World of Print EXPRESS
www.worldofprint.de • www.worldofprint.com
4th November 2026
ISSN 1868-9779 • 35. Jahrgang

Koenig & Bauer and CH Media take next pioneering steps in Commander CT Press advances

Flexibility and productivity benefits

CH Media, one of Switzerlands leading publishing and printing groups, has extended its Koenig & Bauer collaboration with a major retrofit and installation of a new high-performance folder at its Aarau production site to future-proof production. This project has enabled the printer and publisher to provide customers with a greater scheduling flexibility for customers and necessary additional capacity.



Contract signing for a retrofit and high-performance folder: new opportunities for CH Media: (from left to right) Peter J. Rickenmann, CEO of Koenig & Bauer (CH), Adrian Hammer, Production Manager Aarau at CH Media, Heinz Meyer, Managing Director of CH Media Print, Günter Noll, Sales Director at Koenig & Bauer Digital & Webfed, Stefan Wabel, COO of CH Media, and Rolf Steiner, Managing Director of Vogt-Schild Druck, as well as (seated in front) Philipp Zimmermann, CEO of Koenig & Bauer Digital & Webfed, Peter Wanner, Publisher and Chairman of the Board of Directors of CH Media, and Michael Wanner, CEO of CH Media

In parallel, a new, state-of-the-art Ferag mailroom line has been installed, achieving a quantum leap in mailroom automation. With all these investments, CH Media Print AG underscores its goal and vision: "CH Media Print AG is the leading center of competence for the printed newspaper in Switzerland in 2035." Operating three large, state-of-the-art production sites, CH Media promises its customers that it will remain the leading newspaper printing company beyond 2035.

A retrofit of CH Media's compact built Commander CT press included the completion of the installation of a new Koenig & Bauer folding in October - the third on the line. This enables the plant to run three independent production streams simultaneously and - together with the mailroom investment - open up new business opportunities for customers. This new high performance folder design features new drag rollers, advanced paper guiding, and improved web run capability, for higher production flexibility and speed. It follows the introduction of LED-UV that has been a successful tool for CH Media for several years - now the direct integration into the press with the refit, third folder and mailroom improvements creates further possibilities.

With live production underway, the retrofit, new folder, LED-UV integration, and automated Ferag mailroom line enable CH Media to offer a broader range of print and post-press products while maintaining its customary standards of quality and reliability. Together with the company's other production facilities in St. Gallen Winkeln and in Derendingen, the Aarau site forms a central pillar of its site network.

"CH Media Print AG is the leading center of competence for the printed newspaper in Switzerland in 2035 - that is our clear vision," says Heinz Meyer, Managing Director of CH Media Print. "Across our three large, state-of-the-art locations, we promise our customers that we will remain their leading and most reliable partner in 2035 and beyond. Our ongoing investments in Aarau - from expanding Koenig & Bauer's Commander CT to LED-UV technology and the new Ferag mailroom line with its quantum leap in automation - ensure the highest level of flexibility, efficiency, and quality for the future." Heinz Meyer adds: "The Swiss print market is changing rapidly, and our technologies are evolving with

Index

Flexibility and productivity benefits ...1
Fujifilm Ink strengthens focus on OEM development and industrial inkjet ...2
Konica Minolta and Horizon sign collaboration agreement to automate printing and finishing processes ...2
UPM showcases its commitment to the Indian market at Loupe India ...3

it. The modernisation in Aarau proves that continuous innovation in newspaper printing as well as in the automation of finishing and logistics, creates entirely new economic and qualitative perspectives."
Philipp Zimmermann, CEO of Koenig & Bauer Digital & Webfed, says: "With the addition of a third folder, CH Media gains the ability to allocate towers across separate products with maximum efficiency.In close collaboration with colleagues in Würzburg and Switzerland, we are supporting CH Media's strategy to operate a state-of-the-art newspaper printing centre. This project highlights our ongoing commitment to long-term collaborations and technological leadership."
Peter Rickenmann, CEO of Koenig & Bauer (CH) AG, says: "Swiss newspaper printing has always been, and remains, highly demanding and exciting. In this market environment, CH Media impressively demonstrates what it takes to maintain a leading position over decades. Their impressive, strategically vital investments unlock new production capabilities, enabling them to accommodate higher volumes as well as products in the semi-commercial segment. We at Koenig & Bauer are delighted to contribute to the success of this project through our technology, reliability, and service expertise - backed by the strength of a global group and a strong regional presence."

Fujifilm Ink strengthens focus on OEM development and industrial inkjet

Fujifilm Ink is strengthening its focus on OEM development and industrial inkjet at its Broadstairs, Kent operation, helping partners translate complex application requirements into commercially viable solutions. Drawing on more than 25 years of inkjet expertise, the company is reinforcing its commitment to OEM UV ink technology while extending its capabilities across an expanding range of industrial applications
The Broadstairs site brings together ink formulation, research and development, printhead integration, application testing, regulatory compliance, analytical services and commercial-scale manufacturing. This enables Fujifilm Ink to work directly with OEMs, machine manufacturers, printhead companies and system integrators to address the specific technical demands of their applications.
David Burton, Managing Director of Fujifilm Ink, said: "Our experience of supporting the transition from screen printing to digital inkjet has given us valuable insight into how ink technology can transform established production processes. We are applying that knowledge to the next phase of industrial inkjet, working with partners to understand their requirements and identify new opportunities."
Industrial inkjet performance depends on the interaction between several variables, including printhead characteristics, jetting behaviour, curing requirements, substrate compatibility and production speeds. These factors must be considered together to achieve the required print quality, durability and production reliability.
Fujifilm Ink takes an application-led approach, combining formulation expertise with technical assessment of the wider print system. Its support includes jetting and curing evaluations, adhesion testing, quality assurance, technical integration and regulatory guidance.
Moving from successful laboratory trials to consistent commercial production presents another challenge. Fujifilm Ink combines development expertise with manufacturing, quality control, packaging and logistics, helping customers manage the transition from initial validation to scaled supply.
Regulatory expertise is another important part of this approach. As raw materials, classifications and legislation evolve, Fujifilm Ink works closely with its partners to assess the implications for existing formulations and future developments, helping to maintain product compliance without compromising essential technical and application performance.
Building on its established UV inkjet expertise, Fujifilm Ink is applying its capabilities across markets including packaging, metal decoration and decorative print, as well as applications where digital inkjet is becoming an integral part of the manufacturing process.
In these environments, printing is often just one stage within a more complex production line. Components may subsequently undergo forming, finishing and handling processes, creating additional demands on ink adhesion, durability and overall performance. Understanding these requirements early in development helps ensure that ink formulations and print systems are suited to the complete manufacturing process, rather than simply the printing stage.
Shaun Holdom, Global Commercial Director of Fujifilm Ink, said: "We have seen first-hand how bringing ink technology, hardware and application expertise together can transform an industry. Our heritage gives us a valuable perspective on that evolution, but our focus is firmly on what comes next. "By working closely with OEMs and technology partners, we want to help shape the next generation of industrial inkjet applications and develop the ink technologies needed to make them commercially viable."

Konica Minolta and Horizon sign collaboration agreement to automate printing and finishing processes

Konica Minolta and finishing specialist Horizon have signed an agreement to build a new production workflow that integrates the solutions of both companies. The collaboration is aimed at helping print providers more seamlessly connect the production process from digital printing to finishing, and advance automation and labor savings at print production sites.A first look at the results in action will be shared at Horizon Smart Factory 2026, November 4-6, in Japan.
At the heart of the cooperation is the link between Konica Minolta's AccurioPro Flux and Horizon's iCE LiNK. AccurioPro Flux is Konica Minolta's print workflow software for production printing. iCE LiNK connects finishing machines with the print shop's workflow software, such as MIS and prepress systems. This makes job and

production data easy to track, helps set up machines automatically according to job requirements, and supports an efficient flow of materials.Under the agreement, job information and finishing instructions are passed as data from Konica Minolta's AccurioPro Flux print workflow software to Horizon's iCE LiNK. The result is a flow in which finishing is prepared before printing starts, and print completion acts as the signal to move on to the next step.

The collaboration extends the thinking behind Konica Minolta's The Intelligent Press an autonomous printing function that detects printing conditions and automatically updates settings.

In parallel, the companies are developing transport between processes by combining Horizon's autonomous mobile robots (AMR) and hand lifters with Konica Minolta's high-capacity stacker LS-507. The aim is flexible automation that adapts easily to changes in equipment layout and production content. For print providers the collaboration targets the points between processes where time and margin are usually lost. Job information and finishing instructions that already exist in the print workflow are passed to finishing as data. This means finishing can be prepared before printing begins rather than after it, so each job moves on as soon as printing is complete. It also reduces manual data entry and the risk of errors at hand-over.

Autonomous transport is being developed to carry printed products from the press to the next finishing step in line with job progress, taking heavy, repetitive handling off staff. With less waiting and fewer manual hand-overs, operators can focus on higher value-added work, and print providers can optimize production.

Ines Wennemann, Senior Product Manager Professional Printing at Konica Minolta Business Solutions Europe: "At print production sites, a shortage of skilled workers, and ever-smaller print runs are making productivity across the entire process, including finishing, a key challenge.

"Konica Minolta has been advancing the autonomy of the printing process through features such as The Intelligent Press and through this collaboration we will extend this approach across the entire process, from printing through transport to finishing. This collaboration also reflects our commitment to "strengthening solutions" that contribute to solving customers' issues to keep production running without interruption."

Tobias Fortströer, International Partner Manager EMEA, Horizon GmbH, comments: "This agreement provides a framework combining our finishing expertise and Konica Minolta's printing technologies. By connecting printing through finishing we will create production sites that keep running, enabling customers to focus on work that only people can do. With customers we will explore ways to progressively refine the connected workflow and support greater flexibility and efficiency in print production."

Visitors to Horizon Smart Factory 2026 will see what Connected Print Production looks like in action when printing and finishing equipment is joined together with MIS/ERP, prepress, print workflow, transport, automation, and data utilization. Demonstrating seamless production will be the AccurioPress C14010S and AccurioPress C8100 digital presses. The latter will be equipped with The Intelligent Press, an autonomous printing function that detects printing conditions and automatically updates settings.

Taking visitor and customer feedback into account, Konica Minolta and Horizon will continue to verify and improve the integrated workflow. By leveraging the technologies and know-how of both companies, the collaboration aims to realize a flexible and scalable smart factory that connects printing equipment, transport systems and finishing equipment through data, contributing to higher productivity, labor savings and reduced workload at print production sites.

UPM showcases its commitment to the Indian market at Loupe India

UPM Adhesive Materials is exhibiting at Loupe India 2026, taking place from October 29 to November 1 in Greater Noida, Delhi NCR. Following the recent announcement of plans for a new label material factory in Gujarat, UPM will showcase its growing commitment to the Indian market under the theme Your Bharosa, our commitment.

"Bharosa" is about building lasting trust with customers and partners. It is at the heart of UPM's commitment to India, showing up in three ways at the company's stand K25.

Firstly, visitors can learn how UPM is investing in growth in India. Together with slitting and distribution centers in Mumbai and New Delhi, the new Gujarat factory will strengthen reliable service across the market.

Secondly, UPM will present its label solutions. In India's fast-moving, high-volume market, converters need label materials that support efficient production, consistent performance and reliable availability. UPM's solutions help deliver that consistency from press through converting to how the label performs on the final product. For demanding applications, visitors can explore UPM Raflatac premium label and adhesive solutions. These include UPM Vetro for wine and spirits labeling and UPM PharmaSure for pharmaceutical and healthcare labeling.

Finally, Bharosa is rooted in people who know the market. Combining local market understanding with global label material expertise, the UPM team at stand K25 will help visitors find solutions for their business needs.

"At UPM, Bharosa means earning trust through reliable service and a strong local presence. As we continue to invest in India, we're excited to meet customers and partners at Loupe India and discuss how we can support their growth," says Harri Janhunen, Vice President, Strategy and India & Middle East, UPM Adhesive Materials.

MASTHEAD

published by:

Blömer Medien GmbH
Freiligrathring 18 - 20, 40878 Ratingen
Telephone 0 21 02/1 470 870
Online: http://www.worldofprint.com
Publisher: Dipl.-Kfm. Andreas Blömer

Editor: Daniela Blömer
Advertising Manager: Oliver Göpfert
Production: Blömer Medien GmbH

Copyright by Blömer Medien GmbH