



PRESS RELEASE

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AIP PTY LTD OPENS NEW DIGITAL INK FACTORY

Adelaide, Australia; Following a decade of secretive, intensive development of its revolutionary new digital printing technology, Research Laboratories of Australia (RLA) and its subsidiary, Advanced Imaging Processes (AIP), have announced the opening of a new toner factory in Adelaide. The factory will supply commercial toners to early adopters of its new technology and will also serve as a research and development facility to develop improved methods of manufacture. However, it is only the first stage in expanding commercial manufacture of RLA's new toners around the globe to satisfy the expected rapid growth in demand for its new digital printing technology.

RLA's breakthrough technology delivers high quality digital printing at high speeds and low running costs, on a wide range of office, commercial and industrial papers as well as packaging materials such as aluminium beverage cans, folding cartons, corrugated board and flexible packaging. By combining the speed, quality and cost benefits of conventional offset and flexographic printing with the variable data and print on demand capabilities of digital printing, the technology bridges the gulf that exists today between digital and analogue printing. It is uniquely positioned to offer advantages in image quality, cost and speed in the office printer market while also offering commercial printers the flexibility of economically printing the very small jobs of less than 1,000 impressions through to jobs of more than 10,000 impressions on the same press.

The technology has already been embraced by a number of the world's largest and best-known office printer, commercial printing press and packaging equipment manufacturers. They are working closely with RLA to develop new printing equipment for a wide range of applications from office printers to commercial printing press to packaging and converting equipment.

Owen Crees, CEO of RLA, said: "The opening of the Adelaide factory is an exciting milestone in the commercialisation of our new technology. It alerts the world that a new technology is about to appear on the market, and is a tangible demonstration of our belief in our own technology. It is the result of more than a decade of quiet achievement by a dedicated research team at RLA, in collaboration with some of the world's best known printer and press builders. For RLA, it is also the start of a new era as we move our own, home grown technology from the laboratory into the glare of the global market."

Digital printing, in the form of ink jet and dry electrophotography, dominate the home and office printer markets and the first generation of digital colour presses was launched about 10 years ago. However, digital presses have failed to make major inroads into the total printing market because they are slow, their running costs are

high and their print quality is generally not good enough. Other developers of digital printing technology have invested heavily to extract marginal improvements from digital printing technologies originally developed for office printing. RLA started from a clean sheet to develop a digital printing technology that would have the quality needed, on the one hand, to bring commercial quality printing into the office while, on the other hand, to be competitive in the commercial printing market by being economical not only for short print runs but also for the medium and long print runs typical in the graphic arts and industrial printing markets.

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About Research Laboratories of Australia (RLA)

RLA is a private, independent technology research, development and commercialisation company in the colour digital printing industry. Since its formation in 1959, RLA has been responsible for a number of important innovations in digital printing in partnership with such well known names as Canon, Xerox and MAN Roland. It has created, owns and continues to build a substantial, wide ranging portfolio of intellectual property, including a strong portfolio related to its new HVT liquid toner technology. RLA works closely with industry leaders in its key target sectors to commercialise its technology and bring the benefits of digital printing to the high value office market and to the high volume, multi-billion dollar commercial printing markets where quality, cost, reliability and throughput are critical factors. The company is based in Adelaide, South Australia.

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