What’s new in pressSIGN version 8

- proofSIGN features included
- Monitor ISO 12647-7 conformance
- ICC Expanded gamut profiles
- Scoring based on G7® criteria
- X-Rite Intellitrax 2 supported
- Auto synching and re-synching
- Import data from Epson SpectroProofer
- Techkon SpectroDrive New Generation
- ISO 20654 option - for spot tonal curves
- Distribute press targets automatically
- Export tonal curves for new RIP formats
- Support for X-Rite eXact XP
- Support for Schawk’s ColorDrive
- Connectivity to JDF & PPF
- Spot Color Measurement condition
- Minimum dot curves
- New Export feature
- Import color bars from .cbl files
- Create new jobs remotely
- Full control of scoring
- Select M1, M0 etc. importing CxF files
- X-Rite iO Table supported
- Input data Ryobi/Man Roland presses
- Variable range of TVI scoring points
- Set image for PDF & Web reports
- Compatible with MAC OSX 10.12 (Sierra)
- Input data from Prinect 2017
- Hide Pantone libraries from list
- Add custom image on PDF reports
- Define Measurement Condition
- Proofing Label

Scoring based on GRACoL® G7

pressSIGN is a G7 certified system. The tonal curve adjustments, using the NPDC option, conform to the G7 requirements. In pressSIGN 8 G7 users can now score jobs based on the Neutral Print Density criteria of average, maximum ΔL & ΔF for CMY and average, maximum ΔL for the Black. Users should ensure that files and color bars are set up with GRACoL grey balance settings.

The new version of pressSIGN has a separate page within the Press Target Window for Grey Balance (see below).
Scoring - set minimum criteria for pass
Scoring is an important aspect of pressSIGN and has helped customers improve their quality for many years. pressSIGN now has a more flexible scoring system. For example, when you are targeting ISO 12647-7 for proofing you might want to have a pass/fail system based on 100%, i.e. all the elements tested will need to be within the tolerances for the job to pass.

Frequently, some criteria are more important than others within the job. The spot colors may well be the key element for the brand anything outside the specified criteria may just not be acceptable. By adjusting the tolerances and having a pass/fail it is quite easy to achieve a more sophisticated approach to the scoring of key criteria in a job.

pressSIGN 8 digital verification
Because pressSIGN runs on an SQL database and server, all measurements from the proofing or digital device are saved. Measurements can then be compared over time, between devices and with pressSIGN Global Print Management (GPM) between sites.

By using pressSIGN 8 to verify both press measurements and proofs customers can use both the same measuring tool, the same software and the same target for assessment, ensuring consistency between proofs and prints.
Print out a digital certification sheet with or without spot colors according to ISO 12647-7 specifications (provided the measurement patches were all included. Set the scoring to pass/fail or use the scoring system.

Customers who have proofSIGN can upgrade to pressSIGN at a discounted rate. proofSIGN capabilities are included in all versions of pressSIGN. pressSIGN GPM and GPM provide more powerful reporting facilities than pressSIGN standard and PrintBuyer.

**Automatically accept data from Epson SpectroProofer**

The Epson Stylus Pro and the new SureColor series of proofing devices have long been recognised as the default proofing solution. The Epson SpectroProofer is a built-in spectrophotometer connected to these proofing devices that can automatically measure a color control strip like the FOGRA Media Wedge or IDEALLiance control strip.

Working with the EFI XF Fiery RIP and the Epson SpectroProofer pressSIGN Pro/GPM can automatically input the information from the Epson into pressSIGN. Working in AutoMode every verification is stored in pressSIGN and trend information about the device can then be plotted over time or compared to other devices in the organisation.

pressSIGN GPM will allow brand managers and print buyers to receive data from proofing devices around the world, comparing suppliers proofs and with the final print.

We expect to work with other RIPs that utilise the Epson SpectroProofer over the coming months. If you have a favorite RIP and would like to have this feature activated please let us know at info@presssign.com

**Expanded Gamut Printing**

In the last two years we have seen the rise in Expanded Gamut Printing where 6 or 7 colors are used in order to produce a full range of spot colors. Great savings can be achieved by using Expanded Gamut printing, particularly where a printer has a high volume of relatively short run jobs featuring multiple spot colors. The
savings come in much faster turnaround times where there is no need to wash up one or more units.

However controlling 6 or 7 print units and treating them as process colors requires accurate control of both the solid colors and the tonal response. pressSIGN has been able to control tonal curves since version 6. The new version has the added ability to set an ICC multi-color profile as the press target.

An ICC profile provides information about hundreds of patches and combinations of colors enabling pressSIGN to have a comprehensive view of the press target. pressSIGN can accept profiles that contain either Lab Values or Spectral data. Spectral data is preferable as it makes predicting the right solid color adjustments more reliable.

Using an ICC profile the user can select the colors in the profile to be treated as CMYK plus additional spots or as fully spot colors. Some ICC profiles don’t identify the color names and therefore pressSIGN allows users to set the names of the colors after importing them. If CMYK + is selected then pressSIGN will calculate grey balance. The CMYK elements do not have to conform to any ISO CMYK targets but can include different colorants.

Creating a multi-color ICC profile is a time consuming process and you can’t always guarantee that you’ll be printing on the same substrate. pressSIGN 8 will adapt the multi-color or normal 4 color profile to the current substrate. All that is necessary is to measure the substrate or type in a Lab value. Now the multi-color profile target will be based on the actual paper in use. In addition you can export the ICC profile back out to
pre-press for proofing purposes.

By choosing a particular multi-color profile pressSIGN will automatically update the color bar with the relevant colors that have been selected making the set-up of expanded gamut printing more efficient.

**Tonal Curves for Spot Colors**
ISO 20654, which began life as the SCHMOO (SCTV) project in the US, is about to be approved by the TC130 committee. ISO 20654 provides an alternative choice to pressSIGN’s own tonal curve adjustment for spot colors, VLT (Visual Linear Target). They have slightly different mathematical formula but aim to achieve the same end result. The aim is to make sure that there is an even range of color throughout the tonal range. See the images below.

![ISO 20654 method](image1)

**Automatic - VLT**
When creating a standard you can select either ISO 20654 or Automatic as the method of calculating of spot color tonal curves.

![Automatic - VLT](image2)

Automatic will choose either VLT or Spectral curves depending on whether or not there is existing spectral information imported in the definition of the spot color. When the spectral data is available then the tonal curve target will resemble a traditional curve.
The solid line represents the target - the dotted line the measurements

Both ISO 20654 and VLT show the target as linear running from 0-100.

Create New Jobs Remotely

Third-party systems can be programmed to generate a URL that can be used by pressSIGN to create new jobs. The URL can be sent to pressSIGN users and all they have to do is click on the link for the job to be created automatically. For example a MIS or Web-to-Print system can be set up to such a URL making for fast and efficient set-up either internally or remotely.

As part of this remote creation a new option appears in pressSIGN 8 “Open Job” window entitled “Send”. See the image below. The “Send” button will achieve the same result, i.e. create a URL, open up the default email client and allow the user to send the job to one or more sites depending on the options available in the program.

More details can be added to the email, for example a PDF of the job, and then the email can be sent to the appropriate user(s). All the receiver has to do is click on the URL link and the job will be opened in pressSIGN with all the details set up by the originator.

Brand managers can send out one job to a Site Group of multiple users in one simple operation. When jobs are created using this method the new Job Window looks different as per the image below.

You'll see all the elements that were included in the URL. If elements were missing in the receiving site then there will either be an optional or fatal warning. You can't create the job when fatal warnings appear. Fatal warnings appear when the standard is not available in the receiving system or the press doesn't have enough units for the number of spot colors.
Synching of press targets and other features of job creation.
Print standards and other features of a new job can be synched to remote sites in pressSIGN GPM. pressSIGN GPM has been able to send out information about custom color libraries and client names to connected pressSIGN servers, for some time. Now brand managers can ensure that all members of a Site Group or specific sites are using exactly the same print target for a specific brand.

The following features can be synched from the central server:

- press targets
- custom color libraries
- client names
- color bars
- templates
- ink & paper settings (including dry back)

Auto-Sync
The synching in pressSIGN GPM has been dramatically improved. Jobs that have not synched but should have been will now synch automatically when the connection is restored. Up until now jobs that were not synched at the first attempt had to be synched manually. This feature will remove the need to open or select jobs in the 'Open Job' window and re-synch them and therefore make the process of synching easier for all users.

X-Rite eXact XP
In the middle of 2016 X-Rite added a new version to the eXact range of spectrophotometers, the XP. Essentially this new device was designed in order to achieve more consistent readings on film substrates. The XP version means you lose the ability to measure in M3 mode (polarization). pressSIGN 8.1.2 and higher supports both single patch mode measurements as well as scanning on the eXact XP. All the functions available for the standard eXact are available in the XP version.
**X-Rite iO 2**

The X-Rite iO Table is designed to speed up the measurement of test charts, make it an automatic procedure. Just select three corner points and pressSIGN will measure the chart and provide a score according to a digital target like ISO 12647-7, GRACoL or any other target. This makes it quick and easy to measure the P2P chart and provide a fast way of checking against the G7 criteria.

Customers with iO Table 2 firmware 1.07 or later can measure not only M0 but also M1 and M2 (UVCut) modes.

**X-Rite Intellitrax 2 supported**

The X-Rite Intellitrax 2 is the latest update to X-Rite’s top of the range scanning spectrophotometer that can now measure in M0, M1, M2. The Intellitrax 2 will be supported shortly.

The Intellitrax 2 just like the original Intellitrax can be controlled directly from pressSIGN. No other software is necessary to fully utilise all the functions of Intellitrax 1 or 2.

**Intellitrax Colour bar files**

When using Intellitrax users are required to create a colour bar definition file. These definition files have a .cbl extension. Users no longer have to re-create the same layout in pressSIGN, the .cbl file can be imported directly into pressSIGN saving users time and avoiding mistakes.

**Techkon SpectroDrive New Generation**

The new version of the popular automated scanner from Techkon is due for release in mid-September 2016. pressSIGN 8 will support the new product. Like the Intellitrax 2 the new SpectroDrive is capable of measuring M1 as well as M0.

**Man Roland files supported**

Man Roland Color Pilot files can now be imported using AutoMode into pressSIGN Pro & GPM without any operator intervention. Users will need Man Roland’s Process Monitor software in order to make the data available to pressSIGN, this might require an update to the console for older presses.

Ryobi
Import Ryobi closed loop data
The Ryobi 928, 750 & 530 series presses can be fitted with PDS-E closed loop option. Users can purchase the
CSV/CGATs Output option from Ryobi RMGT that can export the data in AutoMode to pressSIGN without
any set up necessary.

Prinect 2017 - InPress Control - import data
Heidelberg Prinect 2017 is the latest workflow solution from the German manufacturer. pressSIGN accepts
the color quality data that Prinect 2017 makes available. Using the information from the file pressSIGN cre-
ates the job automatically in Automode.

To make the information available to pressSIGN Prinect 2017 users will need to have the Prinect API License
and the Prinect Integration Manager License.

Users should be aware that the data from InPress Control available in Prinect 2017 is polarized and therefore
not suitable for direct comparison with ISO 12647-2, GRACoL and other international standards. In order to
match international print standards users will need to use pressSIGN’s Dryback feature.

New Export Feature
From the ‘Open Job’ window users can export the data available in columns and rows in Tab Separated Value
(TSV) format for import into Excel or other spreadsheets for further analysis. This is in addition to the re-
ports functionality available in the Open Job Window or via the Web Browser.

Importing CxF files
Frequently CxF files contain information with multiple measurement modes. When you import these files
into pressSIGN you can stipulate which Measurement mode you wish to use, M0, M1, M2 or M3.

Exporting data from pressSIGN
There are a variety of ways that data can be exported out of pressSIGN. An API facility was added to press-
SIGN 7 and if your company has the technical expertise then this method is the most comprehensive.

Data can also be exported from the “Open Job” Window. Filter the database, using ‘Advance Search’ and then
hit the ‘Export’ button data. All the data in the open job window can then be exported to a Tab Separated
Value (TSV) file which can be imported into Excel for further manipulation.

Creating print targets with a range of TVI settings.
Print buyers who set targets for many different print sites often need to have several targets that cover the
same quality standard. For example some press manufacturers set their color bars up with 20%, 40% and
80% tints while others use 25%,50% and 75%. This can result in an excessive number of standards. press-
SIGN has resolved this issue.

pressSIGN 8 allows users to set a range of tonal curve measure points for shadow, mid-tone and highlight
without being specific about what these are. The print supplier applies the appropriate tonal points for the
particular press in use and pressSIGN will accept it and score it as normal.

In the case above that range is 10% points above or below the normal standard.
Set Image for Web reports
During installation you can select a PNG file that will appear whenever you create a web browser report or a report from pressSIGN Mobile.

Set Image for PDF reports
New installations will be able to add a logo to the site settings and this logo will appear in the top right hand corner of the pressSIGN PDF reports.

A logo can be added later or for existing installations that are updated. Go to the Job Settings window and select the Site. Click on the edit button (...). Browse to an image that you want to appear on the PDF report.

When you open a new pressSIGN PDF report you'll see your logo.
Export tonal curves for new RIP formats.

Please see screenshot below.

Hiding Pantone Libraries
The standard configuration of pressSIGN includes the full range of Pantone libraries. Users have reported that there are too many of these built-in libraries and they would like to hide them away. The latest version of pressSIGN 8 allows you to do this. Go to Edit->Manage Lists->Spot Color Library and tick the libraries you want to be available from the ‘New Job’ window.

When Pantone introduced the Pantone + Libraries they used the same numbering as they had for the old Formula Guides, but the actual color is different. It is therefore important that operators are choosing the
right Pantone color.

**Support for Schawk ColorDrive**
Schawk is a major pre-press house who work with some of the world's largest brands. As part of their client offering they provide a Print Quality monitoring service for some of their customers. This service is centred around a cloud based server called ColorDrive. Print suppliers who do work for Schawk's customers will now be able to work with Schawk's ColorDrive and deliver results to their server.

**Support for JDF Connectivity in AutoMode**
While the JDF file format is often regarded as an industry standard there are many variations of the JDF format involving different parameters for all sorts of connectivity between various systems. pressSIGN can now accept data in JDF format in order to create jobs from third-party systems, like Tharsten or Adobe Acrobat.

When a JDF file hits the AutoMode hot folder it will automatically create a new job with the specifications contained in the JDF file and the associated Template from pressSIGN.

As there are many different dialects of the JDF language we will expect to update the JDF parser to add different formats that users want to add. Please, therefore, send us samples of JDF that you want to test so that we can provide them for your particular circumstance.

On a Mac JDF files can be used to create jobs manually. Just drop the file on the pressSIGN icon and you have a new job automatically created.

In the same way as JDF files can be used to create new pressSIGN jobs, so can PPF files.

**New Measurement Conditions defined**

The new version of pressSIGN 8 gives users the option of selecting the measurement condition that is being used.

![Measurement Conditions](image)

**Measurement Conditions for spot Libraries**

The choice of measurement condition in preferences will impact the choice of spot color library. For example, if M1 measurement condition is selected it will be used to filter the spot color libraries where there are multiple measurements conditions available for a named library. Below I have chosen M1 as my measurement condition and now I have selected The Pantone + series Uncoated library.
Where a M1 library is available then this will be indicated just to the left of the library name. The Pantone + series libraries are available in M0, M1, M2 and M3 modes. If pressSIGN is not aware of the measurement condition that created the library then no indication of the measurement condition will be shown.

**pressSIGN and Minimum Dot**

Flexographic printers have traditionally found it difficult to image highlight dots. Being unable to image in this area of the plate has a dramatic affect when generating a tonal curve adjustment. The new highlight slider removes the sudden impact of the first dot appearing at, for example, 5%, which in turn distorts the highlight curve.

You can adjust the starting point for tonal curve adjustment from the Summary Screen View. With a measurement on screen click Plate Adjustment (see image below).

This slider will not have any effect until you raise the slider above the lowest measured tint. If, for example, you measure only one highlight of 25% and you set the slider at 10% then there will be no impact on the tonal adjustment generated by pressSIGN. If you are only going to measure one highlight tint make this 10% and set the slider at 15%.

In the diagram above the upper tonal adjustment curve shows a significant kink.

By adjusting the slider we can remove this distortion.