

2005 Award Winner

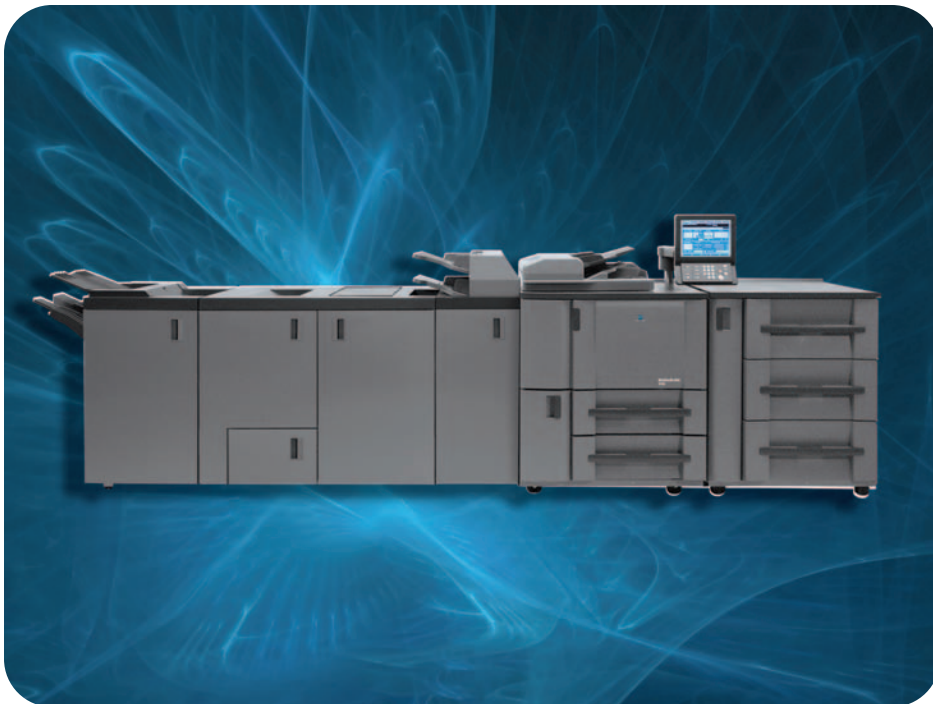


10th Annual Awards

Best Mid-Volume 100 to 120 ppm Production Device

Konica Minolta

bizhub PRO 1050



BERTL has awarded the 2005 BERTL's Best Award for the Best Mid-Volume 100 to 120 ppm to the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 1050 for its reliability, unique market positioning, and finishing versatility.

The Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 1050 is positioned between heavy metal, production printer devices and higher-

end copier office-style MFP devices that strive to achieve back office status. The feature set and build of this device are impressive, and the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 1050 easily earns its back-office credentials: maximum monthly volume rating of up to 1.5 million impressions, print engine built with sturdy metal component parts, versatile finishing options, and 105 ppm throughput. The Konica

Minolta bizhub PRO 1050 is therefore ideally suited for long runs in both high-volume enterprise or print-for-pay environments.

Behind the raw specs, there are impressive value-adds that separate the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 1050 from revved up 85 ppm printers. Ultrasound sensors in each of its five universal trays detect paper mis-feeds. Air blowers allow for heavier stock to be used, up to 140 lb. Index stock (170 lb. Index in tray 4) and, more importantly also allows the device to feed coated paper stocks, a vital aspect of the workflow of many printshops, and a feature that many competitors cannot match. Under the hood, a built-for-business Pentium III 933MHz controller with 256 MB RAM runs the show, directed by VxWorks, an industry leading real-time operating system. The controller supports Adobe PS3, direct PDF, direct TIFF, PCL6, and IPDS. And its networking capabilities allow for a full range of scanning features: scan-to-SMB, scan-to-email, scan-to-hard drive, and scan-to-FTP.

Improvements to Konica Minolta's Simitri Polymerized toner is another area in which the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 1050 will please the back office buyer. Its newly reformulated

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Simitri toner produces more consistent output, improves dot and line reproduction, and delivers better halftone definition and solid fills than some competitors.

For operators, a large LCD screen displays a powerful multi-tabbed interface, allowing them to quickly view thumbnail files, adjust paper configuration, access stored documents within the print on demand function, and access scan-to features. In addition, a graphical representation of the bizhub PRO 1050 displays selected input and output tray information.

The Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 1050 also excels with its finishing options. Its FS-503 multi-stapling finisher offers an eight-position stapler with 100-sheet capacity. Advanced folding is possible with the FD-501 Folding Unit.

The FD-501's post inserter gives the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 1050 even more processing possibilities. The Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 1050 can be used in complex job flow scenarios in which color covers can be incorporated into the bizhub PRO 1050's print stream. Finally, this heavy-duty inserter can be used to handle the off-line finishing of another printer (thus keeping that printer operating at its rated speed). It also offers hole punching, a post-process cover inserter, and six-position folding (booklet, gate, letter fold in, letter fold out, double-parallel, and z-fold).

The SD-501 booklet maker unit can fold up to 50 sheets (for 200-page booklets) at near-rated speeds, providing a wider range of finishing options than any



Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 1050: Built to survive the rigors of production.

competing device in its price sector.

Two optional 5,000-sheet large capacity stackers (with dollies) can be configured for unattended operation, improving productivity in environments that prefer offline finishing.

Building on this powerful architecture, the bizhub PRO 1050 leverages Konica Minolta's rich software tools for network scanning and document management. The bizhub PRO 1050 is bundled with PageScope utilities: PageScope Direct Print, PageScope Job Proofer, and PageScope Job Spooler. PageScope NetworkSetup, PageScope NetCare, and PageScope Direct Print, which lets users print PDF and TIFF files through a convenient drag-and-drop hot folder. And, PageScope Job Spooler lets desktop users monitor active job status in the print queue, change the order of jobs and view jobs stored in the hard drive.

Additional PageScope software is available as an option and includes PageScope Cabinet Pro software for desktop document management functions and PageScope Router which offers more advanced scanning capabilities.

The Konica Minolta bizhub PRO 1050 is uniquely positioned as both a back-office corporate printer/copier/MFP as well as a commercial-class printer. It offers reliability, finishing versatility, and integrates with Konica-Minolta's rich suite of networking software.

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Spotlight On Konica Minolta

Konica Minolta was formed with the merger of two leading imaging companies, Konica and Minolta, in 2003. Both companies brought impressive credentials to the merger.

Konica introduced its first roll of black and white film in 1929. The company entered the business machines market in 1971 with the introduction of the U-BIX 480, Japan's first photostatic plain-paper copier. Konica went on to develop and market a full range of digital printers, copiers, fax, and multifunctional products, as well as application software solutions designed to

meet the demands of a busy office environment.

Konica's ECOJET system, which utilizes dry tablet from chemicals for photoprocessing, was introduced in 1994 and put into wide distribution the following year.

Kazuo Tashima established Minolta as a camera manufacturer in November 1928. The company joined the business equipment industry in 1960 with the development of its first photocopier.

Minolta launched the first color copier able to produce two color copies in a single process in 1987. The machine

was called the EP490Z. In 2000, Minolta announced a research and development partnership with Konica to work jointly on numerous different product development fronts. The following year, Minolta established a venture with Fujitsu Ltd., intended to help the development of color laser printers.

Konica and former rival Minolta merged in a partnership spanning research and development as well as manufacturing and marketing. Prior to merging, the two companies had also formed a joint venture with the goal of creating a new, state-of-the-art toner manufacturing plant.

BERTL's Best

Recognizing the Best in Digital Imaging Technology and Innovation

For the 10th consecutive year, BERTL, Inc. presents BERTL's Best: the best devices and software in the digital imaging marketplace.

BERTL's Best award winners are selected after rigorous analysis of the hundreds of digital imaging devices, software, and management utilities in the world-wide marketplace.

BERTL's analysts review current product lines and new product introductions to identify the select group of devices and software that stand apart from the others.

BERTL's Best covers the entire digital imaging and document management arena:

- Executive Office MFPs
- General Office Monochrome MFPs
- Back Office Production Devices
- Wide Format Devices
- Digital Duplicators
- General Office Color MFPs
- Back Office Production Color Devices
- Document Scanners
- Software and Utilities

Plus, BERTL's Best recognizes products for cost-efficiency and innovation.

While print or copy speeds are important, it is the feature set, functionality, performance, and overall business process value that are the key considerations in judging which product is "BERTL's Best." The important question: "How well does this product work in a real-world business setting?"

BERTL combines its wide-ranging knowledge of the competitive landscape and contact with buyers about their product and supplier experiences to identify worthy products. BERTL analyzes network management utilities, concurrency and contention, print and copy productivity, image quality, return on investment, competitive advantage, accessibility, design and build quality, standard functions, modularity of design and upgrade path, installation, and more.

BERTL is 100 percent independent. It receives no funding from the industry and all product evaluations and reports are published at BERTL's own expense for its subscribers.

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