

Department of Graphic Arts and Photophysics

flexprint SUBaTeX

Material printing – The new opportunities for printing industry

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FP1405 ActInPak Conference, Bled 2016

ActInPak

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Technology Agency of the Czech Republic

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COSt TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

COSt is supported by the EU Framework Programme Horizon 2020



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Pardubice



Prague ●

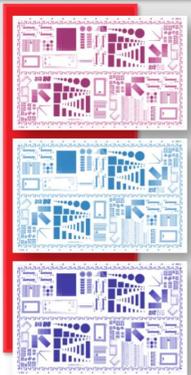
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Outline

- Interduction of R&D activities
- Challenges and aspects of printed/coated functionalities
- Materials
- Printing/Coating techniques perspective
- Case studies
- Conclusion



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R&D activities, printing/coating techniques competency

- R&D of technology of preparation of functional structures
- R&D of ink formulation and benchmarking of commercial ink formulation
- Personally 400-800 mixed/tested ink formulations per year



- Screen printing (Sheet fed, R2R)
- Flexo
- Gravure
- Pad printing
- Offset
- IJ
- Spin coating
- Dip coating
- Spiral bar coating
- Spray coating
- Zone casting
- AJP

Syrový, ENAS




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Why coating and printing technologies?

- The printing and coating techniques should provide cheap and fast production of low cost and low-end functionalities
- Printed/coated functionalities are sometimes tens years behind to products made by traditional technologies in terms of their characteristics



SOMA



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Printed/coated functionalities

Active components/structures

- Battery (primary, secondary)
- Battery Charger
- Photovoltaic
- Display, Light source – OLED, EL, electrochromic, thermochromic, etc.
- Sensor – chemical, bio, climatic, pressure
- Memory
- RFID
- diodes
- Transistors
- ISS – Smart Objects, Smart Sensor, Smart Textiles

Passive components

- Electronic circuits
- Antennas – RFID
- Capacitors, resistors, coils, transformers

Functional layers

- Healthcare application
- Drugs
- Thermochromic, photochromic
- Catalytic layer
- Textile finishing layers
- Explosives



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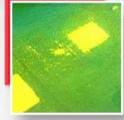
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Differences to conventional coating/printing process?

- Safety - printing materials, fabrication process
- Printing/coating materials, printing substrates
- Printing forms
- Interaction of materials
- Strict observance of technology
- Printing/coating process quality/stability
- Post treatment condition
- Storing of the products
- Long term stability
- **Never-ending and limitless opportunities to use or characterize anything**



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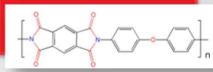

(NASA)



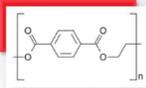
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Substrates for printed functionalities/electronics

- **Flexible**
 - PET, PEN, PI (Kapton, Neopulim), PC, PVC
 - Polyolefins - PE, PP
 - Synthetic papers – Pretex (PES/PA), Synaps (PES), Tyvek (HDPE), Teslin (polyolefin)
 - Paper – un/coated paper, primer
 - Nanocellulose
 - Glass – 25 to 100 μm
 - Metals
- **Rigid**
 - Paper - heavy ream weight
 - Cardboard
 - Thick polymeric substrate (PET, PEN, PI, PC, PE, PP, etc.)
 - Glass – float, quartz, etc.
 - Ceramic – Al₂O₃ (Rubalit, Alunit), AlN, etc.
 - Metals



Polyimide



PET



Ultra-Thin Glass - SCHOTT



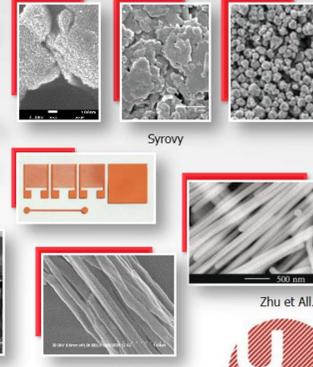
CeramTec



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Materials for printed/coated structures

- Conductive**
 - Metal composite – based on (Ag, Cu, Au, Ni, Pt, etc.)
 - Different shape and sizes of particles (globular, flakes, rods, wires)
 - Ag based most used
 - Up to 30 % of conductivity of bulk Ag
 - Cu – usually based on precursors CuO
 - Photonic sintering, reduction agents
 - Other metal for specific purposes
 - High temperature firing – Ag, Au, Pt, etc.
 - Precursors of metals
 - Carbon composite (graphite, carbon black, etc.)
 - Carbon based (graphene, GNP, CNT (SWCNT, MWCNT))

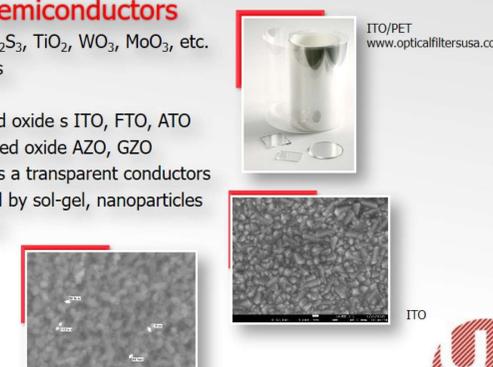


Syrovy
mntt.illinois.edu
Zhu et Al.

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Materials for printed/coated structures - semiconductive

- Inorganic semiconductors**
 - ZnO, ZnS, As₂S₃, TiO₂, WO₃, MoO₃, etc.
 - Si dispersions
 - TCO**
 - Sn doped oxides ITO, FTO, ATO
 - Zinc doped oxide AZO, GZO
 - Mainly as a transparent conductors
 - Prepared by sol-gel, nanoparticles ink, CVD

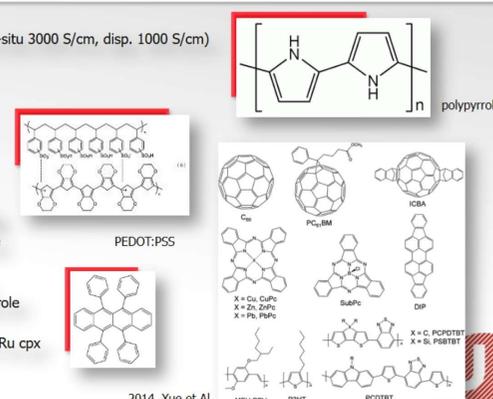


ITO/PET
www.opticalfiltersusa.com/
TiO₂
ITO

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Materials for printed/coated structures - (Semi)conductive

- Polymers**
 - PEDOT:PSS – (in-situ 3000 S/cm, disp. 1000 S/cm)
 - Polyaniline
 - Polyacetylene
 - Polypyrrole
 - Polythiophene
 - MEH-PPV
 - PVK, etc.
- Small molecules**
 - TIPS - Pentacene
 - Rubrene
 - Phthalocyanines
 - Diketopyrrolopyrrole
 - Perylenes
 - Alq3, NPD, TPD, Ru cpx
 - Some others
 - Fullerenes

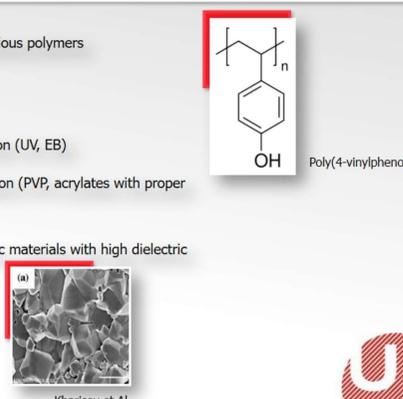


polypyrrole
PEDOT:PSS
2014, Xue et Al.

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Materials for printed/coated structures - dielectrics

- Polymer based**
 - From solution/dispersion of various polymers
 - PVC ($\epsilon' \sim 3$)
 - PC ($\epsilon' \sim 2.8 - 3.4$)
 - PVDF ($\epsilon' \sim 6$)
 - PMMA ($\epsilon' \sim 3$)
 - Radiation induced polymerization (UV, EB) (Acrylate based ($\epsilon' \sim 3$))
 - Thermally induced polymerization (PVP, acrylates with proper initiators)
- Composites**
 - Based on particles of inorganic materials with high dielectric constant
 - BaTiO₃ ($\epsilon' \sim 1000$)
 - SrTiO₃ ($\epsilon' \sim 300$)
 - TiO₂ ($\epsilon' \sim 100$)
 - Al₂O₃, MgO ($\epsilon' \sim 9$)
 - HfO₂ ($\epsilon' \sim 20$)

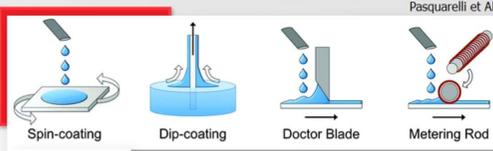


Poly(4-vinylphenol)
Kharisov et Al.

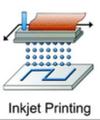
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Coating and printing techniques – laboratory

- Spin coating
- DIP coating
- Doctor blade, Bar Coating
- Spray coating
- Ink-Jet
- Aerosol printing
- Electro-Hydrodynamic and Reciprocating System



Pasquarelli et Al.



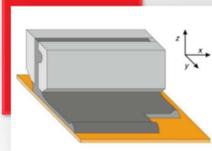
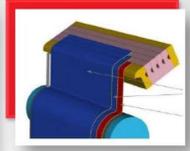

Printed Examples Printed Strain Gauge

Optomec

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Coating techniques

- Slot Die
- Curtain coating
- Multiple slot
- Slide coating

Schmitt et Al. www.packaging-int.com

Media Format	R2R, Sheets
Ink Waste	Low
Coating Speed	100- 500 m.min ⁻¹
Ink Viscosity	10-25 000 mPa.s
Wet Thickness	5-500 µm
Dry Thickness	0.01-100 µm
Resolution	Given by shim

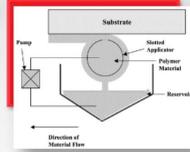
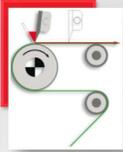


Frontier

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Coating techniques

- Knife-over-edge/Blade coating
- Mayer Bar, Spiral Bar Coating, Stripe coating
- Meniscus coating

www.3dit.de Coatema



MINI-PLATE COATER

PEMS Co.,Ltd



www.chemsultants.com

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Coating techniques – Spray Coating

- + High uniformity of layers
- + Deposition to 3D object
- + Relatively high range of thickness of layers



Sono-tek

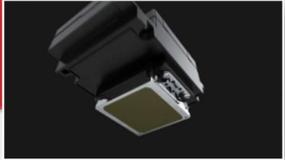
Media Format	Sheets, R2R
Ink Waste	moderate
Coating Speed	Up to 100 m.min ⁻¹
Ink Viscosity	10-1000 mPa.s
Wet Thickness	1-500 µm
Dry Thickness	0.01-100 µm
Resolution	Tech. Sol. dependent

- Ink Waste
- Complicated patterning
- Low resolution of patterning

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Printing techniques - InkJet

- + Absence physical printing form
- + Relatively high resolution and high precise registration
- + Relatively high range of thickness of printed layers



Epson

Media Format	Sheets, R2R
Ink Waste	Low
Printing Speed	Up to 280 m.min ⁻¹
Ink Viscosity	1-50 mPa.s
Wet Thickness	1-500 µm
Dry Thickness	0.01-100 µm
Resolution	10 µm

- Problems with clothing of nozzles
- Quality strongly influenced by printing speed
- long time run stability
- Large amount of interfaces



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Printing techniques – Gravure

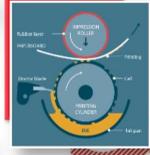
- + Very stable printing process
- + Highest printing quality
- + High printing speed
- + Printing form resistant to solvents
- + Reverse gravure for precise coating



3D-Micromac AG

Media Format	Sheets, R2R
Ink Waste	Low
Printing Speed	Up to 500 m.min ⁻¹
Ink Viscosity	10-20 000 mPa.s
Wet Thickness	5-80 µm
Dry Thickness	0.02-80 µm
Resolution	3 µm

- Expensive printing form/ cylinder
- Mainly gravure is suited to flexible substrates



www.iggesund.com

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Printing techniques – Screen printing

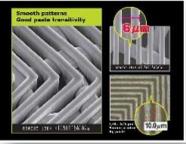
- + Most used production technique
- + Variety of thickness of layers
- + Relatively easy preparation of stencil



3D-Micromac AG

Media Format	Sheets, R2R
Ink Waste	Low
Printing Speed	Up to 50 m.min ⁻¹
Ink Viscosity	100-20 000 mPa.s
Wet Thickness	3-1000 µm
Dry Thickness	0.02-1000 µm
Resolution	6 µm

- Printing speed, high viscosity



Kuroda



Coatema

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Printing techniques – Flexography

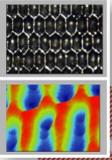
- + Stable printing process
- + High printing speed
- + Rigid and flexible substrates
- + Relatively inexpensive printing form



Altana

Media Format	Sheets, R2R
Ink Waste	Low
Printing Speed	Up to 1000 m.min ⁻¹
Ink Viscosity	10 -1 000 mPa.s
Wet Thickness	5 - 30 µm
Dry Thickness	0.03 - 10 µm
Resolution	30 µm

- Limited thickness of layers
- Uniformity of topology of fine lines
- NIP pressure is crucial



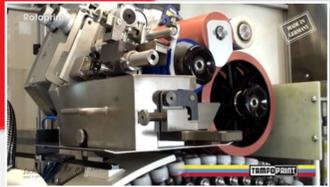
Simec Group

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Printing techniques – Pad printing, offset gravure

- + Rigid and flexible substrates
- + Printability of 3D surface
- + Printing quality
- + Printing speed

Media Format	Sheets, R2R
Ink Waste	Low
Printing Speed	Up to 120000 parts/hr
Ink Viscosity	10 -1000 mPa.s
Wet Thickness	5- 80 μm
Dry Thickness	0.05 - 20 μm
Resolution	25 μm



Tampoprint



TRI Elektronik

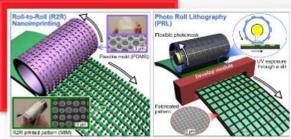
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Others „printing” techniques for μ -Patterning

- Nanoimprinting lithography NIL
- Soft Lithography
 - Microcontact Printig μCP
 - Micromolding in Capillaries MIMIC
 - Nanotransfer printing nTP
 - Replica molding REM
 - Microtransfer molding μTM
 - Solvent-assisted micromolding SAMIM



www.miplaza.com



OKNANOLAB

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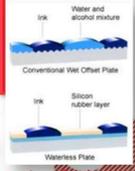
Printing techniques – Offset printing

- + Printing speed
- + High resolution
- + inexpensive printing plates fabrication
- + Frequently used printing technique

Media Format	Sheets, R2R
Ink Waste	Low
Printing Speed	Up to 1000 $\text{m}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$
Ink Viscosity	10 -100 Pa.s
Wet Thickness	10 μm
Dry Thickness	3 μm
Resolution	25 μm



www.brancher.com

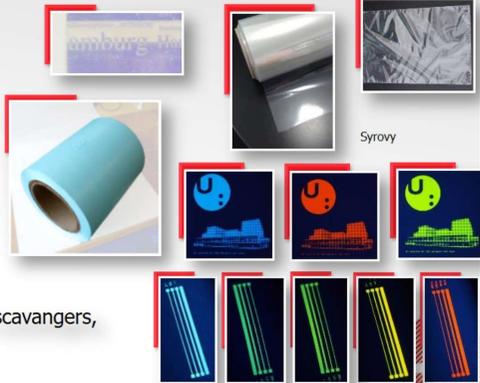


- Limited thickness of layers
- High resistivity of conductive layers
- Lack of commercial functional ink

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Simple functional layers

- Antistatic
- Antimicrobial
- Barrier
- UV protective
- Luminescent
- Thermochromic
- Photochromic
- Electromagnetic shielding
- Antifogging
- Oxygen, moisture scavengers, etc.



Syrovy

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Case study 1 - Antimicrobial layers

- Special functional material
- Creation of small amount of reactive form of oxygen - bacteriostatic effect with **99.99 %** efficiency
- Activated by **visible** light
- Nice blue tint for medical, some other colour under development
- Ink formulation developer for **Flexography** – passed production trials at 320 m/minute with several Km produced



Snava Industries

320 m/min

Syrov

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Case study 3 - Thermistors

- Medical
 - Monitoring of human body temperature map
 - Monitoring of local temperature or mapping of temperature within wound dress
- Wearables for free times activities
 - Human body temperature
 - Environmental temperature



Tactilus®

MIT

SmartLife® Technology

OM Bra - OMSignal

TempTraq

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Case study 2 - Smart Nappies

- Developed Smart Nappies
- Moisture sensor with capability to measure state of fulfillment
- Flexography >200 m/minute
- For elderly people or babies
- Wireless management of monitoring with implementation to MIS
- Bluetooth communication for homecare/households optional
- Low price of sensor is crucial
- Implementation by producer of nappies




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200 m/min

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Case study 3 - Thermistors

- Protection of human health of professionals
 - Army
 - Tactic waistcoat
 - Tactic helmet
 - Firefighters
 - Smart Gloves
 - Smart Suite/uniform
- Flow sensing
 - Gas
 - Liquid
 - Speedometer
 - Accelerometer
- Sensing in industrial application



BAE Systems

Syrov, Kaltas

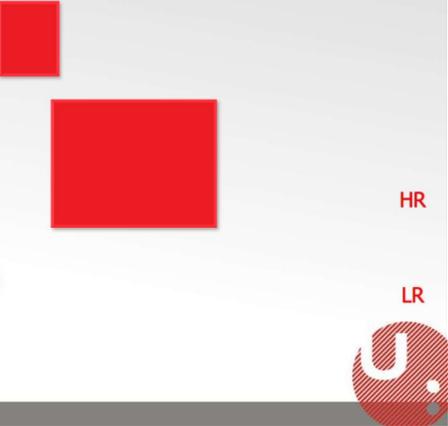
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Case study 3 – Thermistors, HR, LR NTC ink formulation

- DC Measurements
- T range ~ 25 – 75 °C
- 4-point method
- L50, L70, L90, L110, L130 was measured

HR

LR



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COST Action FP1405

Active and intelligent fibre-based packaging – innovation and market introduction (ActInPak)

ActInPak is a pan European (COST) network of the leading experts in active and intelligent packaging of over 150 institutes, universities and companies from 37 countries. Main goal of action is to develop a knowledge-based network on sustainable, active and intelligent fibre-based packaging in order to facilitate its introduction on the market.

<http://www.actinpak.eu>
http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/fp/Actions/FP1405
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/COST-FP1405-ActInPak-8254568/about>



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Conclusion

- Carefully inspect real market needs
- The best is to start with the most simple functional layers/solution with relatively small technological requirements
- The R&D of selected products needs strong interest, effort and financial support of industrial partner
- The printing ink formulation, technology process have to be very good established/tailored, than the processes have to be strictly observed during the production.
- The simple tools for estimating the functionality of products have to be present within printing house together with well understanding by personal.



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