

# Sakae Sagane, Chairman of Mimaki Europe retires

**Sagane turned Mimaki into a reputable global brand and a major industry player in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.**

Effective from 28 June 2018, Sakae Sagane retired from Mimaki. He also served as Executive Vice President for Mimaki Engineering Company, after leading Mimaki Europe since 2005.

Sagane responsible for the success of Mimaki Europe from a small Mimaki subsidiary to the business unit contributing the highest revenue when compared to other Mimaki subsidiaries. Under his leadership, Mimaki Europe grew its network of dealers and distributors across the region, completed the acquisition of Mimaki-nbn GmbH in 2008 (now Mimaki Deutschland), and established Mimaki Eurasia in Turkey to more specifically address the needs within that region.

In addition, Mimaki Europe positioned itself as a major industry player under his leadership, strengthening its position in signs and display graphics and textiles, while also beginning to establish a foothold in 3D printing market.

The annual turnover for Mimaki Europe was Euro 46 million in 2006, which has increased to Euro 125 million by the end of Mimaki's fiscal year in March 2018, contributing more than 31% of total Mimaki turnover.

"Mimaki Europe has truly prospered under Sagane's leadership, as have our customers," said Yuji Ikeda, Managing Director at Mimaki Europe. "His vision took us from a small regional player to a force to be reckoned with in the markets we serve. This includes several acquisitions and our joint venture with Bompan in Italy that have enabled Mimaki to become a total solutions provider with an end-to-end ecosystem of solutions for the growing digital textile



Sakae Sagane.

printing market. He also helped us successfully navigate through and overcome the difficulties of the European debt crisis. Mimaki Europe started out with only five employees back in 2005 and this number has grown to more than 100 today. We sincerely thank him for his many years of service. He will be missed."

"The time I spent developing Mimaki Europe has been extremely rewarding," Sagane said. "We have an outstanding team that has been a delight to work with, and a cadre of loyal and innovative customers that both pushed us to higher performance levels and rewarded us with their business. It is with mixed emotions that I leave this vibrant and growing business to take on the next phase of my life." ♦

## 20 years of KARL MAYER ROTAL

**Two decades of innovations for the warp preparation business, reason enough to celebrate on 6 July 2018 in Mezzolombardo.**

The first machine, a sizing machine, left the factory in 1970. Then, following a particularly eventful period, the first joint project with KARL MAYER began in 1992. Only six years later KARL MAYER ROTAL was founded, marking the start of an era full of innovations and expansion. By 2017, which was a record year in the company's history, the number of employees had risen from 23 to 103, and the turnover had grown from 2.6 million

to 65 million euros. Today, KARL MAYER ROTAL is the global market leader in sizing machines as well as in the field of indigo dyeing for denim fabrics. This Italian plant is the denim center of excellence of the KARL MAYER Group. There trendsetter solutions for the customers are developed and an own academy and development center will be established by the year 2019.

Considerable investments are made in the research and development of new solutions with premium quality. Besides, the company sets on Italian style, relies on its roots and on its staff. "20 years of innovation that has allowed us to take on a highly competitive market, where research and quality are the key in opening up new business channels

with the help of our talented team. They are the people who have made us a world leader in our industry," said Enzo Paoli, the Managing Director of KARL MAYER ROTAL.

Therefore, as a gesture of gratitude, the company organized a celebration in the assembly hall in Mezzolombardo which was attended by roughly 200 guests. Not only the employees, the management, and the business partners had been invited but also some of the region's most prominent figures including the President of the Autonomous Province of Trento, Dr. Ugo Rossi, the Mayor of Mezzolombardo, Christian Girardi, and Marco Giglioli of Confindustria Trento, the Employer's Association of the Province of Trento, who came to celebrate this event. ♦

