries - a record figure. After Europe, Asia was the most strongly represented region with 22%, followed by America with 12%. Asia as well as Latin America and the MENA region are markets with great growth potential, which was reflected in the significant increase in exhibitors' presence and order books.

Key Highlights from drupa 2024

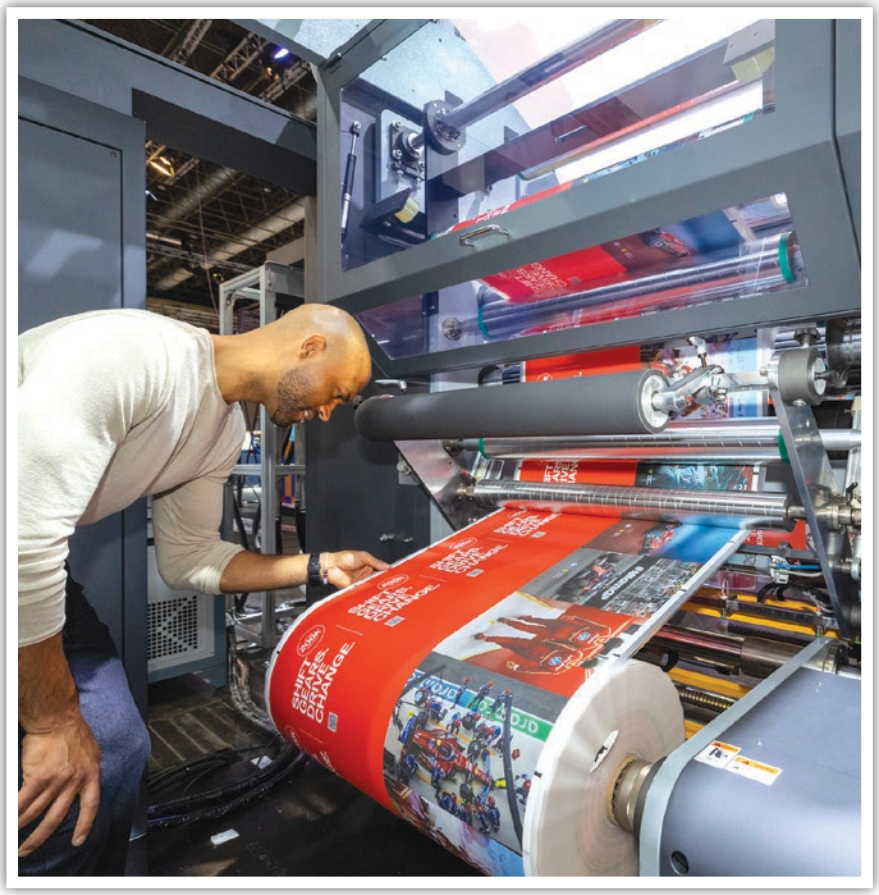
- *Halls: 18*
- *Exhibitors: 1,643 from 52 countries*
- *Focus Industries: Printing (over 50%), followed by packaging*
- *Visitors: 1,70,000 from 174 countries*
- *Visitor Satisfaction: 96% achieved their visit objectives*

Many key players, such as Bobst, Canon, Fujifilm, Heidelberger Druckmaschinen, HP, Horizon, Koenig & Bauer, Komori Konica Minolta, Kurz and Landa, reported having signed contracts that significantly exceeded expectations. In some cases, the sales targets set were already achieved in the first few days of the trade fair.

Erhard Wienkamp, Managing Director at Messe Düsseldorf, is highly satisfied with the course of the trade fair: "drupa has underpinned its position as the industry's leading trade fair and its unique appeal in a remarkable way. The impressive international flair and, above all, the high decision-making competence of the visitors ensured in-depth and well-founded technical discussions at the trade fair stands on the one hand and many direct investment decisions on the other. Our exhibitors told us about large-volume purchase agreements."

Dr Andreas Pleßke, Chairman of the drupa Committee, emphasised the

exceptional position and relevance of drupa: “drupa stands for new approaches and new technologies like no other trade fair. It is not only the largest, but also the most important global platform for our industry, because the entire printing and post-press industry meets at the world-leading trade fair. Nowhere else offers the opportunity to make so many new international contacts from all over the world in such a short space of time in one place.”



Industry decision-makers highly satisfied

Exhibitors praised the high level of decision-making competence of visitors. They, in turn, gave top marks to the range of products and services on offer in the 18 exhibition halls. Around 96% of all visitors confirmed that they had fully achieved the objectives associated with their visit. At over 50%, most of them came from the printing industry, followed by the packaging industry, whose share has increased significantly and which was the focus of many exhibitors as a growth driver. Many well-known brand owners were welcomed at the trade fair stands. In total, 1,70,000 trade visitors attended drupa 2024.

Digitalisation as a determining factor

Automation took centre stage at this year’s drupa, with a strong focus on AI and smart workflows, including software solutions. It became clear that digital and analogue technologies ideally complement and benefit from each other. Traditional industry leaders presented a wide range of digital solutions, while digital pioneers integrated conventional components into their offerings. Robotics played an important role in the exhibition halls and illustrated the path towards the smart factory.

Transformation and growth

drupa made it abundantly clear that the industry has great potential for the future, even against the backdrop of many challenges, and that the prospects are promising. In the last financial year, the global printing industry achieved a turnover of around EUR 840 billion (source: Smithers) and continues to develop at varying pace worldwide.

“At drupa 2024, we experienced first-hand just how relevant and resilient this industry is,” summarises Sabine Geldermann, Director drupa, Portfolio Print Technologies. “The community is determined to set the course for the future together. Exchanging ideas with people from all continents and from all areas of the industry was extremely enriching and inspiring. We were able to welcome around 50 large delegations from various nations, and numerous globally active associations and organisations chose drupa as the ideal setting for their conferences and board meetings.

Sustainable technologies in focus

Technology is the key to achieving sustainability goals - exhibitors at drupa illustrated this with numerous practice-orientated developments and concrete solutions. Top priority is given to resource efficiency and the path to a functioning circular economy. In addition, Touchpoint Sustainability from the VDMA, the German Machinery and Equipment Manufacturers’ Association, showcased current state of the art innovations, presented best-practice use cases and gave a far-reaching outlook into the future of a sustainable printing industry.

Valuable knowledge transfer

The extensive supporting programme with its five high-calibre special forums drupa cube, drupa next age (dna) and the Touchpoints Packaging, Textile and Sustainability was very well received. In times of constant change and the resulting new business models, they ensured an intensive transfer of knowledge and provided important guidance. Together with its partners, drupa focused on impressive industry expertise and the future topics of its target groups. Guided tours on various key topics rounded off the trade fair experience.

The next drupa will be held in 2028.

Drupa Exhibition 2024, Germany

A Recap of PPOA's Visit

The Poona Press Owners Association Ltd. (PPOA) members attended the prestigious Drupa Exhibition 2024, held in Düsseldorf, Germany from May 27 to June 7, 2024. This renowned event, focusing on printing technology, proved to be exceptionally beneficial for all attendees.

Visit Details : Our delegation visited the exhibition from May 28 to June 1, 2024. During this period, we had the opportunity to explore the latest innovations and trends in the printing industry. The exhibition featured impressive demonstrations of new machine technologies from leading companies such as Komori, Landa Digital, HP, and KBA Rapida. These demonstrations showcased the cutting-edge advancements and capabilities of their machines, providing invaluable insights and networking opportunities that will undoubtedly benefit our association and its members.

India Day Celebration : A highlight of our visit was the celebration of India Day on May 30. This special event brought together Indian printers in a unique program that underscored the contributions and advancements of Indian professionals in the printing sector. We were honored to have Mr. B. S. Mubarak, the Consul General of India, as our special guest. Additionally, Mr. Ravindra Joshi, Chairman of the World Print Forum and Past President of the All India Federation of Master Printers (AIFMP), felicitated Mr. Mubarak. Mr. Raghvendra Dutta Barua, President of AIFMP, also spoke about the development of the printing industry in India, highlighting significant achievements and future opportunities.

Delegation and Arrangements : Our delegation comprised around 15 members from Pune, India. The entire tour was meticulously organized by Veda Holidays, Pune. Their arrangements were outstanding, ensuring a seamless and enriching experience for all attendees.

Post-Exhibition Leisure : After the exhibition, members of our delegation enjoyed an 8-day leisure trip to Turkey, arranged by Veda Holidays. This excursion provided a perfect blend of relaxation and cultural exploration, rounding off our international visit with memorable experiences.

Overall, our visit to the Drupa Exhibition 2024 was a resounding success, offering significant professional development and fostering camaraderie among our members. We look forward to implementing the knowledge gained and continuing our association's tradition of excellence in the printing industry.

Kishor P. Gore
Secretary, PPOA









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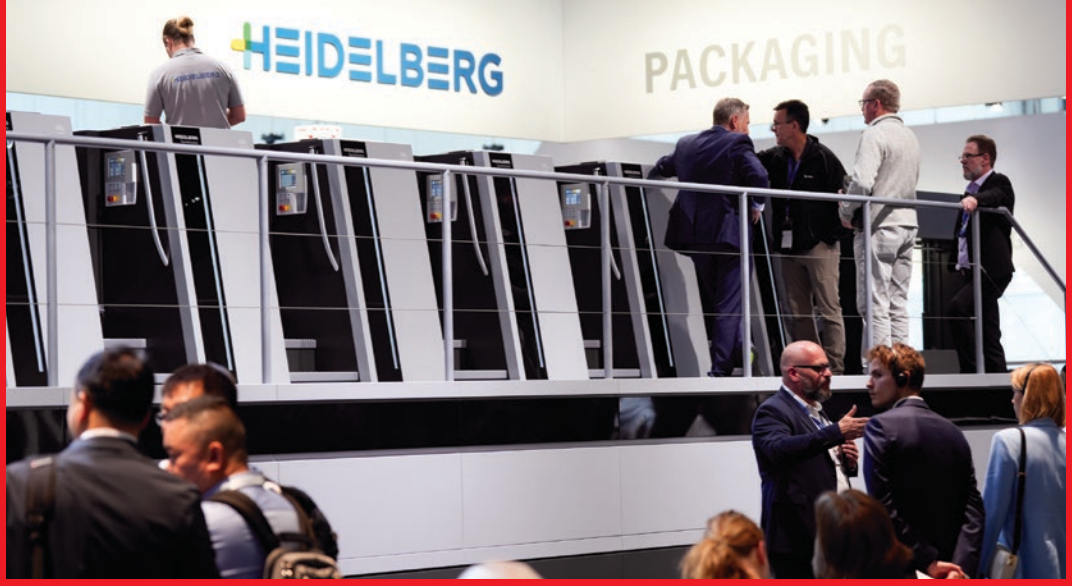

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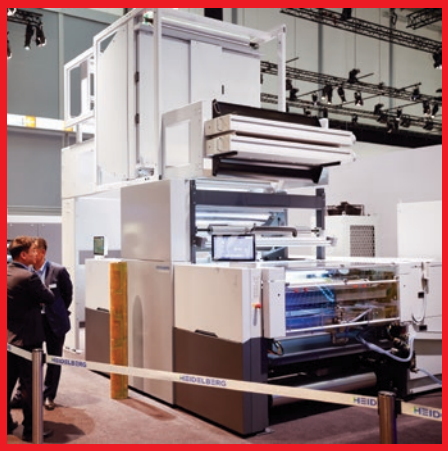

The Autonomous Printing Room Becomes a Reality

Cost pressures on commercial and publisher printing are enormous and skilled labour is hard to find and retain. At drupa 2024 Heidelberg presented the Speedmaster XL 106 of the Peak Performance Generation. Featuring push-to-stop philosophy and fully automatic plate-to-unit printing plate logistics, this press makes for largely automatic production – now also with up to 21,000 sheets per hour in straight printing or perfecting mode. The new Prinect Image Control 4 is the first system to inspect both sides of the sheet with auto-duplexing machines. Thanks to inline rejection of waste sheets and stacking logistics the system ensures defective sheets are removed automatically and only waste-free stacks are delivered for post-press operations.

In addition, the new Stahlfolder TH 82-P folding machine can easily keep up with the Speedmaster XL 106's output. With this combination Heidelberg enables its customers to increase their net output by some 15% without increasing machine speed. The new StackStar C robot system additionally reduces the workload. This flexible robot is designed for automatic stacking in print finishing and can easily be repositioned between presses/machines. Thanks to an innovative safety concept no safety fencing is required and quality control is also possible during production without stopping the robot. Using two StackStar C robots in tandem operation output can be doubled.

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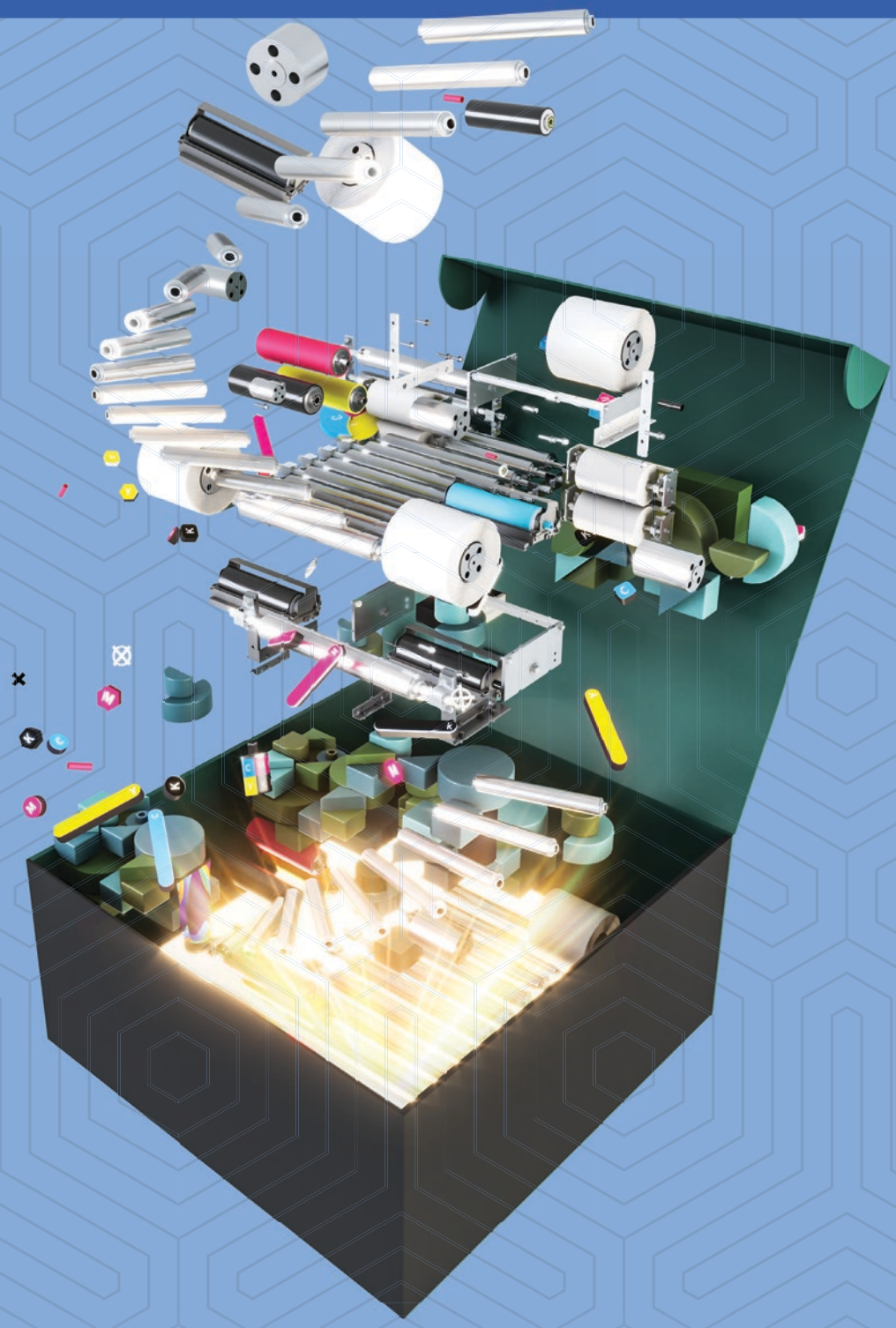

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drupa 2024: A Glimpse into the Future of Printing and Packaging

In this article for Mudran Prakash, Sahil Rao, founder of Unbox Packaging and director at Akruti Print Solutions Pvt. Ltd., shares his experiences at drupa 2024. With extensive experience in the packaging and printing industry, Sahil provides an in-depth look at the innovations and trends showcased at the event, offering valuable insights for industry professionals.

Attending drupa 2024 in Düsseldorf was a remarkable experience, providing a unique window into the future of the printing industry. The highlight of the show was the advancements in digital printing. Companies like HP and Canon showcased their latest digital presses, which are not only faster but also deliver higher quality output with versatile media handling capabilities. These machines are set to revolutionize the production process, making it more efficient and flexible.

Sustainability was another key focus at drupa 2024. I was particularly impressed by the strides made in eco-friendly inks, recyclable substrates, and energy-efficient machinery.

Automation and AI were prominent throughout the exhibition. From AI-driven prepress software to fully automated production lines, the integration of these technologies promises to streamline workflows and enhance productivity.

Despite the surge in digital technologies, offset printing remains robust. Innovations aimed at improving the efficiency and quality of offset printing ensure that it continues to be a viable option for high-volume and high-quality print jobs. This balance between traditional and modern printing methods was fascinating to witness.

Key Takeaways:

- ***Digital Printing:*** *Advances in speed, quality, and media handling.*
- ***Sustainability:*** *Eco-friendly inks, recyclable substrates, energy-efficient machinery.*
- ***Automation and AI:*** *Streamlined workflows, enhanced productivity.*
- ***Offset Printing:*** *Continued relevance with improved efficiency and quality.*
- ***Packaging Solutions:*** *Emphasis on smart packaging, sustainable materials, rigid boxes.*
- ***Landa Nanographic Printing:*** *Bridging digital and offset with high-quality, cost-effective solutions.*
- ***Inkjet and Offset Integration:*** *Greater flexibility and customization in print production.*

Packaging solutions were a major draw at drupa 2024. The emphasis on smart packaging, sustainable materials, and advanced printing techniques is transforming the industry. The shift towards rigid boxes to meet the demand for premium and durable packaging was particularly noteworthy.

One of the standout attractions was Landa Nanographic Printing. Benny Landa's machines have finally hit the market and their technology promises to bridge the gap between digital and offset printing. The high-quality output at competitive speeds and costs garnered significant attention.

The integration of inkjet and offset technologies was another trend that caught my eye. The combination allows for greater flexibility, efficiency, and customization in print production, making it an appealing option for a wide range of applications.

drupa 2024 made it clear that the future of printing lies in digital transformation, sustainability, and automation. As an industry professional, I believe attending trade shows like drupa is essential for staying ahead of the curve. They offer invaluable insights into the latest trends and technologies, helping businesses innovate and grow.

Komori J-throne 29 Debuts at drupa 2024

A Breakthrough in Digital Printing Technology

Komori launched a revolutionary digital press, the J-throne 29, at drupa 2024, setting new standards in the digital printing industry. This sheet-fed UV inkjet digital press offers remarkable speed, versatility, and quality, making it a game-changer for various printing applications.

Komori, a leading player in the printing industry, has launched a groundbreaking new digital press, the J-throne 29 at drupa 2024. This sheet-fed UV inkjet digital press, loaded with advanced feature, is equipped to cater to a wide range of printing applications.

Key features and capabilities

The J-throne 29 offers an impressive speed of up to 6,000 sheets per hour for single-sided printing and 3,000 sheets per hour for double-sided printing. This high-speed capability ensures that print jobs are completed efficiently, making it an ideal solution for businesses requiring quick turnaround times. The press is designed to handle a variety of substrates, including thin paper, thick cardboard, and even non-paper materials, providing unmatched versatility in the types of projects it can accommodate.

One of the standout features of the J-throne 29 is its advanced UV inkjet technology, which ensures high-quality prints with vibrant colors and sharp details. The UV inks are cured instantly during the printing process, which not only enhances the durability of the prints but also allows for immediate handling and finishing. This feature is particularly beneficial for packaging and label printing, where durability and speed are critical.

Komori J-throne 29: Tech Specs

- *Print Speed: Up to 6,000 sheets per hour*
- *UV inkjet machine*
- *Compatible with thin paper, thick cardboard and non-paper materials*
- *AI-driven system for automatic adjustments*
- *Self-diagnostic and routine maintenance features*
- *Eco-friendly UV inks, energy-efficient design*

Advanced AI and Automation

In addition to its impressive physical capabilities, the J-throne 29 is equipped with advanced automation and artificial intelligence (AI) features. The AI-driven system can automatically adjust settings based on the specific requirements of each print job, ensuring optimal performance and consistent quality.

The automation features extend to maintenance as well, with the J-throne 29 capable of performing self-diagnostic checks and routine maintenance tasks. This proactive approach minimizes downtime and ensures that the press operates at peak efficiency, further enhancing its appeal to businesses with high-volume printing needs.

Commitment to Sustainability

Komori has also prioritized sustainability in the design of the J-throne 29. The press uses eco-friendly UV inks that are free from harmful volatile organic compounds (VOCs), reducing the environmental impact of the printing process. Additionally, the energy-efficient design of the press minimizes power consumption, making it a more sustainable option for environmentally conscious businesses.

Canon Announces the varioPRESS iV7 on drupa Eve

The Game-Changer in Digital Printing is Scheduled for 2025 Launch

On the eve of drupa 2024, Canon took a significant leap into the B2 sheetfed inkjet market with its announcement of the varioPRESS iV7. This latest addition to Canon's production portfolio is set to redefine industry standards, boasting an impressive capacity to produce 8,700 B2 4/0 sheets per hour.

Canon's strategic unveiling of the varioPRESS iV7 solidifies its standing in the digital printing market, further bolstering its competitive edge. Following the success of last year's varioPRINT iX 1700, Canon has now expanded its reach, offering a robust solution tailored for all levels of print service providers (PSPs)—from low to large average monthly print volumes (AMPVs).

Bridging the Market Gaps

Canon's introduction of the varioPRESS iV7 is not just another product launch; it's a significant strategic expansion in its portfolio. The new B2+ inkjet press is not merely about filling a product line gap—it's about creating opportunities and delivering tailored solutions that meet the diverse needs of PSPs. Keypoint Intelligence highlights this as a critical development in an area ripe with potential.

varioPRESS iV7: A Tech Marvel

Launched at the recent PRINTING United event, the varioPRESS iV7 is not just any press; it's the fastest B2 digital printing press on the market, capable of producing 8,700 B2 full-color impressions per hour on various media types and weights. Its impressive modularity and potential for future upgrades to a B1 format underscore Canon's commitment to innovation and adaptability.

Canon varioPRESS iV7 at a Glance

- *Type: B2+ Inkjet Digital Printing Press*
- *Speed: 8,700 B2 impressions per hour*
- *Print Size: Largest B2 (24.2" x 29.5")*
- *Launch: Scheduled for the second half of 2025*
- *Noteworthy: Potential upgrade to B1, features proprietary 1200-dpi piezo printheads*

Anticipated Launch and Industry Buzz

Set for a release in the second half of 2025, the varioPRESS iV7 has already generated significant buzz. Visitors to drupa can witness firsthand the superior print quality and detailed presentations on the capabilities of this groundbreaking press. Despite the expected higher initial investment, the varioPRESS iV7 promises a competitive total cost of ownership (TCO), particularly for PSPs with larger AMPVs.

Canon's latest move with the varioPRESS iV7 positions it at the forefront of digital printing technology. The future looks bright for Canon and its clientele in the digital printing landscape.

Characteristics and Uses of Water-Based and Solvent-Based Printing Inks

Prof. Anjan Kumar Baral's article analyzes the features and applications of water-based and solvent-based printing inks. He discusses their compositions, performance and environmental impacts, highlighting the eco-friendliness of water-based inks and the strong adhesion and durability of solvent-based inks. The article also touches on hybrid inks, which merge the benefits of both types to enhance performance and reduce environmental effects.

Abstract

A thorough examination of the features and uses of printing inks based on solvent and water is critically analysed and discussed in this technical article. It commences by delineating the basic makeup of both varieties of inks, encompassing their principal chemical constituents and the procedures entailed in their manufacturing process. The performance characteristics of each type of ink, including adherence to the surface of the different substrates, colour brilliance, drying times, and environmental impact, are then pointed out. Water-based inks are emphasized for their eco-friendliness, reduced emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and compatibility with a wide range of printing substrates. They are mainly made up of pigments or dyes suspended in a water-soluble carrier. Such type of inks are a popular choice for packaging and commercial applications because of their great print colour quality and low health risks associated with the final printing output.

On the other hand, the superior adherence of solvent-based inks especially to non-porous materials including ceramics, metals, and plastics is highlighted in the subsequent discussions. These inks use organic solvents as carriers. They are perfect for outdoor and industrial applications because to their quick drying time and resilience to external elements including water and UV light. The significance of choosing the right ink type for a given printing application

is emphasized, taking into account issues like substrate compatibility, required durability, and environmental constraints. The article goes into including hybrid printing inks and the futuristic approach of printing ink industry.

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Introduction

An ink is a semi-liquid substance that resembles a liquid or paste and is used for the purpose of text and graphic writing, drawing, and printing. Numerous printing techniques exist in the market place, including letterpress, flexographic, lithographic-offset, gravure, screen and non-impact printing techniques like electrophotography and ink-jet printing, for taking care of a wide range of printing requirements. A colloidal system, ink is usually made up of additives, solvent, carrier, and colourant. A range of types and formulas of ink are required due to its numerous applications or uses suiting to the particular printing process. A journey through technological progress, industrial growth, and growing environmental consciousness may be traced in the evolution of solvent-based printing inks. The first notable application of solvent-based inks was with the introduction of flexography and gravure printing in the early 20th century, following the 19th century's lithography and early use of oil-based inks. These inks, which used acetates and alcohol, provided quick drying times and strong adhesion to a range of printing substrates, which were essential for printing on an industrial scale.

Much progress was made after World War II, especially in the packaging industry, where solvent-based inks gained popularity due to their superior press performance. But by the 1970s, the environmental impact of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released by these inks generated regulatory attention, which resulted in the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and subsequent tighter regulations. Significant technological developments occurred in the second half of the 20th century, such as the development of solvent-based inks for new digital printing technologies and high-solid inks with lower volatile organic compounds. Eco-solvent and UV-curable inks were developed in the twenty-first century to address environmental issues and improve print quality and adaptability.

Water-based inks date back to approximately 2500 B.C. Black writing inks were the earliest water-based inks, usually consisting of carbon in water suspensions stabilized by natural gum or egg albumen. Although water-based inks have been around for more than 4500 years, their use was minimal until the late 1960s. Due to their inherent issues, water-based inks were long dismissed as a competitive alternative to solvent-based inks. Due to a scarcity of crude oil in the 1970s and growing awareness of the potential harm that ink's solvents could cause to people and the environment, new regulations were implemented, which forced the ink industry to look for a substitute in the form of water-based inks. The goal of using water-based inks is to completely remove hazardous chemical from ink, not just reduce the VOC's that are present.

Why Printing with Solvent-Based Inks?

The printing industry continues to choose solvent-based printing inks because of their distinct benefits, which include outstanding durability, adaptability, and final print quality. These inks are perfect for outdoor applications and items that need to maintain colour integrity for a long time because of their strong resistance to environmental elements like UV light, water, and abrasion. Without sacrificing print quality or brightness, their excellent adhesive qualities allow printing on a wide variety of surfaces, including non-porous materials like metals and plastics. Solvent-based inks quick drying time improves production efficiency by enabling printed products to be handled and processed more quickly. Technological advancements in eco-solvent formulations have reduced toxicity and improved biodegradability, mitigating the environmental concerns related with emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Their cost-effectiveness is further evidence of their attractiveness, since solvent-based inks frequently eliminate the need for additional finishing steps and frequent reprints. Their adaptability is increased by their compatibility with many printing techniques as flexography, gravure, and digital printing.

Why Printing with Water-Based Inks?

There has been ongoing demand on the printing and ink industries to substitute heavy pigments and other hydrocarbon solvents used in the production of printing inks and coatings. In addition, the solvents used as diluents or for cleaning agents for the processes are under attack. Rules pertaining to the emission of fumes into the atmosphere, the disposal of hazardous waste in landfills and incinerators, the discharge of process waters into groundwater supplies, and the safety of in-plant handling and use were enacted in the United States and subsequently in many other countries. Each of these laws functions primarily within its own region of impact. It was customary to look for a solution that resulted in the transferring of pollutants from one area to another in order to address the shortcomings of one set of characteristics. Each agency sought to enforce its rules, albeit at the

expense of the others.

The necessity of preventing the intentional creation of pollutants goes hand in hand with the overall understanding of their impacts. Waste minimization, waste reduction, and pollution prevention have been labels used to this endeavour. Reducing the possibility of waste generation at the source, through design, and within the fundamental management goals for business operations, is the main motivator. One of the main tools in the fight to replace hydrocarbons and other pollutants in the workplace and community is water-based ink and coatings technology. Some of the potential points which advocates for the use and applications of water based inks for the printing industry applications can be summarized as;

1. Reduction of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released into the atmosphere.
2. Decreased possibility of poisonous materials seeping into the water system.
3. Decreases risk of fire and explosion, thereby getting rid of some of the expensive safety measures and rules needed for the combustible solvents and inks.
4. Decreases the quantity of hazardous wastes.
5. Enhances plant working conditions.
6. Brings the companies into conformity with nearly all laws.

Properties and Characteristics of Solvent-Based Inks

Because of their unique qualities, which provide substantial benefits in a range of printing applications, solvent-based inks are a cornerstone in the printing business. These inks are known for their extraordinary toughness, offering defence against environmental elements like water, abrasion, and UV rays. This makes them especially appropriate for printed goods that need to be durable and long-lasting, such as banners and outdoor signage. Strong adherence to a variety of substrates, including non-porous materials like plastics, metals, and foils, is a crucial characteristic of solvent-based inks. Their adaptability makes them suitable for a wide range

of uses, including textiles, labels, packaging, and promotional goods. The inks create fine details and vivid, high-quality colours, which are necessary for visually striking applications.

Because solvents evaporate quickly, solvent-based inks also have the benefit of quick drying times. This makes it possible to handle and process printed materials more quickly, which increases production efficiency. The emergence of eco-solvent inks has helped to address environmental concerns about volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by lowering VOC emissions and enhancing indoor safety. Another noteworthy feature is cost-effectiveness, which is achieved by using solvent-based inks, which can minimize the need for additional finishing steps and repeated printing, thereby reducing overall manufacturing costs. The environmental profile and application range of inks are being enhanced by ongoing advancements in chemistry.

Properties and Characteristics of Water-Based Inks

Water-based inks are designed, like other inks, for a particular purpose and with specific qualities in mind. That includes the kind of printing techniques to be employed, the substrate or surface to be printed on, the environment the ink will be subjected to, the ink's texture and colour, and so forth. The primary characteristics of water-based inks that are worth examining are their viscosities, surface tensions, colloidal dispersion stability, colourant particle size and shape, shear stability, bleeding, foamability, water resistance, scrubbing resistance, boiling point, temperature, and pH.

When compared to solvent-based inks, modern water-based inks can yield vivid, high-quality colours. Suitable for text and graphics with intricate details, these inks offer good print definition and sharpness. The environment and workers are safer when using water-based inks since they release fewer volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air. They produce less hazardous waste, making disposal easier and having a smaller negative influence on the environment. When it comes to non-porous surfaces like metal and plastic, water-based inks can be difficult to apply. They often adhere well to porous substrates like paper and textiles. They can provide good resistance to fading, wetness, and abrasion with the right formulation; but, for increased longevity, they might need to be coated or undergo post treatment. The health hazards for users are decreased by these inks because they are usually safer to handle and non-toxic. Often comply with strict environmental regulations, making them suitable for food packaging and other sensitive applications.

Merits and Limitations of Solvent-Based Ink

In the printing business, solvent-based inks are a popular option because they provide a good mix of

both benefits and drawbacks. Their main benefits include outstanding endurance and durability, which make them perfect for applications requiring resistance to elements including water, abrasion, and UV radiation. This characteristic makes sure printed products, especially when used outside, keep their brightness and quality over time. Moreover, solvent-based inks stick well to a range of substrates, including non-porous materials like metals and plastics, increasing their adaptability for a wide range of uses, including textiles, packaging, and signage.

Solvent-based inks produce high-quality results that are vital for visually demanding print tasks because of their vivid colours and crisp detail. Because of their quick drying time, they may be handled more quickly and require less turnaround time in production. Additionally, because these inks frequently reduce the need for extra finishing steps and numerous reprints, they might be economical because they lower overall manufacturing costs. Solvent-based inks do have some important restrictions, though. Because of the potential health and environmental effects of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released during the drying process, stringent regulatory compliance and the use of safety precautions are required. While formulations using eco-solvents have been created to mitigate these concerns, the environmental impact may still be present to some extent.

Merits and Limitations of Water-Based Ink

Because of all of the issues that came with them, water-based inks were not popular or frequently used until the 1980s. Water-based inks were limited to use on porous materials like cardboard and paper before the 1980s, when images needed to have the least amount of detail and quality possible. Businesses that print required to buy new machinery and implement new procedures when they switched to water-based inks. In addition to their poor print quality, poor blocking resistance, poor water resistance, poor abrasion resistance, and a host of other drawbacks, water-based inks required a larger drying capacity and could only be used on specific materials, they couldn't be used on metals or plastics.

Additionally, water-based inks would dry on printing equipment, ruining rollers and screens. The physical characteristics of water-based inks have been improved with the inclusion of additives such as high molecular weight resins, waxes, surfactants, and other compounds. Water-based inks today offer greater performance, cheaper printing costs, and are a less harmful choice for people and the environment, despite the fact that they had several drawbacks in the past when compared to other solvent-based inks. Some of the potential benefits of water-based inks can be listed as;

1. No special handling or storage requirements.
2. No explosion proof equipment is necessary.
3. More stable on press (including pH).
4. Higher yield.
5. Higher photopolymer plates useful life.
6. Very low VOCs content: VOCs treatment is not necessary. Less solvent consumption.

Water-based printing inks also exhibit some limitations and one of the basic drawback of such type of inks; water evaporates slower which leads to less drying speed and less re-solubility.

Applications of Solvent-Based Inks

Because of their strong characteristics and adaptability, which make them appropriate for a variety of applications, solvent-based inks are widely used in the printing industry. Outdoor applications including signage, billboards, and vehicle wraps are perfect for these inks because of their remarkable endurance and resilience to environmental elements like water, abrasion, and UV radiation. Their robust adherence properties enable printing on numerous non-porous substrates, including as foils, metals, vinyl, and plastics, hence broadening their application in numerous industries. Solvent-based inks are the favoured choice for packaging because they can print on both rigid and flexible materials, giving labels, containers, and flexible packaging films vivid, long-lasting prints. Their ability to dry quickly increases production efficiency, which makes them appropriate for high-speed flexographic and gravure printing techniques.

High-quality commercial prints, such promotional brochures and point-of-sale displays, depend on the brilliant colour output and crisp detail that solvent-based inks provide. Additionally, solvent-based inks are advantageous to the textile printing sector because they can create vibrant, long-lasting designs on synthetic fabrics a necessity for apparel intended for outdoor activities, sports, and banners. Even with their benefits, using solvent-based inks comes with drawbacks because of volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. To reduce environmental effects, strict regulatory compliance and the creation of eco-solvent alternatives are required.

Applications of Water-Based Inks

Water-based inks can now be easily applied to most materials, including plastics and foils and thanks to significant advancements in ink technology over the past 40 years. This is achieved by the use of surface preparation processes like the corona treatment. The majority of printing processes, the majority of materials, and a wide range of applications may now use water-based inks; thanks to the development of novel additives and printing techniques. In addition to printing on paper, cardboard, and textiles, water-based inks are also excellent for printing on foil, plastic, and food packaging. The ink-jet printer is one of the main uses of water-based inks that has emerged in the last ten years. As the number of personal computers increased so did the demand for printers and thus the ink. When it comes to applying the ink to the substrate or surface, the water-based inks found in many ink-jet printers work similarly to other water-based inks. When the ink comes into contact with the surface, it takes some time for it to wet and begin to evaporate. Wetting and penetration

into the substrate or surface happen while the solvent keeps evaporating until it is dry.

Formulations of Solvent-Based Ink

Performance, durability, and environmental impact are all carefully considered during the formulation process of solvent-based inks. Usually made up of multiple essential ingredients, these formulations are tailored to particular substrate properties and printing needs. Delicate balances must be struck when formulating solvent-based inks to meet regulatory standards for volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and environmental impact, while yet achieving desired print qualities including adhesion, gloss, colour intensity, and drying speed. New developments attempt to minimize environmental impact while maintaining performance standards by creating solvent-based eco-friendly inks with lower volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and better biodegradability. In nutshell, creating solvent-based inks is a difficult process that combines a number of different elements to produce the best printing outcomes possible for a range of applications while putting a focus on environmental responsibility, performance, and durability.

Formulations of Water-Based Ink

The components of an ink are colourant, solvent, vehicle, and additives. The variety of water-based inks appears to be endless. To give the ink the required qualities, thousands of different pigments, additives, and carriers are utilized in various proportions and combinations. In general, the composition of water-based printing inks consists of 60% water or other solvents, 20% vehicle (resin), 15% colourant, and 5% additives.

Factors Affecting the Change to Water-Based Inks

For many printers, switching from solvent-based printing to water-based printing is becoming both economically and environmentally necessary. Many printers have severe worries about their ability to print using water-based inks because they have had problems in the past or heard about the troubles of others. The fact that so many people have made the shift successfully proves that it is possible with the correct methods of planning. Most printers may effectively make the switch if they have a basic understanding of water-based inks, their physical requirements, and an honest assessment of the capabilities of the printing press.

The drying rate of water-based inks on a given printing press is affected by a number of factors, including the press's maximum speed when using solvent-based inks, the number of colours trapped in the trap sequence, the volume of the anilox rolls, the ratio of fountain rolls to anilox squeeze, the ratio of printing plates to substrate squeeze, the indication of the run-out of the plate and anilox cylinders, and most importantly the amount of air capacity that can be delivered between colour decks. It is imperative to optimize all of these variables in addition to others in order to achieve the most performance out of water-based inks.

Hybrid Printing Inks

Hybrid inks are a new development in the printing industry that combine the benefits of water-based and solvent-based inks while reducing the drawbacks of both. By combining solvent-based and water-based ingredients, hybrid inks seek to achieve a balance between these two ink types. Because of this, hybrid inks can provide better adherence to substrates that are porous or non-porous, intense colour, and better environmental performance with lower VOC emissions. Typically, the formulation uses water as the main solvent, with additional solvents or chemicals added to improve drying speed, adhesion, and durability.

Hybrid inks have a wide range of uses in packaging, labels, and commercial printing because of their adaptability to varied surfaces and printing techniques. The combination of solvent-based and water-based inks advantages and their inherent drawbacks is addressed by hybrid inks, which show promise as an innovation. Their ability to achieve high-quality prints with reduced environmental impact makes them increasingly attractive in the printing industry. Hybrid ink formulas are still being improved through ongoing research and development with the goal of maximizing application diversity, sustainability, and performance in contemporary printing processes.

Conclusions

Overall, solvent-based inks offer a balanced blend of performance, efficiency, and adaptability, making them a preferred option for a wide array of printing applications. Significant advancements in water-based ink technology have been accomplished throughout the past forty years. Although development has slowed down in recent years, water-based ink technology will continue to advance for some time. Concerning the environment and human health, there isn't currently a good substitute for water-based inks. When more formerly printed materials become electronic, e.g., books becoming available online, emails taking the place of letters the amount of ink used will eventually decline.

Technological innovation, sustainability requirements, and changing customer preferences are expected to drive substantial developments in printing inks in the future. As producers investigate bio-based and recyclable materials as well as closed-loop recycling procedures, the circular economy concept is having an impact on the development of ink. Reduction of waste and environmental effect is expected throughout the product lifecycle using ink formulas intended for de-ink and easy recycling. Colour management, predictive maintenance, and workflow optimization are all seeing improvements thanks to artificial intelligence and machine learning, which also helps printing operations operate more efficiently and save expenses. Also, printed material is becoming dynamic, interactive experiences thanks to the combination of interactive printing technology and augmented reality.

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Inaugural Edition of the Show Draws Industry Leaders and Innovators

From June 13 to 15, the Autocluster Exhibition Centre in Pune hosted the inaugural edition of PackVision Expo 2024, alongside the CorrVision Expo and Folding Carton Show. The event marked a significant milestone for the packaging industry, attracting over 11,500 trade visitors, including key stakeholders and industry leaders from companies like Nestle, Mondelez, and HP India.

The first edition of PackVision Expo featured an impressive display of the latest machinery, solutions, and technologies from the packaging, folding cartons, and corrugated packaging industries. The event not only showcased live demonstrations but also facilitated discussions on key industry challenges such as sustainability, digital transformation, and market trends.

Jasmine Chopra, Portfolio Director at Future Market Events, reflected on the event's success: "We are thrilled with the participation and the impact of the PackVision Expo. It highlighted the industry's advancements and played a crucial role in job creation and economic development by fostering new business opportunities."

The PackVision Summit, a highlight of the expo, featured a series of seminars, case studies, and panel discussions led by experts from leading global and local companies. The discussions were centered around the theme 'Reimagining Packaging: Smarter, Greener, Consumer-Centric', addressing the pressing needs of the industry to innovate and adapt to changing consumer preferences and environmental concerns.

PackVision Expo 2024 Overview

As the curtains closed on the PackVision Expo 2024, participants and organizers alike looked forward to the potential growth and innovations that the insights and connections made during the event are expected to spur in the packaging industry. The success of the expo underscored the importance of such platforms in catalyzing industry progression and setting new benchmarks for quality and sustainability in packaging.

Members of the Poona Press Owners Association (PPOA) made a significant appearance at the recently concluded PackVision Expo 2024 in Pune. Led by the President, Rahul Marulkar, the PPOA delegation engaged actively in various seminars and discussions, networking with industry leaders, and exploring the latest technologies showcased at the event. Their participation underscored the association's commitment to keeping abreast of industry trends and technological advancements, which are crucial for enhancing the capabilities and competitiveness of their member organizations in the dynamic printing and packaging sectors.

Notable attendees from the PackVision Expo 2024:

- *Shivhari Halan, President of the Federation of Chakan Industries (FCI)*
- *H. P. Srivastava, Founder Director and Vice Chairman of the Deccan Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (DCCIA)*
- *Adv. Appasaheb Shinde, President of the Pimpri Chinchwad Chamber of Industries, Commerce, Services & Agriculture (PCCICS)*
- *Amrit Garg, Director of AIDC Solutions & Research Foundation*
- *Balasaheb Ambedkar, President of the Maharashtra Mudran Parishad*
- *Kamal Mohan Chopra, Secretary General of the Offset Printers Association*
- *Rahul Marulkar, President of the Poona Press Owners Association (PPOA)*
- *Chandrasekhar Rajagopalan, President of the Indian Flexible Packaging & Folding Carton Manufacturers Association*
- *Bhavesh Dani, President of the Maharashtra Box Association*
- *Dharmendra Kumar V Pandya, President of the Federation of Corrugated Box Manufacturers (FCBM)*
- *T. M. Raghavan, Vice President I of FCBM*
- *Rajendra Singh Bhati, Vice President II of FCBM*
- *Anil Loya, President of the Western India Corrugated Box Manufacturers Association*
- *Achyut Chandra, President of the Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers' Association*
- *Swadesh Sharma, President of the Madhya Pradesh Corrugated Box Manufacturers Association*
- *Rishi Nagpal, CEO of Nagpal Natraj Corrugating Machinery Company*
- *Bijendra Sharma, Managing Director of BHS Corrugated India Pvt. Ltd.*
- *K Venugopal Menon, Zone Business Director of Bobst India*

Additionally, speakers from prominent companies such as Nestle, Mondelez, Kimberly Clark, Flipkart, Burger King, Reliance, Chitale Bandhu, RIO Innobev, Finolex, SKODA Volkswagen, Ultratech, Mother's Recipe, Mahindra Group, TATA AutoComp, and HP India also participated in various discussions focused on the theme of 'Reimagining Packaging: Smarter, Greener, Consumer-Centric'.

ADOPTECH 2024

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Save the Date **24 August 2024**

Attention all members of the Poona Press Owners' Association and the vibrant Pune printing press community!

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- **5** **Deshpande Dilip Madhav**, Pentafold
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- **9** **Kirti Vijay Shelar**, Amrapali Enterprises
- **15** **Rajput Madansingh P.**, Karan Printers
- **15** **Jagade Krushna Raghu**, Yogiraj Printers
- **16** **Gaddam Lakshmi Rajvardhan**, Samarth Process
- **22** **Ghatpande Harish**, Amogh Arts
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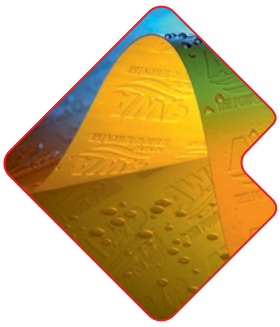

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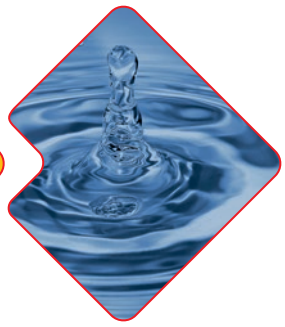

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