CONCLUSION

In the preceding pages, we've provided a wide variety of information as relates to CTP equipment. While this brings us to the end of this white paper, in actuality this paper will never be "complete". The printing industry is a dynamic industry which experiences constant innovation and evolution. This paper will undoubtably require further updates as manufacturers introduce new product lines and as technology advances. BWI monitors trends and new product introductions, and will continue to update this paper as significant events occur.

There is an emergence of a trend in the industry to build upon the opportunities made possible by very large format (VLF) models of platesetters to efficiently produce VLF plates. Press manufacturers are recognizing opportunities for dramatically increasing productivity of their customers by supplying the presses to accommodate up to 80" wide plates. Increased print area dramatically increases profitability as a result of most all costs remaining constant except consumables and capital cost. With the elimination of film and the plate burning process coupled with automatic on press plate changing, the large press appears to be the next major advance in productivity and efficiency for the printing industry.

The large format press not only allows for the printing of multiple signatures at once, but it opens markets such as large posters, labels and carton printing that the 40" press either cannot produce or cannot compete when faced with the productivity increase afforded by the large format press.

Furthermore, we have not included CTPP (computer to polyester plate) equipment in this edition, but intend to do so in the future versions. The polyester plate market is an important segment of the industry, and this technology is very appealing to many customers, especially those with smaller shops and in the quick-print market.

While there is no question that CTP offers considerable benefits, including increased efficiency, more productivity, and better quality, it can be a very confusing subject. There is a wealth of information available on this technology, however some of it is contradictory, or, depending upon the author, it is biased in favor of a particular manufacturer or product type. In this paper, we have attempted to distill our collective knowledge about this technology in a clear and unbiased format. We sincerely hope that the information contained herein will be useful to you in making an informed choice when considering a computer to plate system. As stated in the introduction, we welcome any corrections, suggestions, or additional information readers may have.