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DuPont Packaging Graphics Celebrates Patent Milestone

DuPont Packaging Graphics has recently achieved the registration milestone of 125 patent families consisting of more than 600 patents and applications worldwide. These patents, which represent the technological innovations of the Packaging Graphics business, cover a wide range of products, equipment and processes.

“Since the introduction of DuPont™ Cyrel® photopolymer printing plates in 1974, we have been working with our customers to develop innovative technologies to advance flexography,” said Lisa DiGate, Global Business Director, DuPont Packaging Graphics. “These patents represent our investment in flexography, the package printing industries and in the innovations that our customers value.”

DuPont said that hard work and a willingness to invest on the part of flexo tradeshops and printers, and innovations by suppliers in pre-press technology and plates, anilox rolls, inks and press technology have helped fuel flexography’s growth.

“DuPont innovation has played a key role in the major technology, productivity and sustainability advances in flexography,” stated Kevin Leary, Global Technology Director, DuPont Packaging Graphics. “Like the other technology leaders in the flexographic industry, we continue to make investments in order to find creative ways to serve customers and satisfy the innovation demands of the consumer packaged goods companies (CPG). And of course, this has proven to be a great fit for a science company like DuPont.”

Some of the highlights in the evolution of Cyrel® and flexography, according to DuPont, are:

- Cyrel®, the first photopolymer printing plate (1974).
- Automated and in-line platemaking systems (1980s).

- Capped plate technology for improved print quality (1987).

- Aqueous processible printing plates (1990s).

- The development and introduction, in partnership with EskoArtwork, of a fully digital photopolymer workflow for flexo including Digital Cyrel® printing plates and the Cyrel® Digital Imager (1995).

- Cyrel® FAST, the first solvent-free, dry, thermal plate processing system (2000).

- Cyrel® round digital sleeve system (2002).

“These inventions form the basis of our offerings to the marketplace and have received numerous awards from the industry,” DiGate said. “They have helped flexographers keep up with CPG and retailer demands for eye-catching graphics, speed to shelf, and cost productivity.”

“It’s becoming more of a challenge for all participants in the market to continue to deliver the innovation necessary for growth in an environment of such rapidly rising costs,” DiGate continued. “Rising crude oil prices affect not just raw material costs; they seriously impact the energy costs of manufacturing, warehousing and distribution. However, Packaging Graphics is a core business for DuPont and we are committed to develop the new products and systems to sustain growth in flexography and package printing.”

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