September 2010

UV-Printers, Mild-Solvent, HP Latex, Flatbed Cutters

Sign Africa 2010

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Introduction

There will be two editions of this FLAAR Report on SignAfrica:

- The present free version
- A TRENDS version, with more photographs and with information on the overall wide-format inkjet printer industry.

There are TRENDs versions of most FLAAR sign expo reports, which are available via credit card or PayPal from info@FLAAR.org

Sign Africa 2010 trade show overview.

Awards

Best booth design this year compared with last year: Antalis booth this year had dramatic colors, well balanced on all four sides, open sides yet ample overhead area with brand message.

Antalis booth at Sign Africa 2010 trade show.

Most unusual new printer: Nashakele TwinJet, hybrid (pinch rollers and grit rollers but with flatbed table front and back; using JetBest alcohol-based ink

Inkwin TwinJet hybrid printer at Nashakele inks booth.

Sign Africa 2010 was divided in to two exhibition halls: entrance hall (above) and lower hall (below).

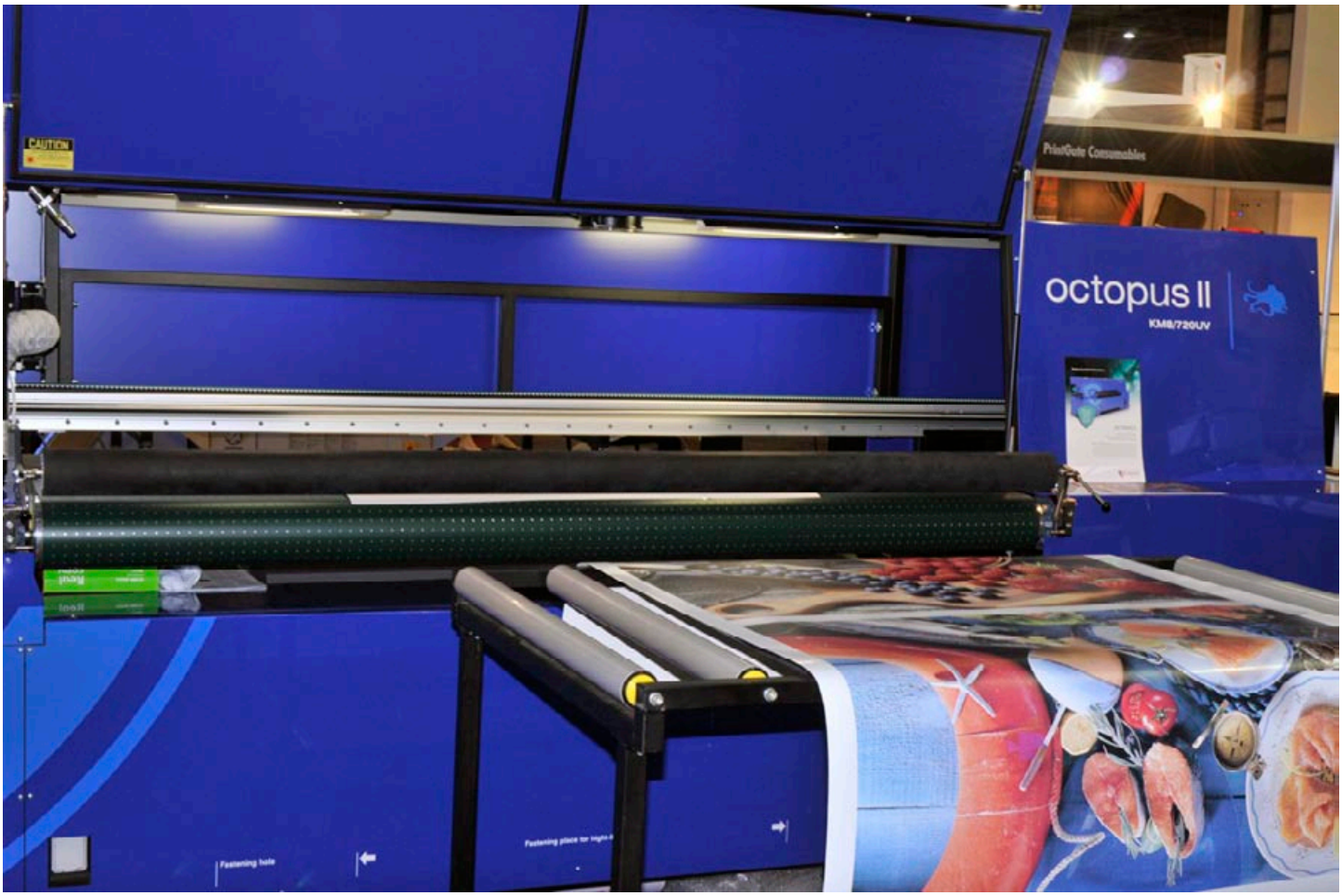
UV-Cured printers

Dilli Neo Titan UV-1604DW

Gandinnovations 3150 dedicated flatbed in booth of AGFA jeti.

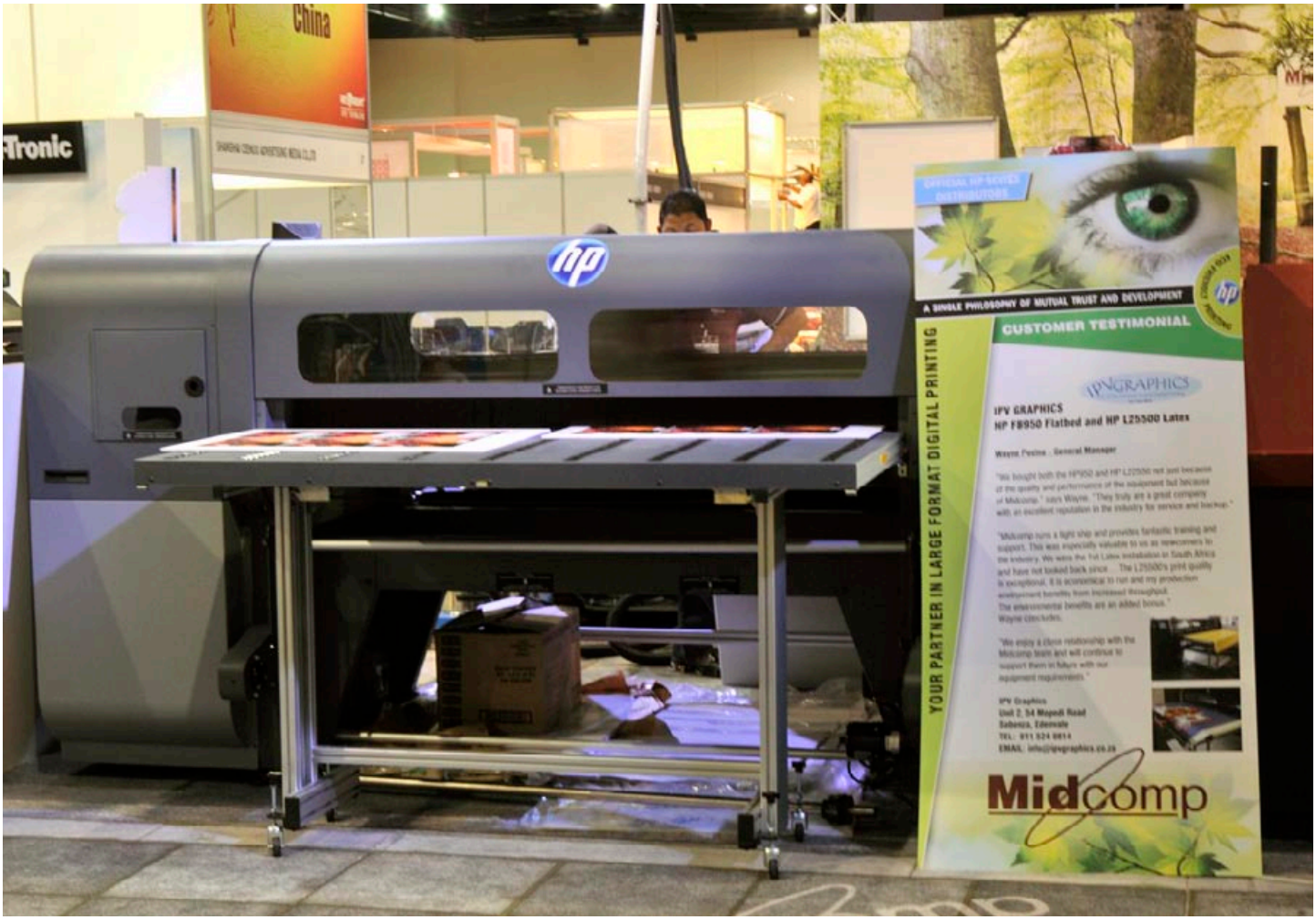
AGFA Jeti booth overview.

GRAPO Octopus II, in booth of new distributor for them. This model is no longer being manufactured but obviously some still remain available.



GRAPO Octopus II UV printer.

HP Scitex FB500 combo flatbed. Combo means it has a moving transport belt.
HP Scitex XP2100



Midcomp features the HP Scitex FB500 combo UV-cured printer at their booth

HP Scitex XP2100.

Mimaki JFX-1631 plus. The plus model is new (first launch outside Japan).
Mimaki UJF-3042
Mimaki UJF-706

Overview of GSW booth featuring Mimaki JFX-1631 printer (above) and Mimaki UJF-3042 UV printer (below).

Mimaki UJF-706 UV-cured flatbed speciality printer in GSW booth.

Oce Arizona 350GT in booth of Signtronic
Oce Arizona 550GT in booth of Signtronic

Oce Arizona 350GT (above) and Oce Arizona 550GT (below) at Sign-Tronic booth.

Roland LEC-330

SwissQprint Impala, dedicated flatbed with attached roll-to-roll, in booth of GSW.

SwissQprint Impala flatbed printer with roll-to-roll option.

VUTEk QS220, combo with moving transport belt, in booth of Antalis.

EFI Vutek QS220 printer.

Antalis booth showing the EFI Vutek QS220.

Solvent printers

Epson GS6000

Gandinnovations 3224, in booth of AGFA Jeti

InkWin TwinJet, hybrid, in booth of Nashakele, but using Jetbest ink.

Keundo, in the back of the GSW booth. This brand is hardly every exhibited elsewhere in the world any more.

Mimaki printers had a far greater range of models of eco-solvent than any other Japanese brand. Four CJV30 models, as but one example.

Mutoh Blizzard, now with bulk-ink system. Color pop was spectacular; probably also due to selection of media. But Mutoh had fewest printers of the Japanese manufacturers.

Nashakele, hybrid (pinch rollers and grit rollers but with flatbed table front and back; using JetBest alcohol-based ink.

Roland had primarily small printers, VersaCamm, three of them in a row. But on the other side of the Roland booth they had other larger models.

Metallic ink was exhibited but was not the focus of the booth whatsoever. What impressed me was the honesty of the people in the booth. Everyone elsewhere have indicated that metallic ink requires that you slow down the printer. Roland acknowledged this (since end-users will find out the first week after they buy the printer). I acknowledge their ethical statement on print speed.

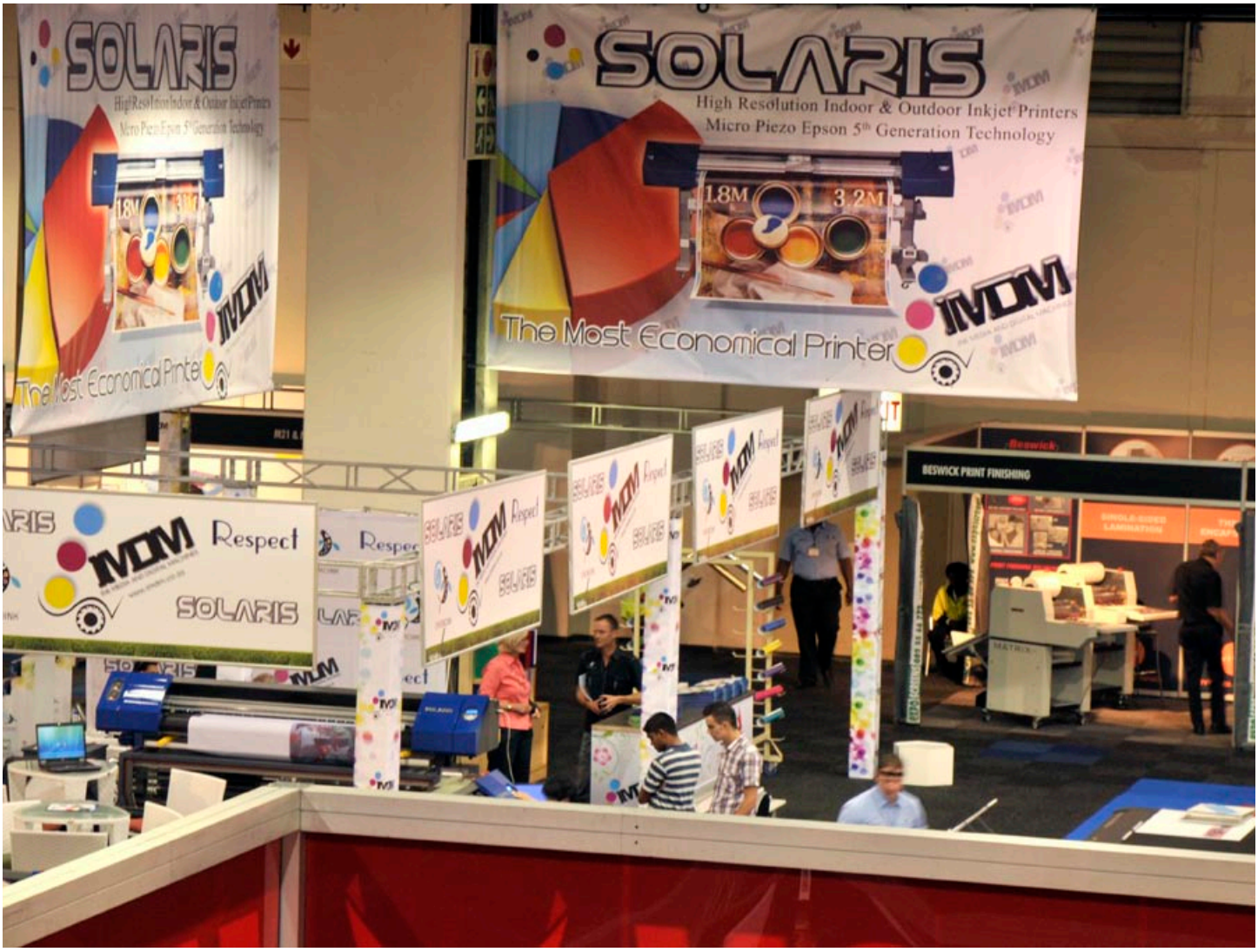
Overview of Roland booth at Sign Africa 2010,

SII (Seiko) ColorPainter had an impressive sized (SYTECH) booth and all their main models.
SII ColorPainter V-64s
SII ColorPainter H-74s
SII ColorPainter H-104s
All in the booth of Sytech

Another SII Seiko H-74s printer was in the Oce booth with Oce model designation, Oce GS6407.

SII Seiko H-74s printer at SYTECH, distributor of SII (Seiko), booth.

Solaris, IMDM booth, three Chinese solvent printers plus one dye-sub.



IMDM booth aerial view.

Absent

DGI was absent from SignAfrica; DGI was absent from FESPA Mexico. DGI was absent from the show before that.

Most Chinese solvent printers were not exhibited any more here in Johannesburg. For example, Flora had a booth but not one single solitary printer. Their previous dealer had switched to a different brand.

Water-based printers

Canon iPF, several models.

Epson Stylus Pro 7900 (one in booth of Antalis)

HP Designjet Z6100ps in booth of Graficomp.

HP Designjet L25500, two in booth of main HP distributor, MidComp; and several more in nearby booths of other HP dealer, Graficomp..

HP Scitex LX800 latex ink printer, showed nice colors, especially blues and reds.

HP L25500 42 inch printer at Midcomp distribuitor booth.

Flatbed cutters

Zund (Midcomp) and Aristo (GSW) were both exhibited. Kongsberg was not present.

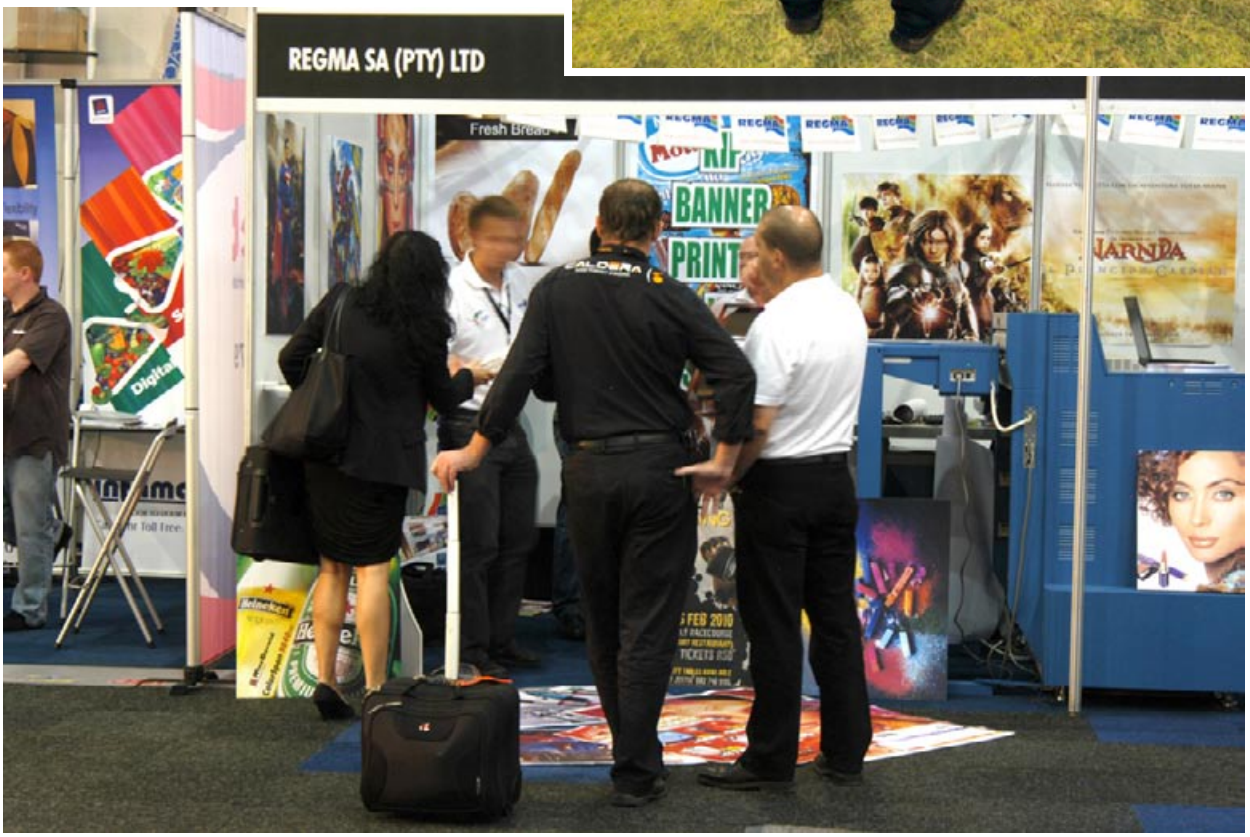
Color Management

BARBIERI spectrophotometer in booth of Midcomp, their distributor for South Africa.

RIP

Caldera RIP at Midcomp booth (right).

Two Caldera personnel in front of the booth of KIP (Regma is the distributor)



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