

Project collaboration delivers higher value to customers thanks to HP Designjet ePrint & Share¹ and latest HP Designjet ePrinters



At a glance

Industry: Architecture, Engineering & GIS

Business name: SSH

Headquarters: Kuwait City, Kuwait

Website: sshic.com



Business name: Cloud 9

Headquarters: Barcelona, Spain

Website: e-cloud9.com



Challenge

- Design collaboration is hindered by having to manage logistics of different applications that risks loss of information.
- Emailing multiple drawings with large attachments is unreliable and may be limited by servers when exchanging complex drawings.
- FTP is time-consuming with upload and download times, plus resource intensive management of large files.
- Shipping documents by courier is an unrealistic solution for on-going collaboration due to costs and shipment delay.

Solution

- HP Designjet ePrint & Share¹ offers sharing and printing of drawings in platform-independent formats without opening applications.
- HP Designjet T920 ePrinter at SSH: newly designed, web-connected ePrinter with breakthrough usability.
- HP Designjet T1500 ePrinter at Cloud 9: newly designed, two-roll, web-connected ePrinter for demanding teams.
- HP Coated Paper for CAD drawings and HP Super Heavyweight Plus Matte Paper for high-quality renditions.

Results

- Architects and engineers focus on project design and have removed complex and time-consuming logistics.
- Risk of information loss is eliminated by application independent file sharing and printing.
- Preview and real time printing of drawings to a web-connected HP Designjet ePrinter from virtually anywhere.¹
- Output stacking tray saves time by organising printed drawings and safeguarding prints from loss or damage.
- Simplified and quicker front roll loading without having to move the printer and dual rolls offer two choices of paper without having to switch rolls.
- Print productivity increased by 50 per cent compared to the HP Designjet 500 Printer, to reduce design workshop duration by a quarter and eliminate outsourcing needs.

“HP Designjet ePrint & Share¹ together with the HP Designjet T920 ePrinter bring design to the forefront of our collaboration – managing the processes and logistics while geographical location loses all relevance.”

– Muhannad EL Midani,
project manager at SSH



SSH specialises in the delivery of construction projects in the Middle East and North Africa. With 540 employees, it is one of the largest consultancy firms in Kuwait and offers a full range of architecture, engineering and infrastructure design and construction supervision services.

Cloud 9 is an international architectural practice specialising in sustainable building design. Based in Barcelona with up to 35 staff, Cloud 9 created the Media-TIC building, recognised as the best building of 2011, the best office building by the World Architecture Festival Awards and one of the few examples that bring nature's adaptive, productive qualities into building design.

SSH turned to Cloud 9 for its expertise in sustainable design for the Markaz Residential Development project in Kuwait, a 24-story building, 100 meter-high development of 19,500 m².

“We believe that collaboration with leading designers from around the world allows us to raise the standards of quality and value of projects for our customers,” Muhannad EL Midani, project manager at SSH explains. Enric Ruiz-Geli, founder of Cloud 9, agrees. “Different cultures and experiences combined produce better projects by sharing their knowledge. Building is what brings us together.”

SSH and Cloud 9 have started testing the newly designed, web-connected HP Designjet T920 ePrinter and HP Designjet T1500 ePrinter respectively, and use the HP Designjet ePrint & Share¹ free web service to access, view, share and print their projects from virtually anywhere.¹

Design at the forefront of seamless project collaboration

“In the past, although collaboration with designers across the globe was facilitated with the arrival of the internet and email, we were still limited by the different applications used, the different processes adopted, as well as managing the logistics of emailing multiple drawings with large attachments, or shipping documents by courier. Now HP Designjet ePrint & Share¹ brings design to the forefront of our collaboration – managing the processes and logistics while geographical location loses all relevance,” explains Muhannad.

“As the project manager, I travel a lot. I can stay up to date using the cloud. With HP Designjet ePrint & Share¹ and the HP Designjet T920 ePrinter, I can use the ePrint & Share¹ app or my AutoCAD[®] WS app to preview the file on my mobile and then print it on my HP Designjet T920 ePrinter at the office, from virtually anywhere¹ in the world.”

Albert Cuesta, project manager at Cloud 9, highlights how he benefits from the Online Print History feature of HP Designjet ePrint & Share¹, avoiding the complexity and risk of manual processes to manage sharing information that is application-dependent. He describes his printing workflow: “There is a real risk of losing information when you are using different applications and even different versions. I use HP Designjet ePrint & Share¹ to print files, especially large files, from our FTP server instead of downloading them. You can check the preview and print them as a PDF or a JPEG without even opening an application. I can share copies of the files in my Online Print History and be certain that SSH will receive what I previewed.”

¹ Requires an HP Designjet ePrint & Share account, Internet connection to the printer, and connected Internet-capable device. When using the HP Designjet ePrint & Share mobile app, a compatible Apple[®] iOS or Android[™] device and Internet connection are required. Data or connection charges may apply. Print times may vary. For more information visit hp.com/go/eprintshare

At press time (June 2013), SSH and Cloud 9 served as a beta test site for HP Designjet ePrinters and HP Designjet ePrint & Share.

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Saving project time

“Paper, the printed drawing, is the first tangible step in the construction process for an architect. I can be at one of the bi-monthly design workshops with SSH in Kuwait and changes that are made to my drawing in Barcelona can be sent directly to print, in real time, on SSH's HP Designjet T920 ePrinter in Kuwait. This speeds up decision-making,” says Enric Ruiz-Geli.

Thanks to the faster workflow achieved using HP Designjet ePrint & Share¹, design workshops between SSH and Cloud 9 are much more productive than before, bringing important time savings for both companies.

Osama Rashidi, system administrator at SSH, explains the benefit of higher print speed and processing capacity. “It is much faster than our previous non-HP printers. Jobs move quickly through the queue and the file size has little impact on the printing time. It's got more memory – I would say it's twice as fast.” Albert also highlights the speed of their HP Designjet T1500 ePrinter compared to their HP Designjet 500 Printer. “The printer produces A0 drawings at superfast speeds, at least 40 per cent faster than our previous printer.”

Newly designed HP ePrinters double productivity to save hours

Osama describes how their HP Designjet T920 ePrinter also delivers productivity. “We print 50 to 70 rolls of paper a month, which rises up to 200 when we have a submission, so usability and efficient performance have a significant impact on our productivity. The output stacking tray really saves a lot of time, ordering print jobs correctly. There's no annoying, time-consuming search for your A0 prints in a pile of other prints,” he states.

SSH loads up to 10 rolls of paper a day during peak printing periods. “Front roll-loading really simplifies roll changes and reduces interruptions because we don't have to move the printer when we change a roll,” Osama explains.

Cloud 9's HP Designjet T1500 ePrinter has two rolls. “With two roll capacity we can load two different types of paper in the printer at the same time to print CAD drawings on HP Coated Paper and high image-quality presentation posters on HP Super Heavyweight Plus Matte Paper, without having to stop to change paper,” Albert says. “Jobs can be controlled on the printers' touchscreens and the newly-designed flat, transparent cover offers a visual check of printouts. If you decide you need an extra copy and the print is OK, you can quickly reprint it from the printer's touchscreen.”

Albert believes that the HP Designjet T1500 ePrinter is a significant step forward compared to their HP Designjet 500 Printer. “With 50 per cent more productivity from our new HP ePrinter, we manage our submission deadlines without costly outsourcing, allowing Cloud 9 to design up to the last minute.”

The collaborative partnership between SSH and Cloud 9 has become stronger in the short time they have been sharing and printing drawings through the cloud using HP Designjet ePrint & Share¹ and their HP Designjet ePrinters. “We exchange projects and share our knowledge. It's a new economy. HP is helping to make our relationships real, whether they are across town or on the other side of the world. HP is a key innovator in printing,” Enric concludes.

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