An Italian First for Aleph

The first LaForte Paper digital dye-sub transfer printer, developed and manufactured by Aleph, has been installed at historic Italian fashion printer company Tintoria e Stamperia di Lambrugo Spa.

The wide-format industrial printer, which received its official launch at ITMA Milan last November, has a

The Aleph LaForte printer

production capacity of up to 600 sqm/hr and maximum resolution of 1200dpi, with up to eight variable-drop Kyocera print heads and fabric handling precision within 20 microns.

Aleph said it has invested heavily in designing robust, state-of-the-art machines. In the new machine the automatic head alignment has been further improved, while the stability of the print support, through a patented, aspirated system, and a new software matrix for dot placement are other elements that guarantee 'exceptional performance' compared to competitor machines, according to the company.

Aleph said this first installation is only the beginning of the development of the home Italian market for LaForte printers, while international prospects are being developed and it foresees the production of machines dedicated to emerging markets. It also plans to open an Aleph office in Istanbul, for the direct management of the Turkish and Indian markets.

EFI Acquires 3D Design Software

EFI has acquired 3D design software business Optitex as it takes a step towards the fashion industry.

Founded in Israel in 1988, Optitex has clients that range from BMW to Tommy Hilfiger. For textiles, Optitex is focused on enabling the textile industry's digital transformation and its adoption of fast fashion through 3D imaging. By using body scans, the company's software can perfectly craft garment pieces to fit an individual's body, which are then cut and sewn into the finished garment.

This technology can offer benefits including shorter time to market, cost and efficiency gains, as well as enabling new capabilities for designers.

Privately held Optitex will be integrated into EFI's Productivity Software business unit. So, for the retailer or designer, what is EFI offering overall? Starting with the software, which was originally EFI's core business, the designer has access to the new Optitex 3D imaging software, and 2D pattern design software. EFI also offers RIP software, pre-treatment machinery, digital textile printers, and post-treatment machinery.

The acquisition follows EFIs acquisition of Reggiani last year. In addition, EFI's recent acquisition of Rialco – one of Europe's leading suppliers of dye powders and colour products for digital print and industrial manufacturing – suggests the company may also be looking at the development of its own inks. It would need to acquire some additional skill sets in order to do so, but offering

chemicals, machinery and software would make EFI a one-stop shop for everything digital textile printing.

Gabriel Matsliach, senior vice president and general manager, EFI Productivity Software said: "Optitex technology, combined with EFI Reggiani digital printers, will expand our textile ecosystem and help our customers set new standards for time-to-market, on-demand manufacturing, cost efficiency and automation in the textile industry."

European Finance Program Agreement with DLL

EFI has also signed a new agreement with DLL Group, based in Eindhoven, Netherlands for equipment financing of EFI inkjet printers for signage and graphics, label and packaging, industrial textile and ceramic tile production. The agreement, which covers EFI equipment sales in many European countries, will provide customers with new rental and leasing opportunities for EFI's VUTEk, Jetrion, Cretaprint, Quantum, Reggiani and Nozomi digital printer product lines, said the company.

"At DLL, we are excited by the growing possibilities of digital printing. We look forward to helping EFI's customers acquire these new technology solutions as well as the future innovations that lie ahead," commented James Ryan, new business development manager at DLL's Office Technology Global Business Unit.