

WORLD CLASS ADHESIVE TAPE SOLUTIONS



Scapa is a leading manufacturer of bonding products and adhesive components for applications in the electronics, healthcare, industrial and transportation markets and, in recent years, has increased its focus on the graphic and printing industries. Elisabeth Skoda spoke to Laurent Marre, the company's Printing and Specialty Films product manager, to find out more.

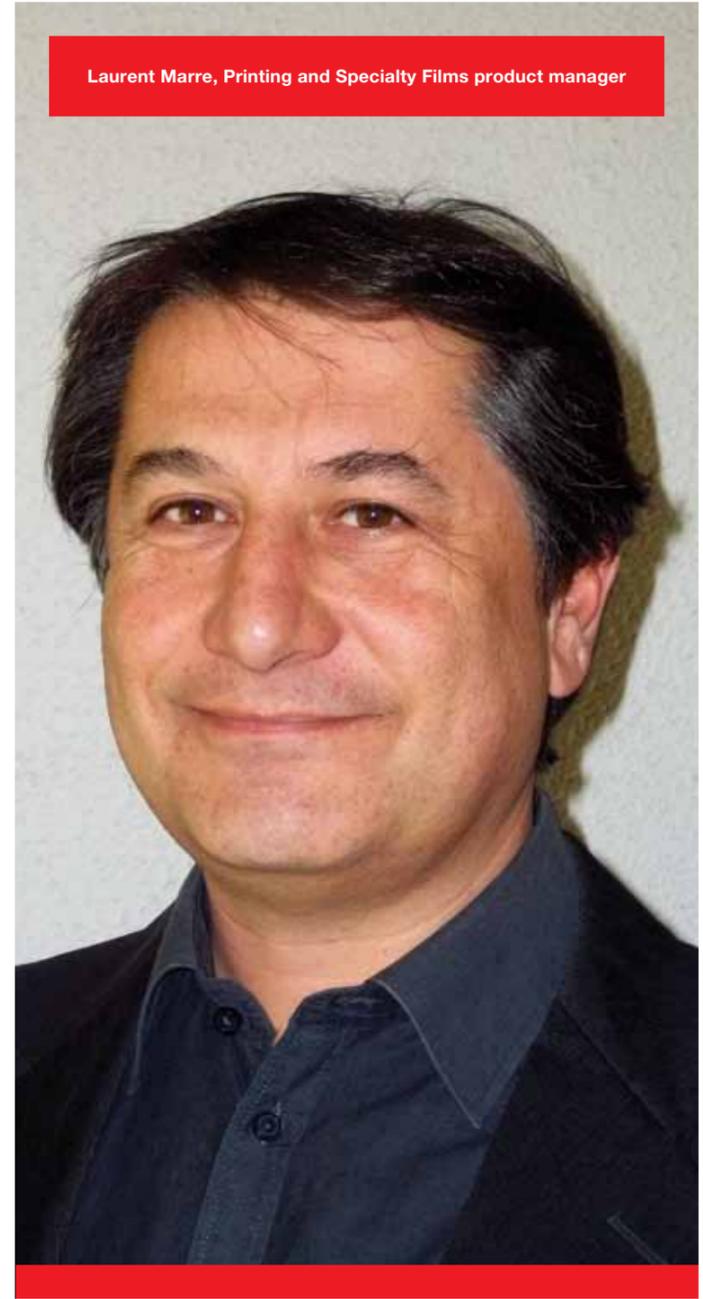


Scapa, with its headquarters in Manchester in the UK and sales and manufacturing facilities throughout Europe, Asia and North America, was founded in 1927 and has approximately 1200 employees worldwide.

The company is a leading supplier of technical adhesive tapes and films to major industries such as printing and graphics, healthcare, transportation and electronics. It offers its customers state of the art converting technology, such as laminating, die-cutting and slitting for small individual parts, flat belts for sheets, and long length spools as well as rewind-slitters and lathe slitters for rolls.

"With over 90 years of experience in adhesive tapes production, Scapa offers high-technology adhesive solutions for all types of print requirements," Mr Marre is proud to point out.

"Within the printing and graphics market, we have developed highly specialised adhesive foam tapes to ensure high quality printing results which are essential to the flexible packaging markets."



Laurent Marre, Printing and Specialty Films product manager

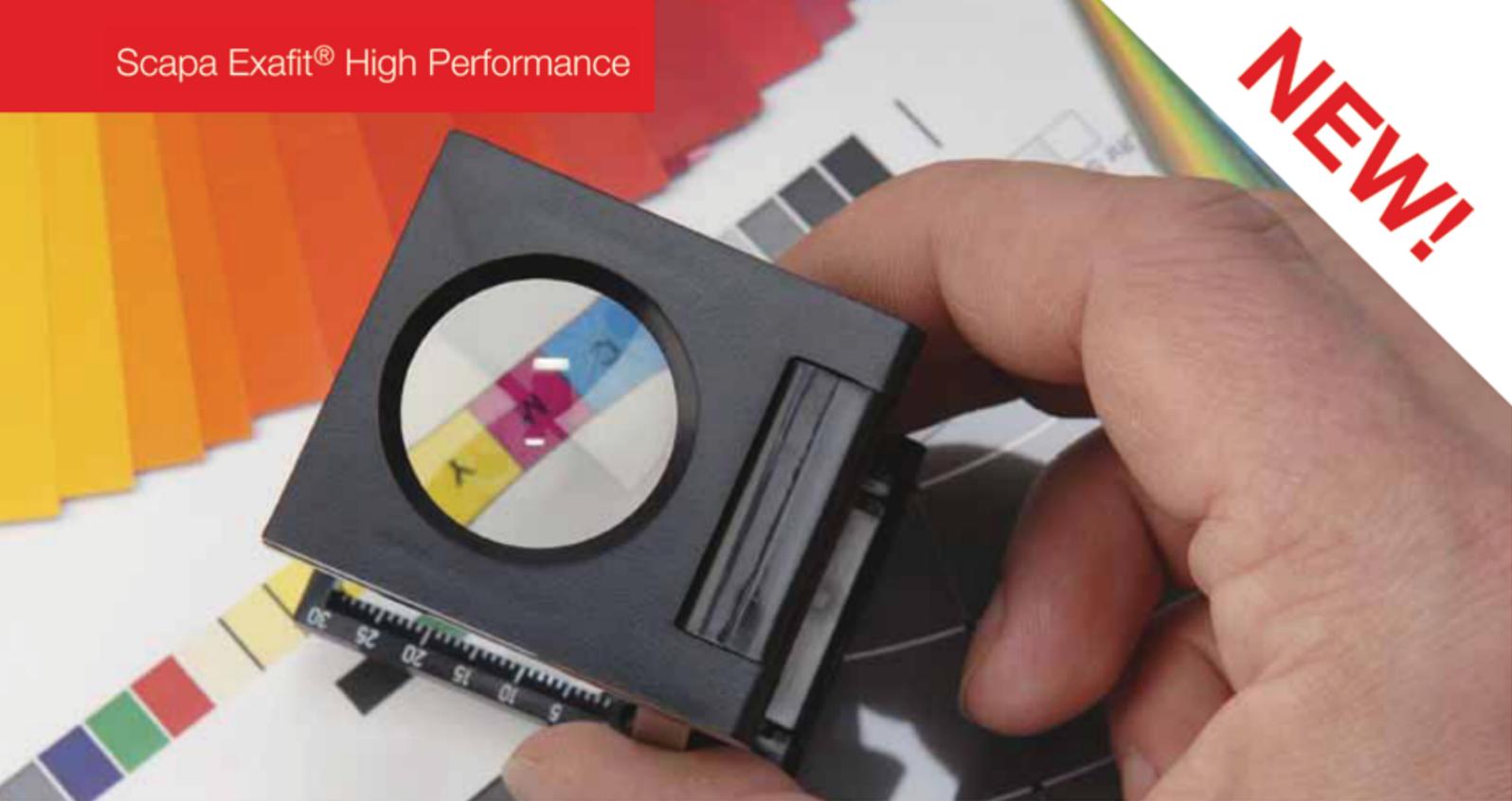
Bestselling Exafit® range

"The Exafit® group of mounting tapes offers both standard and specialist products, each designed with precision to meet market requirements. Key products in the range are produced in 400µm and 550µm thickness. Within these two thickness levels printers can choose between different foam hardness and adhesion levels on the plate side," Mr Marre explains.

For the best results in very demanding half-tone printing, Exafit® uses soft pink. For solid print type the blue range of foams is recommended, which is harder and ensures better ink transfer. Medium (white) foam is offered for a combination of half-tone and block print.

"One of the key requirements for modern printers is the ability to increase machine speeds without influence on the print quality owing to increases in foam hardness. This is especially true in the case of demanding half-tone print where the dot quality is vital. Comprehensive internal testing has shown that the Exafit® ▷

NEW!



Today's flexographic printers are constantly looking to perfect the quality of their printing and to improve their processes. Printing quality, speed and efficiency are essential to meet the growing demands of their customers. Exafit® HP gives a reliable bond to the plate/cylinder enabling longer, faster print runs with improved printing definition and reduced dot gain.

Creating high visual impact

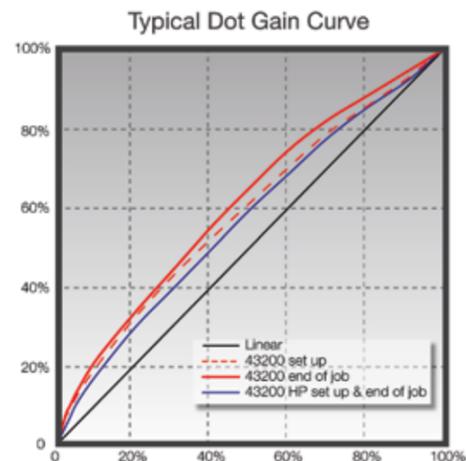
- Printing with Exafit® HP maintains consistent contrast and detail over long print runs.
- Colour density and intensity is preserved.
- The higher resilience of the PE foam absorbs any tolerances caused by variable substrate thickness and machine vibration by reducing the gear mark on the print result.

Making your process more efficient

- The new PP embossed filmic liner is easy to remove and reposition. It allows air bubbles to be removed with ease. These benefits are essential in reducing set up times during the crucial mounting process.
- The new generation of PE compressible foam ensures high quality printing and even longer, faster print runs. Process efficiency is increased as fewer foam changes and adjustments are required during the print run.

Product	Thick-ness	Colour	Adhesion	Liner	Foam
43200HP	550µm	Pink	Standard adhesion on plate side	Transpa-ent embossed liner	Softer hardness foam tape designed for premium half-tone.
43210HP		Yellow			Medium Soft hardness foam tape designed for superior half-tone and combined print results.
43220HP		White			Medium hardness foam tape designed for half-tone and combined print results.

Consistent quality and longer, faster print runs



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range is one of the softest available on the market and remains so even at elevated speeds. There are similar patterns of performance at higher machine speeds," Mr Marre explains.

Exafit® products use specialist acrylic adhesive technology. This allows a strong contact to be maintained between the tape and the plate during the print process. Scapa's acrylic adhesive used in the Exafit® range also have the added benefit of providing great solvent and chemical resistance. Specialist adhesive formulations allow for easy repositioning during the application of the plate onto the tape.

"During the setting up of the printing process, adhesion levels will noticeably increase over time to form a very secure bond. Once the print run has been completed the adhesion technology also allows for clean, residue-free removal from the plate and cylinder," Mr Marre adds.

Innovations

At drupa 2012, Scapa presented its Exafit® High Adhesion (HA) and Exafit® High Performance ranges.

The Exafit® HA range of flexographic tapes has been designed to ensure efficiency by securing the plate to the cylinder and preventing edge lifting during the printing process, allowing an increase in print run speeds. With 30 per cent more adhesion than Scapa's standard Exafit® products, Exafit® HA enables plates to be mounted side by side with no additional sealing tape required around the plate edges. It is easy to remove with no residue left behind making quicker job switchovers possible, and is ideal for use on rigid plates and cylinders with a small diameter, as used in label printing.

"The security that Exafit® HA provides maximises machinery performance, efficiency and ensures optimum printing results every time," explains Mr Marre.



The Exafit® High Performane (HP) range allows for longer, faster print runs with consistently high print definition and reduced dot gain. Contrast and details are kept consistent and the colour density is preserved. Its improved surface coverage contributes to superior results from half tone to block printing. Exafit® HP also features a new type of PE foam with improved resilience which helps to absorb any tolerances caused by variable substrate thickness and machine vibration.

"Since the mounting process of the tape is crucial, Scapa have introduced a new transparent PP embossed filmic liner, which is easy to remove, improves the removal of air bubbles and leads to easier repositioning during the plate mounting process," Mr Marre says.

Focus towards expansion

Scapa is in the process of expanding. "The flexographic market is growing, and Scapa is growing with it. We are already active in Europe, South America and South Africa, and we are looking to develop our business in areas such as North America and Asia, where we do not yet have much of a presence. Countries such as India or Russia also show high potential," Mr Marre explains.

Scapa has been active in the printing and graphics market for more than 20 years, but in the last seven years has started to put an increased focus on it.

"As we offer a full range of products that complement each other we are optimistic we can continue to grow. We are currently working on developing a new generation of adhesives, to reduce set-up times for customers so they can change easily from one job to another, and to create materials that are easy to use. We are putting a lot of effort to put new products in this market," Mr Marre concludes.

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