
Pinpointing the right technology in Drupa might be tricky. This article helps you spot some of the business boosting solutions that might be overlooked.

Off the beaten track but worth the walk

- 11-May-2008

Author :
Catherine Carter

With 1,800 exhibitors spread across 17 halls covering 170,000 square metres, only the most determined and organised visitor at [Drupa](#) is going to avoid spending hours searching for the exhibitors they most want to see.

The over-riding message of [Drupa](#) is exhibits are expected to emphasise 'be better, faster and greater,' rather than presenting easily identifiable large-scale technological revelations, so spotting business boosting key developments might prove tricky.

With this in mind here is a modest sampling of exhibitors some of whom may seem slightly off the beaten track, but who all have something to offer.



PrePress

Dominated by the web to print phenomenon, there are an array of software solutions aimed at all print avenues to get the message to market. Dutch firm Atlas Software will have its PrintShop Web-to-Print personalised, promotional printing management open template-based version. It enables the management of promotional print flows and streamlines customer interaction while combining the benefits of Variable Information with On-Demand Printing. Modular Vit2Print is from Belgium operation NSS. The suite optimises the prepress workflow of graphic companies. Based on the industry standards Adobe and Mac, Vit2Print has Web2Print solutions for the production, correction and translation of InDesign documents. Then there is Press-Sense, with its web-based print-on-demand workflow Press-sense iWay. It handles the workflow from job order through to delivery, guaranteeing a fully automated workflow and business flow.

Other software solutions include PlanetPress Suite from Objectif Lune. It eases the creation and printing of transactional, promotional and transpromotional variable content documents and offers advanced automated distribution and workflow management capabilities. German firm Callas aims to avoid time loss in prepress production caused by manual PDF transparency flattening and erroneous print products caused by PDF transparencies with its pdfAutoOptimizer. Prism, which agreed S. L. Kulkarni Cyril Graphics could sell and distribute its suite of production management software and hardware tools QTMS throughout India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, is also to sell and distribute the Metrix workflow integration and automation software for Mac OS X and Windows platforms, from LithoTechnics. Dutch Qcé's PRISMA software solutions have been enhanced to add advanced color support, high-uptime options, even better integration and interoperability.

On the hardware side of prepress, Dai Nippon [Screen](#) has developed the largest format thermal VLF CTP device in the world. The PlateRite Ultima 48000 was developed to capitalise on printing companies looking into the benefits of incorporating large-format web offset presses into their expanding production lines. Brazilian IBF has a new digital plates family in the shape of Million Thermal Plate, Million 3V Violet Photopolymer Plate, the Million Ibflex Ultraviolet flexographic plate and the Million Processed, which is yet to be released.



Ink

Available for the first time at the show will be InkZone Move suite and Preproofer 118 proofing system from the Swiss operation will also display the latest versions of its aftermarket solutions for sheetfed ink presetting and closed-loop color control, including DI-Plot, InkZone Perfect and InkZone Loop. X-Rite and its subsidiary [Pantone](#) will unveil a complete range of color solutions and new initiatives including live output of a unique tradeshow keepsake product and the most current versions of the [Pantone](#) Goe System.

An automatic and hydraulic ink feed system for sheet-fed and web offset machines (commercial, newspapers and business form) will be presented by EL-KO, Italy. It features low working pressure with piping and valves normally used for water, use of hydraulic pumps for drums and containers and boasts significant lower operating cost in comparison to the pneumatic system. Then there is Axima, Germany, which will have

developed the i.Cool AquaCenter that uses a closed cooling tower to enable energy savings of up to 70% compared to conventional systems.

It has been a busy time for Inx, too. The US operation has double-certified its inks and inbound ink ingredients to be lead-free. It has also strengthened its global digital presence with a majority interest in Megaink Digital in the Czech Republic and a UV ink manufacturing capability in Thailand, with full production of its INXCure TP UV ink systems under way at a manufacturing facility outside Bangkok.

Press

It is in digital colour presses that innovations are expected to be the biggest and [Kodak](#) is keen not to disappoint with its new series of S-Class branded Nexpress Digital Production Color Presses. The S3000, S2500 and S2100 provide greater modularity to the digital production colour market, thanks to flexible front-end options, input and output accessories, unique security application capabilities and on site upgradeability. The capabilities of [NIPSON's](#) VaryPress high-speed digital printers have been expanded with the introduction of the ultra-high-speed 150 m/min VaryPress 500. It offers increased productivity while retaining all the features of its predecessor, the VaryPress 400 including 600 dpi output, rugged durability for reliable 3-shift continuous operation. [NIPSON](#) has added spot or highlight colour printing capabilities, too, through its [NIPSON](#) Spot Color System, Model SCS.

[presstek](#) will be featuring its environmentally-friendly DI digital offset presses, combined with Momentum Pro workflow. The presses offer chemistry-free platemaking, waterless printing and substantially less waste than conventional printing processes. A key advantage is the ability to go from file to sellable colour within 20 sheets.

New weboffset options come in the shape of Bearer to Bearer model RONALD Super from KK Printing Machines India. Designed to print sharper dots with lesser percentage of dot gain which is ideal for newspaper and commercial magazine printers. It runs at 40,000cph. Also targeting newspaper printers is Manugraph India with the 60,000 cph Frontline single width, single circumference press.

[Komori](#) will use [Drupa](#) as the launch pad for the next generation of its LS technology and the KHS-AI advanced intelligence print start system and under the banner of Five Solutions, demonstrations will focus on the five most important issues facing today's print marketplace: Extra Added Value, One-pass High Productivity, On Demand Changeover, Flexible Multi Print and Preserving the Environment. Central to the five demonstration theatres is the [Komori](#) DoNet Zone, the command centre for [Komori](#)'s JDF workflow.

For the packaging sector GIDUE, Italian manufacturer of narrow and mid-web printing presses, will display its Total Packaging solutions. There is the Xpannd, a hybrid flexo/offset/silkscreen machine - featuring high-end converting capabilities including hot stamping, cold foil, embossing, die-cutting - and the UV flexo sleeve press Athena for printing food packaging and shrink sleeves for the beverage and cosmetics sectors.

Post Press

The modular approach extends through to finishing with Duplo showcasing kit allowing printers to introduce value-added finishing processes to their customer offerings. Unveiled at the show will be the DC-645 Production Colour Finisher with a new knife folder, the intelligent DSF-5000 high speed dynamic document sheet feeder, the PUR DuBinder and the mid-range bookletmaker DBM-350/T.

Affordable folding solutions come in the shape of the new BAUM ifold touch Screen computer that can be added to the BAUM 15,20,26 and 30 models and AutoSet which provides all of the features of the BAUM ifold.BAUM on the BAUM 20, 26 and 30 models.

Perfect binding digital print comes under the CP Bourg microscope with its BB3002 PUR binder and.

BB3502 online binder, with EVA or PUR glue systems. There will also be what CP Bourg claims is the only fully automatic online binder in the world – the BB4040 4-clamp binder with integrated cooling tower. It is available with 3-knife trimmer and in a PUR glue version. While Printflow will be introducing its automated single clamp perfect binder that runs at 600 cycles / 500 books per

Hour and JMD Machinery will demonstrate its Superbinder-50E automatic single clamp perfect binder that adopts touch-Screen control technology by employing step motors and pneumatic air cylinder controls.

Continental Micro Systems, Czech Republic, aims to make guillotining easier with its thINKCUT programmable system. It features numerical display of backgauge actual position and a touch panel (thINKCUT Vision) or alpha numerical display (thINKCUT Standard) that enables communication with the system. Polish manufacturer of slitter rewinders for plastics, laminates, paper and other flexible packaging material, Jurmet, will display its latest model with top run of material, model Master2. It runs at a web width of 1300mm.

SCS Italy will have its range on show including the best-selling Automatic Inline Single Knife Trimmer, which is designed to face trim perfect bound and thread sewn soft cover books with flaps. Kelkheim Tidland, Germany, a leader in the design and engineering of slitting and winding products for the web handling industry, will display the industry's first all-electronic knifeholder.

Celebrating its 21st birthday with a wide range of laminating and encapsulating equipment, utilising various films, many incorporating the break-through Superstick technology; is D&K Europe. Rival GBC will also present its range for visitors to explore.

Getting to grips with creasing issues is one of the biggest headaches posed by digital print in the bindery but Tech-ni-Fold has the answer. And it is so sure of its system that it is offering 100% money back guarantee. Now that has got to be worth a look.