



CIP4 Press Release

For Immediate Release

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CIP4 and UP3I Announce Free Workshop at Ipex 2006

Half day workshop will focus on integrated digital printing

Darmstadt, Germany (January 3, 2006) – The International Cooperation for the Integration of Processes in Prepress, Press, and Postpress (CIP4) and the Universal Printer Pre- and Post-Processing Interface (UP3I) organization announced that they will jointly present an Integrated Digital Printing Forum from 1:30 PM until 4:30 PM on the afternoon of April 5th in the JDF Pavilion Theater at Ipex 2006 in Birmingham, U.K.

The digital printing segment of the graphic arts is the fastest growing segment to adopt process automation. With short runs and exceptionally quick turnaround times, those printers competing for digital printing business need to be fast and flexible. The UP3I specification (Universal Printer, Pre & Post-processing Interface) and CIP4's Job Definition Format (JDF) are two of the foundations of fully automated digital printing manufacturing.

UP3I provides a standard interface between a digital printer and preprocessing and post-processing devices that are tightly coupled with the printer, even if the components are from different manufacturers. UP3I makes it possible to communicate with all the components in the system – the server and software, the printer, cutter and folding machine – and transmit dynamic controls to trigger changes in cutting and fold formats; resulting in greater productivity through faster setup times, particularly for very short press runs.

The JDF specification provides a standard for the exchange of job information, including customer intent and processing specifications. Together, JDF and UP3I can facilitate the continuum of digital printing from customer order, press setup, production, and status reporting.

JDF 1.3 now includes the ability to track individual elements on a page, whereas previously the page was the smallest job component that could be tracked. Job ganging, file format conversion to and from various file formats were also improved and JDF's consumable identification was enhanced.

"This is a first, a potentially one-of-a-kind opportunity for users and manufacturers to get a complete picture of how these two specifications work together," said Rainer Prosi of Heidelberg and CIP4's Technology Director, "Users in particular will get a clear picture of what to expect from modern digital printing systems and where the future of digital printing is going."

Today, an operator has to enter job setup information manually on each system component separately – and each of these components could have a different design of user interface. Via the UP3I Manager, the communications interface between the system components, UP3I makes it possible to use central, unified control facilities for entering the job setup information, enabling remote control of every component in the printing process chain – from the printer through to the cutting and binding equipment. The unified look and feel and the intuitive handling of all devices minimizes the cost of training operators and reduces make-ready time.

"UP3I and JDF is a powerful combination that more and more digital printing providers are adopting," said Peter Dyson of Duplo International. "As every digital press owner knows the press itself is only one third of the puzzle. If you cannot get the customer's jobs to the press quickly and accurately, and if you cannot efficiently setup and operate the finishing line, you will have difficulty making a profit, let alone competing effectively with the competition."

The CIP4/UP3I Integrated Digital Printing Forum is free to all Ipex 2006 attendees. Scheduled for 4-11 April 2006 at the NEC in Birmingham UK, Ipex is the biggest printing and graphics arts exhibition in the English-speaking world. For information on Ipex 2006 exhibits, events and registration, visit <http://www.ipex.org>.

About CIP4

CIP4 brings together vendors, consultants, and end-users in the print communications, Graphic Arts industry, and associated sectors, covering a variety of equipment, software, peripherals, and processes. Members participate in focused working groups to define the Job Definition Format (JDF), PrintTalk, and other standards relevant to process automation; to study user requirements; to test product interoperability; and to develop a range of JDF software development tools. Information on CIP4, including membership details, is available from the organization's web site: www.cip4.org. Or contact: Stefan Daun, Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics, +49 6151 155 575, secretariat@cip4.org. All content and ideas submitted to the CIP4 user groups and intellectual property rights subsisting therein shall become the exclusive property of CIP4.

About UP3I

A number of top players in the digital printing industry, with a core team from Duplo, Hunkeler, IBM, Océ, Stralfors and Xerox, joined forces to develop an open, expandable and intelligent interface standard for all the hardware components in the digital print process. UP3I – the Universal Printer, Pre- and Post-processing Interface – will centralize and unify process control for all the equipment on the print line, laying the foundation for CCM (Computer Controlled Manufacturing) in digital printing. To learn more about UP3I visit <http://www.UP3I.org>.

About JDF

The Job Definition Format (JDF) is the industry specification designed to facilitate process automation and the integration of different applications and systems in and around the Graphic Arts industry. JDF also enables the integration of business management and job planning applications into the production workflow. JDF is based on the W3C's Extensible Markup Language (XML), ensuring maximum interoperability between different platforms and ready interaction with Internet systems. More information is available at <http://www.cip4.org/>.

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