

Thanks to the dual cutting head and automation of the new cutting platform, the Rome-based company is more competitive in the creation of multi-material projects.

Eliostile grows in speed, automation and sustainability with Elitron Kombo TH 40.25

Translated from Italia Publishers, Lorenzo Villa



Its name, unusual for a large-format printer, harkens back to a world that no longer exists and well defines Eliostile's roots. It was 1968 when Remo Montanari founded his heliographic laboratory, in an elegant building in Rome's Parioli district, and began providing design reproduction services to engineering companies, construction firms and public bodies. With the spread of electrophotographic duplication technology, in the early 1990s, the company started copying services and, with Remo's son Fabio Montanari joining the company, prepared for a generational change. A graphics enthusiast, fresh from his studies in computer science, the founder's son opened a graphic design and prepress department, purchased the first Fiery servers and in a few years transformed the company into a modern digital copy centre.

In the early 2000s, graphic design services had a growing impact on turnover, so much so that Eliostile established itself as a graphic design agency, and began managing advertising

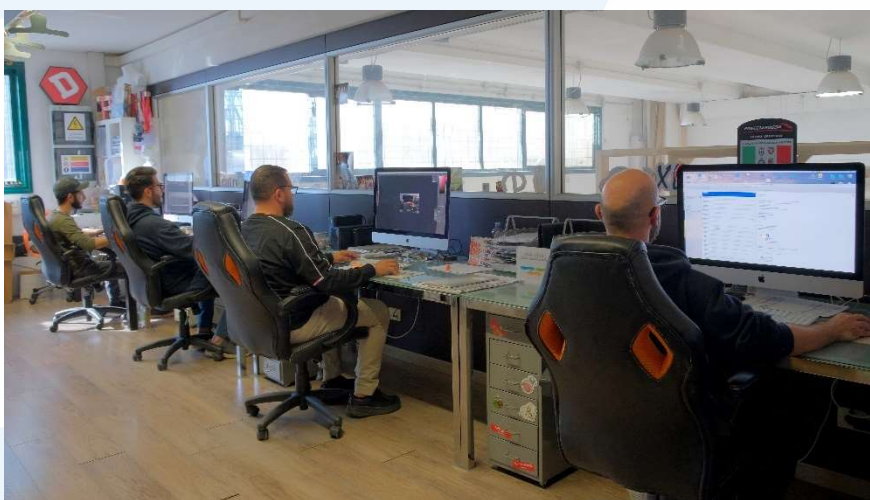
campaigns designed by famous art directors. In parallel, the company strengthened its production infrastructure and, in 2005, introduced large-format printing. The start was so encouraging that, in 2007, Eliostile opened the Elio XL division in a 1,000 m² site in Morlupo, north of the capital. Here it installed its first UV printers, a milling machine and a panel cutter, and developed an innovative printed multilayer panel for interior decoration. In 2010, the growth in volume was such that it was necessary to move to new premises of 2,000 m², where Eliostile expanded its machinery and increased its production capacity, employing 22 people. In May 2021, the company installed a new Elitron's double cutting head system Kombo TH, in the unusual 4.0x2.5 m format.



Complex projects and high quality, in zero time

In its process of refocusing the offer on the large format, Eliostile remains concentrated on a professional, loyal and demanding clientele, mostly consisting of large companies, hotel chains, architecture and engineering firms, and agencies specialising in premium projects.

For them, the printer produces sets for television studios, photographic exhibitions, congress and event layouts, furniture accessories, printed boiserie and wallpapers. Eliostile offers a turnkey service from design to installation, guaranteeing the highest quality and lightning-fast delivery times.



"Customers love our ability to experiment, to get ahead of the times, to offer them non-standard products, to work to very tight deadlines" explains Montanari. "This differentiates us from

services, but it imposes gruelling workloads and the use of very reliable industrial machinery".

Over the past decade, the company has upgraded its fleet with Durst's Rho P10 200 Plus, Rho 312R and P5 TEX iSUB printers, as well as HP Latex 1500, Canon Colorado, Mimaki eco-solvent, and a wide variety of finishing systems, including heat sealers, methacrylate folders, eyelet folders, vertical cutters, and an automatic fabric stitching line.

Eliostile and Elitron: a decade of partnership in digital cutting

Eliostile's journey into digital cutting began in 2007, with the installation of a heavy-duty milling machine. The system allows industrial materials to be shaped, but lacks the flexibility to perform light cutting, half cutting and creasing operations. Between 2013 and 2014, the company therefore began a survey and series of tests on the most popular multifunctional cutting and milling systems. The choice fell on Elitron technology, which was judged to be the best combination of robustness, productivity, ease of use and automation.

"In Elitron, we found many clever and innovative ideas and solutions applied to the machinery, such as the Seeker System and the projection system," says Montanari "having no previous cutting experience, we chose a solution that would guarantee the easiest and most painless integration into our workflow".



Eliostile opted for the Kombo SD+ model in 3.0x2.0m format, which for seven years has supported uninterrupted growth in production volumes, performing cutting and milling of rigid and flexible materials, often on two or three shifts. In 2021, with printing volumes more than tripled, the company is at a crossroads.

"Our Kombo SD+ was as good as new, but it was no longer enough. So, the first thought was to buy a sister unit from Elitron," explains Montanari "we were so satisfied with the reliability and service we received that we did not consider other options".

Elitron's pre-sales team analysed Eliostile's increased production requirements, taking into account the reduced availability of floor space, and the fast pace of business growth. The evaluation resulted in the proposal to replace the Kombo SD+ with a Kombo TH 40.25, equipped with a 4,050x2,500mm cutting table with 60 suction zones, two beams and two cutting heads, plus a Seeker System unit and a projector for each head. After weighing up the pros and cons, Eliostile enthusiastically embraced the idea of focusing on a single machine to double its cutting capacity.

Two machines in one?



Fabio Montanari
Eliostile CEO

"The double head of the Kombo TH allows us to execute and deliver the most urgent jobs without waiting and without interrupting longer processes, such as milling."

Thanks to the two beams and the two cutting heads, which operate independently, Kombo TH allows to perform two different processes at the same time, on different materials, or to divide the same processing between the two heads, thus reducing the execution time. To do this, the two heads can be equipped with the same cutting, creasing and milling tools, or they can be fitted with different tools. In both cases, it is the machine software that manages the work cycles, leaving the operator with the sole burden of loading and unloading the material onto the suction table.

"The double head of the Kombo TH allows us to execute and deliver the most urgent jobs without waiting and without interrupting longer processes, such as milling" says Montanari. "It is a jewel, and on many processes, it reduces processing times by up to 70%".

Although the Kombo TH is also available in the 3.2m 'size', the choice of a 4m table, without conveyor belt, stems from the need to also process wood sheets up to 3.7 m, as well as Plexiglas, Forex and Dibond panels up to 3.0x2.0 m. Thanks to the special felts, the company also uses the Elitron system for cutting polyester fabric. Not to foreclose any possibilities, Eliostile purchased a complete double set of tools, including mill, creaser, pneumatic and electric oscillating blade.



More automation and sustainability

The Seeker System technology allows operators to freely position multiple materials, and multiple different jobs, on the Kombo TH's suction table, letting the machine recognise their shapes and marks and associate them with the relevant cutting paths. A functionality that translates not only into operational advantages, but also economic and ecological ones.

"With each loading and unloading we gain precious minutes, which become hours during the day," Montanari points out. "With the video projection, we can also easily position small shapes to be cut on the material scraps, reducing waste".

Focused on efficiency and environment, Eliostile is committed to the progressive replacement of plastic with lighter and more recyclable materials, such as cardboard and sublimation printed polyester fabric. To diversify its offer, and to make finishing more efficient in its new textile workflow, and in other fields, the Rome-based company is already evaluating the introduction of new Elitron cutting technologies.