

# Durst Previews New Kappa

Inkjet solutions developer Durst has lifted the veil on its new Kappa 180 digital-textile production printer, scheduled for launch at ITMA in Barcelona.

*Digital Textile* editor John Scrimshaw was among a small group of journalists granted a preview of the machine at Durst's recently created Textile Development Center in Kufstein, Austria. The Kappa 180 has been developed on the basis of Durst's proprietary Quadro print-head technology, which uses Ricoh components.

A new QuadroZ head has been designed to meet the specific requirements of the textile industry and, at the same time, high-grade Kappa inks were developed in the Durst Research Center in Lienz, Austria.

The Durst Kappa 180 has a printing speed of more than 600 sqm/hour at 1056x600 dpi, in what the company describes as a true production mode, or a little over half that in quality mode.

Development Center head Hannes Fischer said: "Durst Kappa 180 is a genuine alternative to flat-bed screen-printing and, with its outstanding speed and printing quality, it is the new premium product in the textile printing sector."

The modified Durst Quadro Array technology makes it possible to jet water-based textile inks by way of a specially hardened, fray-

## Competiveness

### Setting Time (design to print)

D: few hours A: several days

### Water Waste

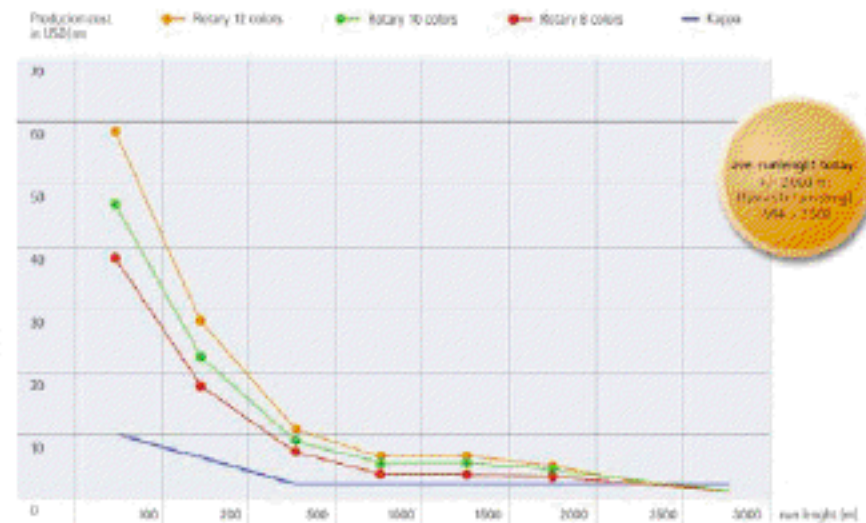
D: +/- 2lt/m A: +/-25lt/m

### Consumption of Chemicals

D: 9-12g/m A: 300g/m

### Style preparation

D: low A: +/-350 Eur per screen (rotary)  
+/-85 Eur per flatbed screen

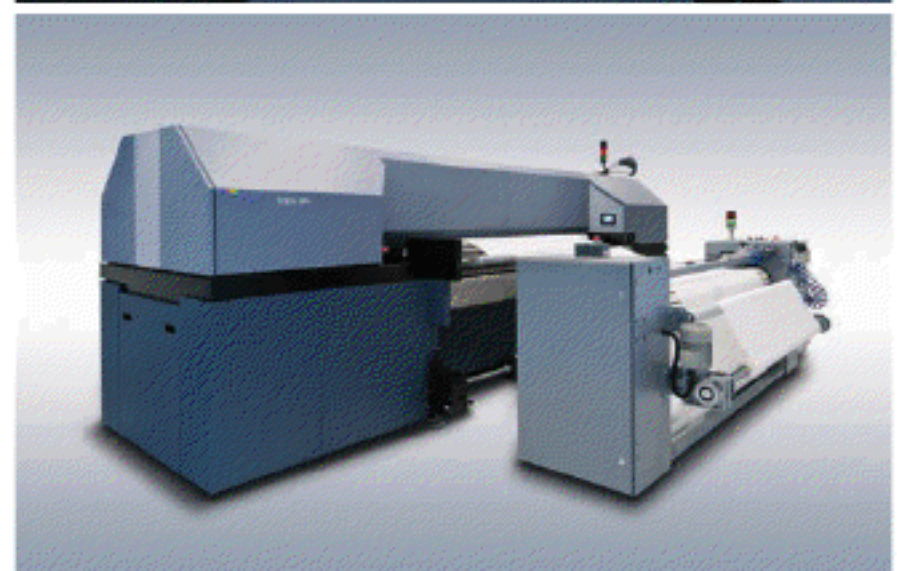
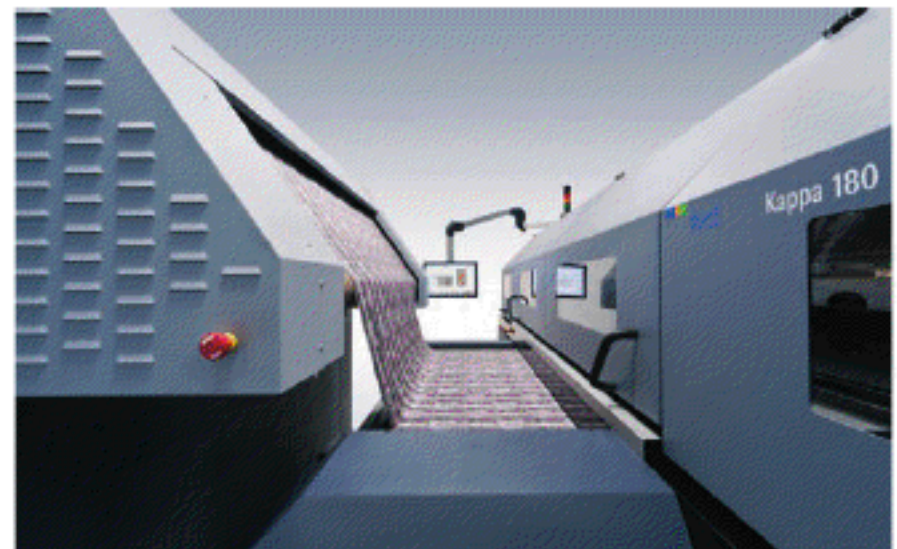


Durst's graph showing how print technologies compare in competitiveness

resistant nozzle plate with a drop size of 7-21 picolitres. The 6,144 jets per colour produce a resolution of up to 1680 dpi, while a single automatic nozzle-cleaning system is said to ensure uninterrupted operation.

The QuadroZ arrays print eight colours in CMYK, orange, red, blue and grey, and Durst claims the results are free from modulations and density fluctuations. It says a key role is played by the ink-delivery system, with an osmosis filtering system that eliminates gas bubbles in the inks and ensures that the printing is constant and failure-free. The inking rate is 7g/sqm, or 14g/sqm in quality mode.

The Durst Kappa 180 has fully automatic in-feeding and guiding systems for textiles, with a maximum printing width of 195cm and a printing blanket with an integrated washing system. The drying unit is a hot-air dryer powered by gas, steam or electricity.



The new Durst Kappa 180

For textile printing, Durst has developed its own reactive, acid and disperse Kappa inks for the piezo-inkjet multi-pass technology. It says their characteristics are deep black, outstanding luminosity and excellent stability.

Christoph Gamper, textile-segment manager at Durst, said the ink price had not been fixed, but he expected it to be around €45 per litre. He added that he could foresee a reduction to €20-25 in around two years.