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Purup-Eskofot Unveils Two-Sided Imposition Proofer

Purup-Eskofot has developed a fully automatic, two-sided imposition proofing system. It is based on a single HP large-format DesignJet engine and software developed in conjunction with ColorGate. Called the SpinJet 1000, it uses a metal guide that is attached to the front of the printer to feed a one-sided proof back into the engine to print the second side. No other modifications are made to the printer. No operator intervention is required at any time.

Unlike most other two-sided, large-format printers, there are no sensors to check the alignment of the second side. Alignment is controlled by ensuring that the edge follows a guide and by employing an encoder to check the distance between the leading edge of the paper and the beginning of the job.

The SpinJet 1000 will be priced at $26,800, including the HP engine, the metal guide (which can be easily removed and attached to a different printer in the event of a failure) and software. That price is in the same range as most competitive products. Initial availability is scheduled for September.

Our take. After many years and many implementations of two-sided imposition proofers, Purup-Eskofot has created a remarkably simple product that is potentially dominating because of its full automation and lack of complicated printer modifications. Until it has had field experience, it would be premature to declare it the winner in this battle, particularly in view of the company's decision to avoid using a sensor to monitor the printing on the second side. If it can satisfy the alignment requirements of the imposition proofing market, the SpinJet 1000 could quickly become the leading product in this market.

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