



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hybrid Software Receives Two 2026 Pinnacle Awards For Technology

PRINTING United Alliance honors industry-first innovations for Mako Core with Apex and PACKZ Max

(Cambridge, UK, June 25, 2026) Hybrid Software has received two 2026 Pinnacle Awards for Technology from PRINTING United Alliance for Mako Core with Apex and PACKZ Max. The award-winning products introduce two industry firsts: the first fully GPU-native renderer for print workflows and the first PDF editor with an integrated raster image processor (RIP). The Pinnacle Award for Technology honors products that advance the printing industry through innovation, improved functionality, and measurable production benefits.

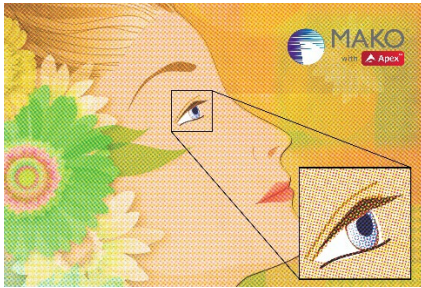
Mako Core with Apex, developed by Hybrid Software Helix, is the first software development kit for print workflows to incorporate a fully GPU-native renderer. Unlike conventional architectures that use GPUs only for selected acceleration tasks, Apex executes the entire rendering pipeline on the graphics processor and delivers rendering performance up to 30 times faster than traditional CPU-based approaches. It also enables post-processing functions, including halftone screening, to be performed directly on the GPU, reducing bottlenecks and providing a highly scalable platform for complex, high-resolution, and variable-data print workflows.

PACKZ Max, from Hybrid Software's labels and packaging business, is the first PDF editor with an integrated RIP. It combines PDF editing and the Harlequin RIP® from Hybrid Software Helix in a single application, enabling prepress operators to edit, preview, screen, and output files within one environment. Users can see exactly how a job will image before it reaches the platesetter, bringing tasks that traditionally require separate editing and RIP applications into a single workflow.

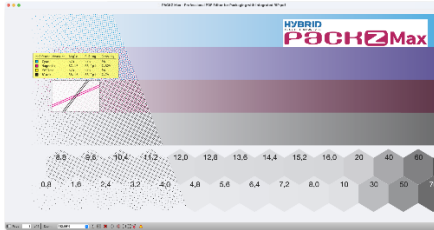
"These awards highlight innovation across Hybrid Software," said Mike Rottenborn, CEO of Hybrid Software. "Mako Core with Apex and PACKZ Max demonstrate how we continue to challenge established approaches to print production. We are honored that PRINTING United Alliance has recognized the impact these products are having across the industry."

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Images:



Caption: Mako Core with Apex is the first software development kit for print workflows to incorporate a fully GPU-native renderer, delivering rendering performance up to 30 times faster.



Caption: PACKZ Max combines PDF editing and the Harlequin RIP® in a single application, enabling prepress operators to edit, preview, screen, and output files within one environment.

About Mako Core with Apex

Mako Core with Apex is a software development kit (SDK) for OEMs, print providers, and software developers building print workflows and output systems. It provides libraries for processing, rendering, editing, and transforming page description languages including PDF, PCL, and PostScript. For more information visit: <https://hybridhelix.com/products/mako/>

About PACKZ Max

PACKZ Max is the first all-in-one prepress system that enables all imaging operations to be managed within one fully unified environment, made possible by the seamless integration of a complete Harlequin RIP directly within a PDF prepress editor. Prepress operators can edit artwork, add screens (conventional and stochastic), and output fully RIPped, ready-to-make plates, in one app. Designed particularly for flexo, but also offset, prepress departments and trade shops, PACKZ Max enables precise and superior screening quality and seamless 1-bit TIFF output, ensuring sharp details, smooth gradients, and consistent color. For more information visit: <https://hybridsoftware.com/products/packz/features/#integrated-rip>

About Hybrid Software

Headquartered in Cambridge, UK, Hybrid Software Group brings together a portfolio of innovative brands that cover every stage of the print production workflow — from design and prepress to high-speed data delivery to the press electronics. Its businesses include [ColorLogic](#), experts in color management technology; software development and consultancy firm, [Conics](#); [Hybrid Software Brandz](#), developers of artwork management, 3D design and modeling software; [Hybrid Software](#), a provider of enterprise workflow and integration solutions for labels and packaging; [Hybrid Software Helix](#) (formerly Global Graphics Software), pioneers in RIP, screening, and print pipeline technologies; [Meteor Inkjet](#), specialists in industrial printhead drive electronics, software and tools; and [Xitron](#), a leader in offset and digital printing workflow solutions. Together, the Group's technologies power the world's most advanced printing solutions, serving customers that include major press manufacturers such as HP, Canon, Durst, Roland, and Hymmen, as well as hundreds of packaging printers, trade shops, and converters around the globe. (Euronext: [HYSG](#))

The Harlequin RIP, Mako Core, and Apex are trademarks of Hybrid Software Helix.

For more information visit: www.hybridsoftware.com

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