Domino and Rotocon join forces

Domino Digital Printing Solutions is expanding its presence in Africa through a partnership with Rotocon, one of South Africa's leading printing technology providers. GILL LOUBSER uncovers the story.

IN ADDITION to being an existing regional distributor of Domino's extensive range of coding and marking equipment, Rotocon has now been appointed as the South African representative for Domino Digital Printing Solutions, a division within Domino Printing Sciences.

Africa is an area of key interest to Domino and, in the view of Hans Schreuders, Domino's general manager (Middle East & Africa), the company is confident that Rotocon's comprehensive network of contacts will prove extremely valuable for business on the continent. 'It's a relationship we plan to nurture with great care, as the partnership represents an exciting opportunity to drive growth and sales in our region,' he says.

Comments Rotocon's Michael Aengenvoort: 'We're delighted to be representing Domino Digital Printing Solutions. It's a company with a well-established heritage in the digital inkjet printing industry, and we look forward to promoting the reliable and trusted products to businesses in South Africa.'

Michael's use of the word 'heritage' is particularly apt, as this year marks Domino's 40th anniversary – celebrating four decades of inkjet development. With over 500 global installations of its piezo drop-on-demand inkjet systems, there's no doubt that

Domino's heritage is sound and that this is a trusted name around the globe.

This recent agreement is just the latest in an extensive catalogue of Rotocon's agencies for world-leading companies in the printing and converting field. Following the original fountainhead agreement with RotoControl in 2009, MPS, AVT and Pantec were added in 2012; and the collection was further enhanced by the addition of Wink Stanzwerkzeuge in 2013, Screen in 2014 and Matho in 2015. Last year saw the unveiling of three new partnerships – with Erhardt+Leimer, Kocher+Beck and Cheshire Anilox Technology joining the line-up.

Until now Rotocon's focus has been primarily on the narrow-web industry but that focus has shifted as the arrangement with Domino brings fresh products into the Rotocon fold that meet requirements in the commercial print sector for digital inkjet printers and control systems.

Domino Digital Printing Solutions is not only known for the development of digital inkjet printing technologies, but also for its worldwide aftermarket products and customer services. All equipment is designed to meet the high-speed, high-quality demands of commercial printing environments, bringing new capabilities to a number of sectors.

Inline booklet production

In the field of booklet production, for instance, the compact, single-engine duplex Domino K630i monochrome digital inkjet press prints inline with a digital saddle-stitcher at web speeds up to 150m/min producing up to 7 000 book blocks or booklets per hour, with constantly varying numbers of pages. The addition of an unwinder, buffer and rotary cutter results in an integrated system to minimise staffing requirements and reduce material waste, while facilitating high production output and being geared for rapid job changes.

The K630i can be configured for 75m/min or 150m/min with print width options of 333mm, 445mm or 558mm as either simplex or duplex in the same frame.

The press is offered with either cost-effective aqueous pigmented ink or a high-impact UV ink designed for high-gloss coated stocks commonly required in direct marketing applications.

The duplex solution is based on a single enclosure and offers one of the smallest footprints in the industry with a print section (excluding unwind and rewind) of only 2m x 3m.

The K630i also benefits from the inclusion of Domino's unique i-Tech (intelligent technology) productivity-enhancing smart features designed to optimise printer performance and maintain high levels of productivity. Domino's i-Tech ActiFlow ink circulating system ensures that ink is always moving around the printhead, even when it has stopped, while the revolutionary i-Tech CleanCap automated printhead cleaning and capping technology reduces manual operator intervention. In addition, the i-Tech StitchLink micro-motor controller technology ensures that all heads are automatically and precisely calibrated to print as one, enabling seamless print across the full web width.

Security printing, brand protection

A truly modular and scalable inkjet printing system, the Domino K600i can be provided in seven different print width formats, with two speed options and with UV-curable or aqueous inks.

For instance, a system for B2 digital sheet-fed printing, Domino's 782mm wide K600i monochrome printer (pictured alongside), operates at up to 120m/min printing on sheets from 60g/m² to 250g/m². Applications range from variable data printing for security printing and game cards to 2D code printing on to cartonboard for folding cartons.
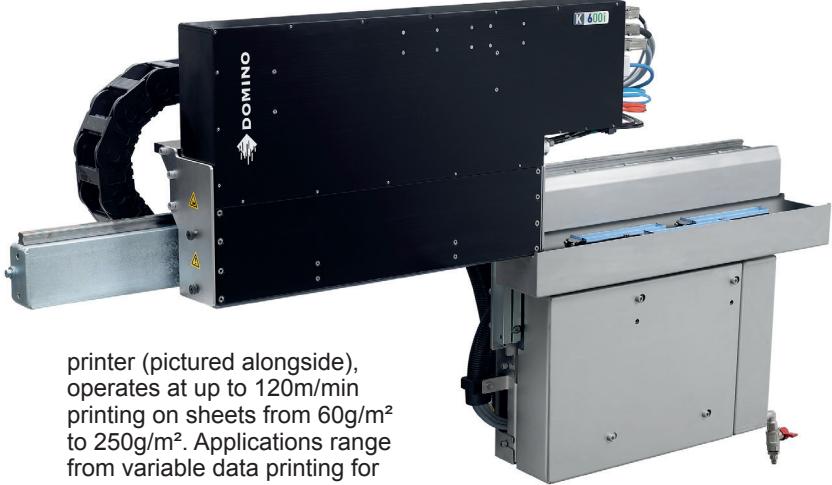
At last year's Labelexpo Europe, Domino launched a fluorescent ink for its K600i piezo drop-on-demand inkjet printer.

Ideal for security printing and brand protection, this latest addition to Domino's ink range, UV80CL, helps in the battle against counterfeiting and forgery.
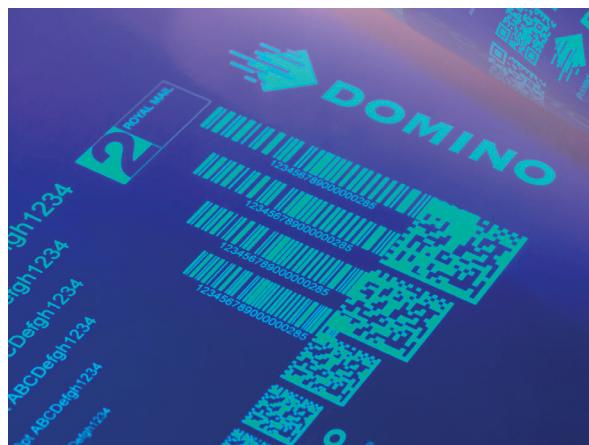
The ink prints clear but fluoresces green under an ultraviolet UV-A 365nm light (pictured above). It can be used to print 2D codes, barcodes, alpha numeric codes, images, graphics and personalised data, all of which may be used in security, authentication and anti-counterfeit applications. The combination of printing variable data with green fluorescence provides a high complexity rating that's extremely difficult to replicate. This makes it ideal for adding security marks to currency, stamps, tax stamps, passports and certificates to prevent forgery, tampering or counterfeiting of such items. It can also be used to incorporate security features on labels and packaging for traceability to safeguard against counterfeiting and parallel trade.

The UV80CL ink is compatible with standard media including polyethylene, polypropylene and coated and uncoated papers.

Ed's note: Domino's continued growth is underpinned by a strong commitment to product development. In fact, the company is the proud recipient of six Queen's Awards, the latest in April 2017 when Domino received the Queen's Award for Innovation.