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Marabu develops UV-LED curable screen-printing inks for use on glass

In response to the trend for using advanced and eco-friendly inks in the glass industry, Marabu has developed Ultra Glass LEDGL – a range of UV-LED curable screen-printing inks especially for use on glass.

By co-operating closely with glass-manufacturing companies, the ink manufacturer, based in Germany's Stuttgart region, develops tailor-made solutions for highly specific needs. In particular, Marabu has partnered with enterprises interested in or already using UV-LED curing to develop a special UV-LED curable screen-printing ink especially for glass.

The Ultra Glass LEDGL range is said to have excellent properties in terms of initial adhesion, opacity, gloss and reactivity. It includes brilliant and high-gloss colours, plus highly opaque inks for greater visibility on dark substrates. Furthermore, the special LED-compatible formula of Ultra Glass LEDGL inks enhances initial adhesion and abrasion resistance shortly after printing. UV-LED curing also supports pinning – the use of an intermediate curing process that enables 360-degree decoration of round objects, such as hollow glass containers.

The versatile new inks are suitable for printing on glass packaging, e.g. beverage bottles as well as flat glass for use in interiors. On metal surfaces the LEDGL inks offer appropriate adhesion and resistance to chemicals, water and abrasion. They can also be used for decorating – for example fragrance bottles in the cosmetics industry, plus glassware for the hospitality industry, glazed ceramics, anodised aluminium and painted surfaces.

Depending on where and how the printed item will be used, the substrate will need to be pre-treated. Ultra Glass LEDGL is a two-component ink, therefore an adhesion modifier must be added for proper application and the best results. ■

Ultra Glass LEDGL is Marabu's UV-LED curable screen-printing ink developed for use on glass

InkTec toughens up floor graphic media

Recognising the significant demand for floor graphics at the moment, InkTec Europe has introduced a more resilient product. The Oxfordshire-based manufacturer has created a multi-purpose floor graphic media which is R12 slip-resistance certified (DIN-51130 by IFA). Improved resil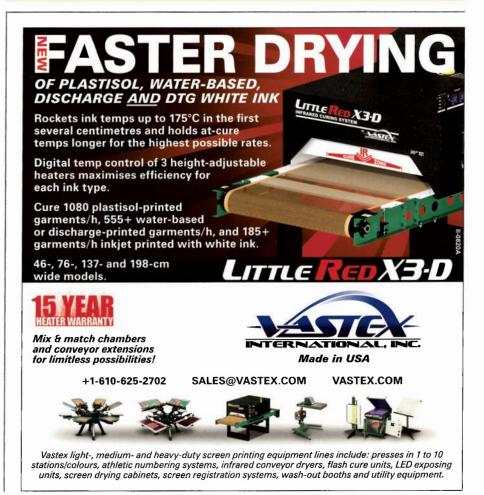ience is due to a combination of PVC and fabric, in addition to being thicker (at 450gsm) than standard floor graphic medias. The practical media can be used for floor graphics and signage on various surfaces including carpet, rougher textures and even applied to walls.

InkTec's multi-purpose floor graphic media is designed to be tough and hard-wearing

"We have been keeping a watchful eye on what has been going on with floor graphic media over the last few months particularly since lockdown has eased," said Peter Davidson, Head of IP Consumable Sales. "One thing that struck us was that there was a need for a material that was tougher, hard-wearing but also offered that all important slip-rating. This is going to become increasingly important as we head towards cooler months in the autumn and people migrate more inside. It is going to be essential to continue to remind them of social distancing and this product is ideal at acting as this constant reminder."

InkTec's rugged new floor graphic media requires no additional protective laminate. It is suitable for retail and leisure environments, particularly for indoor applications or shorter term outdoor use in dry situations. The material is available in a matte finish and comes in 25m rolls with a width of 54ins.

www.inktec-europe.com ■

DISCONNECT AND RECONNECT

PrimeCenter serves as the control centre for the creation of print and cut data. The software simplifies data preparation and output and enables users to automate their data workflow between design, print and cutting individually and according to their needs. Bendixen explains: "Based on the available PDF print data, PrimeCenter

"This is revolutionary for customers with large-format printing applications"

sorts the various jobs on a sheet or roll material – depending on the desired characteristics of maximum material utilisation, delivery deadline or other. This nested print image can be fed into the production process. PrimeCenter then passes on the metadata associated with each order throughout all production steps. At the end of the production line, after cutting, a robot gripper arm in the fully automated version can then remove the individual parts and assign them to the respective orders. PrimeCenter provides the necessary metadata at the end of the production line."

METADATA AVAILABILITY

"This is revolutionary for our customers with large-format printing applications," believes Bendixen. "Everyone who produces digitally has to sort different jobs on one sheet again and again. In production, however, the metadata is usually lost. This means information like the order number, customer name, number of parts per set, quantity of sets, right or left parts, etc. – all this information is not stored in the print PDF and is therefore not passed on in the course of further processing. PrimeCenter is the first software to do so."

"PrimeCenter offers users maximum freedom to automate their pre-press workflow in the way that makes sense for them"

According to Bendixen, PrimeCenter is compatible with any RIP software.

A great deal of manual work is still being done, however, especially in the advertising technology segment. The need for manual work or automation can also vary greatly depending on the season. Zünd and Caldera have taken this into account in the development of PrimeCenter. Therefore, Bendixen says, users are offered as much flexibility as possible: "Regardless of whether the user makes the settings manually or wants to automate them completely, PrimeCenter offers users the maximum freedom to automate their pre-press workflow in the way that makes sense for them."

With full automation, the metadata is exported from an MIS, an ERP or a web shop via hot folders, customised file names or with XML-based job tickets. With different program versions: Basic, Pro and Max, the degree of automation can be adjusted at any time "The unique thing about PrimeCenter," says Bendixen, convinced, "is that the individual parts can be reassigned to the orders after cutting or sorted according to other characteristics, such as individual dispatch or collective delivery. No matter whether it is a single item, a small order, a partial or large print run. It's never been seen before in the large format segment." ■

Daniel Bischof works in Corporate Communications at Zünd