# 7 Closing remarks

In the past, print service providers were able to achieve significant increases in productivity by investing in more and more powerful machines and automating individual production processes. However, the potential boosts in technical efficiency that can be achieved in this way are now exhausted. The next impetus for development is being provided by the integration of the entire value added chain including external partners.

The JDF industry standard provides the technology needed for comprehensive process integration in the print media industry. For the first time, JDF enables manufacturers to integrate different production environments based on a system of interfaces. Manufacturers and initiatives have developed different networking architectures to this end.

When purchasing new machinery and software in future, greater attention will have to be paid to their networking capability. For companies aiming to completely network their operations, a centralized networking architecture is preferable, since this is the only way to ensure a consistent, transparent transfer of data.

In complete networking projects in particular, it can make sense to select very few from among the many suppliers on the market in order to avoid potential interface problems.

However, the best technology is to no avail if the required organizational measures are not consistently implemented and supplier support in the form of consulting services, customer services and the provision of comprehensive documentation is lacking.

The technologies and products for process integration are out there - it's now up to corporate decision-makers to recognize and realize the opportunities they provide.