"THIS WORKFLOW HAS **EXCEEDED** ALL OUR EXPECTATIONS"

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

CUSTOMER: CAMERA GRAPHICS

LOCATION: PORTLAND, OREGON

PRODUCT: XITRON NAVIGATOR

In 1996, John and Christy Zell purchased Camera Graphics in Portland Oregon. Established as the first pre-press house in Portland, CG had been in operation since 1967. The Zells turned it into a full-featured shop specializing in film output; a somewhat rare specialty given the industry's move to CTP over the last few years.

Specialize, they do, however. They are currently running three Linotronic imagesetters and an Agfa Avantra 44. One of the main reasons is a niche service providing custom dry transfers, which is a way to apply graphics to just about any item, large or small. "Think old school Chartpak or Letraset," John explains. Their regular customers for these "rub on" graphics are industrial model shops that produce prototypes of new products, which help the prototypes more closely resemble their intended final appearance.

In 2002 John and Christy purchased their first RIP and workflow from Xitron, the Xenith Extreme based on an Adobe core. It served dutifully for a full fourteen years before the Windows NT computer became unsupportable. At that point they made the decision to investigate Xitron's Navigator Workflow, based on the popular and speedy Harlequin RIP platform.

"Xenith was a fast RIP," said John. "But Navigator is incredible! We have to keep four imagesetters cranking out film all day long and Navigator is more than capable of handling that load." Navigator also expanded the number dot shapes available through its screening library, which has been great for CG's screen printing and pad printing customers.

At Camera Graphics, a single Navigator RIP is driving output through four Xitron Raster Blaster TIFF Catchers using the USB "blue box" interface, which connects directly to the imagesetters. Control of the whole system is handled through workflow clients installed on several Macs and PCs throughout the shop. All operators have visibility to job progress, advanced preview functionality, job prioritization, and archive/recovery for repeat work.

"This workflow has exceeded all our expectations," said John, who is quick to recommend the workflow and Xitron to any printer or prepress company. "The customer support has been outstanding and has turned us into loyal users."

XITRON

NAVIGATOR