

Grapo, together with Unilink, celebrates at Visual Communication of Milan the Worldwide launch of SHARK, the new high-performance UV printer

Milan 13th of November 2008 – Grapo, a leading European large-size UV digital printer producer, chose Visual Communication (Milan, 13-15 November) to introduce its high-performance and high-speed printer, the SHARK. This event represents a fundamental step in the new expansion strategy of the Czech company in the European and international market, while the choice to launch at Viscom Italy confirms the strengthened partnership with Unilink in the Italian market.

Grapo will introduce SHARK in Europe on the 13th of November at the Unilink booth of Viscom Italy. Designed in its Olomouc (Czech Republic) plant, the new printer is designed specifically for the higher end of the market in terms of resolution and speed, but at a substantially lower price point. In addition to the traditional 4 colours, the new SHARK can be adapted to print with white ink, a fundamental factor for the Italian market.

SHARK is the result of two years; research and development work, in response to Grapo's own need for a high end printer for its print shop. Designed specifically with the XAAR 760 print head in mind, the new SHARK can print with high resolution (up to 960 dpi), high quality and high speed (225m²/h). The 760 head gives the SHARK the possibility to control drop sizes with precise dot placement, delivering true-one pass printing with eight-pass quality, vibrant colours and no banding.

“The integration of our control software with Xaar technology allows to vary with precision ink drops dimension to give a wide range of print typologies” says Radim Kralik. “8 picolitre small drops, to obtain the highest photographic quality for the production of materials “for internal use” or high productivity, with bigger drops, for the production of material “for external use”. Shark uses Sunjet UV ink by Sun Chemical and integrates Octopus II and Manta of Grapo to give to users a diversified range of formats, volumes, speed and applications.

To confirm the commitment for the development of these printers requested by the market, Radim Kralik, CEO of Grapo s.r.o., states “we developed a printer that combines the best quality with speed and flexibility with a very competitive price. We are sure this new printer will allow printers to satisfy all clients' needs. Shark can print an area the size of San Siro football pitch at 960 dpi in just 32 hours. We are the only UV company in the World that also operates a print for pay business, so we know what our client need: speed, quality, durability – throughput – at an unbeatable price”.

Grapo and Unilink have already experienced success the Italian launch of Manta, a large-size flat-bed UV model. In 2006 Grapo chose Unilink as partner for the European launch of Manta that, together with Octopus, have proven highly successful on the Italian market – since forming its relationship with Unilink, 30 Grapo printers have been sold in Italy alone.

Grapo's experience is based on its founder's know how as a print shop owner, and influenced the creation of the new printer, focusing the research and the development not only on performance but also on the steady stability and continuity day after day. Grapo is the only manufacturer of wide format UV printers with origins as a print shop. This knowledge and understanding has lead to the development of several unique features – the Manta's Twin Mode for example – that greatly benefit the operator. This experience influences everything Grapo does, underscoring its philosophy of “by printers, for printers.”