

Esko certification program recognizes best in class plate makers



Esko has rolled out its XPS Crystal Certification Program to recognize those plate making businesses that consistently produce superior flexo plates and flexographic print quality.

The global developer of integrated hardware and software solutions for the print and packaging industry introduced the scheme as a way for companies to communicate their 'best in class' plate offering, reassuring supply chain partners and brand owner customers of both best practice in production processes and consistent quality of final print.

"The certification scheme was developed specifically to ensure the entire supply chain can meet the exacting needs and requirements of brands and converters in terms of predictable and accurate plate quality and the highest plate making consistency available, for any

given photopolymer," said Pascal Thomas, Director of Flexo Business at Esko. "It's a confirmation of production excellence. Certified members can assure their customers of optimum quality and performance in their plates and resulting print."

Benefits for businesses and their customers

Pascal said the XPS Crystal Certification Program is open to all users of its innovative XPS Crystal exposure units. "Beyond the obvious external communication benefits, certified members will be able to verify their plate making process against the industry benchmark. This also serves to help track plate quality over time and catch potential issues before they occur on press."

The award winning Esko XPS Crystal technology optimally combines UV main and back exposure, using LEDs that always emit consistent UV light as opposed to traditional exposure frames, which use lightbulbs with fluctuating output. Winner of the prestigious FTA award, 2017 Intertech Technology Award, 2018 EFIA Technology award and the Red Dot Award for Product Design, the XPS Crystal delivers a simultaneous and optimally controlled UV main and back exposure to produce highly consistent digital flexo plates.

Esko introduced the scheme following the success of its very successful HDFlexo certification program for flexo platemaking. The certification is offered as part of the XPS Crystal maintenance contract and the process can be started either on installation, during a preventative maintenance visit, or upon request. Certification is valid for 24 months and during this period Esko will support members' quality control by verifying both imaging quality and the processing quality of equipment in comparison to the company's 'Certified Benchmark Reference'.

"The Certification Program is an excellent marketing tool for businesses, enabling operators to add value and promote an extra level of quality assurance to customers, added Pascal. "As a certified partner, businesses benefit from benchmarking and identification of best practice around quality control processes and production efficiency."



Latest software releases deliver innovative new updates

As a technology company committed to relentlessly developing solutions to serve its markets and customers better, Esko has recently unveiled a host of new innovations for its integrated Esko Software solutions.

The new version of market-leading workflow automation solution **Automation Engine** makes prepress automation more accessible and easier to use for both long-time customers and companies just starting out on their automation journey. Users can access personalized, secure, workspaces at any time, from anywhere, in the new My Workspace application, while the new SaaS deployment gives customers the opportunity to enjoy the operational benefits of standardized automated workflows while embracing the freedom of cloud-based computing.

The latest version of packaging management solution **WebCenter** features a new, interactive dashboard to improve the user experience and simplify processes further, while with new **ArtPro+**, Esko has included new Variable Data Printing (VDP) templates that integrate perfectly with Automation Engine.

And **Studio** from Esko, which already helps produce better artwork, now includes GLB export capability, meaning that for the first time, designers can create and share ultra-realistic interactive 3D models across a range of different platforms.