

# HOFORS GOES DIGITAL WITH HP FOR MORE EFFICIENT AND BETTER SERVICE



Hofors Kommun

The planning and building department in Hofors, Sweden has improved its in-house services and expanded them to other municipal departments as well as to the local inhabitants, thanks to the greater efficiency provided by its new HP Designjet T2300 eMultifunction Printer (eMFP).

Hofors is one of the smaller towns in Sweden and is located about 200km northwest of Stockholm. The dominating industry has been – and still is – the steel industry, although a more diversified trade and industry structure is developing. There are almost 10,000 inhabitants in Hofors and the municipality itself has 800 employees.

The town organisation features a number of different departments and its activities are not centrally located. The planning and building department, working within Hofors, is responsible for planning, building permits, housing adaptation allowances, maps and land issues.

“Our typical print-out production is basic maps for detailed plan work,” says Beatriz Palmqvist, map technician, building services office, planning and building department. “These maps are based on aerial photos and mappings. Mappings are different methods to collect data which are the basis for production of maps. We have many different types of maps, e.g., information maps, address maps, development maps for building of new houses as well as different specialist maps, all which can be ordered from us.”

The planning and building department’s paper-based archives have grown over the years and contain many old maps of varying quality and working with them has become increasingly more time-consuming and costly. This has made it more difficult for the department to provide a fast service, managing and printing the various maps and documents, both within the municipality and to municipality residents.

“This is why we had a need to scan and digitise the paper-based originals, which before buying our HP Designjet T2300 eMFP, we did not have the technical capabilities to do. At the same time we wanted to be able to print out all the requested documents using the same printer,” Palmqvist explains.

To create a better service and fulfil the demands of both its internal and external users, Palmqvist and her colleagues investigated the market to find a technical solution that offered both scanning and high-quality printing and that was easy to use and also offered value for money.

## At a glance

**Industry sector:**  
Technical printing

**Business name:**  
The Planning and Building  
Department, Hofors

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## CHALLENGE

- Find a cost-effective way to scan and print a variety of maps of different kinds for municipality authorities and external customers
- Scan and print using the same equipment

## SOLUTION

- HP Designjet T2300 eMultifunction Printer

## RESULTS

- Quicker and more efficient printing service of maps to all stakeholders
- Ability to scan and extend the life of information from old maps
- Easy access and availability to all the department's maps
- A more cost efficient solution

"We looked at a range of different solutions and after a thorough evaluation we decided to buy an HP Designjet T2300 eMFP," says Palmqvist. "The reason for our decision to invest in this printer was that in our opinion it offers the best combination of functionality and high-quality at a cost-effective price. A contributing factor was also that we have used HP large format printers since 1989."

Since the HP Designjet printer was installed in January 2011, scanning paper originals has delivered a quicker and more efficient workflow, improving the department's service considerably. Maps and detailed plans, such as material for building allowances, can now be scanned and printed on demand, making the process of getting the right materials faster. In addition, the printers' high print quality and speed also enables other documentation like posters and presentation materials to be printed.

"The scanning function is easy to use, which makes the scanning of the comprehensive paper material easier," Palmqvist explains. "We often scan very old detailed plans and it is really a great advantage to be able to view the scanned result on the touch screen interface on the printer to identify when a second scan is needed."

"We only have a limited space where the printer is located, therefore the option to simultaneously print two media of different widths is very important to us. It makes it easier and saves time as we don't have to change reels

when printing out maps or plans of different sizes. Finally, the HP Designjet T2300 eMFP is so quiet when it is in use that we can concentrate on duties – it is an important part of our work environment," says Palmqvist.

### Future Plans

Due to the planning and building department's IT policy, the web-connected capabilities of the HP Designjet T2300 eMFP are not currently activated. However, it is foreseen that it will be of great use in the future to enable better collaboration with clients and partners.

"Another opportunity, which we will make good use of later, is the HP ePrint and Share, as it will save time and improve our service further," Palmqvist adds. "By using this possibility it will be easy to keep control of the information, and to know which information is where and when. It would also simplify cooperation and make it easier to share files with our partners within the municipality as well as with other municipalities and external partners," Palmqvist concludes.

With the new firmware released last May, HP is providing immediate access to HP ePrint and Share from the printer's touch screen, making the HP Designjet T2300 eMFP the industry's first web-connected large format printer with print, scan and copy functionalities.

*"Using our HP Designjet T2300 eMFP, we can digitally adjust old originals to a level where they are almost as good as new ones, e.g., when a detail plan from the 1930s is scanned and printed."*

— Beatriz Palmqvist, planning and building department, Hofors

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HP Designjet T2300  
eMultifunction Printer



ePrint & Share