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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

New Kodak Ink Jet Technology Announced at IMI Conference

The IMI European Ink Jet conference is fast becoming the industry platform chosen by vendors to announce new technologies. Last year FlatJet and ToneJet technologies received their European debut and this year Kodak chose the IMI event, held in Lisbon from 10-12 November, to announce the development of a new ink jet printing technology – STREAM.

STREAM is a continuous ink jet (CIJ) technology capable of running at high speed and high resolution and suitable for a wide range of applications. Gil Hawkins, Distinguished Research Fellow & Senior Laboratory Head at Eastman Kodak, explained that the technology had originally been developed for photofinishing, but its capabilities make it appropriate for other high volume printing applications.

Unlike conventional CIJ technology, STREAM uses no electrostatics. Instead it introduces a new principle of ink jet printing, based on thermal 'pinch-off' of continuously jetted fluid streams. By applying a regular pulse to heaters surrounding each nozzle orifice, the ink is stimulated into breaking into fine droplets. Ink drops not required are deflected away from the substrate by airflow and recirculated to the ink supply. Drop size and 'pinchoff' is regulated by the time between heat pulses, thereby creating a variable drop or greyscale capability. Print speeds were quoted at 1.2m/sec linear speed at 640dpi and 2.3m/sec at 320dpi with a robustness or printhead life many times greater than existing drop on demand technologies.

STREAM technology is still in development and has not yet been commercialised. However, it is understood to be tolerant to a wide variety of ink types and viscosities and has the potential to be manufactured at very low cost – possibly as low as under 1cent per nozzle. Over the last few years, Kodak has invested heavily in STREAM technology and according to Mr Hawkins, "commercialisation is now months, not years away".

ENDS

Photos

High-resolution photographs (300 dpi RGB JPEGs) to accompany this news release are available for download on the IMI web site www.imieurope.com



Gil Hawkins, Distinguished Research Fellow
& Senior Laboratory Head, Eastman Kodak

About IMI

The Information Management Institute runs the largest and most comprehensive conference and seminar programme in the digital printing industry. Each year over 2,000 industry technical and management personnel from over 600 companies attend around 20 events covering all forms of digital printing.

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