

# Textile Printers



Observed at APPPEXPO 2015

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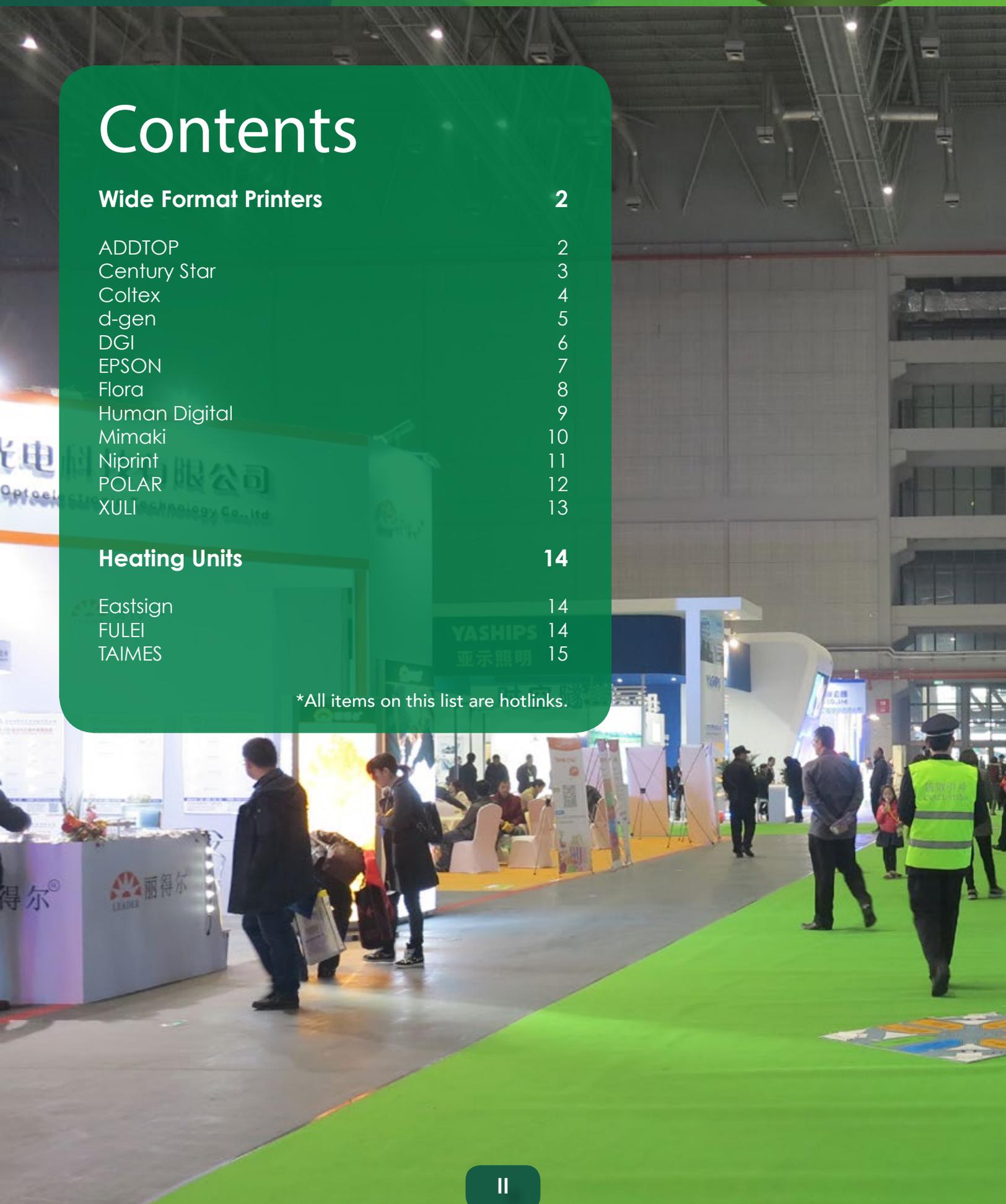
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\*All items on this list are hotlinks.



# Introduction

Signage and wide-format inkjet printer expos tend to have two kinds of textile printers: for T-shirts and for soft signage. Although pigmented ink can produce soft signage, almost all soft signage is done with either dye sublimation ink on transfer paper, or disperse dye in direct-to-fabric.

For dye sublimation onto transfer paper, you have the following options:

- Oil-based ink
- Solvent-based ink
- Water-based ink

Depending on which ink, you have to select an appropriate kind of transfer paper.

For direct-to-fabric systems, where you find the options are in the fixation technology (or chemistry):

- Oil-filled cylinders
- Heated cylinders
- Hot air.

You can answer the question yourself: you get what you pay for.

Direct-to-garment printing has been in the market for many years now, and many advances have been made on the equipment used for this type of printing.

One of the advantages of direct-to-garment printing is that there is no need to use transfer paper, this makes the process more simple in some ways. With direct-to-garment printing, unlike transfer printing the printed image is apparent on both sides of the fabric, this might be a positive thing for some applications.

On the down side, each time you use a different fabric you have to use a different printing profile on your printer; which results in higher costs and more time. Another negative aspect is that you cannot print directly onto all kinds of fabrics; a coating is required so the ink can adequately adhere to the fabric. Some fabrics come with pretreatment from the factory, but the selection is more limited than the one for non-coated fabrics.

When you print directly onto garment you should take into consideration the type of fabric the garment is made of, basically there are two types of fabrics: knitted and woven. Knitted fabrics tend to stretch more by nature, while woven fabrics stretch if they are woven with elastic fibers. Usually the cost of knitted fabrics is higher since the manufacturing process is more intensive.

## Pigmented Ink

Instead of using sublimation ink and sublimation fixation, you can also use pigmented ink (for cotton). Yes, you can also select reactive dye ink; or acid ink for other materials. But at a signage expo it is rare to see reactive dye or acid dye printers (they are exhibited, but only in one or two booths).

Most pigmented ink produces relatively weak colors: not much POP. But gradually better pigmented ink chemistry is being developed. A good example is the new pigmented ink displayed last year by DigiFab (a company with offices in California and New York; and also other countries).

# ADDTOP



ADDTOP direct-to-fabric textile printers.



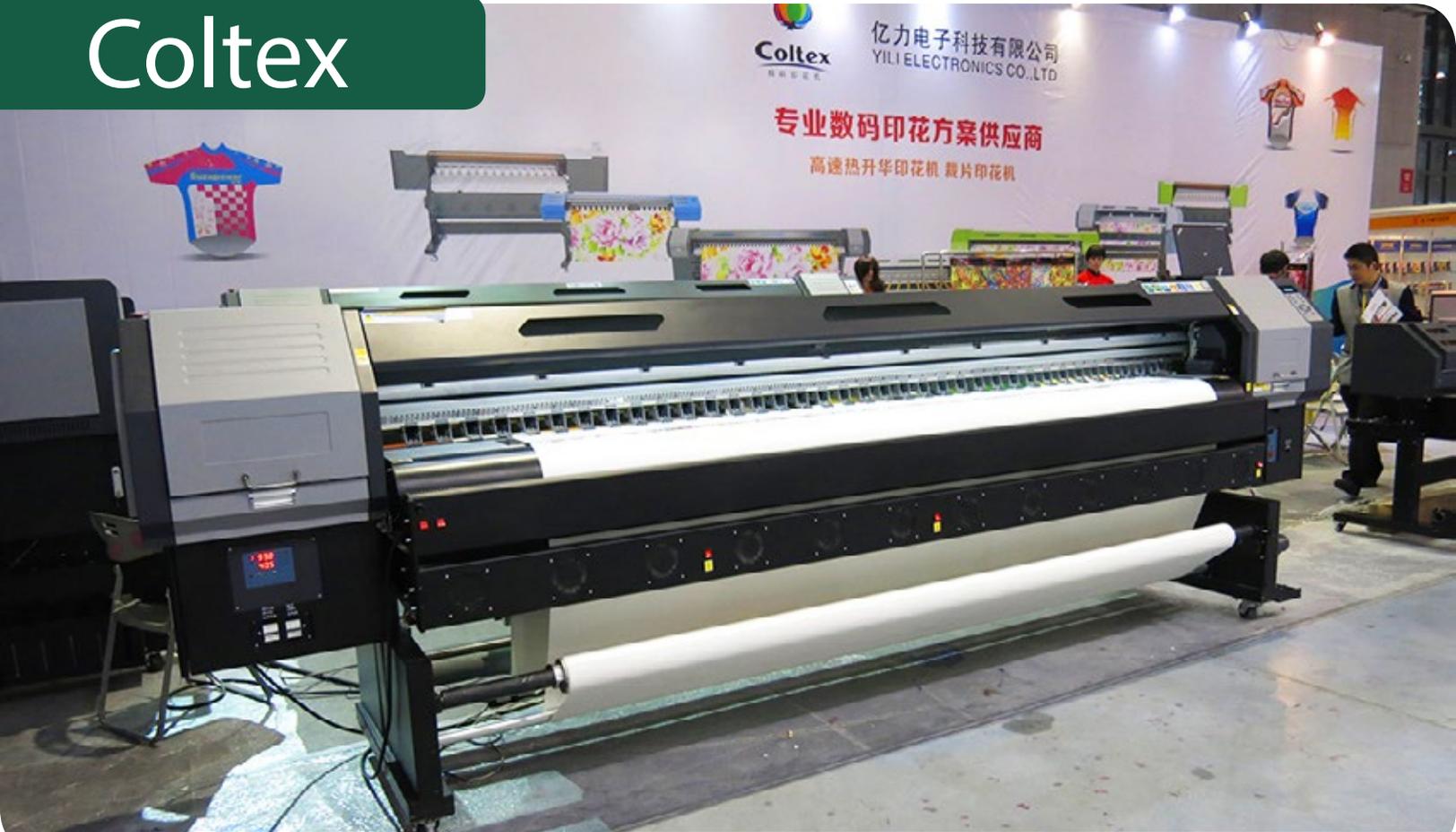
# Century Star



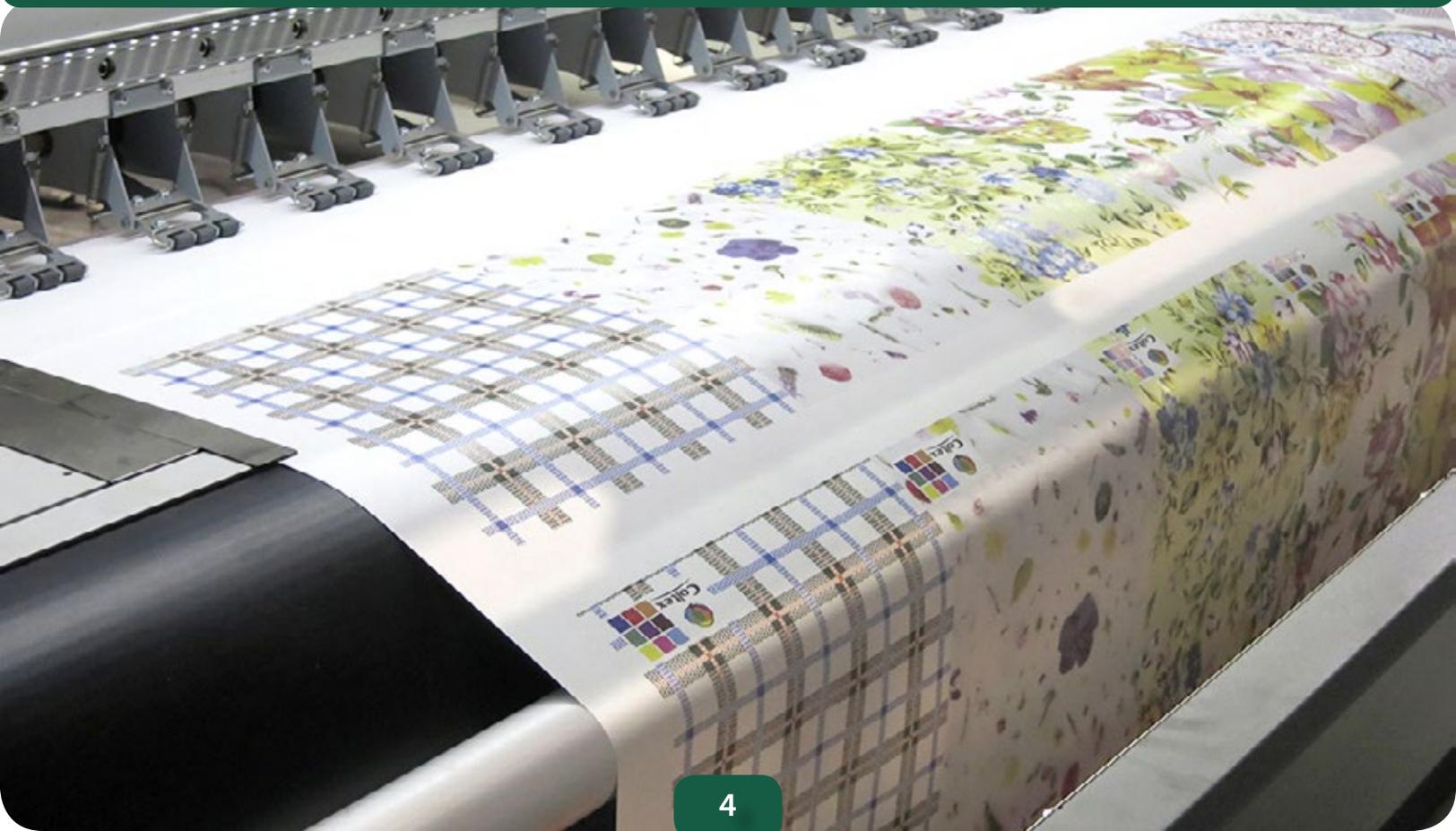
Century Star is one of the major heat fixation manufacturers in China, which also produces textile printers.



# Coltex



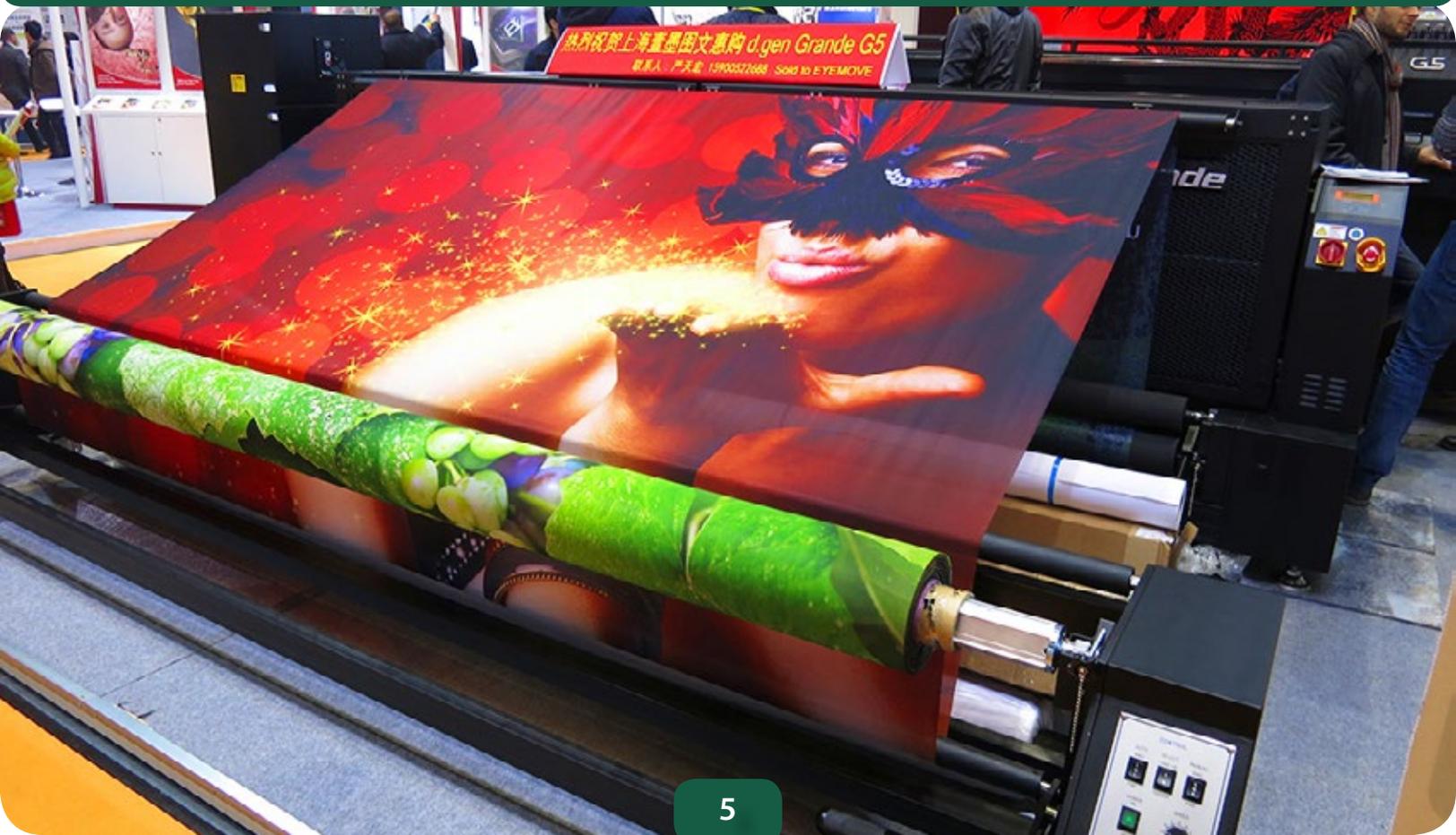
Coltex is one of the new brands for APPPEXPO 2015.



# d-gen



d-gen transfer paper printer (above) and direct-to-fabric printer (below).



# D.G.I.



D.G.I is one of the recurring exhibitors at APPPEXPO.



# EPSON



EPSON transfer paper printers.



# Flora

2PASS 155平米/小时  
2PASS 155Sqm/hr  
(6头/6 Heads)



Flora textile printers in display at APPPEXPO 2015.



# Human Digital



Human Digital exhibited many types of printers at the show, here we can see two textile printers.



# Mimaki



Mimaki textile printer in the Miamki booth.



Mimaki also exhibited a textile printer in the Magicolour booth.

# Niprint



NiPrint had two booths at APPPEXPO, here you can see them both.



# POLAR



Polar textile printers were on display at the Xuli booth.



# XULI



Xuli also exhibited their own brand of printers in its booth.



# Eastsign



Eastsign table heat press.

# FULEI



Fulei calendering machines booth.

# TAIMES



Taimes roll-to-roll heat fixation unit.

# Brother Machinery



Brother industrial type calendering machine.

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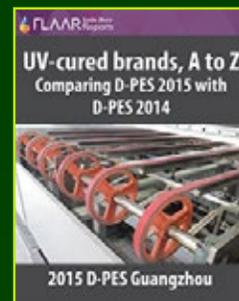
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