Ahearn & Soper Inc
ProVision Solutions

Canon
AUTHORIZED DEALER

WHITEPAPER · CANON LG-P800

The on-demand colour label.

Rethinking industrial labelling in Canada, for manufacturing and logistics teams.



FOR
Operations, quality and packaging leaders

FROM
Ahearn & Soper Inc and Canon Canada

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The label supply model was built for a world that is gone.

Canadian operations leaders in manufacturing and logistics are running into the same wall. Their label supply model was built for long product cycles and static SKUs, and that world is gone.

Faster product cycles, rising SKU counts and growing customer demands for accuracy and traceability are exposing the two paths most plants rely on, pre-printed inventory and outsourced colour, as more expensive than either looks on paper.

This paper sets out where that hidden cost comes from, what changed in the market, and an on-demand alternative: full colour, pigment-based labels printed in-house, when the line needs them. In Canada, that alternative is the Canon LG-P800, installed and supported by Ahearn & Soper, with 50 years of labelling expertise.

AT A GLANCE

- Pre-printed stock and outsourced colour both carry costs that never show up as a labelling line item.
- Private label growth, SKU growth and traceability all add variable data that pre-printed stock cannot carry.
- A typical outsourced reprint takes 5 to 10 business days. On demand, the same change prints in the same shift.
- The Canon LG-P800 prints durable colour labels in-house, 2 to 8.5 in wide, at up to 1200 x 1200 dpi.

5 to 10

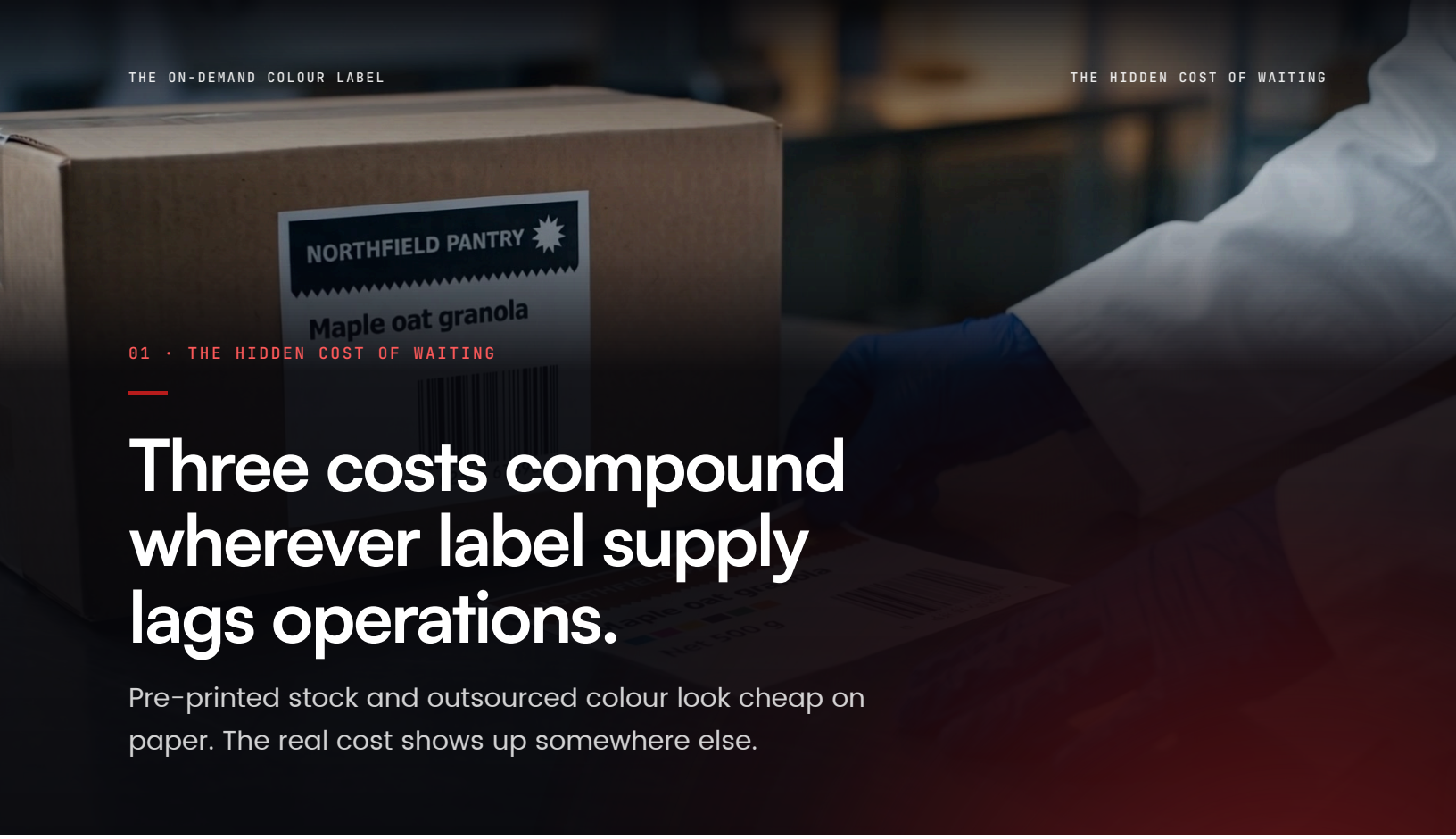
BUSINESS DAYS, TYPICAL OUTSOURCED REPRINT

1200 x 1200

DPI, MAXIMUM PRINT RESOLUTION

2 to 8.5 in

MEDIA WIDTH, EDGE TO EDGE



01 · THE HIDDEN COST OF WAITING

Three costs compound wherever label supply lags operations.

Pre-printed stock and outsourced colour look cheap on paper. The real cost shows up somewhere else.

01

Inventory obsolescence

Pre-printed label stock is a bet that packaging stays the same. Every SKU change, private label customer, flavour variant or new lot code that arrives before the stock runs out turns it into waste: boxes of labels that fit nothing on the line today.

02

Vendor lead time

Outsourced colour solves flexibility but brings back a different problem: a typical reprint cycle of 5 to 10 business days. For a quality manager tracking labels across dozens of SKUs in two languages, a ten day wait means ten days shipping the old label, or ten days not shipping at all.

03

Labelling accuracy exposure

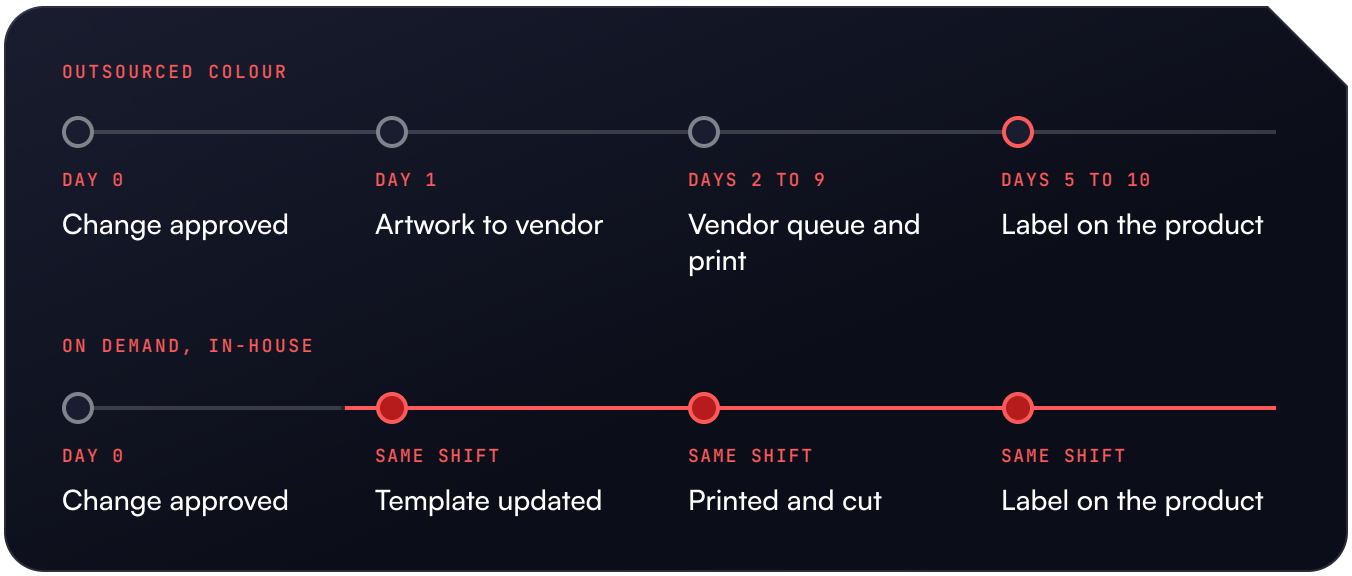
The gap between “the change was approved” and “the correct label is on the product” is where risk lives. A vendor’s queue does not know a specification changed on Tuesday. The plant does. Every pallet shipped with an outdated label is rework, a chargeback or an audit finding waiting to happen.

> None of these costs appears as a line item called labelling. They appear as write-offs, expedited freight, missed ship dates and audit findings, which is why the trade-off has lasted as long as it has.

01 · THE HIDDEN COST OF WAITING

One SKU change, two timelines

Figure 1. One SKU change: a 5 to 10 business day queue, or a fix in the same shift.



SOURCE: AHEARN & SOPER. ILLUSTRATIVE TIMING BASED ON A TYPICAL OUTSOURCED REPRINT CYCLE.



02 · WHY NOW

Three forces are converging on Canadian operations at once.

Accuracy, product cycles and traceability are all moving in the same direction.

01

Accuracy expectations are rising

Customers, retail partners and auditors expect labels to match the current product and packaging, which leaves less room to ship with an outdated label “for now.”

02

Product cycles are compressing

Private label growth, ecommerce SKU growth and shorter promotional windows mean the packaging that was current last quarter often is not current this quarter.

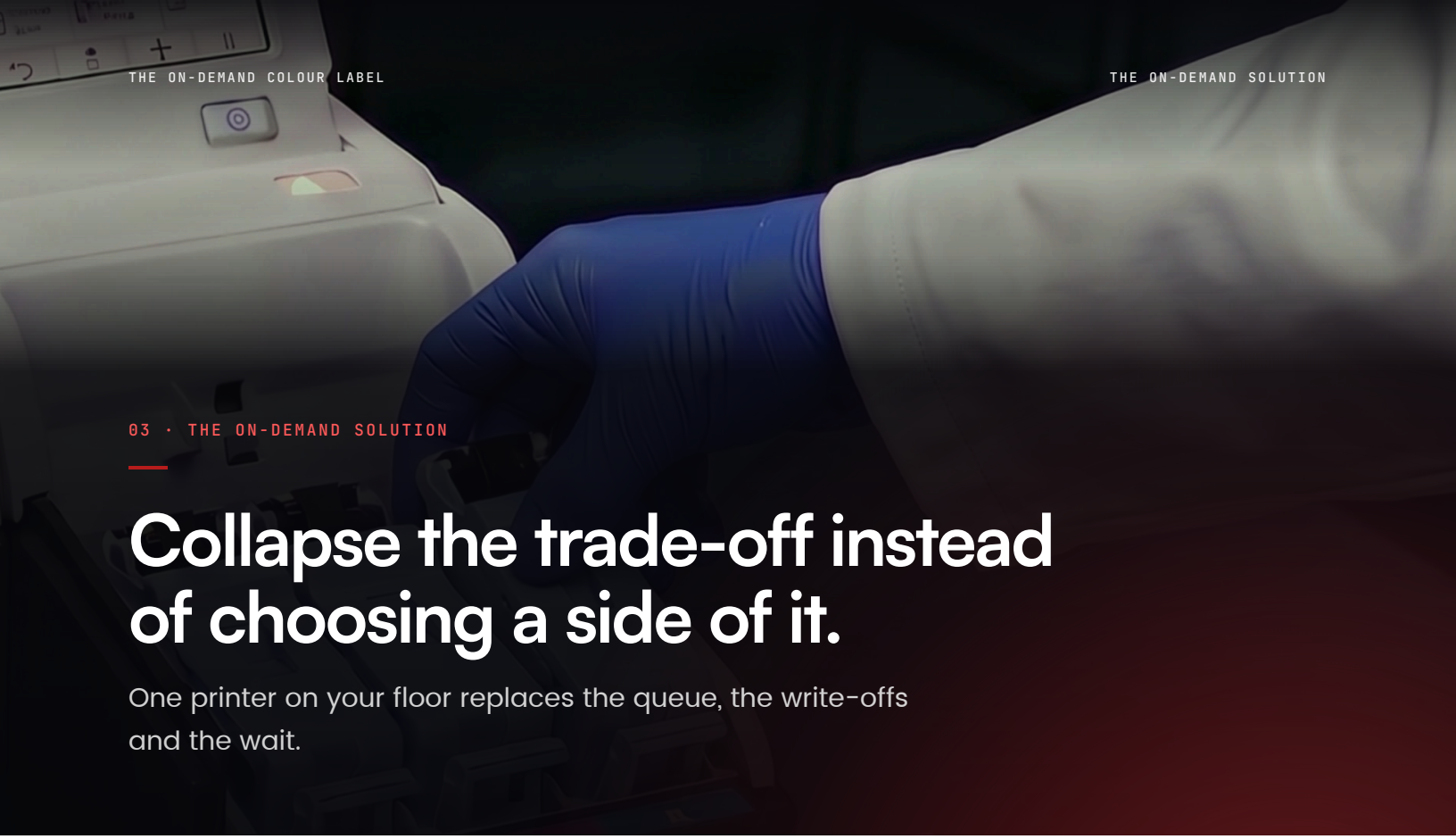
03

Supply chains reward visibility

Traceability, QR-linked lot data and customer specific labels are becoming standard asks. Each one is variable data that pre-printed stock cannot carry.



Together, these forces raise the cost of the old trade-off a little more every quarter it persists.



03 · THE ON-DEMAND SOLUTION

Collapse the trade-off instead of choosing a side of it.

One printer on your floor replaces the queue, the write-offs and the wait.

An 8 inch, full colour, pigment-based label printer gives you durable, accurate colour labels when and where you need them, without inventory risk or vendor lead time.



01 · LOAD

Roll or fanfold media, 2 to 8.5 in wide, matte or gloss.



02 · PRINT

Up to 1200 x 1200 dpi, pigment inks, edge to edge.



03 · CUT

The auto cutter separates labels as they print.



04 · REPRINT

Stored jobs from the 4.3 in touch panel, no PC needed.

03 · THE ON-DEMAND SOLUTION

Built for the floor, sized for the bench.



1200 x 1200
DPI, UP TO

500 GB
HDD FOR STORED JOBS

4.3 in
TOUCH PANEL



SUB-INK TANK SYSTEM

Swap ink without stopping the line.

The Sub-Ink Tank System lets you replace an empty tank while the printer keeps running, so a consumable change never stops the job.

RESOLUTION	Up to 1200 x 1200 dpi
MEDIA	Roll or fanfold; matte, gloss, film, synthetic
INTERFACE	USB 2.0, Ethernet
MEDIA WIDTH	2 to 8.5 in, edge to edge
STORAGE	500 GB HDD for stored jobs
RATED LIFE	2.3 million sheets or 5 years

RESULTS VARY BY MEDIA. SPECIFICATIONS FROM CANON.

04 · TWO OPERATIONS, ONE PRINTER

The same printer, two very different floors.

Manufacturing and logistics teams use the same printer for very different jobs.



MANUFACTURING

High mix, short run product labels

Variable data, barcodes and QR-linked traceability print on demand as SKUs, private label customers and lot codes change. Pre-printed stock that goes obsolete every quarter stops being a planning problem.



LOGISTICS

Shipping and routing labels

Full bleed labels, colour coded by zone, print at the pace of a pick, pack and ship operation. A low ink tank mid-shift does not stop the line: it is swapped while the job keeps printing.

VARIABLE DATA

Every field can change from one label to the next.

Data can come from your label design software or a CSV file.

- Lot codes and best before dates
- Barcodes per SKU or customer
- Private label artwork
- QR codes linked to lot data
- English and French on one label
- Zone colours for routing

05 · COMPARING THE THREE MODELS

Pre-printed, outsourced or on demand.

Figure 2. Only on demand removes the lead time, the write-offs and the line stop.

	PRE-PRINTED INVENTORY	OUTSOURCED COLOUR	ON DEMAND (LG-P800)
Lead time on a change	None once printed, but a new SKU means a new order	5 to 10 business days, typical	**Same shift**
Inventory risk	High: obsolete stock on every SKU change	None	**None**
Cost pattern	Low per label, high in write-offs	High per label	**Moderate, no write-offs**
Label accuracy	Only as current as the last print run	Only as current as the last reprint cycle	**Always current**
Variable data (QR, lot, language)	Not supported	Limited, added cost and time	**Native**
Line stop for a consumable change	Not applicable	Not applicable	**None: Sub-Ink Tank System swaps mid-run**

SOURCE: AHEARN & SOPER EVALUATION PLANNING. DIRECTIONAL, NOT A FACILITY COST MODEL.

A qualitative, directional comparison for evaluation planning, not a facility specific cost model. Ahearn & Soper can build one from your SKU count, label volume and current vendor pricing.



06 · WHY AHEARN & SOPER

Canon builds the printer. We make it work in a Canadian operation.



HERITAGE

50

years of labelling expertise

Labels, printers and the software that drives them, installed and serviced across Canada.

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01	PARTNER	**Authorised Canon Canada partner**	LG-P800 sales, service and supplies, coast to coast.
02	MEDIA	**Approved label media**	Including durable synthetic stock for demanding industrial floors.
03	SOFTWARE	**Your label design stack**	BarTender, NiceLabel Pro and LabelView, set up and supported.
04	SERVICE	**Installed, trained, supported**	Cross-Canada installation, operator training and Peace of Mind service programmes.

07 · GETTING STARTED

See it print your own labels, with your own data.

01

Book a demo

We bring the LG-P800 to your facility, or run a virtual demo from your CSV file.

02

Use your stock and data

Your label artwork, data and stock, so the test is real.

03

Get your numbers

A cost model from your SKU count, label volume and vendor pricing.

THE ON-DEMAND COLOUR LABEL

Book a demo →

Request a sample label pack

ahearn.com/canon/colour-on-demand

SCAN TO BOOK A DEMO



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QUESTIONS

Talk to a specialist before your next SKU.

Ahearn & Soper installs, trains and services the Canon LG-P800 across Canada. Call 800-263-4258 or book a demo online.

Book a demo →

800-263-4258

ahearn.com/canon/colour-on-demand

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