



Press release – For immediate publication

aleph Announces Acquisition of the company by Durst Group

The strategic move sees the two companies engaged in strengthening their focus on sustainable digital printing solutions

Como/Brixen, Italy - September 19, 2023 — aleph, a leading Italian manufacturer of sublimation and direct-to-fabric inkjet printers for the textile and visual communication industries, has announced that <u>Durst Group</u>, a manufacturer of advanced digital printing and production solutions, has completed the acquisition of the company. With this strategic move, Durst Group further enhances its position in water-based and sustainable printing technologies, while supporting aleph to take a further leap forward in developing cutting-edge, environmentally-friendly digital printing technologies. For Durst Group, the acquisition also serves as a bridge to Como, Italy, the centre for textile design and high-quality applications.

Established in 2000 in Lurate Caccivio (Como), over the last 20 years, aleph has transitioned from a software house and distributor of textile consumables to an independent manufacturer of innovative machines for digital water-based printing. In 2017, Wise Equity entered aleph's capital with the Wisequity IV fund, alongside the three historical entrepreneurs Alessandro Manes, Roberto Manes, and Roberto Temperini, to support the progressive internationalisation journey, with the goal of positioning itself in special applications in both the textile industry and adjacent sectors such as billboard printing. Today, the company generates over 60% of its revenue abroad in more than 20 countries.

"Collaborating with Durst Group marks an exciting new chapter for aleph," says Alessandro Manes, CEO of aleph SrL. "Our shared passion for technological innovation, the pursuit of excellence, and the commitment to true sustainability define this collaboration. Together, we have the opportunity to make significant advancements in the digital textiles, exterior, and interior decoration sectors."

"We are delighted to welcome aleph into the Durst family," said Christoph Gamper, CEO and coowner of Durst Group. "Their expertise in sustainable, water-based applications, their software for high-end textiles, and their creative solutions for water-based poster printing align perfectly with





our vision of pushing the boundaries of digital printing technology. Together, we will strengthen our market position, expand our product portfolio, and enhance value for our global customers."

In recent years, markets for digital printing technologies with water-based ink applications have experienced rapid growth, driven by increasing demand for environmentally friendly and customizable products. To meet this market trend, not only high-performance printing systems with eco-friendly ink systems are necessary but also extensive process knowledge and integrated software solutions, which both companies aim to combine optimally through this merger.

The strategic acquisition aims to leverage synergies between the two companies by combining Durst Group's global presence and extensive procurement network with aleph's expertise in sustainable digital solutions – both machines and software – for textiles and decoration. This seamlessly aligns with Durst Group's strategy to diversify its portfolio and meet the evolving needs of its customers across various industries.

Both Durst Group and aleph are committed to ensuring a smooth transition for their customers, partners, and employees during the integration process.

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ABOUT DURST

Durst Group is a global leader in advanced digital printing solutions. In its core business areas, Durst is at the forefront of transforming and digitizing industrial production processes. As a family-owned company with an important 80-year history, Durst emphasizes values such as innovation, customer orientation, sustainability, and quality. For more information about Durst Group, visit www.durst-group.com

ABOUT ALEPH

aleph is a leading manufacturer of digital printers for sublimation and direct-to-fabric textile printing. Headquartered at the heart of Italian textile district of Como, the company has grown to become a leading international player in inkjet printing, with a dedicated sales force and a distribution network covering key textile regions. aleph addresses the fashion and home textile markets, as well as the visual communication industry. The company's product portfolio includes flagship series LAFORTE Fabric and LAFORTE Paper, proprietary software, drying systems, and dedicated inks – developed in partnership with a specialist ink producer. Building on a customer-centred approach, cost-effective solutions and an efficient service, aleph provides its customers with efficient integrated printing processes, ensuring maximum return on investments. For additional information about the company, please visit www.alephteam.com

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