

## **Glossary of Digital Ink Terms**

**Ink:** An ink is a liquid containing various pigments and/or dyes used for coloring a surface to render an image or text. Common perceptions consider ink for use in drawing or writing with a pen or brush. However, inks are used most extensively in printing.

**Inkjet printing:** A non-impact printing process in which a nozzle forces ink droplets from the print head onto a substrate at a high velocity.

**Substrate:** (1) A material or surface to be used for printing, adhering or finishing. (Often refers to media or stock). (2) A base material or foundation over which another material is supplied.

**Aqueous or water-based ink:** An ink that is primarily made of water but may contain small quantities of organic solvents, such as alcohols or glycols, to help the ink penetrate the print surface, keep the dyes in the solution and the pigments dispersed during ink storage.

**“Bio” or vegetable-based ink:** Inks containing ethanol solvents based from vegetables, such as corn and soy, which adhere the ink pigments onto the substrate.

**Mild, Low-odor or “Eco” Solvent inks:** Ink that is adhered to a substrate by a less aggressive or milder solvent. The inks often are referred to as “eco” because they generally are more economical than regular solvent inks.

**Solvent:** A liquid or agent that can dissolve, reduce or thin another substance.

**UV ink:** Ink containing an activator that causes polymerization under exposure to an ultraviolet light source.

**Ink adhesion:** The bond between the ink and the substrate.

**Solvent-evaporating ink:** Ink that adheres by allowing the solvent to vaporize either in ambient or elevated temperature conditions. These inks cure by having the solvent etch into the surface of the substrate used.

**Solvent release:** The evaporation of a solvent during the ink drying process.

**Volatile organic compound (VOC):** a liquid solvent that tends to vaporize at room temperature (High concentrations can be hazardous to worker health and the environment).