



Press Release

Asahi Photoproducts and Esko Join Forces to Educate Chinese Market on Flexo Platemaking in Harmony with the Environment

Market-leading Esko plate imaging solutions to be installed in Asahi Technical Center in China

Tokyo, Japan & Brussels, Belgium, November 20, 2020. Asahi Photoproducts, a pioneer in flexographic photopolymer plate development, today reported it extended its relationship with Esko through an agreement to install Esko plate imaging solutions in the Asahi Tech Center in Suzhou, near Shanghai. The agreement, which was entered into during All-in-Print China, will result in the installation of an Esko CDI Spark 4260 and an XPS Crystal 5080 in the Center.

These industry-leading plate imaging solutions are supported by an Asahi AWP 230W plate processor using Asahi AWP™ CleanPrint water-washable plates to complete the industry's most balanced flexographic platemaking solution in harmony with the environment, delivering the highest possible quality for China's demanding flexo customers.

"Asahi Photoproducts has worked together with Esko in China for a decade and this agreement takes the relationship to a new level in our ability to serve the rapidly evolving flexographic market in China," said Yuji Suzuki, Asahi's Senior Manager of Customer Technical Service.

Suzuki points out that high-end print quality is increasingly required in China, and many repro houses in the region still have difficulty making plates that deliver the best print quality. "One thing we will be doing in our Tech Center with the new equipment," he says, "is creating test plates for potential customers so they can see for themselves that we can deliver the quality they need. We will also use the facility to do training and seminars for customers and potential customers."

Esko will also have access to the Tech Center, offering the possibility to Asahi's customers to learn more about how the Esko plate imaging system functions with Asahi's AWP™ CleanPrint water-washable plates. "We are pleased to continue to grow our partnership with



Asahi, especially in the highly competitive Chinese market,” said Rocky Zhou, General Manager for Esko in Shanghai. “The solutions being installed at the Asahi Tech Center will benefit both of our businesses as we work to continue to bring the latest state-of-the-art flexographic solutions to this region”.

About Asahi CleanPrint Technology

CleanPrint flexographic plates from Asahi Photoproducts have been specifically engineered by Asahi’s chemical engineers to transfer all remaining ink to the printed substrate, reducing makeready time and press cleaning stops as compared to other platemaking systems while delivering exceptional quality. AWP™ CleanPrint water-washable plates emit fewer VOCs in prepress as they don’t use solvents in the washout process. Studies show that CleanPrint water-washable plates have the smallest cradle-to-grave carbon footprint when compared to solvent or thermal solutions. Less makeready waste and waste due to plate cleaning press stops brings the process even more in balance with the environment. And more efficient throughput means less energy consumption.

“In the Tech Center implementation,” Suzuki added, “we will also be working with a third party solution that completely eliminates wastewater from plate processing, separating out solids in a cake form that can be easily disposed of or incinerated, and capturing fresh water. This will add even further to accelerate our AWP™ promotion into the Chinese market.

For more information about flexographic solutions from Asahi Photoproducts that are in harmony with the environment, visit www.asahi-photoproducts.com.

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Images and captions:

About Asahi Photoproducts

Asahi Photoproducts was founded in 1971 and is a subsidiary of the Asahi Kasei Corporation. Asahi Photoproducts is a leading pioneer in the development of photopolymer flexo printing plates. By creating high quality flexographic solutions and through continued innovation, the company aims at driving print forward in harmony with the environment.

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More information is available at www.asahi-photoproducts.com and at:

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About Esko

Esko, a Danaher company, is a global provider of integrated software and hardware solutions that digitize, automate and connect the go-to-market process of consumer goods. Esko connects people, processes and tools to meet the needs of global brands and the people who trust them.

Esko customers bring consumer products to life with accuracy, efficiency and speed. Packaging for 9 out of 10 major brands is produced by Esko customers today.

Headquartered in Gent, Belgium, Esko employs 1800 people worldwide with a unique focus on the packaging sector.

To find out more, please visit www.esko.com

Images and Captions



Caption: During All-in-Print China, Asahi Photoproducts and Esko celebrated the latest advance in their long-term partnership, signing an agreement to place Esko equipment in Asahi's Shanghai

Technical Center. Pictured here, from left to right: Michael Zhang [Esko], Bao Wei [Esko], Yuji Suzuki [Asahi], Rocky Zhou [Esko], Bill Liu [Asahi], Jason Leng [Esko]