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Zeikon Partners with Kotkamills – it's a Game Changer

Next generation of sustainable food packaging safely printed with Zeikon dry toner digital technology

Eede, the Netherlands, 22 March 2019 - Zeikon is delighted to announce its partnership with Kotkamills Oy. Visitors to this year's Zeikon Café will have the opportunity to see the first demonstrations of the Zeikon 3500 dry toner digital press printing on Kotkamills ISLA® Duo paper cup stock. This sustainable and plastic-free food packaging solution carries the potential for paper cup converters to create new business opportunities.

The cooperation validates Kotkamills ISLA® Duo paper cup stock as the ideal media for the Zeikon 3500 range using dry toner technology. Zeikon's digital printing method using food safe dry toner technology together with Kotkamills' plastic-free, recyclable, and biodegradable board produces a digitally printed paper cup that answers consumer demand for sustainable paper cups to be used for drinks on the go.

Sébastien Stabel, Market Segment Manager Carton Packaging at Zeikon, says, "We were delighted to test and validate the new paper cup stock ISLA® Duo from Kotkamills. During testing, we saw a match between our food safe dry toner technology and the ISLA® Duo board characteristics. We tested printability, productivity, and toner adhesion. The results were excellent and consistent."

Zeikon printed the Kotkamills ISLA® Duo on a roll-to-roll Zeikon 3500 series with dry toner technology. Following the excellent results, Zeikon added the ISLA® Duo to its print media list as a Zeikon validated substrate. Stabel continues, "We are convinced that our roll-to-roll dry toner engine set-up offers a perfect technical fit for paper cup converters and has the potential to create new or alternative business opportunities."

Kotkamills board production technology and the raw materials used in the ISLA® Duo production offer a high stiffness cup with a smooth and pleasing tactility. The barrier properties needed for the paper cups are produced with water-based dispersion, making it a plastic-free alternative. Unlike traditional PE coated paper cups, the water-based dispersion barrier layer of the ISLA® Duo does not become charged by static electricity. This is the innovative key to achieving high printing speeds and excellent stackability properties.

Saila Kettunen, Director Barrier Boards at Kotkamills Oy, states, "The cooperation with Zeikon in developing the high quality of digital printing of our ISLA® Board has been very smooth and fruitful. The suitability of our material for digital printing provides cup producers with the possibility to offer individual and smaller, customized batches of plastic-free paper cups that are easy to recycle within any paper or board waste streams. We consistently endeavour to bring our best know-how and experience to our innovations. At Kotkamills, we are passionate about changing the game, and we are proud to have been nominated as one of the winners of the NextGen Cup Challenge, the global innovation initiative that took place at the end of February 2019. This groundbreaking challenge was launched by the NextGen Consortium dedicated to advancing the design, commercialization, and recovery of food packaging alternatives."

Stabel concludes, "By working together with leading suppliers in substrates, workflow, converting, and finishing we effectively demonstrate what can be achieved by fully integrated end-to-end solutions for digital production. At the Zeikon Café 2019, we will share actual applications and business ideas that have proven to immediately

drive business growth. We are delighted to be working with Kotkamills as our partner and we are looking forward to piquing the interest of our visitors in this game-changing solution.”

For more information about the 2019 Xeikon Café events, visit www.xeikoncafe.com.

About Kotkamills Oy

Established in Finland and with a long history and global reputation for excellence, innovation and responsible partnerships - Kotkamills delivers renewable products and performance to its customers' processes via product innovation. Committed to sustainability, its latest developments are recyclable, repulpable and renewable paperboards for the packaging and food service industries. Its product range includes fully recyclable consumer board products AEGLE® and ISLA®. One of the key brands of the company is Absorbex®, an innovative laminating paper product for the laminate, plywood and construction industries. Moreover, Kotkamills offers ecological, technically sound and visually attractive wood products for demanding joinery and construction. www.kotkamills.com

ABOUT XEIKON

Xeikon, a division of Flint Group, is a long-standing leader and innovator in digital printing technology. Grounded in the principles of quality, flexibility and sustainability, Xeikon designs, develops and delivers web-fed digital colour presses for label and packaging applications, document printing, and commercial printing. These presses utilise different imaging technologies, open workflow software and application-specific consumables.

As an OEM supplier, Xeikon also designs and produces plate makers for newspaper printing applications. In addition, Xeikon manufactures basysPrint computer-to-conventional plate (CtCP) solutions for the commercial offset printing market. For the flexographic market, Xeikon offers digital platemaking systems under the ThermoFlexX brand name. ThermoFlexX systems provide high-resolution plate exposure combined with unique plate handling, flexibility and unmatched productivity.

In 2015, Xeikon joined Flint Group to create a new “Digital Printing Solutions” division for the leading global print consumables and solution provider to the packaging and print media industries. Flint Group develops and manufactures an extensive portfolio of printing consumables. These include a vast range of conventional and energy-curable inks and coatings, pressroom chemicals, printing plates and equipment, printing blankets and sleeves, and pigments and additives for use in inks and other colorant applications. Headquartered in Luxembourg, Flint Group employs some 7900 people. On a worldwide basis, the company is the number one or number two supplier in every major market segment it serves.

For more information about Xeikon, visit www.xeikon.com and for Flint Group, visit www.flintgrp.com or contact:

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