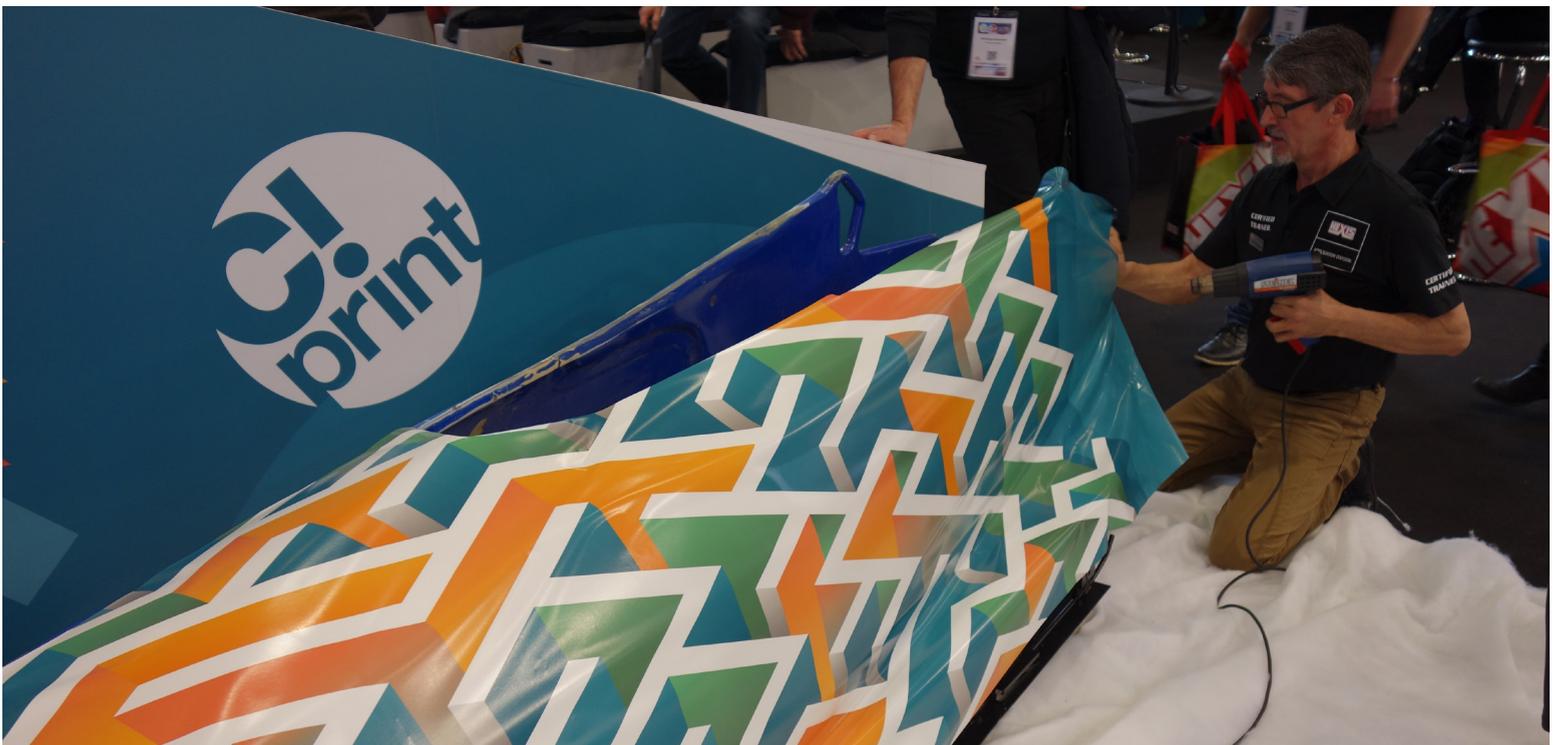


How about signage companies in France

Rookies rocking the scene at C!print

By Martin Kugler



Header Rookies rocking the scene at C!print.

This year's C!print show took place from 5 to 7 February at the Eurexpo exhibition centre near Lyon in France. Over the years C!print has become an important annual event in the diary of both manufacturers and distributors in the digital, screen printing, textile and marking and decorating business across the entire graphics and printing industry in France, eclipsing the renowned Viscom event in Paris.

In just three days the team of 656 Editions, the organisers of C!print, managed to attract a record number of more than 16,000 visitors, roughly 20% more than last year.

Two main trends

Two major trends stood out in 2019: environmentally friendly concerns and customised decoration. Most manufacturers are aware that green features sell products. The switch to PVC free media and UV inks with LED UV curing are generally accepted ways of getting rid of toxic solvents in both the manufacturing

and final application stages. The trend is confirmed in wide format inkjet printing, sheetfed offset, flexo label printing and screen printing. The consensus is that UV inks and UV curing with LED lamps offer environmental benefits in addition to smaller UV system dimensions, instant on-and-off, no heat radiation onto the substrate and lower energy consumption. HP is one of the few companies approaching it in a different way by heavily promoting their mainly water based Latex inks.

More exhibitors

In its seventh year now, C!print attracted 46 first time participants amongst the 250 exhibitors from diverse industries such as large format printing, textile printing, finishing and sign making - with interesting newcomers from the commercial printing and label printing industries. Amongst the machine manufacturers well known names such as Durst, EFI, HP, Mimaki, Zünd and many others were present with stands. On the media side big names such as 3A Composites, 3M, Avery



Dickson banner and fabric colour fans.

Dennison with Mactac and Chemica were amongst those to be seen. Printing and decorating are also marketing tools and C!print showed some excellent synergies for retail and catering, exhibition stand design, and furniture and vehicle wraps. Digital printing has given us flexibility, infinite customisation and low per unit cost, enabling designers and printers to offer their customers a unique experience of visual creativity and made-to-measure communication tools. C!print proved to be the prime showcase for printing and graphics industry businesses in France.



Phoseon LED UV line-up.



Designer domings made by Sýnia.

Exciting technological advances and synergies If the 2019 C!print was short on revolutions there was no shortage of evolutions, technological advances and synergies from different domains. Exhibitors generally went to great efforts to showcase the versatility and adaptability of their products to a wide range of applications.

In what follows we take a closer look at a couple of noticeable, innovative companies, outside the mainstream, some of them for the first time at C!print, some of them well established exhibitors that came up with new ideas for the occasion.

Aslan

The German vinyl manufacturer attended C!print for the first time under its own banner. Being an expert in technical films, Aslan wants to offer specialist niche products that stand out from the crowd. At C!print the company showed its SE 75, a high gloss Polyester film available in silver and gold. The film has a double sided true mirror finish and high scratch resistance. To underline its green credentials

Aslan offers a line of PVC free films, under the name of GreenCircle. These are mostly polypropylene based and thus avoid the need for solvents and plasticisers for their production. The range is set to increase in the future but for now Aslan already has black, white and etched glass plotter films plus a high performance laminate made from PP.

Dickson

This specialist in banner material and technical textiles also emphasises its efforts in environmentally friendly product design by presenting its line of Evergreen inkjet printable fabrics and banner materials intended for use as drop banners, wall coverings and for point-of-sale applications.

Duo Display

Duo demonstrated its solutions for the design of commercial spaces based on large size panels made with stretched printed fabrics. The concept is spectacular and is suitable for interior decoration, exhibition build and corporate design. The Duo team were proud to announce the opening of their new subsidiary in Germany, in Hilden near Düsseldorf, which comprises a warehouse, workshop and a 20 strong workforce.

IST-Metz

The German UV system manufacturer IST, together with its integrator ITL Integration Technology which is based in England, came to C!print for the first time. They showed their range of LED UV systems targeting OEMs and also intended as retrofits in existing sheetfed offset printing machines, which allow a technology upgrade to LED UV without any major mechanical changes to the press.

Hexis

The French vinyl film manufacturer introduced the new THE190EVO, a self-adhesive cast vinyl printing substrate with its Take Heat Easy low tack adhesive technology, which the company claims offers ease of installation and substantial time savings. The film is intended for wrap applications on vehicles and architectural elements. Pascal Bazonnard, representing the

Hexis training centre, was busy demonstrating the conformability and easy installation of a gloss laminated THE190EVO on a heavily curved bobsleigh of Olympic fame. However, vinyl wraps are not restricted to vehicles. They can be very effectively implemented on boats, trains and trams, furniture, laptops and even musical instruments. To go with its cast films, Hexis offers an extremely wide range of clear laminates that add further benefits such as UV barriers, a variety of textured surface finishes, anti-graffiti and anti-bacterial protection. These special laminates are equally suitable for standard plain coloured vinyl films to give them the same additional properties.

Phoseon

Following the trend of wider acceptance of LED UV, the American specialist manufacturer of UV curing equipment concentrated on LED systems and showed an impressive line of LED lamps with power supplies for screen printing applications. Phoseon mainly targets OEMs so we can expect to see its LEDs on more printing machines in the future.

Sýnia

This specialist in domings, based near Montpellier in the south of France, demonstrated the potential of its technology for a large number of diverse applications beyond traditional promotional items to include decoration and arts. Doming involves depositing a clear polyurethane resin on a self-adhesive substrate and Sýnia has refined the technology by adding its own patented olfactory version. CEO Sylvain Maillard goes to great lengths to illustrate the wide range of potential client applications from perfume manufacturers to interior design. After 14 years of existence Sýnia claims to be the European leader in full service doming.

The next C!print show will take place from 4 to 6 February 2020 at the Lyon Eurexpo exhibition centre. •



LED UV lamp head made by IST.



Translucent doming made by Sýnia.

Developments