

Textile Printers



ISA Sign Expo 2011



Photo on cover: DigiFab StampaJet I-64 print close-up at ISA 2011.

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Textile Printers at ISA Sign Expo 2011

ISA is one of the best known and largest signage trade shows in the United States, this year it was held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas.

The market for textile printing is growing fast; more and more companies are now developing their own printers, inks, and media to be able to get a piece of this market.

If you are interested in printing onto textiles you should take into consideration the printer size depending on your needs: printers of under 74 inches are ideal for apparel, flags, promotional items, and small signage, while printers of over 74 inches are ideal for large signage, upholstery, curtains, and home furnishing.

Five members of the FLAAR staff attended ISA this year, to gather information and search for the new trends on wide format digital textile printing. My name is Maria Renee Ayau. I am the person at FLAAR who is working with textile printers, as well as other members of our staff such as Silva Herrera, who works in Barcelona.

Here is a list of the textile printers that exhibited this year at ISA, plus comments, and comparative charts.

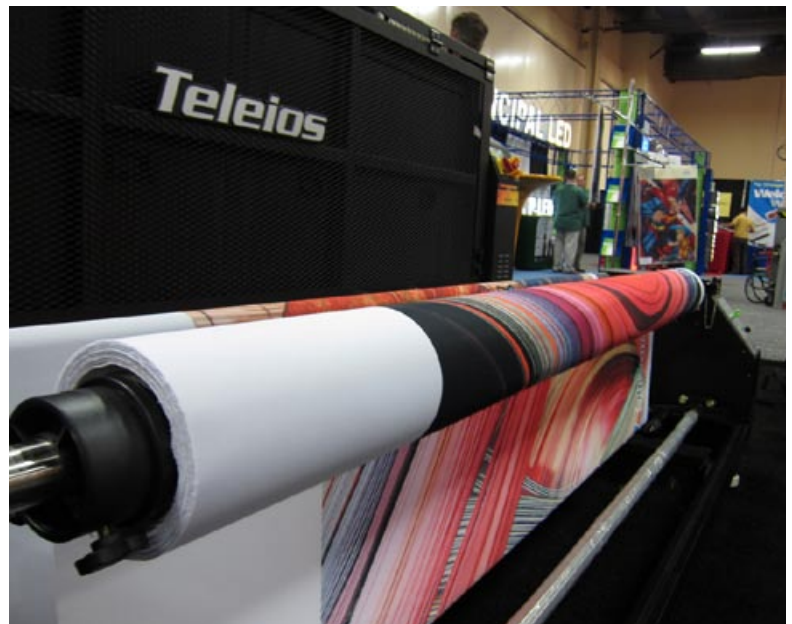


Hall view of ISA 2011 trade show.

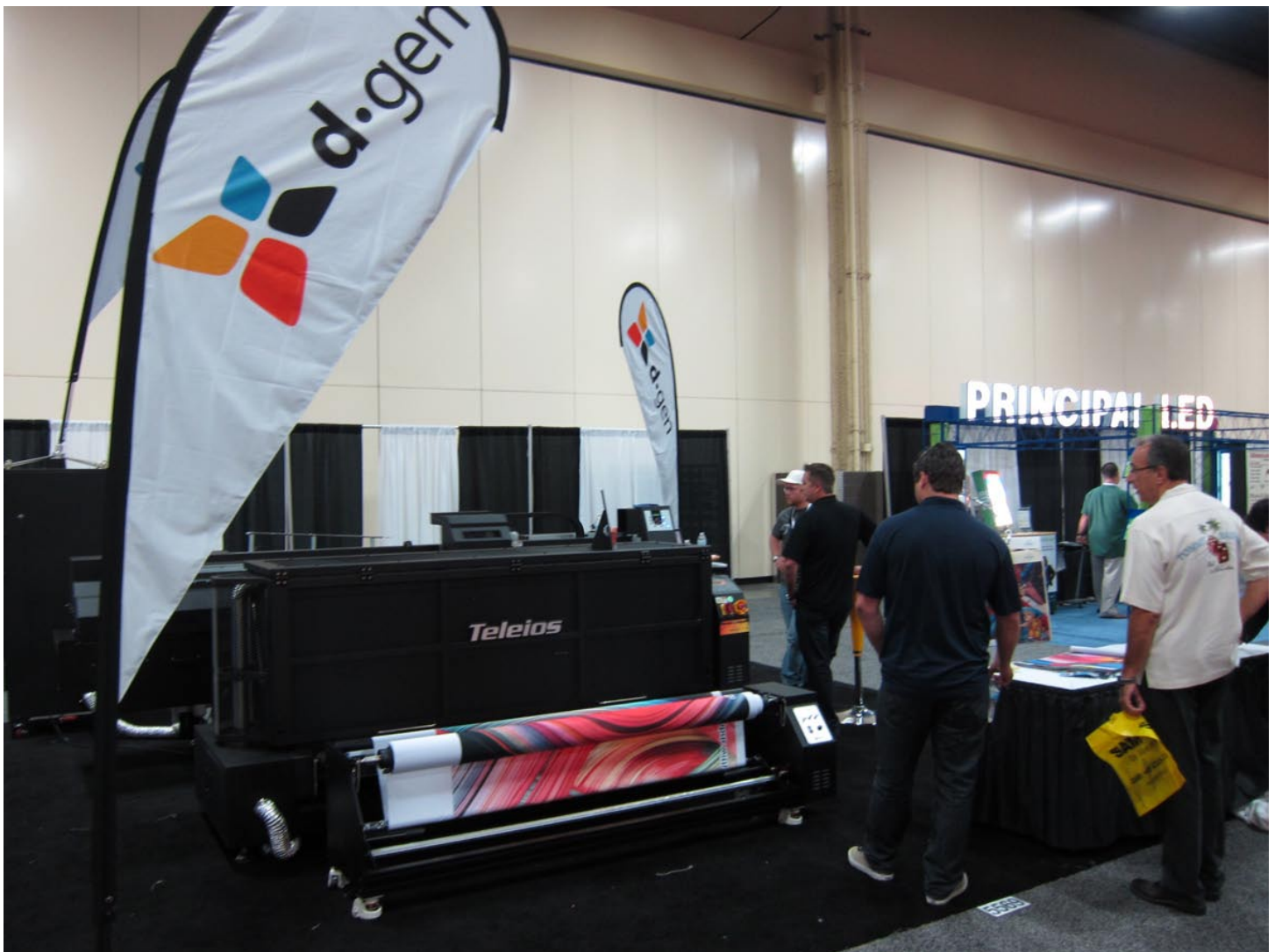
d-gen Teleios GT

d-gen exhibited one single Teleios GT printer in their booth.

The Teleios GT differs from the regular Teleios in that the GT consists of two large units. The regular Teleios is simply the printer by itself.



d-gen Teleios GT take-up roll.



d-gen Teleios GT textile printer.

Since ISA 2011 was held at Las Vegas, d-gen was printing some casino themed images onto flag material. The images had very nice colors even before they passed through the heater, obviously when they came out of the heater you could see the already brightly printed colors pop and come alive.



d-gen Teleios GT take-up roll.



d-gen Teleios GT textile printer.

D.G.I.**Fabrijet Fabri-T (1806)**

D.G.I. exhibited three printers in their booth: two solvent printers and the FabriJet Fabri-T textile printer, they also had a small display featuring LED modules.

D.G.I. made UV-cured printers many years ago; then Dilli and D.G.I. decided to divide the market, with Dilli focusing on UV-cured and D.G.I. focusing on solvent printers. The two companies are owned by brothers.

But in the last two years D.G.I. has realized that solvent printers are falling out of favor in Western Europe and North America, so D.G.I. has decided to move into textile printing to keep their momentum.

Fabri-T is a dye sublimation paper transfer printer with an integrated heating unit system.



D.G.I. Fabrijet Fabri-T (1806) printer.

DigiFab
StampaJet I-64
StampaJet BP-64

DigiFab had 2 StampaJet printers: I-64 and BP-64, in exhibition as well as a heat press for sublimation prints.

The most notable difference between these printers is in the ink feeding system, the StampaJet BP-64 has ink cartridges while the StampaJet I-64 has ink tanks. The other visible difference is the adhesive belt transport system on the StampaJet I-64.



DigiFab StampaJet I-64 textile printer.

DigiFab offers several advantages: first, they have years and years and years of experience in the textile market. Second, DigiFab is 100% dedicated to the textile market.



DigiFab StampaJet BP-64 textile printer.

Graphics One FlagMaster RIO Pro 54"

Graphics One exhibited at ISA 2011, the Flagmaster 44" direct to fabric printer. One advantage of this printer is that it can print full bleed up to the 44 inches of media width, unlike other printers.

GO RIO Pro 54" is a water-based dye sublimation printer that prints directly onto the transfer paper. Some of the samples exhibited at ISA, included apparel, textiles, and promotion items.

Graphics One is a Mutoh distributor, especially for Latin America. Graphics One also has contacts in China, so can source both printers and fixation units there too.



Graphics One RIO Pro 54" printer.



Graphics One Flagmaster 44" printer.

Mimaki

TextileJet Tx-400

JV34-260

Mimaki exhibited two textile printers: the TextileJet Tx-400 and the JV34-260 printer.

Mimaki TextileJet Tx-400 can be used with different types of ink. The printer comes with a bulk ink supply system that can hold two liter containers, on 16 slots.

Mimaki JV34-260 can be used with both dye sublimation for transfer paper for polyester blends, or water-based solvent inks.



Mimaki JV34-260 printer.

Of the four Japanese solvent printer manufacturers, Mimaki has the most experience making printers for textiles. This by itself is not automatically a guarantee that their printers are inherently flawless, but Mimaki does have a long-range and long-term commitment to textile printing.



Mimaki TextileJet Tx-400 printer.

Mutoh ValueJet 1628 TD

Mutoh launched the ValueJet 1628 TD at SGIA 2010, the most distinctive characteristic of this printer is that it has dual print heads, so you can print faster or have different kinds of inks loaded simultaneously. The ValueJet 1628 TD printer works with acid, reactive, and disperse dyes as well as with pigments or dye sublimation inks.



Mutoh booth.

Splash of Color Heatwave DPF-74

Splash of Color had a booth at ISA 2011. At first it was not very easy to identify, since the logo on the back wall decoration was rather small. So it was a good thing the printer stood out so people were able to find it.

The Heatwave direct to fabric printer, has a Roland chassis, roll-to-roll operation and an integrated sublimation unit by ATP Color (of Italy).



Roberto Martellano (Splash of Color), Nicholas Hellmuth and Maria Renée Ayau.



Splash of Color Heatwave DPF-74 printer,

Calendering and Heat Transfer Machines

Advanced Innovative Technologies (Mimaki)



DigiFab
DigiHeat



EastSign

Flatbed FOT-1015

MOT-1700



Graphics One
GO Calendar DS67



Monti Antonio (Durst booth)
Model 72



FLAAR Reports on textile printers

We have reports on specific brands when there are opportunities to be provided all the documentation on the printers (User Manual, tech support manuals, etc), when the manufacturer can provide time and personnel to train our staff on the operation of the printer, when there is an opportunity to do print samples, and when there is at least modest funding so we can put together the results in a full-color report.

In the long run we also prefer to visit the factory and visit an end-user. For DigiFab our next step is to visit end-users, at which point we will update our reports. In the meantime we have our FAQs report on these printers.

There are also FLAAR Reports on METEX textile printers based on several days of testing in the demo room in Europe and visiting a customer site in northwestern Spain (Vigo).



Observations on the venue for ISA 2011

The ISA 2011 Sign Expo banners and signage were visible once you entered the convention center, but walking to the convention center no signage was available to the visitors looking for this trade show or the other convention on medical supplies which was also held at this venue.



Mandalay Convention Center.