

Konica Minolta Wins BLI's 2011 MFP "Line of the Year" Award

January 12 - Wokingham (UK) – Buyers Lab, the leading global provider of information and testing services to the digital imaging industry, today announced the winner of its most coveted award—"MFP Line of the Year"—with Konica Minolta receiving the honours.



BLI's "Line of the Year" is awarded once a year to the OEM whose product line is determined to be the best overall in its category based on the cumulative test results of all models tested in BLI's rigorous two-month laboratory evaluation. Among the many factors considered are reliability, image quality, productivity, ease of use, scanning, a host of connectivity attributes and overall value. Also considered is the breadth of the OEM's line and its ability to provide quality products suitable to a broad spectrum of customer needs, from low-volume to high-volume.

In the last year, Konica Minolta has won more MFP "Picks" than any other vendor. "Time and again, Konica Minolta's line has proven itself in the areas that matter most to end users—reliability, ease of use, productivity and image quality," said George Mikolay, senior product editor, A3/Copier MFPs. "With outstanding performances in these key areas, along with attractive pricing and robust feature sets across its colour and monochrome lines, it became readily apparent that Konica Minolta is the vendor to beat for 2011."

Over the last 12 months, Konica Minolta has won six "Picks" for its business colour products, earning awards in virtually every speed range, from 22 to 65 ppm. Every model tested proved extremely reliable and offered strong productivity, including in BLI's colour job stream test, meant to simulate real-world office use. They also offer good duplex copy and print, which is crucial as organizations attempt to lower running costs and improve environmental friendliness. Exceptional image quality is another hallmark of the devices. "Colour print quality is a big differentiator for Konica Minolta," said BLI Manager of Laboratory Testing Pete Emory. "Unlike the majority of business colour models we test, Konica Minolta's products maintain extremely good and consistent output from start to finish over the course of our high-volume tests. So much so that if I need to output a long-run job containing colour elements on a business colour device, I'd choose these Konica Minolta engines nearly every time." All of the "Pick" winning models received high marks for both business graphics and photographic images. For more graphics-intensive environments, an EFI Fiery controller is also available for all the models from 28 ppm and above.

Not to be outdone by its colour brethren, every one of Konica Minolta's monochrome models tested in the last year earned accolades. Konica Minolta now has "Picks" in virtually every speed range in monochrome from 22 ppm to 75 ppm, with six currently available monochrome "Pick" winners in its line. As with their colour counterparts, reliability was exceptional, and the devices stood out for their above-average performances in BLI's real-world job stream test and very good to excellent print productivity for producing sets of single- and double-sided documents.

Common to both the colour and monochrome winners is very good overall ease of use and comprehensive security measures, including standard hard drive overwriting. Third-party software developers can also integrate their document management and cost accounting solutions with the devices via bizhub Extended Solution Technology (bEST). "All of the models BLI tested this year typically offer strong feature sets to boot, making them exceptional value for buyers," said Mikolay.

"For us, BLI's highly coveted 'MFP Line of the Year' award means nothing less than the ultimate accolade," said Olaf Lorenz, general manager, International Marketing Division at Konica Minolta Business Solutions Europe. "Over the past few years, our MFPs have been recognized as top level colour and monochrome devices. This strikingly illustrates that Konica Minolta provides exceptional performance and quality throughout and across its MFP product range."



Stay tuned for upcoming Buyers Lab "Pick" award announcements in the following categories:

January 13: Outstanding Achievement for Energy Efficiency

January 14: A4

About Buyers Laboratory

Since 1961, Buyers Lab has been the leading independent office-equipment testing lab and business consumer advocate. In addition to publishing the industry's most comprehensive and accurate test reports on office document imaging devices, each representing months of exhaustive hands-on testing in BLI's US and UK laboratories, the company has been the leading source for extensive databases of specifications and pricing on copiers, printers, fax machines and multifunctional products. The company's databases cover over 13,000 products and have a long-standing reputation for being the industry's most trustworthy and complete source for global competitive intelligence. They are available to BLI subscribers online via the company's bliQ competitive information service. This encyclopedic resource also provides quick and easy access to BLI's First Look Reports, Field Test Reports, Lab Test Reports, Solutions Reports, and BLI-produced articles.

In addition to the testing of office equipment for its subscribers, Buyers Lab provides consulting services to buyers and a vast array of confidential for-hire private testing services that include document imaging device beta and pre-launch testing, performance certification testing, consumables testing (such as toner, ink and photoconductors), software and solutions and print media testing (including virgin and recycled papers).

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