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Press Release

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XSYS launches EcoFillX in support of extended sustainability commitment

New EcoFillX software feature for ThermoFlexX imagers targets non-image areas of flexographic printing plates to actively reduce the amount of polymer material washed out during processing. Reducing the amount of solid washed out, this innovation lowers solvent consumption by up to 30%, combining a real ecological advantage with considerable cost saving.

Willstaett, Germany. 22 April 2024 – XSYS has announced the introduction of EcoFillX, an innovative software feature developed for ThermoFlexX imagers, which promises to significantly reduce washout solvent usage. Targeting the non-image areas of photopolymer printing plates, EcoFillX represents another important step towards improving the sustainability of the flexographic platemaking process.

“Sustainability is a central responsibility for any manufacturer today; a responsibility XSYS places at the forefront of innovation by developing more eco-conscious ways to support our customers in their ‘ Environmental friendly’ endeavors,” said Dirk De Rauw, Senior optical designer. “EcoFillX joins a host of other environmental initiatives from XSYS that together can have a big impact of the carbon footprint of the plate processing operation.”

As a new add-on feature within MultiPlate software for ThermoFlexX imagers, EcoFillX incorporates imageable structures into the non-printing areas of the flexographic plate. Through intelligent image analysis, EcoFillX swiftly populates those areas in the LAMS layer with the designated pattern, leveraging the versatile ThermoFlexX optics to expedite imaging.. As a result, more polymer material stays on the final imaged plate, effectively reducing the accumulation of solid content in the washout solvent. Consequently, this prolongs the durability of washing solvent used in circulation and reduces the frequency of solvent replenishment.

During recent successful tests at a customer site, EcoFillX demonstrated a remarkable 30% reduction in weekly solvent usage. The extent of these savings will naturally vary depending on several factors such as plate image filling, the type of plate and its thickness, as well as the requested washout depth.
For customers that do not operate with inhouse distilling units, the reduction translates directly into significant economic gains. Customers equipped with distilling units will experience noticeable decreases in both power consumption and the quantity of additives required to maintain optimal solvent conditions and balance.

“XSYS is very proud to present this very exciting innovation which comes with benefits that extend beyond mere cost savings. EcoFillX is not simply a new software feature; it’s a significant sustainable solution that enhances both economic efficiency and environmental stewardship,” concluded Dirk De Rauw.

About XSYS

Headquartered in Willstaett, Germany, XSYS operates globally and remains one of the largest suppliers offering both flexographic and letterpress prepress solutions, including plates, sleeves, processors,

workflow solutions, and expert professional services, designed to help these industries move forward with increasing innovation, improved productivity and profitability, and a reduced environmental footprint.

In recognizing our endeavor to bring more brilliance into the packaging industry – into the lives of our customers and colleagues – XSYS has achieved a Gold Medal rating from EcoVadis for its sustainability. This distinction goes beyond our commitment to protecting the environment by also evaluating our dedication to social responsibility, diversity, and human rights.

The broad XSYS portfolio comprises some of the industry's best-known brands of consumables (nyloflex® and nyloprint® plates), plate processing equipment (Xpress, ThermoFlexX, and Catena), surface screening software (Woodpecker), plate mounting (rotec®), and washout solvents (nylosolv®).

Brilliant products and services for brilliant print results and business success.