

## 'Connect, Diversify, Grow' at FESPA Africa

FESPA Africa and Sign Africa 2016, taking place from 7-9 September at Gallagher Convention Centre, will feature educational content and a variety of exhibitors showcasing the latest industry trends and new products geared at helping visitors expand their businesses.



The event attracts a high quality audience who want to take advantage of the signage and printing industry growth in Africa.

There is an increased focus on Sub-Saharan Africa this year, with FESPA Africa hiring a dedicated marketing person and launching a strategic marketing plan to target this region, such as the FESPA Africa Forums hosted in Nigeria and Kenya.

The objective of the forums is bringing together industry professionals from the digital wide format printing and signage sectors to discuss the future of the market, upcoming trends and new opportunities.

Research from Whitehouse & Associates shows that the printing industry's growth and consumption indicates that the industry in Sub-Saharan Africa has grown extremely quickly over the last decade or so.

Taking a basket of products, including printing machinery and a range of papers, the research reveals that global exports to Sub-Saharan Africa of these products stood at R9bn (US\$681m) in 2000, when the first 'green shoots' of Africa's economic and political change began to become evident.

By 2005, when the new commodity boom was well underway, this figure had risen to R18.2bn (US\$1.3bn) and by 2010, just before the global slowdown began to impact on many African countries, it had reached a figure of R42bn (US\$3bn).

By 2014, according to Whitehouse & Associates, the figure had reached R46.2bn (US\$3.3bn), but had seen some stagnation over this last five years. This represents growth of 12% a year over almost a decade and half, "which is impressive, given the twin challenges of economic slowdown and digital media that have impacted globally".

With this growth in mind, FESPA Africa serves as the ideal event for brands educating visitors on the opportunities and business solutions in the signage and printing industry, which includes screen printing, wide format printing, garment decoration, branding, digital signage, vinyl graphics, laminating, finishing, packaging printing, banners, flags, T-shirt printing, LED's and laser engraving and cutting.

Visitor statistics from the 2015 event confirm the quality of attendees, with almost 70% of the audience from senior job positions, 53% with final decision-making authority and 85% of visitors involved in the decision-making process.

Platinum sponsors Roland and Avery Dennison are some of the companies that have signed on for this year's event. Other leading brands and global players who will feature at the expo include: Mimaki, Kornit, Epson, Canon, Durst, Aristo, Seiko, Mutoh, HP, Screen, Fujifilm, Avanti, Agfa, Esko, Klieverik, Zünd, Summa, swissQprint, Anajet, Caldera, Evonik, Océ, Trodat, 3M, Hexis and more.

“FESPA Africa is the largest show in Sub-Saharan Africa and the main attraction on the African continent,” said Mike Horsten, general marketing manager, Mimaki EMEA.

Delivered in line with its Profit for Purpose programme, the Forum demonstrates FESPA's commitment to reinvest in digital printing communities across the world through a range of centrally funded and supported initiatives.

[FESPA Africa](#) will be co-located with Sign Africa, Africa Print and Africa LED.

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