

## NEWS RELEASE

### Call to Action!

## Ghent Workgroup is looking for textile and 3D Print expertise!

**GHENT, BELGIUM – February 6, 2024 – The Specification Subcommittee of the Ghent Workgroup is where new specifications are born. The GWG currently has commercial print, digital print, sign & display, and packaging standards. The GWG wants to expand its efforts to the textile and 3D print market segments. To do so, the group invites people with expertise or experience in those market segments. Interested parties should send an email to [admin@gwg.org](mailto:admin@gwg.org).**

“Over the years, we’ve gained a lot of experience with creating quality standards for print production in various market segments,” says Loïc Aigon, Product Manager at Enfocus, and David van Driessche, CTO at Four Pees: “As chairs of the specification subcommittee, it is our task to develop and advocate these quality standards. We started around 2002 by focusing on commercial print but have since significantly widened our scope.”

### Textile Print

In many ways, textile print is like other segments for which the GWG has developed quality standards. Here, too, are print production processes that influence the printed result and impose limitations on the designs that can be used. So, some of the work from the GWG can immediately be applied. But there are also segment-specific challenges: the large variety of

materials and their reproduction capabilities, repeating patterns, widely different color reproduction, and more.

### **3D Print**

Community members sparked an interest in quality standards for 3D printing. It is a rapidly growing field where standardization would be very beneficial. Here, as well, there are similarities to the other work the GWG has already done, but the differences are much more significant. Where most of the other GWG work has been for processes that apply some ink to some kind of material, the range of production processes and materials in 3D printing is enormous. Additionally, where most of the graphic industry heavily relies on PDF, other file formats (such as OBJ and STL) are much more common here. Still, the GWG hopes to be able to apply its methodology and lend its expertise to jump-start standardization.

### **Can you contribute?**

The GWG is looking for people with different levels of expertise and experience in those two fields. We are interested in hearing from you if you have theoretical knowledge of production methods and the software or hardware used or hands-on experience as a print company. The Ghent Workgroup is open to printers, software or hardware manufacturers, consultants, educational institutions, and, last but not least, industry associations. The group organizes three physical meetings annually, but cooperation is possible in different ways – including entirely online – too. Send an email to [admin@gwg.org](mailto:admin@gwg.org) to learn more.

### **What's in it for you?**

“On a personal level, there is nothing as satisfying as being able to contribute to standardization that improves a whole market segment and is used throughout the world,” comments Dave Zwang, consultant and Chair of the Ghent Workgroup, “Additionally, early access to standards, and the ability to guide the industry, has proven very important for our professional members.”

See why various Ghent Workgroup members joined the group and what their experiences were:

<https://gwg.org/why-become-a-member/>

## About Ghent Workgroup

The Ghent Workgroup, formed in June 2002, is an international assembly of industry associations, suppliers, educators and industry members from around the globe. The Ghent Workgroup's objective is to establish and disseminate process specifications for best practices in graphic arts workflows.

Since its inception almost 20 years ago, the organization has consistently produced numerous process specifications for PDF exchange, as well as developing useful tools for automating processes and testing and establishing consistent PDFs for print, publishing and packaging production – all available free at [www.gwg.org](http://www.gwg.org).

Members are comprised of graphic arts associations including CIP4 (Switzerland), Febelgra (Belgium), Fespa (UK), Medibel+ (Belgium), Printing United Alliance (USA), TAGA (Italy) and VIGC (Belgium). Vendor members include ECO3, callas software, Canon, DALIM Software, Fiery, Enfocus, Esko, Global Graphics, Heidelberg, HYBRID Software, Ricoh, Tech Research (TagG) and Ultimate Technographics. Industry members are Artoption, FourPees, Lab9, JP/Politikens Hus, RRD and ybam. Educational members are Arteveldehogeschool Gent, CEC LATAM, Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Future Schoolz India, Government Institute of Printing Technology (GIPT), Media University Stuttgart, Ryerson University, the University of Ljubljana, the University of Novi Sad, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), The Regional Institute of Printing Technology Kolkata and the University of Wuppertal.

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