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Avery Dennison Pure Line Sustainable UHF RFID tags and inlays. – p68



Preview – p40

teamIndia  drupa24

INTERVIEW

MANOHARA KUMAR

TOPPAN SPECIALITY FILMS

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Biggest show returns after eight long years

drupa 2024 Dusseldorf – 28 May to 7 June

The stage is set for the printing and packaging industry's most-awaited show – drupa 2024 at Dusseldorf, Germany. Slated from 28 May to 7 June, the in-person drupa is taking place after eight years. Over a period of 11 days, 1,580 exhibitors from 50 countries will present innovative technologies, solutions and topics that affect the industry now and in the future, in a net area of approximately 140,000 square meters with 18 show halls.

Production of packaging and printed packaging are two areas that have also significantly gained in importance. From renowned global players to aspiring newcomers and start-ups – the list of registered exhibitors is almost a who-is-who of the printing and packaging industry.

The enthusiasm amongst the Indian industry for drupa24 is high. Considered by Indian print and packaging businesses as a university – the fair is a way of learning what's going on in the industry and about the most likely to succeed technologies of the future. Indians attend for several days with great hunger to learn whatever they can and for the pleasure of networking with colleagues from everywhere in the world at the fair. drupa works especially well for bringing the next generation into the family business. It's an initiation for young printers and converters and visiting the fair becomes a rite of passage.

This could well be the Asian drupa. China will have the highest number of exhibitors at drupa 24 although German exhibitors will still occupy the largest floor space. Of the 1,580 exhibitors listed by the organizers, 580 or 36.7% are from Asia beginning from Australia and moving westward to Pakistan – both countries have a single exhibitor listed.

The largest number of exhibitors from the region are from China with 405, and one can add Hong Kong at 10 and another 22 from Taiwan for a total of 437, which represents 27.6% of the total number of drupa exhibitors from that entity. India is represented by 84 exhibitors, Korea by 26, Japan by 23 (some Japanese companies may be listed under their European locations), and Malaysia with 4 exhibitors.

Indian and Asian exhibitors want to highlight their development capacities in newer technologies – their abilities in software and mechatronic automation. Asian exhibitors understand that their strength in the global marketplace of the future will come from their agility and quicker implementation of new technology in more unique machines and solutions than their global counterparts.

Packaging South Asia will be present in full force with editor Naresh Khanna, associate editor Shardul Sharma and our European writers, Nesson Cleary and Ron Augustin for latest updates, insights and exclusives. *Packaging South Asia* is part of the Super Content Group comprising 20 media platforms, which will provide professional video making and distribution at drupa 2024 and beyond. Led by the Inkish team, *Packaging South Asia* is offering to make quality videos at the show to be edited, subtitled in the languages of the Supergroup partners, and uploaded on their websites within hours. So stay tuned.



Acme Rolltech – Hall 12 Stand D52

As we have written earlier, Acme Rolltech, the fast-growing Indian player in the anilox rolls and sleeves industry, is preparing for its debut participation at drupa in Dusseldorf from 28 May to 7 June. The three talented engineers who have built this Ahmedabad-based company combine their high technology, education



and experience into a success story of confident technical manufacturers who can listen to their customers and deliver specialized industrial components and solutions.

drupa 2024 has come at the right time for the company, as Sandeep Sharma, director of Acme Rolltech finds that the 8-year gap has worked for the company which will be able to expand its heightened brand visibility and global market acceptance at the show. In the past five years, it has sold more than 9,500 rolls and sleeves in the market. The company which doubled its capacity in 2021, is talking about its imminent expansion – a story that is maturing in drupa time.

Currently, it is providing ceramic anilox rollers and sleeves to more than 900 customers in about 25 countries. The company which assiduously takes part in industry exhibitions across the world has the clear goal of using drupa to expand its exports to at least 50 countries in all its application segments including narrow web, wide web CI and stack flexo presses – and in offset, specialty and film coatings, corrugation, paper bag making, and technical textile applications.

From my recent conversation with Sharma, I gather that what distinguishes Acme Rolltech is that its owners understand that any technical process or component is complex and needs to be viewed from several technology perspectives. Added to their can-do approach, the three partners lead a team that listens to customers with intensity. Their experience and understanding of laser engraving techniques often lead to the efficient development of unique solutions.

I am personally looking forward to sharing the company's presentations, enthusiasm and excitement at drupa. It is one of the Indian exhibitors that has already signed up to make a couple of videos at its stand at the show in our collaboration with the Super Content Group.

– Naresh Khanna



Top: (L–R): Parag Patel, Parag Koradiya and Sandeep Sharma
Bottom: Laser engraving machine from ALE, UK

Apex International – Hall 10 Stand A10

Apex International, a global leader in anilox, metering, and embossing solutions, is gearing up to showcase its GTT engraving technology at drupa 2024. Under the banner of EcoProven solutions, the company will spotlight its GTT engraving technology, emphasizing its environmental and cost-saving advantages.

From 28 May to 7 June, drupa 2024 in Düsseldorf, Germany, will serve as the stage for Apex's unveiling of GTT engraving technology. Located in Hall 10, Stand A10, visitors can witness firsthand how this patented engraving enhances performance and efficiency across various printing sectors, the company said.

GTT engraving is a mainstay in the label, corrugated, flexo wide web, and offset printing industries. With over a decade in the market, Apex says it has continuously improved and refined GTT anilox technology to meet the evolving needs of modern printers.

"GTT engraving has garnered acclaim for its ability to optimize ink application while maintaining consistent and exceptional print quality. By reducing ink usage and enhancing color vibrancy, GTT technology offers significant advantages to printers seeking both efficiency and excellence," highlights Mangesh Bhise, sales director- Apex Asia Pacific & ME.

GTT's open slalom engraving enhances ink efficiency, providing richer colors with less waste. Whether it's achieving superior laydown for white opacity applications or enhancing gloss in offset printing, GTT technology empowers printers to achieve unparalleled results while minimizing environmental impact.

Apex says its commitment to sustainability extends beyond technology to encompass global accessibility. With strategically positioned manufacturing facilities across Latin America, North America, Asia-Pacific, and Europe, the company ensures that its sustainable innovations are within reach for worldwide needs. At drupa 2024, representatives from these facilities will provide expert guidance and multilingual support, fostering meaningful engagement with customers and partners.



Anilox rolls from Apex International

Bieffebi – Hall 10 Stand B11

Based in Bologna, Italy, Bieffebi has been producing ancillary pre-press machines for the flexographic printing industry since 1955 and has to date installed over 3,000 units worldwide. The company, which has a presence in more than 90 countries, will exhibit its technology and new launches at drupa 2024.

At hall 10, stand B11, the company will display its automatic plate mounter mod - Automa 374, semiautomatic plate mounter mod - Unica 343 VM, Unica 324 mounter for narrow web, Planus 348 flat mounting machine of flexo plates on mylar for the corrugated board industry and one more new machine from Reprohouse.

"In India, we have installed over 65 units of our fully motorized Unica model with VDP software as well as the fully automatic Automa model," said a spokesperson from Scanvik Packaging. Scanvik Packaging is exclusively responsible for the sales and after-sales service and installation of Bieffebi machines in India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

The recently updated fully automatic plate mounter model Automa has met with great success in the Indian market due to its patented software, which makes mounting precise and completely operator-free. The Automa 374 is a new generation high technology mounting machine for centering the flexo plates on sleeves in automatic mode and relevant controls by using the plate files from Repro house with the assistance of their patented VDP system (virtual data processing). By mounting with the help of VDP software, the cameras are no longer the reference point as the reference is given from the PDF file.

With the mounting system with PDF files, you can check whether the plates match with the files in 1:1. A mismatch between the file and the plate could be caused by incorrect production of the plates due to an incorrect application of correction coefficients of elongation. If this difference is found between one plate and the other, there may be problems during the mounting, but if the error is on all the plates, there will be a dephasing in velocity on the printer to retrieve the 1:1 with the results of an ovalization of the points of the four-color process.

Along with the VDP, the patented traffic light application system reaffirms to the operators that the flexo plates are mounted correctly and in perfect register, regardless of the operator's discretion. Due to this software operators will be able to take reports and store job coordinates for future reference.



Automa 374, the latest generation and precise plate mounter made in Italy for the automatic centering of flexographic printing plates (patent pending) with microdots or crosses"

Bobst – Halls 10 & 13 Stands B30 & C72

Bobst has announced its latest advancements across all industry segments – flexible packaging, labels, folding carton, corrugated board, and services – to help its customers to thrive in the current and future packaging environment. At drupa 2024, visitors will have the opportunity to find out how Bobst is bringing its vision to reality through a live-show experience on a 'concept machine'.

Bobst has announced the launch of two major new features for Bobst Connect, the company's cloud-based digital platform. Workflow with job and recipe management empowers customers to seamlessly integrate Bobst machines in their production and design workflows and benefit from bi-directional job and recipe data synchronization for fast set up and increased productivity. The energy monitoring feature allows customers to measure their energy consumption and costs in real time.

The company has also announced to develop Bobst application management across the four industries, a hands-on innovative consulting service focusing on workflow automation, color and process optimization, end-to-end converting improvements as well as regulatory compliance, addressing the needs of converters and brand owners.

In the flexible packaging industry, Bobst says it can help customers to innovate for a sustainable future.



The diagram illustrates the supply chain and digitalization process. The top part shows a linear flow from Brand owner to Consumer, including roles like Designer, Producer, Supplier of sub-components, Consulting partner, and Retailer. The bottom part shows a 3D perspective of a factory floor with various machines and a central control unit. A red banner at the bottom lists 'Connectivity', 'Digitalization', 'Automation', and 'Sustainability'.

ToolLink brings converting into the digital world. It is a platform that connects machines and tooling and brings together the entire converting process to transform production flexibility, job turnaround times, and overall productivity.

- ◆ **SMARTData** - Stores data locally and synchronizes it in a database with a modern RESTful API
- ◆ **SMARTData-capable register control** - To load data directly from pre-press into BST systems and process efficiently
- ◆ **Web guiding** - To detect and scan UV coatings in the spectrum from 370 to 390 nanometers
- ◆ **iPQ-View web inspection system** - To provide enhanced added value in terms of image quality, sustainability and longevity
- ◆ **AI-based inspection and solution** - It combines 100% print image inspection with high-quality web inspection across the entire print format
- ◆ **QLink data** - It is used for further processing to rectify errors
- ◆ **TubeScan** - To automatically recognize a new job and retrieve corresponding master in real time



The new RSH-UV sensor can be used to quickly and reliably adjust the lateral and longitudinal register of UV coatings.



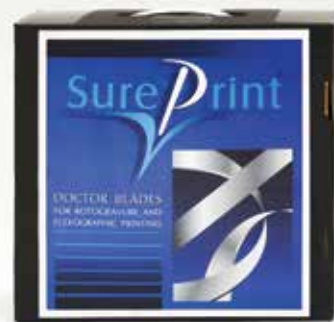
The trade fair stand at drupa follows the FORYOU campaign and shows how the innovations presented can make everyday production easier and more sustainable.

Convertech – Hall 12 Stand A25

Convertech Equipment has announced its participation at the drupa 2024 exhibition in Dusseldorf, Germany, where it will display its range of doctor blades for standard flexo and gravure printing applications as well as for coating applications.

Manufactured under an ISO 9001:2015 certified quality system, Sureprint doctor blades are exported to many countries and are available in several varieties and edge configurations.

At stand A25, hall 12, Convertech will be displaying its premium blades – Plus, HST, Series 1000 & Excel Pro blades – which make it possible to achieve low friction doctoring with longer running life.



Sureprint Excel Pro blades provide high wear resistance and eliminate issues of faster wear and tear when using metallic printing inks

DGM – Hall 11 Stand D40

DGM Technology, a carton converting solutions and manufacture supplier, plans a live demonstration of its Technocut 1050-S and Smartfold Servo X 1100-SL machines at the drupa 2024 show in Dusseldorf. From folding box boards (FBB), and duplex cartons, to corrugated material, DGM offers tailor-made solutions such as folder gluers, die cutters, foil stampers, laminators, and all related auxiliary and peripheral equipment and automation solutions.

"This time drupa is happening after eight years. It is a great chance to show upgrades in technology to the market and the different options created in the last eight years," said Puneet Aggarwal, managing director, DGM Automation.

The Technocut 1050-S is a fully automatic flat die-cutting creasing machine that can be used for large-format cutting with precise centering and stripping. The machine is equipped with an automatic feeder with a non-stop system, four lift-up, and four forwarding suckers designed to handle a wide range of materials from paper (80gsm - 2000gsm) to corrugated board (5mm). The register table comprises eight conveyor belts with different kinds of pulleys, independently adjustable. The die-cutting section of the machine has a 5 mm thick die-cutting plate & 4+1mm system with a pressure control system that can easily be adjusted through the touch screen. With a speed of 7500 sheets per hour and a cutting force of 300 tons, the die-cutter can handle sheet sizes ranging from 350 X 400 mm to 740 X 1050 mm for paper board gsm 80-2000 gsm.

The Smartfold Servo X 1100-SL is an automatic high-speed intelligent folder gluer suitable for straight-line, crash lock bottom, double wall, and 4 and 6-corner boxes. The folder gluer is focused on multi-type work capabilities with medium-long to shorter run lengths. The feeder section is equipped with an electronic pile vibrator and is driven independently by a servo motor. Its key features include a multi-task station with a bump and turn module, with fully servo motor-driven transmission at max. speed up to 500 m/min.

"During drupa, we will demonstrate new technology for high speed 4/6-corner run-ability at highest speed as on date," he said.

Aggarwal said, "We need more flexible machines with stable production, at an affordable cost, in the future. So we are working on the same platform to serve more on the plate with less to pay for it. We need the market to not only appreciate us but also be able to buy from us."

Discussing industry behavior during drupa, Aggarwal said that there is often a decline in the booking of machines in the run-up to the event as businesses wait for the latest technologies to be unveiled. This trend is followed by a surge in booking post-drupa, leading to extended delivery times for machines due to the high demand. To address this issue, DGM India is importing machines to its India factory for immediate delivery.

A significant number of deals signed at drupa are generally already in the pipeline or in process much before the event, he explained, adding certain deals do materialize unexpectedly at the show.



Top: Technocut 1050-S
Bottom: Smartfold Servo X 1100-SL

Aggarwal expressed confidence that DGM Technology would make a positive impact at drupa 2024. "We need to build more trust to be present in the minds of visitors so that they recognize us whenever we approach them with our offerings." DGM will be present at hall no 11, stand no D40 at drupa 2024.

– Rajesh Kumar

Ferrarini & Benelli – Hall 10 Stand C20

At drupa 2024, the Romanengo, Italy-based Ferrarini & Benelli will display its newest solutions in the field of corona and plasma treatment systems. At Hall 10, stand C20, Ferrarini & Benelli will display its polimetal and format surface treatment systems in the field of Corona treatment.

Polimetal is the universal corona treatment system ideal for any converting application (coating, laminating, flexo and gravure printing, extrusion coating) and for treating both conductive and non-conductive substrates, including plastic and metallized films, paper, aluminium foil and laminates. Polimetal is equipped with special ceramic-coated electrodes and roller and it is designed to facilitate film threading and routine maintenance. The polimetal line comes with four different models, available in the one and double sided version.

The newest solution Ferrarini & Benelli will display is the format treatment system specifically designed to treat individual sheets of different format (size and thickness), ideal for laboratory applications or to optimize treatment for manufacturers who need to print on small batches of previously manufactured substrates, where treatment reinstatement is key to allow printing. Format allows treating both conductive and non-conductive substrates in different formats – A0, A1, A2, A3 and A4.

During the exhibition, the visitors will be able to have their substrate samples tested with the format system by the Ferrarini & Benelli team.



Ferrarini & Benelli will display its polimetal and format surface treatment systems in the field of Corona treatment.

Plasma treatment

Ferrarini & Benelli will also display In Air Plasma, the plasma treatment system specifically designed for folder-gluer lines applications. The system comprises a generator with integrated transformer and a nozzle to discharge plasma. During the exhibition, the nozzle will be mounted on the laboratory's robot, used to reproduce the power and speed features of the customer's line and determine treatment parameters.

Heidelberg – Hall 1 Stand C30

Heidelberg will unveil the new-generation Speedmaster XL 106 press during drupa 2024, set to be held from 28 May to 7 June in Dusseldorf, Germany. The press boasts a higher print speed of up to 21,000 sheets per hour, AI-supported assistance systems, and enhanced push-to-stop functions.

With the latest generation Speedmaster XL 106, autonomous printing is now viable in packaging production, thanks to the enhanced Push to Stop concept. This advancement allows for complete automation of complex production parameters in packaging and label printing.

"We anticipate that a high-volume packaging producer or wet-glue label manufacturer will very soon achieve a benchmark of 100 million sheets per year. This figure represents a 20% increase on the 85 million sheets currently being produced by today's industry leaders," Markus Leichtle, senior manager of industrial packaging at Heidelberg, said at the pre-drupa media conference in Dusseldorf from March 25–27.



“The new peak performance Speedmaster XL 106 cuts print production costs significantly, which makes our customers in the commercial, packaging, and label printing sectors more competitive,” Ludwin Monz, CEO of Heidelberg, said. “Compared to the previous generation, we expect users who produce packaging in the 70 x 100 cm format to achieve an increase in overall productivity of up to 20%.” Monz has since stepped down and will be replaced by Jurgen Otto.

■ Global trends in printing

During the session, Monz delved into the global trends that have significantly shaped and influenced the printing sector over the past two decades. He highlighted the pivotal role of digitalization, the shortage of skilled labor, the urgent need to address global warming, and the impact of inflation and market consolidation on industry dynamics.

“Just in the last couple of years, we have seen a significant increase in all kinds of costs, including labor, energy, but also in raw materials. And as a result, there’s a market consolidation going on in the printing industry,” Monz said.

He said that customers now expect solutions that help them to increase productivity, which results in a reduction of their cost per printed sheet. Secondly, they want to relieve operators by using automation. “So, automation is the answer to the shortage of skilled workers, and that applies to the entire print value chain,” Monz added.

And lastly, Monz said, customers expect solution providers to help them save resources, which also helps reduce costs.

■ The Heidelberg dual-track strategy

Acknowledging the formidable challenges faced by print shops worldwide, Heidelberg articulated its unwavering commitment to providing comprehensive solutions designed to enhance productivity, streamline processes, and champion sustainability across the entire print value chain. The company said it continues to evolve its printing business and explore new business areas.

It is trying to shape the printing market by addressing growing packaging printing, and volume also in new markets – productive workflows are key. It is focusing on digital printing in the commercial segment and expanding the share of recurring revenues, including lifecycle business.

At the same time, Heidelberg is exploring new adjacent business areas such as the EV-charging business, as the first step in this segment, benefiting from technology synergies to the core business. New business fields must address megatrends, have a critical market size, and fit the capabilities of Heidelberg, Monz said.

– Shardul Sharma



Team Heidelberg at the pre-drupa media conference

Koenig & Bauer – Hall 3 Stand B31

In a little more than a month, drupa will be opening its doors once more after an eight-year break. The motto ‘More’ that hangs resplendent above the over 4,000 square-meter stand reserved by Koenig & Bauer to present its innovations from 28 May to 7 June 2024 is as apt as it is concise. A special focus is to be placed on the packaging market and digital solutions.

Andreas Plesske, CEO Koenig & Bauer, has spoken to numerous industry experts over the past months, not least within the framework of drupa's Print Promotion Industry Summit, and reports that everyone involved is eagerly awaiting drupa 2024. “As chairman of the drupa committee, I am looking forward to a spectacular trade fair with many highlights. As CEO of Koenig & Bauer, I look forward to presenting our latest innovations on the topics of digitalization and sustainability to visitors.”





■ Live first-hand experience

"From pre-press to post-press, Koenig & Bauer products represent precision, performance and high-end solutions from a single supplier. Visitors to our stand will experience digital and analog production lines that achieve breathtaking results with our workflow and digitalization solutions," says Ralf Sammeck, CDO Koenig & Bauer and CEO Koenig & Bauer Sheetfed.

Koenig & Bauer is bringing a firework display of technical innovations to Düsseldorf – demonstrating an end-to-end packaging workflow from pre-press, via printing and die-cutting to gluing of the folding cartons. All presses and machines presented at drupa – a Rapida 106 X, a VariJET 106, a CutPRO X 106 rotary die-cutter, a CutPRO Q 106 SB flat-bed die-cutter and an Omega Alius 90 folder-gluer – incorporate the very latest features. These features boost performance by at least 20 percent compared to the predecessor generations and once again set new benchmarks for folding carton production.

■ Navigating digital worlds

Therefore, digital innovations play a major role in the packaging workflow implemented on the Koenig & Bauer stand and will be presented to a broader public for the first time. "Full data transparency, innovative cloud and AI technologies, and new, ground-breaking business models stand at the focus of our digital strategy.

■ VariJET 106 combines inkjet and offset technology

Another highlight that can be seen in public for the first time is the VariJET 106 press developed by the joint venture Koenig & Bauer Durst. This digital press for folding carton printing combines the strengths of digital inkjet with the benefits of a classic offset process. It will naturally also be part of the packaging workflow on the Koenig & Bauer stand. The print samples produced on the press will illustrate a wide diversity of applications such as pharmaceutical, healthcare and cosmetics products, as well as food and beverage packaging.

Among the digital single-pass presses supplied by Koenig & Bauer Durst, the Delta SPC 130 is already well proven on the corrugated board market. Visitors to drupa will be offered a closer look at its SPC Control Console, and can learn how the Delta SPC 130 is integrated into the production environment on the basis of Durst workflow and analytics functionality.

■ Koenig & Bauer to present its Green Dot Award at drupa

Demand-based production, reduced resource consumption and optimized print processes are top priorities for Koenig & Bauer. CEO Andreas Plesske predicts: "The subject will be a defining factor for the whole industry in future, because in our business sustainability goes hand in hand with lower costs."

To sharpen customer awareness for sustainability issues and the associated benefits for their own production, and at the same time to shine a spotlight on the topic in general industry discourse, Koenig & Bauer has decided to present its Green Dot Award again this year – with a special ceremony on its fair stand.

Koenig & Bauer Durst will unveil the VariJET 106 in public for the first time with daily demonstrations



■ RotaJET – High-volume digital inkjet web printing

Koenig & Bauer will be showing various ground-breaking applications for the RotaJET digital web press at drupa. The main focus will be placed on digital decor printing and high-volume inkjet packaging production. As a special highlight, the products interact directly with Koenig & Bauer's digital AI solutions. At the same time, they will be protected on the basis of ValiPack solutions from Koenig & Bauer Banknote Solutions. Further folding carton products and high-volume inkjet applications are to be converted on the stand of BW Papersystems.

■ CI flexo printing

The drupa presentations for the field of CI flexo printing will focus on biodegradable film products for food packaging. The XD Pro combines a high degree of automation with simple operation, while the high-performance XG is available to handle high-volume production with optional flying sleeve changes (SSC). Ultimate efficiency is a particular hallmark, especially in folding carton and board packaging applications. The compact design of the CI flexo presses from Koenig & Bauer provides for fast job changeovers, maximum print quality and register accuracy even with the most difficult substrates.

With the Rapida sheetfed offset program, the digital folding carton press VariJET 106 and flexo machines for the post-printing and further processing of corrugated board, it is possible to cover all typical production requirements, a broad spectrum of substrates and run lengths from one to one million copies.

For the post-press segment, Koenig & Bauer offers classic flat-bed die-cutters in medium and large formats, including models with extensive automation, alongside innovative rotary die-cutting solutions with up to four process units for embossing, creasing, die-cutting and stripping. With the AutoBlank system, furthermore, it is even possible to integrate blanking into an inline process.

The same diversity applies when it comes to folder-glueers: users can choose equipment to match their particular production requirements from four product families and a total of 16 different working widths.



Kurz – Hall 3 Stand E71-1 + E71-2

Leonhard Kurz, a finishing expert, will participate at drupa 2024 as an exclusive platinum partner. The company will unveil its latest innovations and solutions at Hall 3 (Stands E71-1 + E71-2), promising an immersive experience for visitors seeking cutting-edge finishing technologies.

Spanning across a vast 684 square-meter stand, Leonhard Kurz will showcase a diverse array of finishing products and solutions, including hot stamping, cold transfer, and digital printing. The exhibition will feature machines and solutions from Kurz subsidiaries Steinemann DPE, MPRINT, Hinderer + Mühlich (H+M), and Kurz Digital Solutions, underscoring the company's comprehensive expertise in the field. "At drupa we will present a wide range of technologies for digital embellishment. In my opinion, nobody else in the industry is doing this in the way we are," said Markus Hoffmann, executive senior vice president, for the industrial products and application business area at Kurz during the pre-drupa press meet held in late March.

The showcase will encompass various product groups, including foils for cold foil transfer, hot stamping foils, hologram foils, embossing stamps, inkjet sheetfed printing systems, digital finishing solutions, and software for packaging design and eCommerce for the printing industry.

The highlight of the exhibition will be the DM-Maxliner 3D machine system for digital finishing, offering a unique haptic relief experience and tangible 3D effects. Designed for print shops working with packaging, commercial printing, web-to-print, and letterpress, the DM-Maxliner revolutionizes digital printing with its unrivaled capabilities.



*Markus Hoffmann of Leonhard Kurz at the pre-drupa press meet.
Photo Messe Dusseldorf*

"The DM MaxLiner is not only the biggest machine in this industry segment, it's going to be the fastest machine, the most industrialized, the most versatile machine, delivering effects which are unrivalled in the industry," Hoffman said.

Another highlight will be the Ecofin, which is a cold-transfer decoration product from Kurz that uses a 10 μ m carrier instead of a 12 μ m carrier, which makes it more economical and sustainable.

"Ecofin is backed by German know-how and R&D and exclusively produced in our Asian plant and made for the world," Hoffman said.

■ Touchpoints at drupa

Kurz will be represented at drupa at the Packaging, Sustainability and Textile Touchpoints in order to pass on its concentrated expert knowledge to customers and interested parties. The platforms in Halls 3, 4 and 14 form special forums for innovations, new business models, and partnerships.

Touchpoint Packaging (Hall 3, Stand B31) offers a platform for pioneering packaging solutions. At Touchpoint Sustainability (Hall 14, Stand B60), the focus is on sustainability in the industry. At Touchpoint Textile (Hall 4, Stand B30), visitors can find out about concepts relating to direct textile printing, screen printing, transfer printing, and digital printing.

– Shardul Sharma

Landa Digital Printing – Hall 9 Stand A33

At the pre-drupa press meet held in Dusseldorf from 25–27 March, Landa Digital Printing announced that it would launch the next generation of its B1 digital print technology, the Landa S11 and S11P nanographic printing presses. The new Landa models offer a print speed of 11,200 sheets per hour (SPH).

"We're delighted to announce the launch of the Landa S11 and S11P. Following the success of our customers with the current Landa S10 and S10P models and based on a deep understanding of the industry's future needs, we are taking Nanography to its next level," Gil Oron, CEO, Landa Digital Printing said.

Oron said that Landa Digital Printing has managed over 55 installations already with a large number of these customers having placed repeat orders. Half of these installations happened in the past year.

"After the decades of innovation, patents, and investments of over one billion Euros, we are now experiencing rapid growth with very, very strong ramp-up. And actually, we are doubling our business year after year. So, the need for digital printing solution is clear to all. It's increasing quite rapidly due to the recent trends in the market, especially with this eCommerce network," Oron said.

■ Details of the new models

The new Landa S11 and S11P models include a new ink drying system that enables transfer of dry ink from the blanket to the media, at the higher speed of 11,200 SPH.

The new Landa S11 and S11P can be customized to the exact requirements of every customer. This means that each new press comes with a choice of four or seven colors, a continuous printing capability, an optional in-line coating unit, and the opportunity to purchase the 11K Module elevating productivity to 11,200 SPH and/or the PrintAI module.

"The new Landa modules provide a significant premium to customers. While much of the new S11 series is based on the same robust and proven S10 platform, with the additional capabilities launched today, customers can expand their service offering or break into profitable new markets. More widely, there's no question that the B1 digital print revolution is underway, with Landa presses helping many print houses and converters to meet some of the industry's biggest challenges - and take advantage of some of its biggest opportunities," Oron said.



Benny Landa, founder of Landa Digital Printing, with a printed sample. Photo Messe Düsseldorf / ctillmann



Gil Oron, CEO, Landa Digital Printing, at the pre-drupa meet. Photo Messe Düsseldorf / ctillmann

Commercially available at drupa 2024 and utilizing artificial intelligence technology, the new Landa presses will also offer a new PrintAI module.

Plans for a flexible packaging press

Additionally, Landa Digital Printing announced its intention to venture into the realm of flexible packaging with the W11 flexible packaging press, further expanding its portfolio of innovative printing solutions.

“We are really excited about this,” Oron concluded.

– Shardul Sharma

Line O Matic – Hall 11 Stand A12

Line O Matic will be showcasing its recent innovations at the drupa trade show to be held between 28 May and 7 June, Dusseldorf, Germany. The company is to reveal its latest offerings that could redefine the landscape of the stationary, converting, packaging, and printing segment.

“At the drupa trade show, we are not just showcasing machines, we are showcasing a vision of the future in our largest stall to date having 760 sqm—a future where efficiency, sustainability, and innovation converge to create unparalleled value for our customers. We will be showcasing our flagship fully automatic Exercise Book machine accompanied by an array of machines — an inline Shrink-Wrapping machine (Bolt RB104 Max+ SWM 100), a Folio Size Sheeter (APEX RS165), an Automatic Binding machine for single ring books (Spiro B340 S) and automatic reel to reel Flexo Printing machine (STM 125),” said a company release.

“Join us at the drupa trade show, where innovation meets inspiration, excellence meets expectation, and Line O Matic Graphics Industries stands as a beacon of progress in an ever-evolving industry. Together, let us embark on a journey of discovery, collaboration, and transformation—one that will shape the future of print and packaging for generations to come,” the release states.



Line O Matic's STM125 Reel to Reel Flexo Printing machine

manroland Goss – Hall 16 Stand F02

At drupa 2024 in May-June, manroland Goss, a provider of web offset printing and digital finishing solutions, is set to unveil a comprehensive array of groundbreaking innovations — the highlight being the Varioman press for packaging printing applications.

“Packaging solutions are our key highlights. Varioman is a real game changer in the market,” Franz Kriechbaum, CEO of manroland Goss, said at the pre-drupa media conference held in Dusseldorf from 25 -- 27 March. drupa 2024 is scheduled from 28 May to 7 June.

Wolfgang Hiesinger, senior vice-president for packaging and newspaper solutions at manroland Goss, talked in detail about Varioman and what it offers to customers. He said the technology promises lower production costs and increased productivity. With solvent-free EB curing and minimized ink consumption, it is an environment-friendly option for the industry.

“You are printing solvent-free. You can combine that with EB curing technology to avoid UV inks. You can also use expanded color gamut systems with six or seven standardized colors to avoid having to print special or pantone colors separately,” Hiesinger said. He said its flexibility enables seamless integration of various applications and fast job changeovers without compromising on print quality.

Hiesinger said the Varioman technology can help save 20 – 40 % in flexible packaging for short to mid long runs compared to flexo/gravure.



Wolfgang Hiesinger (left) and Franz Kriechbaum (right) of manroland Goss at the pre-drupa conference. Photo PSA

■ hubergroup and manroland Goss create sustainable packaging innovation

hubergroup, a leading global specialist for printing inks, and manroland Goss have joined forces to develop a sustainable solution for the packaging industry in the field of flexible paper packaging. Their alliance brings together experts along the value chain to conserve resources and reduce waste. The partners will present the result at drupa and discuss the future of packaging printing at a panel discussion at Touchpoint Packaging in Hall 3 / B31.

■ Variable-format pin folder for book printing

In addition to the Varioman, manroland Goss will have solutions for the book printing segment. The company will introduce a variable-format pin folder tailored for book printing needs. This technology enables efficient processing of different formats, enhancing flexibility and efficiency. This technology enables the efficient processing of different formats, even for short runs.

■ Maintellisense – AI-based anomaly detection

manroland Goss will present another product highlight in the area of digitalization: Maintellisense, a predictive maintenance platform, which is equipped with smart data analytics. Visitors to the trade fair will experience how Maintellisense uses AI-based anomaly detection to optimize machine maintenance, detect impending machine downtimes at an early stage, and help solve problems. The software enables faster and targeted decisions for more efficient and sustainable print production.

■ Retrofits, upgrades and relocations

The company will also promote its wide range of professional retrofit and upgrade solutions. The company helps customers to update their production systems at an economical rate. From mechanical and electrical engineering to software development, manroland Goss offers extensive in-house solutions, not only for its own brands but also for others.

manroland Goss will be present in Hall 16 / F02.

– *Shardul Sharma*



Miraclon – Hall 15 Stand F50

At drupa 2024, Miraclon, a innovator in flexo pre-press technology, will showcase an impressive array of new product innovations and real-world success stories. The core focus for Miraclon at drupa 2024 would be 12 case studies showcasing the commercial success achieved by leveraging Miraclon's Flexcel NX technology.

In addition to highlighting its record of success, Miraclon will unveil nine new product innovations at drupa 2024. Among these innovations is the Flexcel NX Ultra 42 processor, designed to push the boundaries of technological excellence in flexo pre-press. Miraclon will introduce the Shine LED lamp kits, offering a cost-effective solution for UV LED plate exposure along with a preview of next-generation Flexcel NX plate and Flexcel NX Ultra plate technologies.

"Miraclon and our Flexcel NX technology are bringing dramatic benefits to the press room through modern flexo. The needs of the brands are driving increased requirements on the packaging printer for efficiency and sustainability in the press room. Fortunately, at the same time, new technology and techniques are driving flexo to a higher standard for package printing," Chris Payne, chief executive officer, said at the pre-drupa press meet in late March.

Payne said flexo's growth is driven by increased spend on packaging in the emerging markets and print process substitution.

"As modern flexo capabilities are implemented everywhere, print jobs that pre-



Chris Payne, CEO, Miraclon.
Photo Messe Dusseldorf

viously have been done with offset and by other applications can now be done on flexo. Flexography is by far the largest print process, both by value and volume, and will continue to be the most important technology for packaging print for decades to come," he said.

Emma Weston, chief marketing officer of Miraclon, discussed the company's post-pandemic adaptation strategy, highlighting its commitment to customer-centric innovation.

"Like many companies, we've had to adapt and we've been focusing on working one-on-one with customers to bring them the innovations and the services that they need and then rolling those out one country at a time, rather than making global new product announcements," she said.

Weston said that of the nine innovations that Miraclon will feature at drupa, most have yet to be globally announced. "All of them are in customers, either in commercial production or in testing. And at drupa, we're ready to talk about all of them," she said.

– Shardul Sharma

Machnika with Zhongke — Hall 11 Stand D10

Machnika with its India partner Zhongke India will be launching at drupa 2024, promoting the concept of smart factory 4.0 and how it can assist smart factories in the print and packaging business set up and optimize cutting-edge technologies.

Smart Factory 4.0 integrates advanced automation, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and connectivity to create intelligent and adaptive shop floor environments. By leveraging real-time data insights and seamless communication between machines, processes, and systems, smart factory 4.0 enables unprecedented levels of efficiency, productivity, and agility in operations.

The company is part of a group company based in UAE, where other promoters are into smart city software and technology based software for PSUs. Describing the operation of Machnika, Rohit Rajpal, CEO and founder, Machnika explained, "Machine is communicating with machine. The AI-enabled devices called the IoT devices are connected to the multiple sensors of the machine, that derive the various data and gets collected by Machinka software. It is then carried forward to different con-cerned departments for analysis." One of the main advantage is that it can provide predictive maintenance which will help companies maintain their work efficiency and negate downtime.

He adds, "It is a moment of pride for us as an Indian company is set to launch on the global platform at drupa."

– Rajesh Kumar

Pelican Rotoflex – Hall 10 Stand C3

Pelican Rotoflex, a manufacturer of converting machinery, will be present at drupa 2024 with its Solomark 6450 rotogravure press and the latest Acrostar turret slitter. While the rotogravure press will just be showcased at the two printing units, there will be a live demonstration of the Acrostar turret slitter.

Sanat Gandhi, senior technical executive, Pelican Rotoflex, said, "Due to certain restrictions on the usage of inks and solvents at the drupa 2024 exhibiting hall, we will not be able to present any live demonstration of Solomark 6450. Visitors, however, can witness a live demonstration of our recently launched turret slitter."

Led by ELS technology, the Solomark 6450 rotogravure press operates at a speed of up to 450 m/min and offers excellent web processing capabilities for various films, including thinner, and more sustainable substrates. The machine is equipped with a unique semi-floatation dryer with 3D and 2D hole technology for quick drying and a high-efficiency ventilation module that ensures minimal solvent residue on the substrate.



Machnika will promote the concept of smart factory 4.0 and how it can assist smart factories in the print and packaging business set up and optimize cutting-edge technologies at drupa 2024





With a changeover of rewinder within 30 seconds regardless of the number of rewinds, the Acrostar turret slitter is characterized by closed-loop tension control on the rewinder with load cell feedback, which ensures consistent high-quality finished rolls. Its innovative shaft support design extends the life of the differential shaft, even under rotational loads, thus enhancing durability and reliability.

Pelican Rotoflex will be present at drupa 2024, in hall 10, stand C03

– Rajesh Kumar

RMGT – Hall 16 Stand E11

Ryobi MHI Technology or RMGT as it is widely known will have a strong showing at drupa with a 600 square meter stand. Its theme 'Assist Your Potential with Technological Expertise and Constant Innovation' will take on two areas – Further automation for package printing; and, Increased productivity for commercial printing through autonomous operation.

On display the RMGT 1060LX-6 1,060 mm format offset press will aim at the package printing market with its wide stock range. The RMGT 970PF-8 A1-plus size convertible perfecter will be presented particularly for the commercial and book printing market. However, the press will be used to demonstrate the company's advanced automation and laborsaving technologies for both package printing and commercial printing. The 1060LX-6+CC+LD at drupa will be equipped with a coating unit and long delivery. The 1060LX is an upgraded model that offers improved paper feed and delivery performance and a much shorter make-ready time during job changeover, significantly boosting productivity for package printing. The 1060LX's advanced features, which greatly boost package printing productivity through continuous operation and speedy job changeover, will be demonstrated using two printing images with special colors and coating varnish.

It will be demonstrated in continuous operation using an automatic nonstop feeder and the delivery shutter option. It is designed for high-speed package printing at 17,100 sheets an hour with the use of a polygon type vacuum wheel at the delivery section and the optional enhanced feeder-and-registration section functions that increase the printing speed for heavy stock. Also shown will be the optional fully automatic simultaneous plate changer and a retractable coating unit (with a semi-automatic plate changer) that enable preparation for varnish coating to be performed while printing. The instant-drying using an LED-UV unit is capable of curing high-value-added printing such as chemical embossed printing.

The RMGT 970PF-8 convertible perfecter to be demonstrated at drupa handles the most popular A1-plus size, and will be equipped with advanced automation functions for assisting the operator, including Smart Assist Printing for automatic continuous printing of multiple jobs. Demonstrations will include continuous printing of two jobs using Smart Assist Printing, highlighting the higher operating rate for commercial printing as well as operation by entry level operators made possible by the 970's automation functions.

The RMGT booth will also include smart factory proposals for optimizing production by network connection of the printing processes, as well as the latest drying technology and other solutions.



The 1060LX-6+CC+LD at drupa will be equipped with a coating unit and long delivery.



SP Ultraflex – Hall 11 Stand D12

At drupa 2024 in Dusseldorf, SP Ultraflex, a specialist in converting slitter rewinders, will conduct a live demonstration of its Roboslit plus series 1000 mpm dual turret slitter rewinder. Biku Kohli, CEO of SP Ultraflex, said, “This model, positioned right at the top of our extensive range, includes a host of features that take output, quality, and operator convenience to the next level within a safe and automated environment that includes end-to-end integrated material handling.” The machine, which will be on display in hall 11, stand D12, has an operational speed of 1000 mpm. It has a fully automatic job set-up that encompasses the positioning of the web guide sensor, cutters, trim extraction nozzles, and rewind cores, effectively minimizing setup time, material consumption, and operator dependency.

Other features include a newly developed low-noise trim extraction system that allows a safer and more comfortable working environment; an automatic off-loader with a secondary pusher that reduces manual effort and enhances workflow efficiency, enabling continuous operation without interruptions; and robust safety features, including an area scanner, doors and guard interlocking, and CCTV cameras to ensure a secure working environment for operators.

Kohli explained the automatic job set-up feature. “It involves the simultaneous alignment of the unwind, cutting, and rewind sections of the machine to the package design through the use of servo-driven pick-and-place mechanisms for the components in the respective sections.” He believes this feature will be one of the key attractions for visitors, who are overwhelmed by the size changes required on their slitter rewinders.

The SP Ultraflex team says the newly designed trim extraction is far more efficient than its predecessor and, as such, can produce the desired suction power at a fraction of the power consumed by a regular trim extraction blower.

Kohli says the printing industry is undergoing rapid and significant changes. In the evolving landscape, he expressed confidence that his team is ready to deliver for converters who demand more efficient solutions with minimal set-up wastage and reduced dependency on operator skills.

He feels drupa 2024 is the largest exhibition in the industry and offers an opportunity to maximize the global exposure of any company. “It will play a vital role in facilitating our company’s growth trajectory by providing a platform for strategic engagement, collaboration, and continuous learning within the dynamic landscape of the flexible packaging and converting industry.”

– Rajesh Kumar



UFlex – Hall 9 Stand C30

At IntraPac 2024 in Greater Noida, *Packaging South Asia* caught up with Sanjay Malik Sabharwal, joint president and COO, UFlex engineering business, who spoke about the packaging industry’s growth, IntraPac and the company’s plans to show a flexo machine live at drupa 2024.

“The excitement is building up!” Sabharwal said about drupa. “People in our country usually talk about the World Cup and IPL. However, the event in Dusseldorf holds similar significance for the allied printing and packaging industry.”

At drupa, the flexible packaging provider will be present in hall 9, stand C30, where it will display a CI Flexo press along with a CombiLaminator. Along with the engineering section, the other businesses of UFlex, including holography, packaging films, and chemicals, will be part of drupa. “Our machines will utilize water-based inks for the live demonstrations. A flexo machine running at an elevated speed of 400 ppm will be a highlight. We aim to showcase the strength of our packaging technologies at drupa, aligned with the growing recognition of our capabilities in the international markets,” he said.

Sabharwal was all praise for IntraPac. “With the Indian packaging industry growing at a rapid pace, there was a pressing need for a packaging show



Sanjay Malik Sabharwal, joint president and COO, UFlex engineering business. Photo PSA

that could accommodate both Indian and international packaging providers and OEMs in India. IPAMA's IntraPac initiative comes with great expectations to serve as an in-country show," Sabharwal said. UFlex, Sabharwal says, commends IPAMA for the "exceptional quality of participation" in the event with the hope that it keeps growing as more editions take place.

India has made great strides in innovation across industries, he said, adding that Indian companies have been manufacturing packaging machinery for a very long time. However, due to limits of speed or automation capabilities, many machines and equipment were imported. "But today, not only have we caught up, we are probably way ahead in terms of meeting industry expectations," he said.

– Aayush Pandey

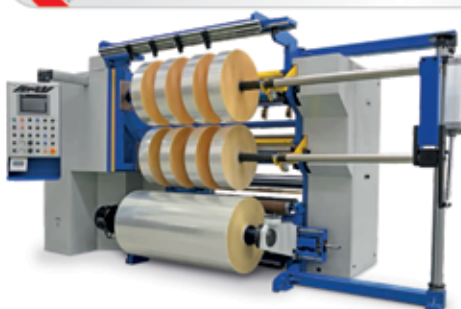
Xeikon – Hall 11 Stands A01, A02

Xeikon has announced details of the next evolution Panther inkjet technology as it prepares for the world premiere of the Xeikon PX3300HD, a new 1200 dpi digital press to be launched at drupa 2024. Developed for high quality labels, the 5-color machine offers a 330 mm printing width and speeds up to 70 meters a minute, even when printing with high opacity white. It utilizes a newly developed ink series, PX-Cure LED HD, to ensure good curing, while supporting sustainability targets for converters.

"As inkjet technology continues to mature, there's a clear need to update Xeikon's Panther portfolio with a higher resolution option to meet specific customer requests. Consequently, we're now introducing a 1200 dpi engine to complement the existing 600 dpi product range," states Jeroen Van Bauwel, director Solution Design. "The new Xeikon PX3300HD will extend the capabilities for printers by giving them the tools to reach excellent quality at even higher productivity levels in a TCO-friendly (total cost of ownership) way."



Experienced engineering, innovative design



TF

Both Models will be displayed at the Show

TCA 64C+



Hall 11 stand F51
May 28 - June 7, 2024
Düsseldorf / Germany

The Single face model **TF** offers a new way to conceive a slitter rewinder, unique in the converting market: the comfort of unwind and rewind on one side even with bigger rolls.

- The Operator has both unwinding and rewinding process under control at a glance
- The Backside of the machine is available for inspection and to combine in-line other equipment (Eg. Macro and micro perforation, laser cutting vision systems)

TECHNICAL DATA	TF
Web widths	1050-1350 mm, 1650 mm
Max. batch roll diameter	870 mm
Max. finished roll diameter	600 mm
Minimum slitting width	20 mm
Max. machine speed	800 mpm

The Duplex turret slitter rewinder **TCA 64C+** has been Designed to combined the advantages of a compact design to The ones of a configuration with separate unwind stand

- Possibility of fitting a splicing table
- Easy access to the slitting area
- Short web-path under running board and well isolated from the floor to the guarantee the hygiene standards and prevent any contamination of the material with dust

TECHNICAL DATA	TCA 64C+
Web widths	1050-1350 mm, 1650-1850 mm
Max. unwind roll	1000 mm (1200 mm)
Max. rewind roll	610 mm
Minimum slitting width	20 mm
Max. machine speed	600-800 mpm



Via monte Grappa, 9-20020 Vanzaghella Mi- Italy.
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According to the company, the new digital press produces high durability, full-color labels for diverse markets, covering up to 88% of Pantone colors within Delta E2 (rising to 94% within Delta E 3). To meet the specific requirements of the higher resolution engine, Xeikon has developed new PX-Cure LED HD inks. The new inks match the sustainability benefits of the recently introduced PantherCure UV LED series for Xeikon 600-dpi inkjet presses, including significant savings in energy consumption, instant warm up for more agile operation, and 10 times longer lamp life compared to traditional UV arc lamps, resulting in lower waste.

The new press leverages Xerox W-Series industrial inkjet printheads with dedicated waveforms and screening software developed by Xeikon. Furthermore, the PX3300HD is fully prepared for hybrid printing with the option to add Xeikon's modular inline label converting units and a large unwinder for longer uninterrupted production runs.

The Xeikon PX3300HD is driven by Xeikon's X-800 DFE workflow which includes color management as an integral part with a Pantone license so customers can easily convert all the latest Pantone colors for their press and substrates. In addition, the basic press configuration offers efficient operational support with an inline camera for quality inspection included by default. Adjusting registration, stitching and compensation for missing nozzles, are all measured and corrected in a fully automated way. This feature helps to alleviate ongoing issues with finding skilled staff to run the press, while extending the lifetime of the printheads and ensuring consistent high quality.

Van Bauwel concludes, "This extension of Xeikon's inkjet capabilities is an incredibly exciting development for customers. It offers them a very cost-effective and highly competitive opportunity to scale their businesses, so they can supply profitable luxury market segments with exceptional productivity and quality. We are currently well underway with customer trials and will start sales at drupa. I'd like to encourage all attendees to make their way to our stand in Hall 11/A01, to experience the PX3300HD 1200 dpi press running live and discuss their future path in inkjet for labels and packaging with Xeikon."

■ Our take –

In a web press conference on the evening of 29 April 2024, we had an opportunity to question Xeikon about the cost of dry toner consumables of digital presses. When these were introduced more than 30 years ago the promise of some of the manufacturers was that the toner cost would rapidly go down as consumption volumes increased. One of the Xeikon speakers at the press conference responded by saying, "More than three decades old, this is certainly a mature technology. And yes, both the capital cost and the cost of consumables should have come down."

Our view is that digital production printing continues to face the 'Innovator's Dilemma' in that it has taken a very long time for much of it to deliver quality at a reasonable cost with reliability. While the drum and toner presses at lower capital costs have worked well in markets like India this is because they have delivered quality for newly invented markets such as photo books and the consumable costs have remained reasonable – their quality has evolved while the price or click charge has remained the same despite continuous inflation over the past three decades.

Many of the paradigms offered in the early days of digital printing such as transactional printing have not been very successful in markets such as India. For various reasons this segment has occupied a specialized niche. The evolution of digital printing into inkjet has also faced the dilemma of high capital cost and consumables. Although to some extent alleviated by Asian and Indian manufacturers of inkjet presses, the inkjet presses from the major global manufacturers continue in the main to be unable to answer the question: "Is it cheaper, better or faster?"

Clayton Christensen – The Innovator's Dilemma: When New Technologies Cause Great Firms to Fail, first published in 1997, discussed why and how some disruptive technologies can fail.

– Naresh Khanna



The Xeikon PX3300HD 1200 dpi label press to be shown running live at drupa 24. Photo Xeikon



A screenshot from Xeikon's pre-drupa press conference

