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Bridging the Skills Gap in the Printing Industry: HEIDELBERG Southern Africa's Comprehensive Training Initiatives



From bean to cup — like print production, excellence depends on knowledge, skill, and process.

In Southern Africa's print and packaging sector, technological advancements have far outpaced the availability of skilled operators. Modern presses and software offer unprecedented efficiency, but many print businesses face a common challenge: a shortage of trained professionals capable of leveraging these tools to their full potential. Recognising this gap, HEIDELBERG Southern Africa has launched the **Prinect Performance Lab** — a hands-on training initiative designed to empower both newcomers and seasoned professionals with the skills needed to thrive in today's print environment.

A Practical Response to Industry Development Needs

The Prinect Performance Lab isn't just a training programme — it's a strategic investment in the future of the region's print industry. By offering structured, practical education across all experience levels, HEIDELBERG helps businesses overcome operational bottlenecks, reduce waste, and unlock the full potential of their technology.

"We see the skills gap not as a limitation, but as an opportunity to build a stronger, more resilient print community," says Gary Levy, Prinect Business Driver for HEIDELBERG Southern Africa.

"The Prinect Performance Lab is our way of investing in people — because technology alone doesn't drive transformation. People do."

Print Fundamentals 101: Building a Strong Foundation

For apprentices, new entrants, and anyone seeking a career in printing, the Print Fundamentals 101 programme bridges the critical skills gap, offering a structured, practical introduction to modern print production. This course covers everything from job intake and file creation to press operations and finishing — with a strong focus on digital workflows and software integration.

Participants learn how to:

- Create and qualify print-ready files
- Understand the role of consumables in print quality and efficiency
- Apply imposition techniques for accurate layout and reduced waste
- Navigate the full print lifecycle using tools like Prinect

The programme concludes with a Q&A and career orientation session, helping participants connect their new knowledge to real-world opportunities.

Advanced Training: Unlocking the Full Power of Prinect

For existing HEIDELBERG customers already working with Prinect, the Advanced Training Programme takes skills to the next level. This four-module course provides an in-depth exploration of the software's capabilities:

- PDF Toolbox: Professional file correction, colour editing, barcode generation, and imposition
- Automation: End-to-end workflow digitisation, MIS integration, and performance tracking
- Colour Management: Heidelberg's PCM methodology for predictable, high-quality colour
- Push to Stop: Autonomous job sequencing and intelligent press control for maximum uptime

Each module combines theory with practical application, enabling operators, prepress teams, and production managers to work more efficiently, minimise errors, and consistently deliver higher-quality print output.

"Whether you're just starting out or managing a high-volume print shop, our training is designed to meet you where you are — and take you further," Gary adds.

A Long-Term Commitment to Industry Growth

The launch of the Prinect Performance Lab reflects HEIDELBERG Southern Africa's enduring commitment to customer success. By investing in training, the company not only helps clients maximise their technology — it also builds a more skilled, confident, and future-ready workforce.

"We believe that every print business, regardless of size or experience, deserves access to world-class training," Gary concludes.

"The Prinect Performance Lab is just the beginning."

Investing in skills today is investing in the future of printing tomorrow.

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