

New digital textile market entrant makes debut



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Swiss company Luescher-Tschudi, new to the digital textile printing market in 2015, debuts its large-format roll-to-roll printer, the T-REX 320, in Hall 3 at Stand F118 at ITMA. Initially conceived for soft signage, the machine is said to offer mechanical durability as well as low service and maintenance costs.

A specially constructed fabric-guiding system gives consistent tension over the entire length and width of the roll, while the custom-built integrated fabric dryer is said to guarantee best results on all fabrics before rolling.

Fabric feeding and roll change are automatic, which the company said is especially advantageous in the handling of large fabric rolls. T-REX 320 contains the latest-generation Konica Minolta KM 1024i MAE print heads and is suitable for water-based inks. The print speed is up to 230sqm/hour in 2-pass mode, with 360/720dpi resolution.

The company behind the machine is led by a four-man management team comprising Hans Lüscher, European sales, Werner Tschudi, R&D, engineering and training, Lars Janneryd, European and Scandinavian sales and Thomas Schweizer, marketing.

Werner Tschudi is the owner of Tschudi Technology, which has a long track record in digital-printing technology

and collaborated in the development. Hans Lüscher is the former owner of Lüscher AG and has more than 25 years' experience in building mechanical and digital step-and-repeat systems, including computer-to-screen machines. In 1995 he produced the first textile software for engraving and colour printing, called ImageBox, with plugins for Photoshop.

Lars Janneryd was a director of Lüscher ZAG until the company was sold in 2006 and then founded his own consulting business in the UK. Thomas Schweizer, another Lüscher veteran, worked over 18 years for the Swiss Sefa group and also for the Japanese company Murakami Ltd and later for Swiss company Interscreen AG (Grünig AG).

The company also offers a complementary thermofixation unit. The Quickfix Neo is suitable for fabric-roll widths of 2.6m and 3.2m, and is described as extremely stable and of simple metal construction, with no moving parts inside the machine and delivering a constant and uniform temperature over the whole printed textile area.

The system is tension-controlled and offers free selection of thermofixation speeds, independent of textile materials and fabric thickness. It has a productivity that matches that of the T-Rex 320, at up to 230sqm/hour.



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