

A Contex FSC8010 has become a brand new addition to the imaging solutions employed by the property department of the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside (NMGM).

Established in 1986, NMGM is one of 12 national museums in England and Wales, and the only national museums group created in its own right within an English regional city.

NMGM holds outstanding collections of 1.2 million objects covering art, history and science. Many are displayed in the eight museums and galleries making up the group:

- Liverpool Museum
- The Walker
- Lady Lever Art Gallery
- Sudley House
- Merseyside Maritime Museum
- Museum of Liverpool Life
- HM Customs & Excise National Museum
- The Conservation Centre.

The rest of the collections are held in store for research, conservation, study and future exhibitions. Objects and works are also loaned for display in museums in the UK and abroad.

The property department, in the Central Services Division, is based at the Liverpool Museum. The department was formed to look after all the estates, building and maintenance for the eight museum sites - as well as gallery and exhibition designs.

Their new scanner is used for both GIS and graphics applications - to scan and file existing floor plans and copy presentation drawings and banners.

The museum purchased the scanner about three months ago after it was recommended by reseller Lomas and Thorpe in conjunction with dedicated large format distributor ArtSystems.

At the moment it's mostly being used for colour copying by the four staff trained to use it. Designer Rick Peers said: "It's great that we can now do such large colour copying. Previously we've only been able to go up to A3 with our old Océ copier. And when that finally dies I can see the Contex being used much more for black and white copying too.

"The new scanner is the first of its kind that we've had ... when people realise its full potential this will definitely increase its usage."

NMGM use JETimage and WIDEimage software and are happy with the way the scanner is performing, with no need for any further support from ArtSystems or Lomas and Thorp.

Rick added: “In the future we hope to use it for raster to vector conversion of existing floor plans instead of just copying them.”

The current £40 million NMGM Into the Future initiative means such work for floor plans is becoming increasingly essential as Liverpool Museum will double in size, involving the refurbishment of 16,000 sqm of the museum's historic buildings.