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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **New Ink Jet Printheads Announced at IMI Ink Jet Developers Conference**

Leading piezo printhead manufacturers Xaar, Spectra, Ricoh, Konica Minolta and Trident all participated at the IMI Ink Jet Developers Conference in Geneva from 20-22 April – and the industry welcomed a new supplier – PicoJet - to an increasingly diverse portfolio of manufacturers.

#### **New Product Developments from Konica Minolta, Trident & Ricoh**

Konica Minolta launched a new Slim Chassis version of their KM512-MH/MN printhead. The chassis of the original printhead has been reduced by 5mm to 15mm enabling greater printhead density in stitched arrays, and also offers enhanced printhead alignment features. Samples will be available to system developers in Q3.

Konica Minolta also announced a new "2in1" or Fat Chassis version of the KM512-LN/LH printhead. The 2in1 module offers 2 sets of 256 nozzles with 2 independent ink inlets, enabling 2-colour printing at 180dpi in a single pass, so that 3 printhead modules can print 6 different colours. Samples of the 2in1 are available now.

The company also hinted at some of its future developments available in "about one year" according to Akiyoshi Ohno, President of Konica Minolta IJ Technologies. He offered some keywords, including "the ultimate form of shear mode head end shooter; low voltage drive; low heat generation; compact and printbar orientated," suggesting that we will see more single pass product development from Konica Minolta next year.

"Rugged, reliable, high-resolution and repairable" was how Dave Wheeler, Marketing Manager of Trident Industrial Inkjet introduced the company's two new printhead products at the IMI event. Both new printheads have the Trident stainless steel construction, an ink path designed with inert materials and a fluidic 'shock absorber' enabling highly reliable printing with a wide variety of fluids in harsh environments.



The new Trident 768Jet printhead offers a 100mm (4") print height, 256 addressable elements (3 drops per element), integrated analogue electronics and automatic maintenance. The high print swath enables a wide range of information to be printed in a single swath for coding and marking applications, incorporating barcodes, graphics and variable fonts. The new 384Jet printhead is similar to the 768Jet construction, but has a smaller 50.8mm (2") print height.

Mark Elsbernd, VP of Ricoh Printing Systems America revealed that production of their Generation 3 E1 printheads has reached 3-4,000 units a month. They are also now shipping the E3 192 channel printhead family launched last year and announced the availability of engineering samples of their AMS 192 channel printhead for small drop applications. Single pass printing with stitched arrays of printheads was also demonstrated with the multi-printhead module running at 100m/min.

#### **New Printhead Manufacturer – PicoJet**

PicoJet was founded in 1997 by Hue Le, the former Director of Technology Development for the Tektronix Printing & Imaging Division, and the company began pilot production of its new printhead in February this year. PicoJet's new PJ-N256 printhead uses a patented, ultrasonic bonding technology, which creates a metal-to-metal bond. This allows the printhead to be heated and to jet a wide range of ink and fluid chemistries. Targeted at applications that require large drops (50-70pl or over), the PJ-N256, with its 256 nozzles arranged in 16 rows, offers a 20mm (0.85") print swath at 300dpi.

According to Ray Veillet, VP Business Development, the metal-to-metal bond technology means no epoxies are used in the ink channels so that the printhead "has the ability to jet virtually any fluid with a high level of reliability."

PicoJet is actively looking for system development partners in industrial printing and fluid jetting applications such as biotech and electronics.

The IMI Ink Jet Developers Conference 2005 was the fourth in this annual event, which focuses on bringing key industry suppliers and product developers together. This year over 150 system developers attended from 24 countries. Next year the IMI Ink Jet Developers Conference will be held in Las Vegas, USA.

**ENDS**

**PHOTOS**

- Ray Veillet, VP Business Development – PicoJet
- Dave Wheeler, Marketing Manager of Trident Industrial Inkjet
- Mark Elsbernd, VP - Ricoh Printing Systems America

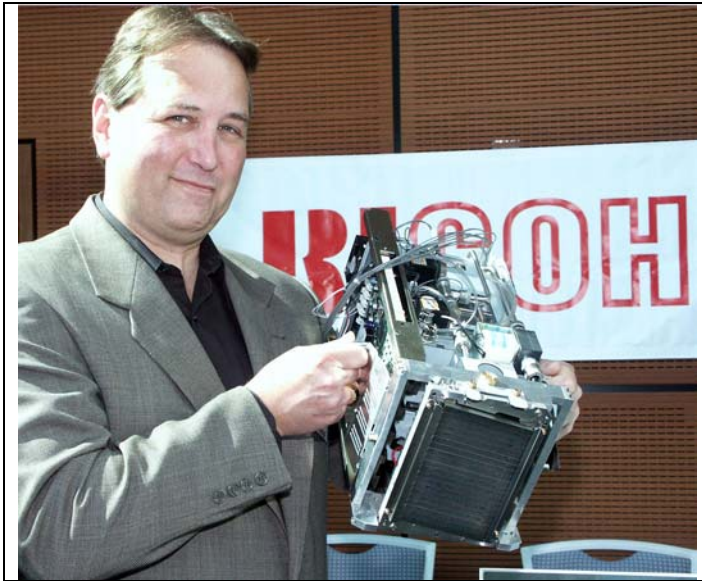
High-resolution images are available for download from the Press Centre on the IMI web site [www.imieurope.com](http://www.imieurope.com)



Ray Veillet, VP Business Development at PicoJet holding the new PJ-N256 printhead.



Dave Wheeler, Marketing Manager of Trident Industrial Inkjet with the new 768Jet printhead with a 100mm (4") print height.



Mark Elsbernd, VP of Ricoh Printing Systems America with the single pass, multihead module shown at the IMI Ink Jet Developers Conference in Geneva.

### **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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