



The Shanghai Zhongjian Architectural Design Institute works on a wide variety of large building projects that have included a Research & Development centre for the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, Shanghai's Kangcheng residential complex and Zhengda Square retail area, the one million square metre Podolsk Oriental residential complex in Russia and many prestigious hotel developments.

Projects of this calibre and complexity rely on the fast turnaround of plans and designs but the institute found that as its business grew, its print productivity could not keep pace.

Growing market demand

"We used to use an HP Designjet 1050 printer and its capacity fitted our needs five or six years ago but our business has grown so fast that the workload has increased several times over and one printer can no longer meet our needs," says Institute director Xiuyun Li. "We used to print one page a minute and so we often had to work through the night to print drawings."

To meet the demands for higher productivity, the Institute installed an HP Designjet T7100 monochrome printer and the results have been impressive.

"The HP Designjet T7100 prints three times faster than our previous model so it is very suitable for our current production needs," adds Li. "We can now print three pages in less than a minute and those faster print speeds have saved a lot of time for us. Now, printing can be accomplished during normal working hours, relieving the burden on designers."

"With more powerful functions, the print times for large drawings have decreased from 12 hours to just four hours which is amazingly efficient. Also, we can load up to seven times more paper into the new printer than we could in the old one, which means that staff members do not have to work overnight to feed in more paper. One load can print many drawings and this means much higher work efficiency."

At a glance

Industry sector:
Architecture

Business name:
Shanghai Zhongjian
Architectural Design
Institute

Headquarters:
China

CHALLENGE

With growing business demands, Shanghai Zhongjian Architectural Design Institute needed a faster print solution than its current printer that would free designers from labour-intensive, time-consuming, routine print work and allow them to focus on their core design competence.

SOLUTIONS

The Institute turned to the HP Designjet T7100 monochrome printer with relevant kits to meet its growing print demands.



RESULTS

- Print speeds are three times faster than the previous printer
- Outstanding print speeds make the Institute more efficient
- Intelligent functions greatly reduce staff workload
- Operation and management are easy and trouble free
- Efficient HP after sales services means peace of mind for the entire lifecycle of the printer

Intelligent operation

The Institute's new machine can print drawings over the Internet, which can be automatically shut down after a certain time and remotely re-activated when needed.

"We have added an optional PostScript kit to our HP Designjet T7100 so PDF files can be printed directly and at a high speed which is good for us because a lot of companies send out non-editable PDF documents for processing," adds Li. "In addition, I added one more winding roll to the printer so it now has three rolls, which means it can automatically identify the paper size to start printing. For example, if different papers are loaded in the printer, such as AO and A1, the printer will automatically recognise the paper width then print from the appropriate roll.

Ease of management

"We used this HP printer for all of our projects last year including the R&D Centre for the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China and some residential projects. The accuracy of printed drawings is good and functions such as automatic drawing matchup and automatic paper winding are very useful."

The low maintenance required by the HP printer is also very convenient for the Institute. The only tasks that staff need to do are to reload ink and paper but they have had to learn to be precise when aligning the paper. As Li says: "a precise machine needs precise operation."

Low cost, high output

The Institute was attracted to the HP Designjet T7100 by its low cost and how it is designed for the environment.

"We trust HP as it is a leader in the industry," says Li. "HP devices require little initial investment and can print line drawings more accurately than many other printers. I have been using HP printers for a long time and I thought of buying a laser printer in order to improve print speeds but from what I understand, some can cause serious dust pollution to the environment. HP devices help reduce the impact on the environment.

"With the recommendation of an HP dealer, I took a HP Designjet T7100 on trial and the results turned out well. It greatly improved our printing efficiency and also lowered our print costs. Though laser printing is slightly faster, it needs a higher initial investment so the most cost-effective HP Designjet exactly met our requirements and the decision was made quickly."

In addition to the basic warranty, the Institute bought the HP Premium support service which provides a quick and easy way to solve any equipment problems. The staff members have seen the benefit of prompt service from HP technical staff.

"It used to take 12 hours for us to print some drawings. Now we only need four hours for the same tasks."

— Xiuyun Li, director, Shanghai Zhongjian Architectural Design Institute

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