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Wise SGR invests in Aleph

By **Joe Link** 10 May 2017

Alessandro Manes, CEO of Aleph, confirmed to WTiN at FESPA in Hamburg this week that the company has signed a binding agreement, whereby Wise SGR – on behalf of Wisequity IV closed-ended fund – will purchase a majority stake in the Italian digital printing company.

Aleph is rapidly becoming a leading player in the digital printing industry, providing not only large-format textile digital inkjet printers for textile and other applications, but also drying systems, proprietary software and consumables.

Manes says: “Aleph has chosen Wise as a partner because it has a significant knowledge of our industry and a successful track record in supporting small and medium companies like us in growing business through operations improvement, internationalisation and M&A.”

During the last two decades Aleph has installed over 400 digital plotters and provided customers with related consumables in Italy and abroad. Two years ago, the company successfully launched the new series of LaForte large format printing machines, which are once again on show at this year’s FESPA at Messe Hamburg.

But besides quality printers, which have been well received by customers according to Manes, Aleph is keen to provide prompt and reliable post-sales technical support. This is something Aleph claims has attracted a considerable number of customers in its own right.

Based in Como, Aleph is well placed to become a significant player in the digital textile printing industry. Valentina Franchescini, partner at Wise, says: “It is not a coincidence that the leading companies within this industry are Italian, and Aleph is emerging as one of the most reliable solution providers. Innovation capabilities, service attitude and a great deal of commitment convinced us that Aleph team is the right one to invest in.”

However, despite Wise’s investment, Aleph founders will continue to run the company and focus on the development of new, innovative products and solutions and boost the company’s international presence.

Aleph’s ambition is to become a preferred partner for companies printing on textiles and other selected applications around the world, and appointing Andrea Negretti last week as the company’s new international sales manager was signal intent by Manes and the Aleph brand. Negretti has over 20 years’ experience working in the digital printing industry and signage market, and spent the last 13 years of his career working for South Korean company d.gen.

Meanwhile, Wise SGR, a leading Italian management company of private equity funds, has significant experience in the digital printing industry following the acquisition of ink producers Jteck3, Kiian and Sawgrass Industrial to form JK Group, which was later sold to US-based giant Dover. In addition, Wise continued its involvement in the industry earlier this year after the 100% acquisition of German print house KBC and the Italian manufacturer Guarisco to form Imprima S.P.A.