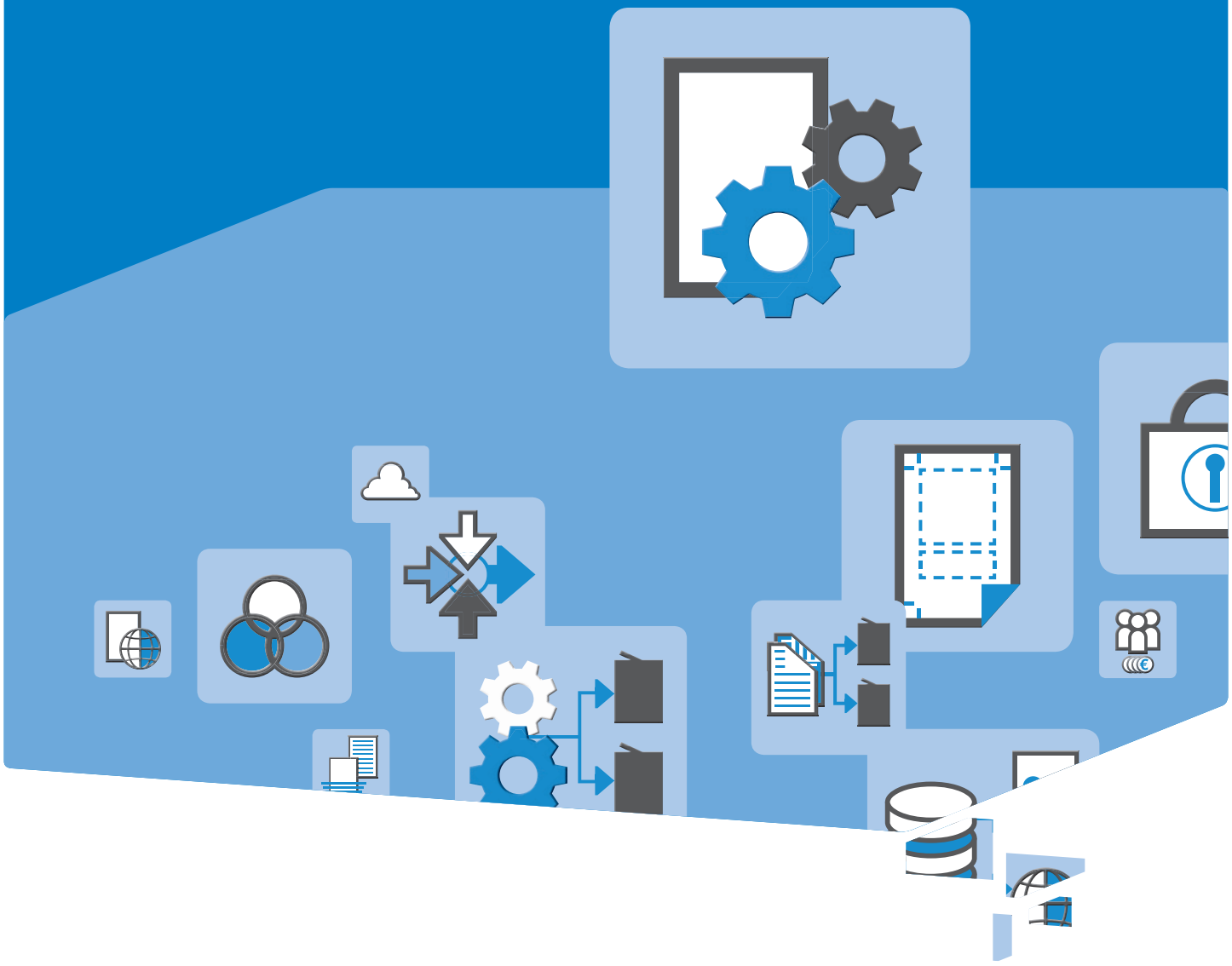
KONICA MINOLTA

PRINT AUTOMATION

Characteristics

- Templates
- Job ticket
- Automatic setup & inline finishing



Giving Shape to Ideas

APPLICATIONS
PRINT AUTOMATION

FOCUS ON
PRINT PROCESS OPTIMISATION

The preparation and managing of print jobs usually requires more time than print production itself. As a consequence, if you are running an in-house printroom or operating as a print provider, you are frequently faced with the situation that not all your installed output systems are working to capacity, which has a negative impact on your overall profitability. At the same time, your employees are kept busy with clarifying job details over the telephone, rather than spending their time on actual job production and delivery.

- You need to ensure full use all your equipment at all times in order to maintain production efficiency and competitiveness.
- You want to avoid your staff being inundated with repetitive tasks. This is why you are looking to automate your job handling processes and prepress work.
- You have to optimise your job submission procedures in order to free your operators from the constant need to clarify job details as well as unnecessary telephone enquiries by customers.

Print automation applications simplify the ordering process for your customers. Thanks to predefined job templates, customers know exactly what to order, what they will get, and reliably provide all the job details you require for production. At the same time, the templates free your employees from too many repetitive tasks. With suitable print automation software, you optimise your internal production routines, enable your staff to work with greater efficiency and enhance your production capacity. Ultimately, you expand your customer base and maintain your high quality standards although serving new, additional customers.

Professional print automation software enables you to improve your overall efficiency with templates. You automate print production with job tickets and minimise waste prints thanks to the automatic setup of your devices as well as fully automated inline finishing.

TYPICAL CAPABILITIES AND **WHAT THEY MEAN FOR YOU**

Templates

The processing of print jobs involves preparation work that can be very time-consuming and is often quite similar for different jobs. Unless job templates are used, the print provider's work is very repetitive and incurs unnecessary costs, because considerable capacities are lost.

- With templates, the print operator only needs to enter settings once for the creation of each template. These also simplifies the ordering process for the end customer as they are sure to provide all details required for their desired product and can easily reorder exactly the same print product. Both benefit from faster job processing, as enquiries and clarifications are no longer necessary.

Job ticket

If print jobs are transmitted to the printroom or print provider by e-mail or via an FTP server, the customer has to specify the job details in the text, such as number of prints, format, finishing settings, etc. This is a difficult task for anyone who is not entirely familiar with ordering prints and usually makes repeated enquiries from the printroom necessary before the job can be produced.

- With print automation software, the print job is directly transmitted to the output device together with its job ticket. This includes all information required for printing, such as page size and orientation, printing in colour or black & white, etc. Manual input by the operator is no longer needed, as print production is completely automated. The process minimises errors, saves time and frees operator capacity.

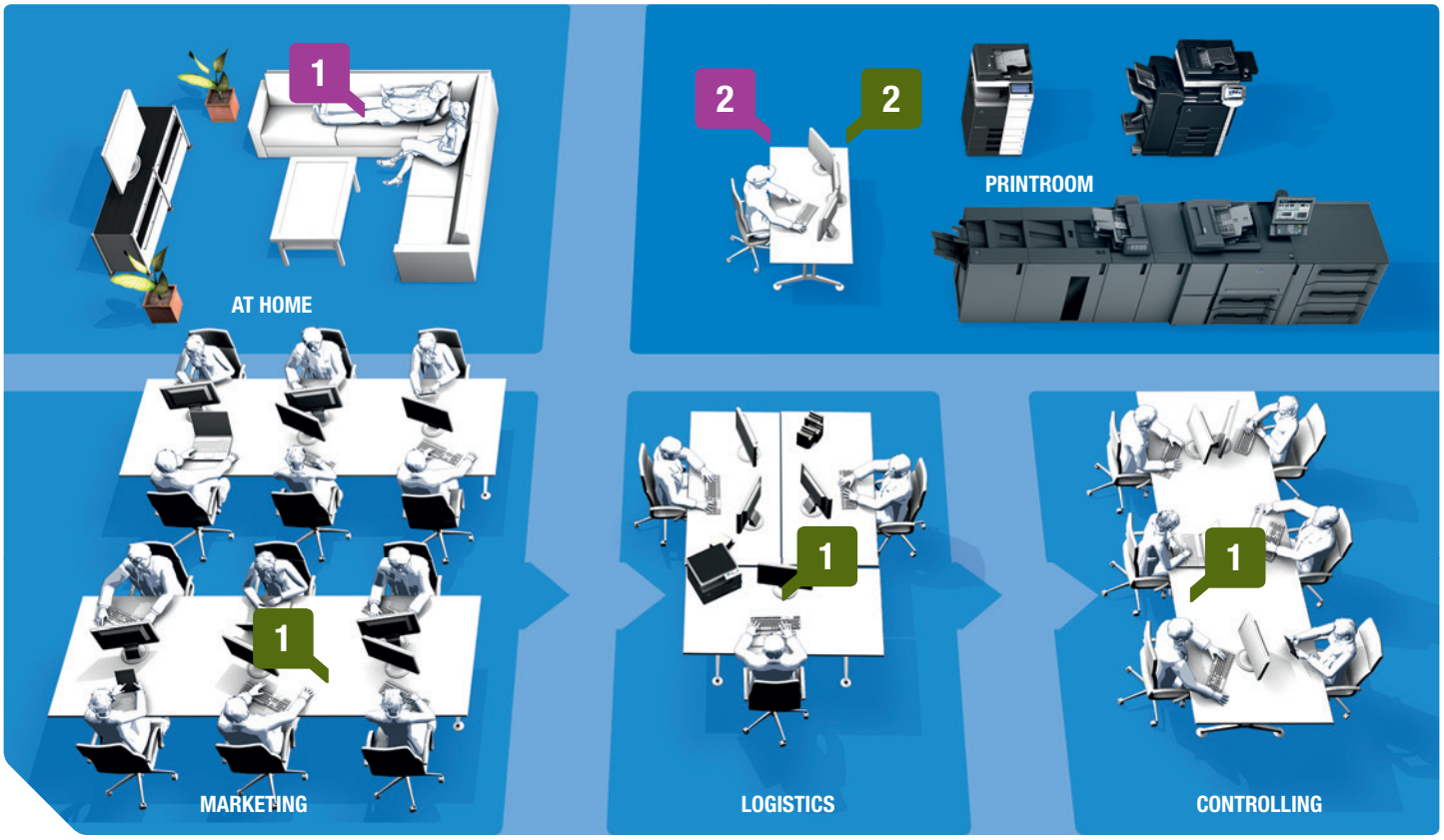
Automatic setup & inline finishing

After job submission, the operator usually has to manually enter various settings in the printer driver of the production device, such as the number of prints, paper type and size, as well as finishing settings. This takes time and can be rather error-prone.

- In installations with print automation software, print jobs and their corresponding job tickets are sent directly to a suitable output device. When it interprets the job ticket, the device is automatically adjusted to the correct job settings including those for document finishing and the print job is produced without requiring any manual intervention. Such automation saves time and effort for the operator, who can simply collect the completed print job from the output device and prepare the prints for shipping.

Professional print automation software helps you enhance your competitiveness and profitability. Its templates and job tickets enable you to optimise internal workflows and production processes, avoid redundancies and improve the overall efficiency of your operation. Automatic device setup and inline finishing minimise operator errors and misprints. Konica Minolta has suitable print automation applications in its extensive portfolio.

WORKFLOW



Some examples of typical workflow scenarios

1 A student has completed his thesis and now has to hand this in as a perfectly bound brochure according to predetermined formatting parameters. The university printshop provides the student with a printer driver with which he can adjust and order his print job directly from Microsoft Word. The student merely needs to select the "Thesis" template and specify the number of prints.

2 After sending the job to the print provider, the print file including the job ticket is automatically transmitted to the correct output device. The job ticket is automatically interpreted by the device and the job printed without any manual intervention. The print operator only needs to collect the printed documents from the production device and pass them on to the student.

1 The compilation of a business report always involves various departments, such as logistics, marketing, controlling, etc. Each department has to forward its portion to the person in charge of the whole report, who then has to manually compile the numerous chapters from the different departments and adjust everything to a suitable format so that it can be printed as one combined document. If print automation software is used for this task, several network files are simply created. Each department submits its up-to-date portion of the report to such a network file. The software then transforms all submitted documents automatically into the predetermined report format and compiles all information in the correct order.

2 The print operator only has to enter the time of printing; and the print job is produced according to the settings that were specified once.