ProductLink Spotlight

Alwan Color Expertise Receives 2008 PIA/GATF InterTech™ Technology Award for Dynamic DeviceLinks™ Color Technology

Lyon, July 23, 2008 – Alwan Color Expertise is proud to announce that its Dynamic DeviceLinks™ technology is a recipient of a 2008 PIA/GATF (Printing Industries of America/Graphic Arts Technical Foundation) InterTech™ Technology Award. Alwan Dynamic DeviceLinks was selected from among 28 technologies entered in this prestigious competition.

"We are honored to receive this prestigious recognition, and we are thankful for the judges' understanding and appreciation of Alwan Dynamic DeviceLinks technology. The graphic arts community holds the InterTech Award in high esteem, and knows that the Judges' assessments are meaningful confirmations of a technology's potential value. It's a tremendous testament to the worthiness of our breakthrough developments in achieving accurate color for production," says Elie Khoury, Alwan Founder and President.

The Color Management Group congratulates Elie Khoury and Alwan Color Expertise for this award. CMG members proudly offer CMYK Optimizer and the complete line of Alwan products in our solutions portfolio.

Industry News

MetalFX® Lists New Certified Pressroom Trainers

Leeds, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom; June 2008—MetalFX Technology—a Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation subsidiary—has completed certification of pressroom trainers in its popular metallic printing software. The following individuals have undergone factory training in the software and how to successfully print using MetalFX. They are available to take printers through the necessary steps for using this exciting metallic printing technique.

Certified trainers are Matthew Condon of Fuji, Ron Ellis of Ron Ellis Consulting, Dan Gillespie of ColorGeek, Mark Leute of Hostmann-Steinberg, Greg Radencic of PIA/GATF, Sarah Reitman of Schawk, Joe Suffoletto of PIA/GATF, and Terry Wyse of Wyse Consul.

Discussing the certification program, MetalFX Vice-President Americas Mark Geeves commented: "Although printing metallics with the MetalFX process is significantly easier than printing conventional metallics, the process is counterintuitive to many press operators. These independent pressroom color consultants can assist printers in making the transition to the MetalFX process. Many certified MetalFX trainers are also fully trained in the G7 color process—thus ensuring that they are familiar with the latest pressroom color techniques."

MetalFX, a recent Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation acquisition, is a universal process and spot metallic color system that allows millions of metallic colors to be printed, all by adding only the one base silver ink to the usual CMYK mix. Ciba Specialty brings more than 40 years of experience in color matching to the worldwide graphic arts, paints, plastics, fibers and ceramic industries.

Store Promotions

Pantone GoeGuide™ coated with digital library for Adobe Creative Suite

The PANTONE GoeGuide coated is used to select, specify and communicate the 2,058 new solid colors from the PANTONE Goe™ System. Chromatically arranged with intuitive unique numbering system, colors are printed on a #1 grade coated stock. Ink mixing formulas are provided for blending the colors, as well as sRGB values to promote viewing consistency across monitors and Web pages. For digital color selection and palette creation, package includes download access to myPANTONE palettes software.

The Pantone GoeGuides are available on our online store at http://www.colormanagement.com/store/CID17/PID862 The Pantone Goe colors can be used in many of the RIP softwares the CMG offers.

Product Updates

ImageNestVersion 1.1 from BlueCubit Released

We are happy to announce that version 1.1 has been released and can be downloaded in our new downloads sections (On the main page menu). Version 1.1 contains a ton of new features and is 100% free to all users. Major new features are: PDF, EPS, and PostScript support, New fitting algorithm that improves the number of images that can fit on a page, Delete all button (one of our most requested new features), Duplicate (our second most requested feature), and Roll Length optimization. Roll length optimization will automatically resize your page at print time to remove any white space at the bottom. This way, users can utilize any page size they wish and not worry about any un-used area. This is especially helpful on roll paper.

Keep the feedback coming. We want to hear the features that you most want next. We plan to introduce new features in our next version due out in 3 or 4 months.

Final Version 1.1 of IDEALink Curve Has Been Released

The final version of Curve 1.1 was posted on chromix.com recently. If you are getting messages that your version (likely 1.16B) has expired, you will need to download the new software 1.1 (final).

IDEALink Curve is a printing curve correction tool that will help implement the G7 gray-balanced printing methodology for printing presses and dot proofing systems.

IDEALink Curve is a joint development between IDEAlliance, Hutcheson Consulting and CHROMiX, Inc.

The G7 how-to guide is not included for size & currency reasons. Please download it from www.gracol.org

Changes with version 1.1

- support for the P2P25 target (300 patches). 1.0 only supported the P2P23 target

- numerous fixes and performance improvements for measurement file support, gray accuracy and others

- fixes for file resaving issues under Windows

- addition of updated print references

Technical Tidbits

Entering Plate Curve Data from within Alwan CMYK Optimizer

Did you know that you can enter in your plate curve information from within CMYK Optimizer. All CTP RIP's have this function built in but some are more robust than others, often times you don't have control of how many data points there are on the curve and some have interfaces that are not intuitive and therefore hard to use or figure out. Also, it makes sense to be able to enter your plate curve information here. Alwan CMYK Optimizer can be automated for use with any CTP/workflow RIP including RamPage, Prynergy, TruwFlow, Artwork Systems, and many others. Contact CMG for a demo today.

About The CMG

CMG is Poised for Growth

Beginning May 08, the Color Management Group has expanded its resources to better serve the graphic arts community. CMG offers products, services, and marketing expertise to help support industry standards, to promote best practices, and to ensure that industry customers are successful in deploying technology to improve their color critical business.

Who we are….

The Color Management Group is a global consortium of color experts, focused on integration of graphic arts technologies. Our core and affiliate members carry an unprecedented level of experience, spanning all major vertical markets in graphic arts. We are certified in over 30 professional product lines including rips, printers, color management, digital workflow, color measurement, and process control solutions.

Products that work….

CMG resellers have access to a huge portfolio of Graphic Arts products including hardware, software and consumables. CMG tests many of these products internally and is in constant contact with our network of color experts to ensure that we can offer the right products and technologies for almost any graphic arts application.

Services that work…

CMG consultants are the number one resource for graphic arts and workflow expertise nationwide. Our consortium of resellers is focused on making sure that you are successful with color. In the US, our organization has performed more G7 master printer certifications, and has integrated more proofing and CTP workflow solutions than any other services based organization. At CMG, we pride ourselves on our knowledge and our results.

Upcoming Events

Labelexpo Americas 2008

Labelexpo Americas is the largest event for the label, product decoration, web printing and converting industry in the Americas and will take place September 9-11 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Chicago.

EXTREME Color Management Coming to New Orleans on September 16th & 17th

Please visit our website at http://www.colormanagement.com/store/PID1359 to register for the event. Here you will find all of details to make your plans.

PDN PhotoPlus Expo 2008

The Most Important Event in Photography: October 23-25, 2008. Located at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City the show boasts a huge expo floor, hundreds of exhibitors, thousands of new products and a conference with over 100 seminars.

GraphExpo 2008 in Chicago

The most comprehensive prepress, printing, package printing, converting, mailing and fulfillment and digital equipment trade show in the Americas. October 26-29, 2008 at McCormick Place South, Chicago, IL.

GATF Color Conference

This is the conference for beginners and experts alike bringing together the who's who of the color management industry. Visit www.piagatfcolor.org for more details.

CMG Member Spotlight

Founding Member David Piccus of Piccus 4 Color.

Q: How and when did you first get involved with the graphic arts or printing industry?

A: I was first involved in printing when my dad bought a small letterpress and put it in my name when I was 5 years old. I remember printing my first business cards on this small Kelsey hand press. I learned my alphabet on the California Job Case while hand setting type.

Q: How long have you been and independent consultant or owned/operated your business?

A: I opened Piccus 4 Color in 1993, shortly after I moved to Utah. I have been an independent color consultant for 15 years.

Q: Is there a particular market segment you focus on or technology you specialize in?

A: I focus on any segment of the market that needs help controlling their color. Printers, publishers, photographers, designers and advertising agencies are among me clients.

Q: Where is your business located and is there a specific geographic region where you offer your services?

A: Piccus 4 Color is located in Lehi, Utah. The specific geographic region I offer my services is the world.

Q: What products are you certified by the manufacturer to install and/or train?

A: I was in the first group of consultants to become G7 experts, as well one of the first certified in Best, Oris, ColorBurst, EFI and GMG. I was tech support manager and trained many people in one of the first profiling products, ColorBlind. I have also been certified in Gretag ProfileMaker (including their Packaging module), Monaco, Scitex Profile Wizard, and many other products in the Color Mangement world.

Q: Name one thing that you think is unique about you or your business?

A: I feel my obsessive-compulsive need to learn new software and train others in the proper use of color is somewhat unique. I continue to experiment with color software and hardware in my bunker laboratory deep underground in my Utah enclave. My darling Dianne and my trusty dog Misty Brie McFee aid me in my pursuit of color manipulation and prestidigitation.

Q: What is your favorite aspect of being a consultant or owning/operating your business?

A: I really enjoy the satisfaction of training people in the art and science of color. I lull them into a trance so colorful, they mutter the mantra of "Grey Balance, Lightness, Chroma and Hue".

Q: What is your favorite "techie" device?

A: My favorite "techie" device is generally the latest computer or techno-toy from Apple. I am rather fond of my X-rite iSis XL, as well.

Q: What is the best way for a potential client to contact you or your company?

A: My websites, piccus4color.com and RemoteOpts.com, by email or by phone are among the best ways for clients to contact me.