

Multifunctional Product Reviews

Imagistics Launches Platen-based MFP with Color Scanning

In December, 2002, Imagistics International Inc. (Trumbull, CT; 800-945-9708) introduced their new ix2600 MFP, a platen-based multifunctional system based on a Brother-sourced 15-ppm laser print engine. This product is the first in Imagistics' line to use a new naming convention, the prefix "ix," "i" for Imagistics and "x" to denote fax-based. Targeted to Fortune 1000 and mid-size companies, the ix2600 MFP (SRP, \$2,195; rental, \$64/month [including service]), features standalone and PC fax, copying, PC printing and color scanning through built-in parallel/USB ports.



The fax feature set of the Energy Star-compliant Imagistics ix2600 MFP include a Super G3 33.6 Kbps modem with JBIG compression (dual lines not available), multi-access, 3-second-per-page scan speed, 8 MB fax memory (expandable to up to 40 MB), 132 autodial numbers (32 one-touch and 100 speed-dial), broadcasting (182 destinations), group dialing (6 groups), batch transmission (50 files), dial-while-scanning, directory dialing, auto cover page, remote retrieval, fax forwarding, telephone answering device interface, 13-Watt sleep mode, 64-level grayscale, and remote diagnostics.

Paper-handling features of the Imagistics ix2600 MFP include a front-loading letter/legal 250-sheet paper capacity (expandable to 500 sheets), face-down (correct-order) output, 8.5" x 11" platen for faxing and/or copying of bound originals (books, magazines, etc.), 50-sheet automatic document feeder, zoom reduction/enlargement (25 percent to 400 percent, in one-percent increments), multi-copying capability (up to 99 copies) and electronic sorting/stacking (99 sets). In addition, the ix2600 MFP has a single sheet bypass for special media.

Through either the built-in bi-directional parallel interface or USB port, the Imagistics ix2600 MFP can serve as a 15-ppm Windows GDI and PCL 5e printer, offering 600-dpi resolution and 8 MB shared printer/fax memory (expandable to up to 40 MB). Also, bundled software supports color scanning to a PC, i.e., not via the network, at a maximum resolution of 600 x 2400 dpi and

features one-touch buttons for Scan-to-E-Mail, Image Scan and OCR Scan. For network printing within Windows 9x, NT 4.0, Me, 2000 and XP environments, the ix2600 MFP can be upgraded via the optional Axis Network Interface. PC users can also fax directly from their desktops, using the unit's 33.6 Kbps modem.

Supplies for the ix2600 MFP include a toner cartridge that yields 10,000 pages at 4 percent coverage (\$195), and a drum unit that yields 20,000 (\$195). The additional 250-sheet paper feed unit is priced at \$299. The 16- and 24-MB memory options are available at \$399 and \$419, respectively. The Axis Network Interface is \$299.

Oki Data Americas Inc. Introduces New Low- and Mid-range MFPs

In February, 2003, Oki Data Americas, Inc. (Mount Laurel, NJ; 800-654-3282) introduced the low-volume OKIFAX 4580 (SRP, \$599), a product built on the same 8 page-per-minute LED print engine as the OKIOFFICE 87 (SRP, \$769), introduced back in May 2001. Designed for individual users and small workgroups, the OKIFAX 4580 features standalone fax and convenience copying in its standard configuration.

Standard fax- and copy-related features include a Super G3 33.6 Kbps modem (dual lines not available), 20 sheet automatic document feeder, 4 MB fax memory (nonexpandable), 100-sheet paper supply (nonexpandable), 6 second-per-page quick scan, 110 speed dials (10 one-touch, 100 autodials), group dialing (10), broadcasting (120 locations), delayed transmission, confidential reception, closed access, multi-copying (up to 50 copies), 300 x 300 dpi maximum resolution.

The optional Unimessage Pro MFP Kit (SRP, \$200) enables the OKIFAX 4580 to perform PC fax, print and scan functions. The optional Unimessage Pro LAN MFP Kit (SRP, \$495) connects the OKIFAX 4580 to a network via a parallel interface to a host PC, allowing up to 5 concurrent users to share all the fax, print and scan features.

Oki Data also offers an I-Fax Upgrade Kit (SRP, \$399), for sending hardcopy fax documents as TIFF or PDF attachments to an e-mail address, a group of e-mail addresses or a combination thereof. In addition, a user can receive simple text e-mails and TIFF-F files printed on the OKIFAX 4580. The I-Fax Upgrade Kit includes automatic network setup with Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), so that all network information (IP address, Subnet Mask, etc.) is acquired from the DHCP server, making network installation easier.

Supplies for the OKIFAX 4580 include a toner cartridge that yields 1,500 pages at 5 percent coverage (\$28.50), and a drum cartridge that yields 10,000 pages (\$125).

New Oki Data OKIFAX 5680 I-Fax Offer Standard Internet Faxing

In late April, 2003, Oki Data Americas, Inc. (Mount Laurel, NJ; 800-654-3282) introduced the new mid-range OKIFAX 5680 I-Fax (SRP, \$1,899), a product built on the same 8 page-per-minute LED print engine as the OKIFAX 5650 (SRP, \$1,749), originally introduced in November 2000. Designed for individual, small, departmental or workgroup placement, the OKIFAX 5680 I-Fax features standalone fax, convenience copying and network-based Internet Fax in its standard configuration.



Standard fax- and copy-related features include a Super G3 33.6 Kbps modem (dual lines not available), 30 sheet automatic document feeder, 2.5 MB fax memory (expandable to 10.5 MB), 250-sheet paper supply (expandable to 750 sheets), 2.85 second-per-page quick scan, 190 autodials (40 one-touch, 150 speed dials), group dialing (20), broadcasting (240 locations), 20-hour memory backup, delayed transmission, confidential transmission/reception, chain dialing, TAD interface, multi-copying (up to 99 copies), 600 x 600 dpi maximum resolution (transmission only).

Using the ITU-T Rec. T.37 protocol, the OKIFAX 5680 I-Fax is capable of cost-efficient Internet faxing via its built-in 10Base-T Ethernet interface, thus hardcopy documents can be sent as TIFF or PDF attachments to one or more e-mail addresses. Mixed broadcast, those containing



both fax number and e-mail addresses, is also possible. The 5680 I-Fax features a dedicated “Email

Key” that enables the user to select alphabetic characters/symbols through the telephone keypad, whether manually entering an e-mail address – at the time of transmission – or programming the address into one of the 40 one-touch keys. With the absence of a QWERTY keypad, the process of address entry and programming requires toggling through the telephone keypad, e.g., to select “B”, the user presses the 2 key twice, just as one would text message or program a cell phone. To make network installation easier, the 5680 I-Fax supports network setup with Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), so that all network-related data (IP address, Subnet Mask, etc.) is automatically acquired from the DHCP server.

Options for the OKIFAX 5680 I-Fax include a 500-sheet paper tray (SRP, \$449), telephone handset (SRP, \$70) and fax memory (2 MB, \$299; 4 MB, \$399; 8 MB \$799).

Supplies for the OKIFAX 5680 I-Fax include a toner cartridge that yields 2,500 pages at 5 percent coverage (SRP, \$40.95), and a drum cartridge that yields 20,000 pages (SRP, \$216).

Ricoh Introduces New Workgroup Fax Series

Ricoh Corporation (West Caldwell, NJ; 973-882-2000) recently introduced their new FAX4410 Series, comprised of the standalone FAX4410L and network-ready FAX4410NF. As strong, competitively priced MFPs, the Ricoh FAX4410 Series rounds out Ricoh’s fax product line. Targeted to small and large companies alike, the mid- to high-volume FAX4410L (SRP, \$2,495) features standard support for walk up faxing, convenience copying and optional connectivity (Internet fax, IP-fax, color scan to e-mail, LAN fax, network printing, faxing and scanning). The Ricoh FAX4410NF (SRP, \$2,895) is network-ready, i.e., offers connectivity out-of-box.

Based on the same 15 page-per-minute laser engine as the FAX3310L, the Ricoh FAX4410L and FAX4410NF (Network Fax) are differentiated by connectivity, as noted, and standard paper capacity. The Ricoh FAX4410L comes standard with a sizable 750-sheet paper supply (250-sheet Main Tray and 500-sheet Paper Feed Unit). The Ricoh FAX4410NF offers a 350-sheet standard paper supply (a 250-sheet Main Tray and 100-sheet Bypass Tray). Both can be upgraded to a maximum of 1,350 sheets, the largest in its class.



A host of impressive standard features, shared by both, include a Super G3 33.6 Kbps modem with JBIG data compression (optional dual 33.6 Kbps line allows simultaneous transmission and reception), 70-sheet (letter-size) automatic document feeder, 7 MB fax memory (expandable to 40 MB), 1.3-second-per-page scan speed, 290 autodial numbers (90 one-touch and 200 speed-dial, broadcasting (250 destinations), group dialing (9 groups), manual broadcast (100 numbers), face-down (correct-order) output, multi-copying capability (up to 99 copies), AI (Artificial Intelligence) protocol, multi-access, parallel (quick) memory transmission (dial while scanning), telephone directory, fax forwarding, batch transmission (up to memory capacity), 10 dedicated User Function keys, Help key (prints quick reference), verification stamp (standard), 12-hour document memory backup (non-volatile with 40 MB Flash Memory Card, 2 Watt Energy Saver mode, 64-level grayscale, Super Smoothing HQ, and remote diagnostics. Security features include closed network, confidential transmission/reception, memory lock and restricted access.

Notably, the Ricoh FAX4410 Series is the only fax-based MFP currently capable of a Automatic Duplex Fax Reception, that is, the unit can print received faxes in duplex mode (on both sides of the paper), without user intervention, cutting paper consumption (and costs) in half. Furthermore, the FAX4410 Series can duplex outgoing faxes in memory prior to transmission, a process called Duplex Fax Transmission. Granted, this is a manual process whereby the user scans both sides of the document into memory, but the system collates those pages and transmits them in correct page sequence, saving the user the time and effort otherwise spent copying the original to single-sided pages. (Note: The Ricoh FAX4410NF [or FAX4410L equipped with optional NIC FAX unit] can scan duplex B&W documents [not color] into memory for transmission to an e-mail address). And that's not all. Ricoh has enabled these new products to also automatically Duplex Copy, another time- and money-saver. Duplex Copy modes include 1-sided to 2-sided, 2-sided to 2-sided and 2-sided to 1-sided.

Advanced connectivity features of the Ricoh FAX4410NF, which is supported by a 100/10Base-T Ethernet interface, includes color scan to e-mail, a unique capability that enables users to scan full-color documents (at up to 600 dpi) directly to e-mail (as an attachment) in either PDF or JPEG format.

Like scan to e-mail, Ricoh's ITU Rec. T.37-compliant Internet fax function is another no-charge method of communication that transmits a message to a receiving Internet fax for printout. IP-



Tech-Write,

fax (ITU Rec. T.38) is also supported and differs from Internet fax (a store and forward process) in that the transmission is in real time (end-to-end) and therefore allows for immediate message confirmation, without the use of a mail server.

Whether performing a scan to e-mail, Internet fax or IP-fax operation, ease of entering destination addresses (alphabetic characters/symbols) is paramount. Consequently, Ricoh has designed a system that enables users to quickly enter addresses directly from the control panel, via a QWERTY keypad, much like a PC keyboard. While remote software programming of this data (in any of the 290 quick or speed dials) is supported, a user can also walk up to the unit and enter an e-mail address on the fly. In fact, a mixed broadcast, one containing both fax numbers, e-mail addresses and IP-fax addresses can be performed as well.

The Ricoh FAX4410NF also comes bundled with LAN fax software that allows multi-user workgroups to increase productivity by sending documents directly from their desktops. A new LAN Fax Cover Sheet editor utility can be used to create a customized cover sheet, using both graphics, such as a company logo, and text.

Other document and system management features of the Ricoh FAX4410NF include automatic backup of all received and transmitted documents (archival), downloading of the Transaction Journal (to a specified e-mail address), inbound fax routing, scan-to-file/folder, Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) and remote programming and monitoring.

Lastly, both the Ricoh FAX4410L and FAX4410NF can be optionally-equipped to support 15-ppm network printing, offering true 600-dpi resolution, a 16 MB printer memory (expandable to 144 MB), PCL5e/6 capability and optional PostScript Level 2 compatibility for Macintosh users.

Supplies for the Ricoh FAX4410 Series include a toner cartridge that yields 5,000 pages at 4 percent coverage (\$81), and a photoconductor (OPC) drum that yields 45,000 (\$214). An ADF Maintenance Kit (\$36) is also available, as is a telephone handset (\$65), second 33.6 Kbps line (\$595), and cabinet (\$207). The Feature Expander (\$595) increases the memory capacity to 40 MB. A 100-sheet Bypass Tray (FAX4410L only, \$175), 500-sheet paper feed unit (\$340), PostScript Level 2 compatibility (\$360), Printer Controller (\$450), Network Interface Board (\$485), NIC FAX unit (\$795) and printer memory, 32 MB (\$185), 64 MB (\$345) and 128 MB (\$440), is also available through Ricoh-authorized dealers.



Ricoh FAX4410L Toner Cartridge and OPC Drum

OEM versions of the Ricoh FAX4410L include the Gestetner F104 (SRP, \$2,495), Lanier LF 410 (SRP, not available) and Savin Savinfax 3750 (SRP, \$2,495). OEM versions of the Ricoh FAX4410NF include the Gestetner F104nf (SRP, \$2,895), Lanier LF415e (SRP, not available), Savin Savinfax 3750nf (\$2,895).

Note: All prices are manufacturer-supplied suggested retail prices.