



CIP4 Press Release

For Immediate Release

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ALFRED BÜRKLI OF MÜLLER MARTINI HONORED BY CIP4 Named First Recipient of CIP4 Fellowship Award

Düsseldorf, Germany, May 10, 2004: The International Cooperation for the Integration of Processes in Prepress, Press, and Postpress (CIP4) Organization announces that Alfred Bürkli, who recently retired after a long career with Müller Martini, has been chosen as the first recipient of the CIP4 Fellowship Program Award. This new award is designed to recognize the contributions of individuals who played an important role in the development of the JDF specification, the education of manufacturers and users, and/or the dissemination of information about JDF. This inaugural award was presented at a special reception on May 9 in the JDF Parc at drupa, Hall 4, Stand A33. His employer, Müller Martini was also recognized at this event.

An electrical engineer from Switzerland, Alfred Bürkli, joined Müller Martini in 1969. He developed state-of-the-art electronic controls for various postpress machines, before becoming the manager of the electrical engineering department. When Müller Martini joined CIP3, Alfred represented the company and worked on the definition of the postpress parameters of the PPF specification, driving the specification forward into finishing operations, well beyond the original plan of simple prepress to pressroom connectivity. When CIP3 was transferred to CIP4, he took an active role in establishing the legal issues for the new organization. In his position as chair of CIP4's Finishing Workgroup, Alfred worked tirelessly to ensure that JDF covers the bindery as completely as possible and recently finished a draft of the Binding Interoperability Conformance Specification (ICS) just weeks before retiring from Müller Martini.

“The CIP4 Fellowship Program was initiated as a way to recognize outstanding contributions in development, education, and dissemination of information around JDF,” explained Martin Bailey, CIP4’s CEO. “I can’t imagine a better first recipient than Alfred Bürkli. His long-term commitment to developing a framework for efficient workflows throughout the whole of the print production cycle was evident in his work in CIP3, and extended even more after the transition to CIP4. In February 2004 he organized the facilities for the most recent CIP4 interoperability testing at which an unprecedented number of attendees were able to test their products. We will miss him greatly in his retirement; perhaps his lifetime membership in CIP4 will encourage him to come back and help us a bit in the future!”

Müller Martini was also recognized at the reception for making it possible for Alfred Bürkli to devote the time he did to both CIP3 and CIP4. In making the employer award, Martin Bailey said, “Even the most committed individuals find it very hard to make a major contribution without support from their employer. The CIP4 Board of Directors recognizes Müller Martini for its ongoing support of CIP4 and the JDF specification.”

The CIP4 Advisory Board initiated the Fellowship Program earlier this year, with the expectation of awarding one fellowship per year. The award is made at the discretion of the CIP4 Board of Directors.

About the Job Definition Format

JDF is an industry standard designed to simplify information exchange between different applications and systems in and around the Graphic Arts industry. JDF builds on and extends beyond pre-existing partial solutions, such as CIP3's Print Production Format (PPF) and Adobe Systems' Portable Job Ticket Format (PJTF). It also enables the integration of commercial and planning applications into the technical workflow. JDF joins the growing number of standards based on XML, ensuring maximum possible portability between different platforms and ready interaction with Internet-based systems. More information is available at <http://www.cip4.org/>.

About CIP4

CIP4 brings together vendors, consultants and end-users in the print communications, Graphic Arts industry and associated sectors, covering a variety of equipment, software, peripherals, and processes.

Members participate in focused working groups to define future versions of JDF, to study user requirements, and to design the JDF SDK. Information on CIP4, including membership details, is available from the organization's web site: www.cip4.org. Or contact Stefan Daun, Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics, telephone: +49 6151 155 575, email: <mailto:secretariat@cip4.org>. Printers, publishers, prepress services and others may subscribe to the electronic JDF Bulletin newsletter by visiting: http://www.cip4.org/contact/subscribe_cip4info.php

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