Zöllner-Wiethoff invests in CI flexo press from Koenig & Bauer

Evo XG for gift wrapping manufacturer

Zöllner-Wiethoff GmbH is investing in a CI flexo printing press from Koenig & Bauer. The ultramodern Evo XG 8 + 1 is scheduled to enter production in early 2021 and will be used to print wrapping paper of all kinds. We attach particular importance to the ecological and quality aspects of our products. The Evo XG is here precisely the kind of machine we were looking for.

We are convinced that we have made the right decision and that we will now be able to further strengthen our position European market leaders,” says Jürgen Popp, owner and managing director of Zöllner-Wiethoff. The company’s use of a wide range of different papers, some with a high proportion of recycled fibres, along with a seemingly endless diversity of designs printed exclusively with water-based inks all had to be taken into consideration in the technical configuration for a new press. Arno Vogelhuber, senior sales manager at Koenig & Bauer Flexotecnica: “We accepted the challenge posed by the customer’s special requirements and, over the course of the project, have demonstrated that we are the ideal partner for Zöllner-Wiethoff. Presses from Koenig & Bauer stand for sustainability, quality and performance on the basis of an optimally suitable technical equipment.”

The Evo XG is a highly automated flexo printing press embodying top-class technologies for production speeds up to 600 m/min. Consistent automation paired with a robust and ergonomic design is the key to exceptional performance in terms of both quality and productivity.

Zöllner-Wiethoff GmbH was founded by Franz Zöllner-Wiethoff in Oberlauter in Northern Bavaria over 70 years ago and is currently managed by the third generation of the founding family. The company has been printing exclusively with water-based inks for more than 20 years and has developed into one of the most significant manufacturers of high-quality sustainable gift packaging in Europe. More than 200 million metres of gift-wrapping paper are printed every year.

Fujifilm and Tinmasters announce inkjet metal decoration partnership

Inkjet technology pioneer, Fujifilm, has agreed to an ongoing partnership with the UKs largest specialist metal packaging printing firm, Tinmasters. The agreement will see Tinmasters install a Fujifilm Acuity B1 UV inkjet printer at its premises in south Wales. The machine will be used for short run and customised commercial work and Fujifilm will retain access for customer demonstrations and ongoing development work.

“Run lengths are coming down across the industry,” says Tinmasters CEO Richard O’Neill. “We’ve long known...
that investing in a digital solution to respond to this was going to have to happen at some point. We just haven’t seen anything out there, as an off-the-shelf product, which does everything that we would ideally want it to. We made a significant investment in 2018 in a highly automated litho press to try to meet the growing challenge posed by shorter run lengths - but the trend is accelerating and digital was going to have to start to play a significant role in our response to that at some point.

“It was the exceptional print quality and registration from the Acuity B1 that drew us initially to Fujifilm. However, the partnership angle of the agreement is crucial,” O’Neill continues. “Inkjet is completely new to us, and what we’re learning very quickly from Fujifilm is that it has the potential to be much more than simply a cost-effective way to print short runs. It also offers huge advantages in achieving colour consistency across jobs and in experimenting with creative applications and special effects, such as using ink layering to get textured finishes - something only possible with UV inkjet technology. At the same time, Fujifilm is new to metal decoration, so given we’ve been printing on metal since 1909, there’s a lot of expertise we can offer to help them to adapt their inkjet solution to better meet the needs of the industry.

“Ultimately, this partnership for us is about better serving the needs of our customers and we’re confident that we’ll immediately be able to present them with some innovative solutions to common problems and challenges. Already we can see value in the Acuity B1 for very short run work of less than 500 sheets, and for sampling, customisation and special effects. In the longer term though, as we work with Fujifilm to increase the speed and improve the handling for metal, I think we could see digital used to take on work in the 500 to 5,000 sheet range. So this for us really is a long term commitment, it’s not about the next year, or even the next few years, we’re thinking about the next decade and beyond. We think inkjet is going to be a big part of the future of metal dec, and by getting in early we want to help to shape what that future looks like, and become a real technology leader in the industry.”

Kevin Jenner, Business Manager, Industrial at Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems adds: “I think the transition from analogue to digital in metal dec is a couple of decades behind the graphics industry, where we’ve been developing and refining our inkjet technologies for 20 years. It’s quite a homogenous market, with all of the major players producing very similar applications with similar kit so it represents a unique opportunity.

“At Fujifilm, we know a thing or two about transitioning from analogue technologies. We’ve done it ourselves in our own business and we’ve worked with countless printers in the graphics sector who have moved, in whole or in part, away from litho and screen technologies to embrace the potential of digital. “Having said all of that, we recognise that we’re comparative newcomers to the metal dec sector and, though in the Acuity B1 we have an inkjet machine with enormous potential, we still have a lot to learn. So who better to learn from than a metal printer with more than a century of experience and heritage to draw on? Together we want to fully exploit the technical capability of the current platform and, looking to the future, develop the machine into an even more exciting commercial proposition - increasing its speed, improving its handling ability and developing inks that will comply with the most stringent international food safety standards.

“There is in the industry, we believe, a tremendous latent demand for the short run work, creativity and customisation that inkjet allows, but in many cases neither the canmakers nor designers know that those possibilities exist - so they’re not asking for them. When they do start asking - and they will - we’ll be ready, and together we look forward to shaping a future of possibilities even we haven’t dreamt of yet.”

**New Bobst Visionfold 110 on order for Jaymar Packaging**

Jaymar Packaging has invested in a fourth BOBST folder-gluer as it seeks to future-proof the business and bring greater flexibility to its operations. The family-owned company, which recently completed a deal to buy an adjacent 11,000 sq ft site at Crewe Gates Industrial Estate, in Cheshire, has purchased a VISIONFOLD 110 A2. Described by BOBST as the ultimate all-rounder for folder-gluing, the machine will handle a wide range of packaging including cartons, sleeves, 4-corner trays and litho-laminated work at Jaymar.

Director, Craig Street, said: “We have been thinking about investing in a new folder-gluer for about 18 months after gaining new customers and seeing existing accounts grow. In addition, as companies move away from plastic packaging, the demand for carton has increased. Customer service is a key focus for us and by investing now, we are demonstrating the importance we place on being able to maintain the high standards we have as we continue to grow.

“The new machine will complement our existing BOBST folder-gluer portfolio and bring greater flexibility and versatility to our production lines. We believe that once in place, it will save a lot of time in terms of make-readies and enable us to run some of our larger jobs to completion which isn’t always possible currently.”

The order for the machine was placed in the week before the UK went into ‘lockdown’ due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Jaymar has continued to meet customer demand by splitting shifts and introducing a night shift to maintain social distancing among employees, as well as implementing working from home wherever possible. The company has also donated hundreds of boxes to Cheshire East Council to pack-age food parcels for some of the most vulnerable in society.

Lee Alton, Area Sales Manager, Bobst UK & Ireland, said: “Jaymar Packaging is a long-standing customer of ours and we are delighted that they have chosen BOBST once again. “VISIONFOLD was the perfect choice for Jaymar thanks to its ability to handle a wide variety of packaging types. Despite the uncertainty that Coronavirus has brought to the industry, this
investment demonstrates Jaymar’s commitment to customer service now, and into the future, in terms of turn-around times and product quality.” VISIONFOLD 110 A2 is a multi-purpose machine that is highly adaptable and able to process a wide range of packaging formats. It delivers a stable and precise fold at high speeds and offers a choice of left, right or simultaneous folding. Durable and cost efficient, VISIONFOLD maximises uptime thanks to short make-readies, while at the same time delivering a finished product of superior quality. The machine is due to be delivered to Jaymar in September 2020. Mr Street added: “BOBST was always front of mind for us. The technical team there is always at the end of a phone to ensure uptime is maintained. As we already have three folder-gluers from the company, we will be able to integrate the new one seamlessly into production with minimal training time.”

Landa Digital Printing appoints Arik Gordon as CEO

Landa Digital Printing, has announced the appointment of Arik Gordon as Chief Executive Officer. Landa Digital Printing (LDP), which was spun out of Landa Labs a decade ago, currently employs approximately 550 people, and has begun to penetrate the market with its innovative, game-changing Nanographic Printing presses around the globe. Arik Gordon joins LDP after a successful and significant 18 years at Orbotech. In the past two years, he served as Executive VP of Strategy and Growth at Orbotech, and was responsible for defining and leading the company’s future technological growth strategy and its expansion into new markets. He held several executive management positions in the Company’s operations in Asia Pacific, and upon returning to Israel in 2013, was appointed President of Orbotech’s PCB (Printed Circuit Board) division. Prior to joining Orbotech, Gordon worked for Scitex Europe for four years. “During his years at Orbotech, I had the privilege of working closely with Arik. I value him as a leader with a broad technological background, who has demonstrated deep business understanding and strategic thinking in every position he has held. Arik has the professional and interpersonal capabilities needed to lead our highly skilled and dedicated team, as we realize our unique and significant business opportunities, and establish Landa Digital Printing as a leader in the world printing market,” said Asher Levy, Active Chairman of Landa Digital Printing. “In 2019, Landa Digital Printing installed its first Nanographic Printing presses at customer sites around the world and received very positive reinforcement that our products are about to change the printing industry. In 2020, despite the global coronavirus pandemic, we expect to see additional installations worldwide, as demand for our products continues to be robust. We firmly believe that Arik is the right person to lead the company to global success,” added Asher Levy. Upon his appointment as CEO of LDP, Arik Gordon said: “I am delighted and excited to join Landa Digital Printing. Landa has a special and rare combination of groundbreaking technology, revolutionary products, first-rate professionals, and, not least, the potential to lead the trillion-dollar printing industry. As CEO, I accept the mission of leading Landa’s talented team in Israel and worldwide to realize the significant opportunity ahead of us.”

Goss Graphic Systems (China) Co., Ltd announces strategic cooperation for WISPRINT M-700 series

Beijing Zhongke Printing Co., Ltd. (herein after as Beijing Zhongke Printing) and Goss Graphic Systems (China) Co., Ltd. (herein after as GGSC) signed a strategic cooperation project with web offset printing equipment with web offset printing equipment, and to integrate printing, post press and other processes’. According to Peng Yong, GGSC general manager, “The M-700 series is the highest specification option from GGSC in the book printing sector, I believe this new printing solution will help to elevate Beijing Zhongke Printing to new heights and strengthen its leading position in China in the national book printing field.”

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