Canon

Wide-Format Line of the Year

2017 BLI BUYERS LAB LINE OF THE YEAR

Canon has won BLI's 2017 Wide-Format Printer Line of the Year Award for the preceding test season for its....

- Outstanding reliability across all devices tested

- Superb user experience

- Efficiency-boosting innovations

- Exceptional image quality

Canon imagePROGRAF iPF830/840/850

Continuing to build on the success of their impressive portfolio of products, Canon Inc. has once again earned BLI's coveted 2017 Wide Format Printer Line of the Year award. This honor is testament to Canon's clear commitment to improving its product line in both the technical production/proofing sphere and high-end graphic arts markets, with each new release raising the bar on performance and image quality.

BLI's annual award acknowledges the vendor whose products are singled out as being the best in their respective categories based on their cumulative test results in BLI's comprehensive lab evaluation. To date, Canon's award-winning imagePRO-GRAF range includes 17 models that have garnered Highly Recommended ratings and, in the current line, 16 Pick-winning models.

Superlative Image Quality

"Time and time again we see colour reproduction of the highest standard. Vibrant photographic images, crisp text and unsurpassed fine detailing are all hallmarks. A crucial factor for print shops is colour consistency, which is indispensable for proof printing applications," said Martin Soane, BLI European lab manager. He added that "Canon's standard calibration feature with the PRO series comprising both 8-colour and 12-colour models, will satisfy the challenging needs of indoor signage professional photographers and fine art printers alike. Customers have the tools to achieve extremely stable colour output not only on one device but across the whole PRO series, with the added convenience of being able to monitor and

**Canon imagePROGRAF
iPF770 MFP L36**

**Canon imagePROGRAF
PRO-2000/PRO-4000**

Outstanding Reputation

Canon's wide-format printers continue to impress with their breadth of quality. The company has achieved...

17 Highly Recommended models

Canon's currently available Highly Recommended wide-format models include:

- Canon imagePROGRAF iPF770 MFP L36
- Canon imagePROGRAF iPF830/840/850
- Canon imagePROGRAF iPF840 MFP M40
- Canon imagePROGRAF iPF770
- Canon imagePROGRAF iPF680/685
- Canon imagePROGRAF iPF780/785
- Canon imagePROGRAF iPF6400S
- Canon imagePROGRAF iPF785 MFP M40
- Canon imagePROGRAF iPF8400S
- Canon imagePROGRAF iPF6450
- Canon imagePROGRAF PRO-4000S/PRO-6000S
- Canon imagePROGRAF PRO-2000/PRO-4000

manage the calibration status of the model remotely via the Device Management Console utility, as well as from the operation panel," said Soane. "Another key factor is that Canon builds colour tables directly into these printers for each Canon-branded media, so consistency is assured, while calibrations can be performed with non-Canon media, which is a rarity among most graphic arts wide-format models, and provides the customer with added flexibility."

- Canon's PRO series employs a newly-developed LUCIA PRO pigment ink set, resulting in large colour gamuts, rich saturated colours and natural-appearing skin tones on photographs, while also producing a vibrant spectrum of colours on poster output. Monochrome prints were equally impressive, exhibiting neutral grey halftones and dense blacks, while still producing exceptional highlight and shadow details.

- AEC, CAD and GIS users can expect to see highly accurate colours with Canon's technical printers producing large colour gamuts, above average optical densities, pin sharp detailing and crisper fine lines and text reproduction.

Exceptional Productivity

"Whether printing a single page, multi-page files or multiple technical documents of different formats in quick succession, all of these imagePROGRAF devices proved highly productive in BLI's rigorous round of tests," said David Sweetnam, BLI's director of research and lab services EMEA/Asia. "In the busy world of the professional CAD print user or reprographics service provider, Canon's technical large-format printers raised the bar with standout print speeds. In particular, their performance when printing BLI's wide-format job stream, which simulates real-world printing to a shared device by sending multiple technical documents of different formats at once, was much faster than that of its competitors. When put to the test, the iPF 680/830/840/850/770/780 models successfully completed the 19-page evaluation in less than 20 minutes in Standard mode. Similarly, the PRO series Graphics Arts models demonstrated exceptional throughput speeds and first-page-out productivity when printing A1 and A0-sized high-quality prints on photo and matte coated papers, with little change in density and minimal drop-off in image quality, which will be especially welcome in busy print shops," Sweetnam added.

- Canon has brought its staple sub-ink tank design to its latest technical and graphic arts models; this unique feature maximizes uptime by enabling on-the-fly ink tank replacement without the need to interrupt a job in progress.

- The PRO series models offer larger than average 700 ml-capacity inks plus a user-replaceable printhead which will ensure less interrupted workflows and downtime.

- PRO-2000/4000 and PRO-4000S/6000S models can accommodate a dual-roll unit (standard with the PRO 6000S), which gives users added flexibility to switch between different media types or sizes without having to reload the media each time.

- The Canon iPF770 MFP L36 allows users to scan while the device is printing, a feature not often seen with other large-format MFP devices.

- Canon's technical models continually manage to print and deliver BLI's banner test successfully, something that many competitors fall well short of completing.

Intuitive User Experience

"We've come to expect very good ease of use with Canon, and the latest models have not let us down on that score," said Soane. "The PRO series offers straightforward media loading and handling capabilities, as well as a 320-GB hard drive, which lets users conveniently store commonly used documents for easy retrieval and reprinting. On the technical side, the Canon iPF785 M40 MFP offers all-around intuitive operation so that novice users will quickly become familiar with all its features. The already impressive SmartWorks software, with its intuitive Scan/Adjust/Print workflow capability, has been revamped with a new user interface, and this, combined with the large 559-mm colour touchscreen, makes copy and scan operations extremely uncomplicated to do. That said, even the smaller panels on the print-only iPF680/685 or iPF6000S and iPF8000S models provide quick access to key functions and tasks," commented Soane.

- Convenient media loading at the front, while a flat stacker feature employed by most of the technical printers including the iPF680/685, iPF830 and iPF840, enables the orderly collection of up to thirty 24" x 36"-size prints.

- A key staple of the whole iPF/PRO range, Canon's Direct Print & Share is an invaluable time-saving utility; it enables direct printing of PDF, JPEG, TIFF and HPGL/2 files, bypassing software applications and print drivers and thus saving time. In addition, its "Shortcut Print" functionality lets users define several print settings or combinations of print settings and represent them with a desktop icon. Akin to a hotfolder workflow, files are automatically printed with the predefined settings when users drag-and-drop them to the icon.

Versatile Utilities

"Not just content with providing users with great looking and consistent output and fast speeds, Canon looks to add value wherever it can by bundling many 'extras' into its image-PROGRAF printers," said Soane. "The upshot is that these 'extras' all contribute to the overall excellent ease of use of Canon's technical and GA models, and can definitely benefit a business's bottom line." Soane continued, "Take the iPF8400S model, which is an ideal choice for small- and medium-size print shops that have a broad range of printing needs. With its Media Configuration Tool, it has the ability to handle a wide selection of media, including vinyl, banner and backlit media for signage applications; fine art paper and canvas for specialty printing applications; satin, semi-gloss and glossy photographic papers in numerous weights for high-quality photographic prints, as well as textiles and plain paper. With this wide array of media, new printing opportunities open up for print shops that are accustomed to producing prints for only limited markets and applications."

- Canon's Free Layout nesting feature is highly rated by BLI as a useful media- and time-saving tool that is especially handy when printing smaller jobs on expensive media. Users have precise control over the placement of jobs, which is not emulated by some other competitor devices.

- Canon's free, template-based PosterArtist Lite software provides a straightforward method for creating posters for virtually any application.

- Canon offers a Print Studio PRO plug-in with its PRO series models, which supports industry-standard software that is commonly used in specific segments of the Graphic Arts market, such as photography and fine art display. It includes a print plug-in for Photoshop, which allows users to print 16-bit files directly from Adobe RGB with a wide gamut and clear tonal gradation, and a plug-in for DPP (Digital Photo Professional) that includes a 'Digital Lens Optimizer' to improve photographic image quality and enhance depth of field; Adobe Lightroom is also supported.

- The PRO series models also offer Wi-Fi connectivity and the ability to print JPEG and PDF files from USB flash drives.

- Importantly for AEC professionals working in the field, Canon's free mobile print app, the Canon image-PROGRAF Print Utility, enables PDF printing from Apple iPads to facilitate workflows for mobile workers.

"We are very proud that our new models have been recognised for their outstanding performance and reliability," said Yuichi Miyano, business group director of Canon Europe Ltd.'s Wide Format Group. "The details of the reports from BLI are very important to us as they show where Canon is achieving its goals and also where we can make further improvements. It is a sign of our commitment that these devices have won BLI's Line of the Year award and we will continue with our innovation and investment to make sure we continue this success."

Yuichi Miyano
Business Group Director,
Wide Format Group,
Canon Europe Ltd.

About **BLI Awards**

With its Pick awards, BLI gives special recognition in each category twice a year to those products that provided the most outstanding performances in BLI's exhaustive lab tests. Its Outstanding Achievement awards acknowledge products or capabilities that stand out for attributes such as innovation, usefulness, energy efficiency or value. Line of the Year awards, presented once each year, recognize the vendors whose product lines are judged to be the best in their respective categories based on their cumulative test results.

BLI's awards stand alone in that they are based on a rigorous battery of lab tests that takes approximately two months to complete. The evaluation includes an extensive durability test, during a portion of which each unit is run at the manufacturer's maximum duty cycle. BLI's durability test is unique among office product evaluations and uniquely qualifies BLI to assess reliability, a critical factor for buyers and IT directors.

Other performance attributes evaluated include ease of use, image quality, productivity and value, among others. Each product that successfully passes BLI's lab test earns BLI's Recommended or Highly Recommended seal and a BLI Certificate of Reliability and qualifies as a Pick award contender. Consequently, BLI Pick awards are hard-earned awards that buyers and IT directors can trust to better guide them in their acquisition decisions.

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