

Silkomo invests in LaForte Paper printer

By Tansy Fall 24 February 2017

Italian printhouse Silkomo recently announced its investment in Aleph's LaForte Paper printer to expand the printing portfolio it has cultivated over the last 25 years.

Commenting on the investment, the company says its goal is to always employ the most recent techniques and, having worked with Aleph for the past 10 years, Claudio Ciardi, director at Silkomo, says: "Silkomo was born as a small company and has grown with time. We developed digital technology nine years ago, thanks to a qualified printing department, starting with sample production and moving on to a medium-sized production capacity."



Silkomo's LaForte Paper printer in Tavernerio



(L-R) Roberto Manes, R&D at Aleph; Lorenzo Colletto, Inkjet dept manager at Silkomo; Alessandro Manes, Aleph CEO; and Claudio Ciardi, Silkomo director

Although the company is dealing with one of the most difficult fabrics to print – silk – Ciardi says the company has had “no difficulties” with this substrate. However, he adds: “We face a continuous challenge to improve the printing quality of the final results, and we are able to develop this thanks to the know-how of our people working in the digital department.”

The company is also printing silk, cotton, viscose and polyester, the latter of which the LaForte Paper will be employed for. The LaForte Paper has its own integrated management software and a production speed of 300 sq m/h, and enables Silkomo to print up to 40,000 meters per month on this one printer, says the company.

Commenting on what improvements may be made to digital technology for textile industry applications, Ciardi says: “Digital technology providers should consider the importance and the capability of the professional working on traditional printing, and not only focus on the features of the machine.” For traditional textile printing moving into digital, the consistency of the final product produced is key to maintaining customers, and technology that enables this is as important as other technical factors. Ciardi says: “It is important not to focus just on the features of the machines (speed and productivity etc), but also on the human capability and the skills of the professionals. Especially those who started with traditional printing, and have a long experience and great know-how.”

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