

Xaar 1003 printhead upgrade **significantly** increases tile manufacturing productivity at Parefeuille Provence

An upgrade to Xaar's latest 1003 printheads, an integral part of the Evoseven digital printer installed by Projecta Engineering, has dramatically increased the print quality and output at leading tile manufacturer Parefeuille Provence.



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Laurent Jacquemin
Parefeuille Provence



XAAR

Founded in 1963 in Fournes near Avignon, France, Parefeuille Provence produces a wide range of tiles for interior and exterior use. The company has a proud history of technological innovations, and when it decided to update one of its three production lines, it looked to the latest technology and the advantages offered by digital inkjet technology.

In early 2016, Projecta Engineering installed an Evoseven digital printer equipped with five print bars populated with Xaar 1003 GS12C printheads at Parefeuille Provence. Previously the printer had been used with the Xaar 1002 printheads in another group factory in Italy, and was upgraded by Projecta to the new 1003 printheads to deliver improved performance and print quality. Parefeuille Provence use the printer to create high-quality granite and concrete tile designs using five colours – blue, beige, brown, black and white – to provide maximum impact across their tile range.

As the first company in the Group to use the new Xaar 1003 printhead, Production Manager Laurent Jacquemin has been able to see the full advantages from the upgrade to the new printhead. "The big evolution we see with the Xaar 1003 is the significant reduction in maintenance and production downtime," he comments. "We have seen a 3 times improvement in the cleaning cycle compared with Xaar 1002 printhead, and when we do stop for maintenance, the cleaning process is fully automatic and only takes one minute. All of this results in significantly more production uptime and consequential efficiencies and savings."

Projecta Engineering reported that upgrading to the Xaar 1003 printheads was a very quick process. "The integration of the new printhead was extremely easy as the printheads are the same size as the Xaar 1002 and fully backward compatible," commented Projecta engineer, Francesco Casoni. "We are very pleased with this installation and are delighted that Parefeuille Provence has seen an increase in their production output."

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Francesco Casoni
Projecta Engineering

Parefeuille Provence, along with the other group factories, has developed an excellent working relationship with Projecta. "Our customers were asking for a higher print quality, which we can now achieve with the Evoseven and Xaar 1003 printheads," says Francesco. "The Projecta engineers supported us during this project and helped us to fine-tune the printer for optimal productivity", agrees Laurent.

"When we compare the output of the line using the Xaar 1003 with other factories, the Xaar 1003 gives us better print quality, with more consistent colours and more accurate drop placement. Also, the 12 kHz waveforms allow 360 x 360 dpi resolution at the high line speed of 40 m/min that we need. Due to the success of this initial installation we have decided to install a second digital printer this year to upgrade one of the remaining non-digital lines."

The Xaar 1003 has been designed to enable tile manufacturers using either the Xaar 1001 or Xaar 1002 printheads to easily upgrade their systems due to it being fully backward compatible. Delivering both improved print quality and production uptime the Xaar 1003 is the ideal choice for tile manufacturers seeking to deliver a greater level of manufacturing performance.

To find out more, visit www.xaar.com/upgrade

The benchmark for single-pass print quality

The Xaar 1003 is the benchmark against which all other single-pass printheads are compared. With its all-round superior performance, this printhead builds on the market-leading Xaar 1002 and its predecessor, the original and groundbreaking Xaar 1001.

The Xaar 1003 printhead family introduces an important new feature – the XaarGuard™ – which provides the ultimate in nozzle plate protection, and coupled with other design innovations, achieves the longest maintenance-free production runs in the industry*. In addition, the Xaar 1003 provides a step forward in consistent print quality across the wide print widths used in many single-pass applications, due to Xaar's Tuned Actuator Manufacturing process.

Xaar's flagship piezoelectric drop-on-demand printhead is trusted by manufacturers for use in a wide range of applications such as ceramic tile decoration, label, direct-to-shape and other packaging printing, the production of wood laminates, glass printing and many other manufacturing processes.

Like its predecessors, the Xaar 1003 delivers high productivity and versatility. It is available in three drop sizes and incorporates Xaar's unbeaten combination of TF Technology® and Hybrid Side-Shooter® architecture for use in horizontal and vertical (skyscraper) jetting modes.



*Depending on fluid type and application



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