

NEWS RELEASE

October 4, 2007

Contact: Curt Brey
Director of Digital Solutions
(860) 648-4123

Speed, Quality, Versatility, and Value; Gerber introduces the new Solara ion™ Inkjet Printer

SOUTH WINDSOR, Conn.— Gerber Scientific Products, Inc. has announced their newest offering in the wide-format UV inkjet printer marketplace – the Gerber Solara ion^x. The Gerber Solara ion^x is the culmination of Gerber's growing expertise in field of inkjet printers. Capitalizing on their experience and success with the Gerber Solara™ series of inkjet printers, GSP® has developed a technologically advanced printer format that meets the varied needs of wide-format, outdoor durable digital printing applications. The result is the merger of a true flatbed and true roll-to-roll printer – the Gerber Solara ion^x.

Gerber Solara ion^x is VERSATILE.

“The Gerber Solara ion^x is built on a robust flatbed platform that provides the best possible foundation for printing rigid materials,” explained Curt Brey, director of digital solutions for GSP. Material up to 1"/25.4mm thick and 64"/1.6m wide is mounted on a vacuum table which provides the ultimate in stability, while a gantry moves the print head over the substrate during printing. This design eliminates the alignment errors that can occur when moving rigid substrates through a printer. The result is precision printing on a wide variety of rigid materials.

“Gerber was not satisfied to stop with a flatbed printer,” explained Brey. “Wide-format applications require printing on flexible roll stock as well. So a true roll-to-roll system was designed into the Gerber Solara ion^x.” Flexible material is pulled across the dedicated roll-to-roll platform by a series of precision crafted friction cylinders. Unlike other industry flatbeds that added a simple roll holder, the Gerber Solara ion^x has incorporated a fully engineered, heavy-duty roll system and a winding unit for media up to 64"/1.6m wide.

“You get the best of both worlds with the Gerber Solara ion^x – the dependability of a flatbed printer and the ability to print on a wide range of rigid, semi-rigid, and roll stock materials,” commented Brey. “The Gerber Solara ion^x dual printing system eliminates the capital expense of purchasing two separate printers as well as minimizing the amount of valuable floor space that is required by the equipment.”

Gerber Solara ion^x is HIGH QUALITY.

Not only is the Gerber Solara ion^x exceptionally well designed for maximum versatility, the printer features Gerber's patent-pending, Cold Fire Cure™ technology. This unique UV curing process uses low energy and low temperatures to cure the proprietary GerberCAT™ inks. "The Cold Fire Cure system provides features in inkjet curing that are nothing less than revolutionary," commented Brey. "Cold Fire Cure offers a vast array of benefits over any competitive curing process in the areas of material compatibility, cost of operation, and even environmental, health, and safety."

Performance Properties	Traditional Mercury Vapor	New Cold Fire Cure™
Generates environmental ozone	Yes	No
Lamp cost	High	Low
Lamp life	Very Low	Very High
Material compatibility	Moderate	Very High
Generates heat on material surface	Yes	No

"GerberCAT inks are an exclusive, four color (cyan, magenta, yellow, and black) cationic ink set that UV cures at approximately room temperature," explained Brey. "This greatly expands the range of materials that can be printed by the Gerber Solara ion^x. Heat sensitive plastic, vinyl, fabric, and paper-based materials can be printed using Gerber's Cold Fire Cure and GerberCAT inks without concern over ink adhesion or material damage.

"Unlike other printers that require 'dwell times' to dissipate heat buildup when using slower print modes, the Gerber Solara ion^x can print without these delays," explained Brey. "Since the heat generated by Gerber's Cold Fire Cure UV lamps is so low there is no need to pause between passes to cool the material. Print speeds are maintained, even for delicate materials."

GerberCAT inks provide unmatched adhesion on materials traditionally problematic for inkjet printers such as glass and textiles. Unlike solvent inks that create a chemical bond by eroding the surface of the substrate, GerberCAT inks cure into a strong, yet flexible mechanical bond that is immediately usable. "Gerber has developed a genuine print-and-apply process for vehicle graphics which allows application immediately after printing; as opposed to solvent ink graphics which require 48-72 hours of complete cure time before application," said Brey. "The ultra-flexible GerberCAT bond allows the Gerber Solara ion^x to support an extensive range of three-dimensional applications including fleet graphics, vehicle wraps with tight curves, and smooth application over rivets."

Performance Properties	Traditional Free Radical UV Ink	New GerberCat™ Cationic Ink
Cure Energy Required	High	Low
Adhesion	Good	Excellent
Flexibility	Poor	Excellent
Chemical Resistance	Fair	Good
Hardness/Gloss	Fair	Good
Opacity	Good	Excellent
Environmental Resistance	Good	Excellent

The Gerber Solara ion^x has an expanded color gamut that produces intense reds, greens, and blues for noticeably more vibrant full color prints. In addition, GerberCAT inks have a three year, outdoor-durable life span and laminating graphics will significantly increase their outdoor durability.

“The combination of Cold Fire Cure and GerberCAT makes the Gerber Solara ion^x one of the most versatile printers in the world,” explained Brey. “The versatility of the Solara ion^x opens the door to a huge set of applications such as real estate signage, POP, vehicle applications, backlit, traffic signage, exhibit display, banners, and textiles all through one printing system.”

Gerber Solara ion^x delivers SPEED.

The Gerber Solara ion has a versatile range of user-selectable print modes offering a variety of choices in print speed and resolution. Performance mode is used for the fastest printing of samples or short-term graphics with good quality results. Production mode provides the best combination of speed and resolution, and the two High Quality modes print graphics at resolution up to 1440 dpi.

User-Selectable Print Modes	Speed	Quality
Performance (2-pass, bi-directional)	639 ft ² /hr	N/A
Production (4-pass ,bi-directional)	319 ft ² /hr	159 ft ² /hr
High Quality (8-pass, bi-directional)	159 ft ² /hr	80 ft ² /hr
Ultra-High Quality (8-pass, uni-directional)	80 ft ² /hr	40 ft ² /hr

“We have found that Gerber Solara ion^x Performance mode provides tremendous speed while achieving far better-than-expected results,” commented Brey, “but it is the wide choice of resolution and speed options that separate the Gerber Solara ion^x from the competition, and with the dual printing system, customers have the ultimate in system versatility on both rigid and rolled substrates.”

The Gerber Solara ion^x produces crisp, clear six point black type without difficulty making the printer suitable for detailed printing. “From high speed to high resolution, to the combination of true flatbed or roll media the Solara ion^x is the most versatile printer on the market,” noted Brey.

Gerber Solara ion^x is EASY TO USE.

The Gerber Solara ion^x is designed for ease of use and dependability. The printer's user interface was developed to be highly intuitive. All critical system commands are on dedicated buttons on the control panel for instant access. “The design of the Gerber Solara ion^x control panel is straight-forward so that the learning curve is minimal,” Brey pointed out. “It is so intuitive to use that a new operator can be up and running proficiently in minutes.”

Rigid material loading is simple and quick on the Gerber Solara ion^x flatbed. The print head gantry moves completely out of the way for unobstructed access to the table. An automated material thickness sensor measures the loaded substrate and locates the print heads and UV lamps at the correct distance from the substrate for precise printing and curing.

Continuous roll-to-roll printing is accomplished via the roll holder and winding unit. Once the roll material is installed, the Gerber Solara ion^x can print multiple jobs with unattended operation.

Even installation is easy. The Gerber Solara ion^x is assembled on site and does not require expensive site preparations. “Before assembly, the printer will fit through a standard 36"/91.44cm door opening,” explained Brey. “There is no added expense to tear down walls just to install our inkjet printer, and unlike heavier printers, the Gerber Solara ion^x does not require a concrete floor. The quick assembly and lack of hidden installation costs are two real benefits for our customers even before they begin to use the printer,” noted Brey.

Gerber Solara ion^x is a great VALUE.

“We developed the Solara ion^x to exceed expectations in a wide-format printer, including the price,” said Brey. “At a list price of \$79,995 you simply won't find a faster, better built, feature-rich wide-format printer that the Gerber Solara ion^x. And unlike most hybrid systems, the Gerber Solara ion^x provides both true flatbed and roll-to-roll platforms. It is an excellent choice for any wide-format printing application.”

The Gerber Solara ion^x is backed by world-class service and support. Gerber has the widest, most developed service structure in the industry through a highly supportive distribution network and Gerber's

Service organization including locally-based service engineers that provide installation, training and support. "With Gerber behind the Solara ion^x you can rest assured that your investment in new inkjet technology will be supported and protected for years to come," noted Brey. "Whether it is training, warranty service, or post-warranty support, Gerber is equipped to ensure trouble-free printer performance for the life of the printer."

"Speed, quality, versatility, and value," stated Brey "that is the Gerber Solara ion^x UV inkjet printer's competitive advantage."

New Print-to-Cut Finishing Solution

With its recent acquisition of Data Technology, Inc., GSP now offers another new print-to-cut solution for its wide-format printers – the M3000 Series Digital Cutting and Finishing Systems. The M3000 is the fourth generation of rugged finishing systems which feature cutting, routing, and engraving and a variety of table sizes to meet specific customer requirements. The M3000 Series Digital Cutting and Finishing Systems are capable of cutting a wide array of flexible and rigid substrates, and are equipped with the MVision-Cut[®] automatic laser registration system for accurate print-to-cut registration and precise results. "With over 3,500 Data Technology installations worldwide," said Brey "the MSeries Digital Cutting and Finishing Systems have a legacy of durability and reliability which we are proud to offer to our customers."

The Gerber Solara ion^x and the M3000 Series Digital Cutting and Finishing System will be on display at SGIA October 24-27, 2007 in Orlando, FL. If you would like a more information on either product, contact your Gerber Distributor or visit the GSP website: www.gspinc.com.

About Gerber Scientific Products

Gerber Scientific Products is a leader in the development and manufacture of computerized sign making and specialty graphics systems, software, materials, and accessories. The company's start-to-finish digital design, printing and production products integrate via its unique Matched Technology System[™] to provide customers with comprehensive engineered solutions for every color printing and dimensional signage need. Based in South Windsor, Conn., Gerber Scientific Products operates as a business unit of Gerber Scientific, Inc.

Gerber Scientific is a leading international supplier of sophisticated automated manufacturing systems for sign making and specialty graphics, apparel and flexible materials, and ophthalmic lens processing. Headquartered in South Windsor, Connecticut, the company operates through four businesses: Gerber Scientific Products and Spandex Ltd., Gerber Technology, and Gerber Coburn.

###