You could say that Lieven De Schamphelaere, managing director of Triakon has digital printing in his blood. That’s because he is the son of Lucien De Schamphelaere, founder of Xeikon, of one of the world’s first digital press manufacturers. In fact, it was the elder De Schamphelaere who founded Triakon shortly after he retired from Xeikon. Which explains why Triakon is so technology driven and why the De Schamphelaeres receive funding for research from the Flemish government (in co-operation with the University of Leuven).

Needless to say, employing innovative technology is a key factor in Triakon’s growth strategy.

LED curing and high productivity make VUTEk GS3250LX the obvious choice for Triakon

Technology-led Belgian company stays with EFI for latest wide-format investment

Challenge:
“The jobs we were running on the QS3200 were getting larger and more numerous, and we needed higher productivity.”

The company’s focus on technology is also the reason it was the first in the country to use the EFI’s cool-cure LED printer, the VUTEk GS3250LX.

Today, Triakon, based in Edegem, Belgium, specialises in a wide range of applications using toner-based and inkjet technologies. But when it was founded in 1998, the company used Xeikon equipment. As market dynamics changed, the De Schamphelaeres recognised that they needed to diversify their offerings.

There were three primary applications the existing technologies couldn’t handle, explains Lieven De Schamphelaere. The first was producing wider width prints, the second was printing directly on rigid materials, and the third was providing output for long-term outdoor use.
The move to UV-curable technology
Triakon saw the potential of UV-curable machines early in their development, and believed they should be able to provide greater levels of durability as well the option for printing directly on rigid substrates. This led the company to invest first in roll-fed solutions to produce wider output.

As the technology continued to develop and improve, Triakon began to investigate different options. In 2008, the company purchased a VUTEk QS3200 3.2m wide-format flat-bed and roll-fed printer.

“We looked at a range of UV-curable systems from different manufacturers, but chose the QS3200 for a combination of reasons, based firstly on the stability of the machine, the speed and its quality,” says De Schamphelaere. “But also of considerable importance was the fact that we trusted EFI as an organisation, so we were confident in having the company behind us because we knew would get the support and service we required.”

Upgrading to LED curing
The desire to remain on the leading edge of digital technology and deliver its benefits to customers, plus the growing importance of helping the environment led Triakon to the versatility of EFI’s “cool cure” LED lamps.

“The jobs we were running on the QS3200 were getting larger and more numerous, and we needed higher productivity,” explains De Schamphelaere. “Although it was sooner than anticipated, we made the decision to upgrade
as we were convinced that the VUTEk GS3250LX printer would be able to run our jobs 2.5 times faster. Now that we have this speed advantage, Triakon benefits from the extra productivity, and we’re also able to pass on better quality to our customers.”

De Schamphelaere says that the lower curing temperatures enable the company to print on heat sensitive and thin materials without buckling or head strikes, adding significantly to its portfolio of applications. Additionally, it consumes far less energy, with the extra benefit of the lamps having a longer life span.

Operator Jan Vangenechten finds the VUTEk GS3250LX to be extremely versatile and easy to work with. Driven by the latest Fiery digital print server, it delivers accurate colour consistently at very fast processing speeds. “There is the benefit that the LED curing lamps don’t need to warm up before we use the printer, speeding up set-up times,” he says. “as well as being able to handle very sensitive substrates. Another huge advantage of this machine is its continuous board production capability which adds to the range of jobs that can be produced.”

The installation of the VUTEk GS3250LX has lived up to expectations at Triakon. It complements the company’s existing toner-based systems by adding outdoor durability and additional widths to a variety of print jobs. The VUTEk has more than delivered De Schamphelaere’s and his team’s technical demands, in terms of high-speed throughput, versatility and quality, and the ability to address the growing demand for greener practices.

Result:
“Triakon benefits from the extra productivity, and we’re also able to pass on better quality to our customers.”
EFI invents integrated digital technology for businesses and enterprises worldwide that helps them increase their profits, productivity, efficiency and customer satisfaction.

Why EFI?

EFI™ (www.efi.com) helps businesses worldwide bring their visions and goals to life with a scalable, digital product portfolio. Our powerful servers; controllers; RIPs; inkjet printers, and precise colour and imaging solutions help companies increase their brand recognition and market reach on signs, buildings, bus wraps, graphic displays and more. Our business automation software helps companies work faster and more cost-effectively. Our office, enterprise and mobile cloud solutions help companies create, access, and communicate impactful information that can win them more business.