

ONSET: SUCCESS IN PARTNERSHIP

From the launch of the ground-breaking Onset S70 in 2007, to the unrivalled Onset X range in 2015, the story of the Onset brand is the story of one of the most successful technology partnerships in the digital printing industry. Inca Digital and Fujifilm, the authors of this success story, have now added yet another chapter to it, as high speed options are added to the Onset X2 and X3 models. The Onset X3 has already set the pace globally for speed – printing up to a blistering 900m² per hour. Now, with the introduction of the Onset X3 HS, it's even faster. These latest developments build on a long history of pushing the boundaries of high productivity, high quality, large format, digital print.

Inca Digital

The Inca Digital half of the Onset success story has its roots in the late 1990s when a small team from a company called Cambridge Consultants exhibited a prototype of the first ever flatbed inkjet printer at Ipex 1998. It immediately became clear that the point-of-sale, packaging and signage markets could benefit from this innovation, provided that suitable inks could be found. Cambridge Consultants entered into discussions with the world-renowned screen ink manufacturer, Sericol Limited, to develop these inks. Two years later, Inca (later Inca Digital) was officially spun out of Cambridge Consultants and right from the outset, Sericol proved to be the perfect partner.

Starting with the launch of the Eagle 44 in 2000, Inca immediately established itself as a reputable manufacturer of high-end inkjet printers, bringing ground-breaking new UV inkjet platforms to market on a near annual basis. In 2005 the company was acquired by Screen, and the innovation continued apace, eventually reaching new heights in 2007 with the announcement of the first Onset platform. Retrospectively this first Onset machine, developed in close partnership with Fujifilm, came to be called the Onset S70. But at the time, it announced its arrival on the world stage simply as the Inca Onset, and it represented a true breakthrough in large format speed and quality. Printing at speeds of up to 750m² per hour it signalled a new era of high quality, high productivity, large format digital print.





Sericol and Fujifilm

Founded in 1950, Sericol Ltd was a screen inks pioneer and market leader. In the 1970s it launched the world's first instant curing UV screen inks and then built on this experience to commercialise the first UV digital inkjet inks in the world in 1999. Sericol found the perfect partner in Inca Digital to commercialise its high-end inkjet platforms, putting its new UV ink technologies and worldwide distribution infrastructure to good use. The immediate and rapid growth in this new sector resulted in Sericol being presented with a Queens Award for Enterprise in 2004 for its role in developing and commercialising these new UV inkjet systems.

In 2005 Sericol was acquired by Fujifilm, becoming Fujifilm Sericol and then, later, Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems. Sericol had always placed great importance on research and development, a philosophy that made it the perfect match for Fujifilm. Building on a successful screen printing heritage of more than half a century and a well-established worldwide distribution and support network, Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems now produces high-performance UV cured inkjet inks, such as the industry leading Uvijet range, for printers right around the globe.

In an industry where visual impact is a necessity, the unique combination of rich vibrant colours, superb application properties and world-leading quality and consistency, mean that Fujifilm is now the acknowledged world leader in UV-cured inkjet ink technology.





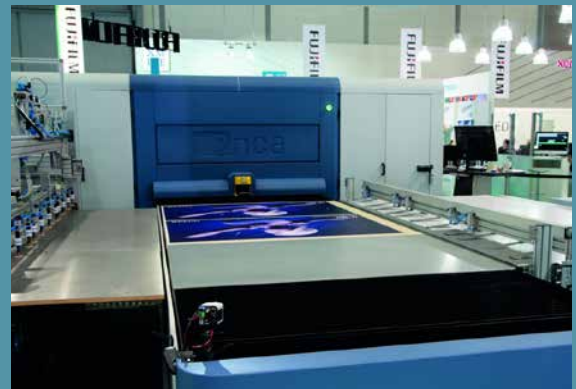
The Onset of something new

Having acquired Sericol in 2005, Fujifilm then went on to purchase the US printhead manufacturer, Dimatix in 2006. This well-established, highly respected company was, like Sericol, already working with Inca, providing high quality printheads and expertise. In coming together under the Fujifilm brand, with the additional expertise a company of Fujifilm's size could provide, the opportunity to further develop and fully integrate ink and printhead technology to maximum benefit was immeasurably enhanced. The first Onset model in 2007 was an early beneficiary of this new, improved relationship and the Onset brand was destined to become enduring proof of the benefits of such a partnership.

In 2009, the Onset S20 model became the second in the series to be launched. Designed to bring Onset technologies to a much wider audience, it featured a slightly slower speed at a lower investment point, and started to expand the impact of the Onset range in the market.

In 2011, the mid-range Onset S40 introduced printers to a new generation of Fujifilm Dimatix printheads. With even finer jetting accuracy than anything that had gone before, the new Fujifilm Dimatix Sapphire QS-256 MEMS printheads were able to deliver even finer text, as well as smoother prints, at a speed of up to 500m² per hour.

In 2012, the Onset S20i and S40i improved productivity still further. These models were then followed in 2013 by the Onset S50 and S50i, which added even more ink channel and automation options to enhance quality and expand the range of investment opportunities yet again. Finally, in 2015, the Onset X Series took things to yet another level. This modular, platform added fully scalable architecture, and took high quality, large format digital printing to unprecedented levels of productivity and performance.





The X factor

The Onset X range, still the benchmark for high productivity, high quality, large format digital print four years on from its launch, introduced a level of scalability never before seen in the industry. With the introduction of the Onset X HS, it now offers six distinct investment entry points, together with multiple ink channel configurations and levels of automation. From an entry-level, manual, four-channel Onset X1 LT printing up to 200m² per hour, to an Onset X3 HS, operating at speeds of up to 1450m² per hour with full robotic automation, the Onset X range has something to meet the needs of all high end sign and display printers.

To complement the Onset X series, Fujifilm has developed and introduced four different ink systems to maximise the versatility of the platform. These include the highly versatile Uvijet OW, for general purpose display and POP applications, Uvijet OL and LM for more specialised applications requiring low odour and low migration properties, and the new Uvijet OX high adhesion ink system for printing on virtually any rigid plastics.



The next chapter

With over 100 installations around the globe, the Onset X range has established itself as one of the benchmark products in the high-end, large format sector and its influence has been transformative. For Inca Digital and Fujifilm, the launch of the new Onset X HS is just the most recent example of both companies' determination to continue to provide new levels of performance for printers in the high end graphic display and corrugated packaging markets.

For further information:

Please contact your local Fujifilm partner.

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