

# 2005 Award Winner



10<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards

*Best Mid-Volume Color CRD/Commercial MFP*

# Konica Minolta

## bizhub PRO C500



**It should be no surprise that the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO C500 is a BERTL Best award winner as it still commands a niche position in the production color marketplace that competitors are striving to match. The bizhub PRO C500 is packed with a high number of productivity-enhancing features, extensive finishing options,**

**good image quality, and document production capabilities.**

The Konica Minolta bizhub PRO C500 is Konica Minolta's second generation 50 ppm production color device, the device which rocked the production color market when it first appeared in late 2003. The second generation bizhub PRO C500 sports a selection of improvements including a superior

color gamut and wider range of substrates. The new formulation of Simitri, Konica Minolta's special polymerized toner, allows for a lower fusing temperature. This permits a wider color gamut to be rendered and provides for a greater range of substrates, particularly matte and glossy paper. The result: the bizhub PRO C500 offers sharper text, better halftone clarity, and more precise image stability.

To accommodate the newer paper stock, Konica Minolta has upgraded the finishers for the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO C500. The FS-513 Staple Finisher offers multi-position staple, sort and group functionality, and the ability to add the two- and three-hole punch and post-sheet insertion. The FS-606 Booklet Finisher also offers multi-position stapling and optional 2-or 3-hole punch, along with the ability to tri-fold and saddle-stitch. A trimming unit can also be added to the Booklet Finisher to prevent image creep.

The specifications for the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO C500 clearly say CRD: a rated monthly page volume of 150,000 pages, 4,250 sheet paper capacity, up 110 lb. Index in any tray (140 lb. in bypass and external large capacity tray), and toner yields of

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## **Konica Minolta bizhub PRO C500 equipped with extensive on-line finishing capabilities.**

20,000 pages for color and 30,000 pages for black.

Under the hood, the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO C500 is powered by EFI's IP-921 Embedded Fiery Image Controller or the external IP-901 Fiery Image Controller. The IP-921 boasts Intel Pentium III 850MHz processor, 256MB of RAM, and a 40GB hard drive; the Fiery IP-901 has a faster 2GHz processor, 512MB of RAM standard, and a 60GB hard drive. Built-in Fiery ColorWise color management utilities are included.

For advanced production and graphics needs, Fiery DocBuilder Pro 1.5 and Fiery Graphic Arts software options are also available for both the IP-921 and IP-901 Image Controllers. To take full advantage of the new C500's enhanced toner formulation, Konica Minolta has developed new color profiles for these image controllers.

The EFI controllers also support FieryRemote Scan, which allows the user to scan a document then, send the scan to various locations in a single operation. For example, users can send to the HDD, an email, FTP, or the Fiery hold queue simultaneously.

Besides the Fiery software utilities, the bizhub PRO C500 also supports Konica Minolta's own PageScope software such as PageScope Cabinet Pro, and PageScope Router. PageScope Cabinet Pro is personal document management software that comes bundled with the network option. With PageScope Cabinet Pro desktop users can direct scans from the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO C500 into a specified FTP folder for sharing, archiving, or further manipulation. The software also supports image processing functions (deskewing, remove color of paper, and graphic format translation), OCR, document search-

ing, annotation, and library functions (grouping). PageScope Router empowers users to scan and distribute document to multiple network addresses (email, PC, and FTP). To help administrators manage network scanning addresses, PageScope Router supports LDAP. Administrators also have access to complete document routing logs.

In summary, the Konica Minolta bizhub PRO C500 is a high-volume departmental and mid-volume central production color resource that includes increased reliability, greater versatility, lower operating costs and higher image quality over its predecessor model(s), much to the dismay of competitors, looking to catch up of this trend-setting product line.

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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

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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
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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.

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