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FPPA Announces 2010 Award Winners

BEL AIR, MD: The Flexographic Pre-Press Platemakers Association (FPPA) recently presented its annual awards during the February 21-23 meeting held in Fort Myers, Florida. This was a competitive year for award entries, with five submissions for Technology Innovator of the Year and three for Sustainability Achievement.

The recipient of the 2010 Technological Innovator of the Year awards is DuPont Imaging Technologies for DuPont Cyrel® DigiCorr. The DuPont Cyrel® DigiCorr system is a unique method of exposing photopolymer printing plates in an inert atmosphere to change the dot profile that is more favorable to printing on corrugated board. The innovation was developed to eliminate excessive fluting when using a digital photopolymer printing plate to print an image on a corrugated substrate. There are many benefits to using this technology. Tradeshops can now shift from an analog to digital workflow without compromising image quality, reduce their analog consumable spend associated with graphic arts film, sell an improved image carrier, and target high end printing to compete with litho label. To date there are ten installations at major industry-leading tradeshops in North American realizing the benefits of this technology.

The aim of the Technological Innovator of the Year award is to recognize achievement within any production or administrative area of the pre-press process. The word Innovation is defined as the introduction of something new, whether a method or a

product. The concept of innovation includes enhancement of profitability, improved productivity, operating efficiency and product quality. Eligibility for this award is open to the full membership of FPPA.

In addition to the annual Innovator award, FPPA honored United Engravers, Inc. with its Sustainability Achievement Award. Long before sustainability was an industry-term, United Engravers began taking small steps towards a more environmentally-friendly manufacturing plant. In the last year United invested in multiple projects, moving from small steps to large leaps. These actions were FPPA-driven as a result of information articulated at the 12th Annual Convention in Tucson, AZ.

The three main focus areas include wind energy, green renovation, and increased production of liquid I-plates (or “Island-plates”), resulting in a reduction of emissions. United Engravers has received press coverage from multiple publications in support of these actions.

United Engravers purchased 25% wind energy in Fall of 2009. Green-e energy uses renewable sources that produce little to no greenhouse gas emissions. The current average mix of energy sources supplying the US includes only 2% of renewable energy. United is considering the option to utilize 100% wind energy in the future. From 25-100%, wind energy benefits the environment by producing less gas emissions.

In an effort to utilize sustainable materials, United Engravers incorporated green practices in its recent renovation. While adding offices to the previously vacant second level, United picked out cabinets certified through the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association’s (KCMA) Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP). In purchasing wood

cabinets, United chose a recyclable and biodegradable product that uses less energy to process than other materials, such as plastic or metal.

Recycled material was also used in the upstairs renovation. The ceiling tiles were processed with 50% recycled material, and half of the carpet base uses recycled material. United also purchased motion sensor faucets and air-assist toilets, in an effort to reduce water consumption.

Another form of reducing emissions that United incorporated was promoting the use of liquid photopolymer and I-plate production. United Engravers purchased a 52in. by 110in. MacDermid liquid photopolymer machine in the Spring to account for these changes. The carbon footprint is smaller in an I-plate, because photopolymer forms only in the imaged areas. The I-plate technology also eliminates VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds). I-plates are washed out with soap and water instead of solvent.

The purpose of the Flexographic Pre-Press Platemakers Association is to foster, promote, improve and enhance high standards of efficiency and cooperation within the flexographic pre-press platemaking industry.

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