Best Workgroup Occasional Color Range

Toshiba
e-STUDIO281c/351c/451c

BERTL has named the Toshiba e-STUDIO281c/351c/451c "BERTL'S Best" in 2005 in the category of Best Workgroup Occasional Color Range. This versatile line stands out with its combination of easy-to-use functional templates and a well-designed interface, complemented by flexible paper sourcing and finishing options.

While office color may be in vogue and increasing in its presence in the general office every year monochrome output will still be the de-facto printing requirement in the office for years to come. Monochrome output brings with it lower running costs and reduced network bandwidth strain compared to its more glamorous color alternative. While few dispute the potential advantage of color printing in terms of increased legibility and information retention, improved professional image, etc., the increased cost implications and the additional risk of increased personal printing of family photos etc., is holding back some buyers. In the meantime, high-speed monochrome printing and copying is here to stay, with color playing an ancillary role, being restricted to certain trusted staff members.

The Toshiba range of occasional color devices, with their four-pass drum technology, fit this need well with high-speed monochrome output, long-life monochrome supplies compared to many higher speed single pass office color alternatives, (resulting in lower monochrome running costs and less service engineer visits) and lower-speed color capability available for occasional use.

Feature sets and technologies — including such leading-edge features as Wi-Fi and Bluetooth options — implemented in this range extend beyond those on some competitors.

A well-implemented, easy-to-use, functional template system on the control panel enables users to easily program their own commonly used settings and functions and repeatedly access these settings as needed. For

example, one user may regularly scan at a certain resolution and send those scans to a particular set of e-mail addresses. Another user may copy using specific image quality settings and produce hardcopy sets with certain finishing options.

Other features that, in combination, help set the Toshiba Workgroup Color MFPs apart from the crowd include easy integration with third-party software and hardware, next-generation e-BRIDGE single-board architecture, very good resolution, and numerous security features that are becoming especially important considering new legislation. A new alliance with e-COPY makes it even easier to implement the company's ScanStation hardware/software solution which extends the capability of digital copiers and scanners to bridge paper and digital workflows.

One of the engineering highlights within the range is the single-board e-BRIDGE system controller. While single-board designs are known to improve serviceability and reliability, Toshiba's latest e-BRIDGE single-board technology uses a fast PowerPC Processor and capable system buses to process jobs more quickly. A single e-BRIDGE board handles copy, print, scan, fax, networking (Ethernet 10/100), and other functions. While some manufacturers offer single-board control with a copier-to-MFP upgrade path, Toshiba from the start has built full MFP functionality into this range.

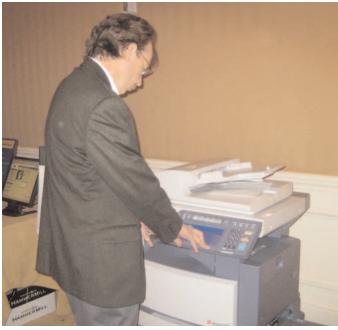Instead of adding function boards, as is done by some competitors,

copy/print/scan functionality is built right into the e-BRIDGE controller. Another important draw in this market is Toshiba's e-Filing system that works with an internal hard drive to create a relatively powerful way or organizing and storing documents within the system — either via the system's control panel interface or Toshiba's web-based desktop utility.

Documents are organized in the e-Filing system using a series of storage 'boxes.' One public box can be accessed by everyone who uses the machine. In addition to this shared box, up to 200 private, password-protected boxes can be setup.One level deeper, each private box can be divided into 100 folders, each containing a maximum of 400 documents (each of up to 200 pages). Additional features further enhance e-Filing functionality, including print to box, received fax to box, scan to box, and TWAIN capability from a connected PC.

Other system software functions include scan to e-mail, scan to file, scan to FTP, scan to Internet fax, and scan to network fax.

Paper handling is more than capable through the line, with all models offer-

BERTL analyst taking a look at the new Toshiba occasional color MFP

ing high-capacity trays and a standard bypass unit. Devices handle typical media weights and types. Finishing options for models in this range include, for example, single-position and multi-position stapling as well as 2- and 4-hole punching capabilities.

Models in the Toshiba Color MFP line offer low-cost monochrome combined with formidable full-color capabilities (in many cases eliminating the need to outsource color jobs down to the company CRD or an outside agency), impressive software and scanning functionality, and fairly unique wireless options for walk-up printing from laptops and PDAs, all at a reasonable price from a highly respected manufacturer.

Spotlight On Toshiba

Toshiba's earliest history is rooted in two companies. In 1875, Tanaka Engineering Works was founded by Hisashige Tanaka, a well-known inventor who had previously built mechanical dolls and a perpetual clock. Under the company name Shibaura Engineering Works, Mr. Tanaka's company became one of Japan's largest manufacturers of heavy electrical apparatus.

Meanwhile, Hakunetsu-sha & Co., Ltd., was established as the first Japanese plant manufacturing electric incandescent lamps. In 1899, the company was renamed Tokyo Electric Co. and had diversified into a manufacturer of consumer products. In 1939, Shibaura Engineering Works and Tokyo Electric Co. merged and the name "Toshiba" was created as a blend of both company's names.

Today Toshiba is one of the world's largest integrated manufacturers of electric and electronic equipment, employing over 170,000 people worldwide. The company currently has 364 consolidated subsidiaries worldwide.

One of Toshiba's most notable accomplishments was achieved in 2000, when Toshiba became the first manufacturer to win all five BTA Channel Choice Awards.

The company is involved in more than 500 major technologies, specializing in information and communication equipment and systems, electronic components and materials, and power systems, industrial equipment and consumer products.

Toshiba's commitment to quality is reflected in its corporate mission statement: "We, the Toshiba Group Companies, based on our total commitment to people and to the future, are determined to create a higher quality of life for all people, and do our part to help ensure that progress continues within the world community."

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