FLAAR Reports

Preview & Advance Look
At Wide Format Inkjet Printers
Solvent-Ink
UV-Cured Ink Flatbed
Eco-Solvent
Fine Art Giclee
RIP Software
At Print '05 Trade Show

FLAAR Reports

CONTENTS

Caption for front cover:
ColorSpan DisplayMaker X-12+ solvent printer.

Licensing Information

Introduction

Consider this report as a way to plan two things: first, a list of reasons why you should consider attending Print' 05 trade show (this comprehensive trade show also covers converting and lots of other things, but we are previewing primarily their large format inkjet printer pavilion and re-lated digital imaging equipment such as pre-press scanners).
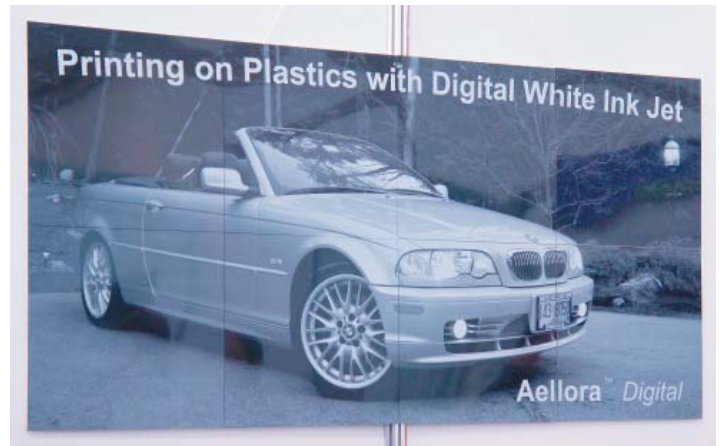
The second purpose of this report, after you have decided to attend, is to act as your guide to show you what to expect.

Naturally you can do that on line (www.gasc.org) but since FLAAR is good at wide format evalua-tions, we can produce a useful pre-show guide.

What to look for?

Let's start with an alphabetical list of all the booths that the team from FLAAR will be looking at. We will be at the trade show all week. Don't worry about the booth numbers now; you will get a more accurate list of booth numbers when you arrive in Chicago (or in advance, via www.gasc. org, but we give you what is not available elsewhere, an independent discussion).

Aellora
Agfa wide format
Aztek
BF Inkjet Media (unsure)
Big Picture Magazine
BullDog Products
Canon USA
CGS Publishing Technology International
Charrette
Contex Scanning Technology
Creo
Cygnus Business Media
DayGlo Color Corporation
Digital Output
DRUPA 2008
Eastman Kodak Company
Eizo Nanao Corporation
Electronic Publishing
Epson America
Ferris State University
Fujifilm Sericol
Gandinnovations
GBC
GMG Americas
Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation
GretagMacbeth
HP Indigo
HP wide format
In-Plant Printer (IPP)
Innovation Gallery
International Graphic Arts Education Association
IPEX 2006

Sample Print that was printed with Aellora Ditial white ink.

Gandinnovations Jeti solvent ink printer.

Island Clean Air
JUST Normlicht
Kapco
Kennedy-King College
Konica Minolta
Luescher
Lyson
Magnum Magnetics Corp.
Mimaki
Mutoh
Neschen Accutech Corp.
NUR
Oce (but not in wide format pavilion)
Onyx Graphics (not in A to Z list but on site map)
Pantone
PIA/GATF
Pictorico Inkjet Media
Renz
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roland DGA
Royal Soverign
Scanvec Amiable
Scitex Vision
Screen
Seal
Seiko-I Infotech
Spectra
SunJet North America
Triangle Digital
Universal Laser Systems
University of Wisconsin-Stout
Vutek
Western Michigan University
Wide-Format Imaging Magazine
Xante
Xeikon America
Xerox
XMPie
X-Rite
Zund America

Usually there is a difference between a pre-show list and the final list of which companies actually show up.

NUR Tempo UV flatbed printer.

Scitex Vision VEEjet+ UV flatbed printer.

Zund 250 flatbed UV printer.

Exhibits by Subject

Eco-Solvent Printers

Agfa

Mimaki, one of their inks is a mild solvent.

Mutoh

Roland

Roland Hi-Fi ProII eco-solvent printer.

Solvent Printers

Mimaki, JV3

Mutoh and Charrette, sorry, but the two installations of the Mutoh LT that we have heard about in Latin America were unsuccessful. Neither print shop could get the printer to work properly. We intend to keep searching until we learn more about this printer, and especially why the tech support has not resolved these two situations. We assume that in the US this kind of problem is less likely to occur, but that fact does not help people in other countries.

The Mutoh full-strength Toucan (not the LT) is not as "lite" but you definitely want to acquire our two site-visit case studies.

Mimaki JV3 solvent printer.

NUR, Scitex Vision, Vutek, and Gandinnovations will have their grand format printers. Gandinnovations are the ones we know the best, since we have done site-visit case studies of an installation. Sure helps to have this information before you decide whether to go for a nice printer from the Gandy brothers, or consider a Keundo, or a stretch model Mimaki, Mutoh, or Roland... It is a lot more practical to obtain a FLAAR Report and get an independent opinion, with documentation.

Seiko-I Infotech will have their nice Colorpainter 64S and stretch model 100S too. If you are curious what it is like to have a Seiko in your print shop, better get your hands on a FLAAR site-visit case study of this printer.

Solvent Flatbeds

Mimaki has all kinds of flatbed printers: some with UV, others with solvent; others for printing T-shirts.

Oce has an exhibit, but it is unclear whether they will have their solvent flatbed, or just their copiers.

Oce Arizona T220 Solvent flatbed printer.

Solvent Ink Consumables & Accessories

Island Clean Air

Lyson

Spectra (we assume the printhead company; we saw them in one list, but not in the printed booklet).

SunJet North America

Triangle Digital

Island Clean Air solvent ink consumable.

UV-cured Ink Printers (mostly flatbeds)

Aellora makes innovative narrow-format UV-cured printers for labels. Their white UV ink was out a long time before white ink from other companies.

Gandinnovations has a popular industrial-strength flatbed printer.

Luescher has, so far, tended to show its huge UV-cured ink flatbed only at trade shows in Europe (if you had to pay the shipping from Switzerland, you would keep in within Europe too). But this time they will probably bring a demo unit to Chicago.

Mutoh is co-producing an impressive UV printer with Agfa; we saw it in Germany at FESPA trade show earlier this summer. We expect that either Agfa or Mutoh will have it in Chicago. Sure hope so.

Oce is not clear as to whether it will exhibit primarily copiers and CAD printers, or inkjet UV-cured flatbed also.

Scitex Vision tends not to show their UV flat-bed at trade shows. They normally show just their solvent ink printers. Scitex Vision is now (since August 11), owned by HP.

Roland has not yet shown much in the way of flatbed printers in the current year. We know they have one under development, but unlike-ly they will reveal it to the public at Print '05.

Vutek

At some trade shows Zund shows only its cutters, not its model 215 UV-cured flat-bed printer. But at least one of their other models will be available: Zund sells their model 250 through Sericol ink company.

Vutek PressVU UV 200-600 flatbed printer.

Water-Based Inkjet Printers

Canon USA

Epson

HP

Mimaki

We assume that the Encad Nova-Jet 1000i will be in the Kodak booth, rebranded as the Kodak 1200i (same printer). The same Encad 1000i is also re-branded by Xerox. We have kept track of the pros and cons of the Encad NovaJet 1000i through a long-term site-visit case-study program of two of these printers near our univer-sity. This FLAAR Report is one of the few independent factual evaluations of this printer that is available.

Canon USA Image PROGRAF W8200 inkjet printer.

Inkjet Media: Water-Based

BullDog Products

Kapco

Magnum Magnetics Corp.

Pictorico Inkjet Media

BullDog Products presented at GraphExpo 2004.

Inkjet Ink: Water Based

DayGlo Color Corporation used to make their DayGlo ink for Encad printers. But nowadays print-ers won't accept after-market inks, so there are fewer options.

Laminating Equipment

GBC

Neschen Accutech Corp.

Royal Sovereign

Seal

GBC laminating equipment.

Royal Sovereign equipment.

Variable Data Presses

HP Indigo

Kodak Nexpress

Xeikon America

Xerox

XMPie (software for variable data presses)
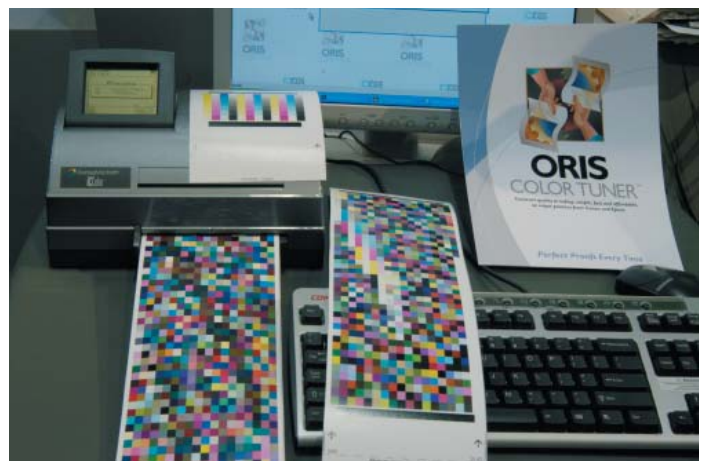

HP Indigo variable data printer.

RIP Software

CGS Publishing Technology International

GMG Americas

We did not find Onyx in the alphabetical list (maybe it is considered to be under Oce), but since the FLAAR booth is next to the Onyx booth, we hope they will be our neighbor.

Scanvec Amiable

Color Management

Eizo Nanao Corporation , color manageable LCD monitors

GretagMacbeth

Pantone

X-Rite

GretagMacbeth ORIS RIP.

Color Viewing Booths

JUST Normlicht

JUST Normlicht color viewing booth.

Laser Printers (Dry Toner)

Konica Minolta

Xante

Xerox

Xante laser printer.

Desktop Publishing & Accessories

Renz

Renz desktop publishing.

Laser Engravers

Universal Laser Systems, we have one of these at BGSU; it works great. We are now looking at their larger and more sophisticated systems; the one we have is a mid-range model.

Universal Laser Systems engraver that is in FLAARs facility at BGSU.

Universal Laser Systems engraver that in FLAARs facility at BGSU.

Trade Magazines

Big Picture Magazine
Cygnus Business Media
Digital Output
Electronic Publishing
In-Plant Printer (IPP)
Wide-Format Imaging Magazine

Other Trade Shows

DRUPA
IPEX

Industry Associations

Graphic Arts Education and Research Foundation
International Graphic Arts Education Association
PIA/GATF

Digital Cameras

In past years Siner used to have a nice booth, but their cameras are so expensive, and not very portable. As a result Leaf, Imacon, Phase One, and MegaVision have become more popular. Since Creo will exhibit, perhaps Leaf will be present; otherwise, digital cameras do not tend to be exhibited at printer trade shows, as though the images that we all print fall from heaven.

Scanners

Aztek

Contex makes the best wide format scanners, great for architectural drawings, or, for our archaeological background, for site maps.

Creo is the scanner that we use and recommend

Creo EverSmart Supreme scanner.

Screen makes the nice Cezanne flatbed scanner and an outstanding drum scanner, but Screen rarely exhibits these in the US. Screen had scanners at DRUPA but the booth personnel were not very inspired to provide information about it. Too bad, because these are professional quality scanners. However we are not sure they are developing the scanners or their software further. This is the benefit of Creo: they continue to produce new models and improved software. Again, we know, since we have first-hand experience with Creo scanners.

Universities

Bowling Green State University, but listed under FLAAR, since the exhibit is organized by FLAAR, an independent institute that is located on the BGSU campus.

Ferris State University

Kennedy-King College (Chicago)
Rochester Institute of Technology needs no further introduction; its name speaks for it.

University of Wisconsin-Stout

Western Michigan University, has impressive technical programs.

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