



INDEPENDENT INK  
TECHNOLOGIES  
PTY LTD

## **COMPANY PROFILE**

*Technology - Our Future*

### **Introduction**

Independent Ink Technologies (IIT) was formed in February 1994 with the express purpose of providing an on-going stream of locally derived technology to the printing ink industry, raw material suppliers, paper manufacturers and the graphic arts industry in general. It's focal statement - "Technology - Our future", captures the essence of the objectives of this Company. The Company is totally committed to the developing and harnessing of technology to ensure the future viability of the printing ink and graphic arts industries.

### **Management and Staff**

The Company was founded in 1994 by Wayne Johnstone - arguably Australia's most competent and foremost ink maker, with 30 years of experience in all forms of printing ink formulation, manufacture and application technology. With constant rationalisations and takeovers in the industry, it was perceived that there was an increasing reliance on overseas technology to try and meet the demands of the Australian and New Zealand printing industry. This, in turn, led to a decreasing ability in ink makers to offer alternative solutions to printers with specific requirements. These circumstances prompted Wayne Johnstone to assemble a small, elite team of print specialists and quality experts, with more than 100 years of combined experience, to provide an independent source of technology for all facets of the graphic arts.

The staff comprises :

- \* Wayne Johnstone - 30 years experience in the industry. Former Technical Director of F.T.Wimble, Application Engineer for Sicpa Asia Pacific, qualified chemical engineer.
- \* Gordon Cole – qualified with a degree in Pure and Applied Chemistry with 27 years experience in ink development, technical service and management in the graphic arts.
- \* Allan Trotter – industrial chemist with 25 years experience in research and development in ink, paper and lithographic printing.
- \* Nick Collins – qualified with a degree in Physics and over 20 years experience in paper research and ink development. Nick is also a qualified teacher specialising in English, Physics and Mathematics.
- \* Quality Assurance Specialists – two people with 15 years of combined experience in quality assurance and print trouble shooting.

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## **Premises**

The Company operates from an office and laboratory facility in Parramatta. The laboratory is fully equipped with "state - of - the - art" instrumentation to perform all the functions of a development and quality control unit.

The equipment includes :

- \* Prufbau Printability Tester
- \* Prufbau Lithomat water tolerance equipment
- \* Instron Tensile Tester
- \* Cone and Plate viscometer (Brookfield)
- \* Falling rod viscometer (Laray)
- \* Sinvatrol Heatset dryer
- \* Scuff testers
- \* Gloss meters
- \* Densitometers
- \* Inkometer (electronic)
- \* Surface Tensiometer
- \* Duke emulsion tester
- \* Binocular microscope with Polaroid attachment
- \* Three Roll Mill
- \* Steel/Steel Attritor

## **Sphere of Operations**

IIT currently offers a diverse range of services to a well established client base. Major areas covered are:

- \* Printing ink formulation and development
- \* Paper testing and evaluation
- \* Ink related raw material testing
- \* Print quality issues
- \* Lithographic chemistry evaluations
- \* Manufacturing feasibility studies
- \* Press - side technical services
- \* Benchmarking of inks and printing presses
- \* Standardisation of inks and pre-shipment quality assurance
- \* Technical training

### **Printing Ink Formulation and Development**

One of the main strengths of the company is its expertise in devising ink formulations for specific requirements. This often utilises locally available raw materials and attempts to maintain the critical balance of requirement versus cost effectiveness.

#### Paper Testing and Evaluation

There are many options for paper choice. Work done previously at IIT indicates there are significant cost saving opportunities and productivity improvements to be made by performing certain basic tests on available papers. These are tests which are not performed by paper manufacturers, but have been devised by IIT to provide a "printability index" - a simple grading system providing information about ink mileage, dot sharpness, gloss, setting speed, scuff resistance. Armed with this information, the printing establishment can make an informed judgement of the real value of the paper versus apparent cost.

#### Incoming Goods Quality Assurance

Ink manufacturers and printers alike need to be sure that incoming goods are on standard at all times. IIT can devise test methods and recording systems to ensure standard performance from suppliers, thereby improving manufacturing or printing consistency.

#### Print Quality Issues

The company specialises in investigating quality problems associated with all forms of printed matter. In such cases, professional reports are prepared that can be used in litigation.

#### Lithographic Chemistry Evaluations

Sundry materials such as gums, plate cleaners, fountain solutions, roller and blanket cleaners all constitute a significant press room cost to the printer. IIT is in a position to evaluate many of these products to determine if they are, in fact, value for money - and in some cases develop new products to maximise customer benefit.

#### Manufacturing Feasibility Studies

The company has considerable expertise in evaluating cost versus benefit for an ink manufacturing enterprise. Furthermore, it has excellent connections with equipment manufacturers and raw material suppliers, enabling it to produce realistic feasibility proposals.

#### Press Side Technical Services

In a run of press situation, it becomes vital to solve or identify problems quickly and accurately. IIT offers on press advice about inks, paper, consumables and chemistry - and possible fast action solutions, in the quest for improved productivity.

#### Bench Marking of Inks and Printing Presses

This procedure involves the setting of a base line or minimum standard of performance against which improvements can be measured.

### Standardisation of Inks

Standard proofs, either chemical or machine, must be standard. IIT can provide formulations to ink makers to either match chemical proofs very closely, or specify shades which will duplicate machine proofs. A standard proofing system leads immediately to a higher degree of off press consistency and enhanced customer satisfaction.

### Technical Training

IIT offers a range of training services for ink manufacturers which cover production techniques, production planning, colour matching, quality control, technical service and research and development. Training is offered at both the IIT premises or at the customer's chosen location and is tailored to customer specification.

### Future Direction

The future of the Company lies in continuous independent research and the dissemination of technical information to print buyers, ink makers, printers and raw material suppliers alike.

The Company intends to expand its Australian and American client base to encompass New Zealand, Japan, Asia and India, thus building a truly global technology base upon which member companies can be confident.

Regardless of location or level of technology, IIT can offer solutions to problems from simple formulation advice, through to full turnkey manufacturing design for ink makers, marketing assistance for raw material suppliers, technology source for print buyers to sales and technical training for participants in this industry of ours - The Graphic Arts.

**Technology - Our Future**