

HEIDELBERG launches entry-level print training

HEIDELBERG Southern Africa has hosted its first Print Fundamentals 101 training in partnership with NEON Printers, aimed at new entrants to the industry and addressing skills shortages.



Eddie Beddy shares industry knowledge with trainees during Print Fundamentals 101 at HEIDELBERG Southern Africa.

Held at HEIDELBERG's facility, the programme forms part of its Prinect Performance Lab initiative, combining classroom sessions with hands-on exposure to modern print workflows, including job intake, file preparation, presses and finishing.

The training brings apprentices and aspiring operators into a structured environment designed to build baseline technical understanding, a gap many converters face as production becomes more digitised.

Gary Levy, Prinect business driver at HEIDELBERG Southern Africa, says the initiative focuses on practical skills development. 'The skills gap in our industry is real, but it's something we can actively change. This programme creates a structured, hands-on way for people to learn in real production environments.'

Industry veteran Eddie Beddy, who supported the first intake, emphasised the importance of fundamentals despite increasing automation. 'With the introduction of AI and so much automation, it's still important for people to understand the basics and the processes used to produce the final result,' he says.

Next Generation Group appoints new MD

AUSTRIA-BASED Next Generation Group has appointed Bernhard Bohusch as managing director of its companies, effective 1 May 2026.

Bernhard succeeds Josef Hochreiter, who is retiring after playing a key role in expanding the group's international footprint and advancing its recycling technologies.

The Next Generation Group comprises Next Generation Recycling Maschinen (NGR) and Next Generation Elements (NGE), both of which are focused on advanced recycling and circular economy technologies.

Bernhard says the group will continue its innovation-driven strategy, with emphasis on Liquid-State Polycondensation (LSP) technology, which he describes as a central pillar for future growth and development. 'I am grateful for the trust placed in me and look forward to shaping the future of the Next Generation Group,' Bernhard comments.

The company says the management transition will support continued expansion of its recycling technology portfolio and its role in circular economy initiatives.



Bernhard Bohusch, the new MD of Next Generation Group.