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NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW HARLEQUIN RIP INTRODUCES PDF 2.0

The industry's fastest print engine offers even more for labels and packaging, wide format and envelope printing

Cambridge, UK, 10 April, 2018: A major new release of the Harlequin RIP®, the print engine that drives the industry's highest performing digital presses, is launched today by developers Global Graphics Software. It is the first major PDF RIP for production printing to offer compatibility with the PDF 2.0 standard, which was published in 2017 by the International Standards Organization and is billed as the first "post-Adobe" standard. Harlequin Version 12 also contains a wealth of features for high-speed digital printing, including [Advanced Inkjet Screens™](#) that improve output quality, further additions for **labels** and **packaging** applications, and new features for **wide format** and **envelope** printing.

The Harlequin RIP is used by **HP Indigo** in its newly launched **HP Production Pro for Indigo Labels and Packaging**, driving five times faster RIP power compared to the previous DFE version. It is also used in **Durst's** Symphony™ and **Roland's** VersaWorks Dual RIP.

Reputed for the quality of its output as well as its speed, [the Harlequin RIP](#) transforms design and pre-press data into a format that can be printed and feeds those pages to the press at blistering speeds.

Martin Bailey, CTO and head of product management at Global Graphics Software, says "The safest approach to the adoption of PDF 2.0 for press manufacturers is to ensure that all applications that consume PDF, such as the Digital Front End for your press (DFE), are upgraded to support PDF 2.0. Your DFE is the best place to start because if your customer sends files for processing that contain some of the new features in PDF 2.0 they will usually be silently ignored by an older reader with unexpected results in output."

Yogev Barak, HP Indigo head of strategy and business management, says "thousands of HP Indigo customers are using the Global Graphics Harlequin RIP, as part of our Digital Front End solutions. The processing speed, RIP quality and rich feature set are among the main reasons the Harlequin RIP is the solution for our digital presses".

Compliant with the PDF 2.0 standard

Harlequin Host Renderer 12 supports all of the features of the new PDF 2.0 standard that are relevant for production printing. If your Digital Front End is not compliant with this new standard it will silently ignore the new features available with unexpected results in output. Upgrading your DFE and continuing to consume PDF 1.7 files is safe; not upgrading, and trying to consume PDF 2.0 files may not be. Martin Bailey, the CTO of Global Graphics Software, has authored a White Paper [The impact of PDF 2.0 on print production](#) which is available for download.

In-RIP bar-code generation

This new feature allows barcodes to be created in the RIP. Many symbologies are supported for mailing (Postal barcodes such as those used in the US, UK, Germany, Korea, Japan, Australia etc), customer engagement (QR Code etc), process control (code 128 etc), logistics (datamatrix, Aztec etc). Barcodes can be snapped to the correct size for the output resolution in use to maximize readability.

Dynamic overlays for variable data

Some applications such as packaging, labels, envelopes and industrial print, require a simple form of VDP support. This might be where a single background page is combined with overlay graphics that are selected using data from a file supplied in a format like CSV. Serial or batch codes can be added using dynamic counters without writing values to a CSV first. Support has been added to apply overlays on top of a single page PDF file to add text and barcodes for serial numbers, QR codes for personalized URLs, postal barcodes and addresses on envelopes and many other use cases.

Improving inkjet quality

A set of new software screens that add the “final polish” to output produced on inkjet presses is available in Version 12. Advanced Inkjet Screens™ smooth out imperfections caused by the physics of jetting ink onto substrate. There are two variants: the **Pearl** screen is designed to avoid the streaking that’s common on more or less absorbent substrates, whereas the **Mirror** screen is ideal for non-absorbent and poorly-wetting surfaces such as tin cans and flexible packaging, and also areas of dense metallic ink, where it greatly mitigates “orange peel” mottling.

Two editions

Harlequin Version 12 is available in two editions: the [Harlequin Host Renderer](#) SDK, which powers the Digital Front Ends used in high-volume digital production environments; and, Harlequin MultiRIP for conventional and light digital production printing.

Ends

About Global Graphics Software

Global Graphics Software <http://www.globalgraphics.com> is a leading developer of platforms for digital printing, including the [Harlequin RIP®](#), [ScreenPro](#), [Fundamentals](#) and [Mako](#). Customers include [HP](#), [Canon](#), [Durst](#), [Roland](#), [Kodak](#) and [Agfa](#). [The roots of the company go back to 1986](#) and to the iconic university town of Cambridge, and, today the majority of the R&D team is still based near here. Global Graphics Software is a subsidiary of Global Graphics PLC (Euronext: GLOG).

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Media contacts:

Jill Taylor, Corporate Communications Director
Global Graphics Software
Jill.taylor@globalgraphics.com
Tel +44 (0)1223 926489
US Tel: +1 978 631 0414

Paula Halpin, PR & Marketing Executive
Global Graphics Software
Paula.halpin@globalgraphics.com
Tel: +44 (0)1223 926017
US Tel: +1 781 996 4201