

Delaware Printing Company upgrades for the future

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Delaware Printing Company (DPC), a division of Independent Newsmedia, and a newspaper and coldset commercial printer based in Dover-Delaware working together with Web Offset Services of Sarasota-Florida recently completed control system upgrades on their Multi-format KBA Colora press. This included all new press PC's (HMI) supplied by EAE of Ahrensburg-Germany along with the replacement of the color register and cutoff control systems with a new fully integrated IDS-3D color register and mRC-3D cutoff control system all supplied by QI Press Controls.

This unique press design first went on edition 10 years ago (May, 2006) and was the first of its kind to provide a number of production advantages not available on typical newspaper presses. The 50" wide double circumference press consists of two pasters, a single 5hi (10 couple) tower and combination folder installed at 90 degrees. This extremely compact press arrangement (just a 40' x 70' footprint) allows for Multi-format production including the 2x2, 3x2, 4x2 and 5x2 product formats. This provides for an extremely wide variety of products ranging from 10" tabloids and broadsheets all the way up to 17" wide tabs or ¼ folded magazines of various sizes. The special 5hi tower design yields up to as many as 80 tabloid pages (depending on product format) while keeping press labor to a minimum — typically just two people due to the compact installation.

The Colora press was originally specified with a customized EAE control system for a high level of integration and automation along with a unique catalog based production system, again a first in the industry when the design was first put together. This was necessary in order to efficiently run all of the various sizes and formats as compared to a typical standard control system which would have required a much higher level of operator input and intervention adding too much complexity and inefficiency in daily operation.

In order to carry out this project, a close working relationship was developed between Web Offset Services Sam Wagner (DPC's project manager) and EAE's team leader Bernhard Schmiedeberg to develop this highly automated and integrated control system. A substantial amount of design and testing was necessary in order to accomplish

all of these goals and in the end, it all came together and worked as anticipated. In fact, the success of this system and this partnership resulted in several additional new and unique press projects utilizing similar Multi-format technology on an even larger scale. First, in Copenhagen Denmark on a 94" wide press and then in Alberta Canada on a 66" wide press, both of which operate every day at very high levels of efficiency.

In the case of DPC, after 10 years of successful operation, various parts of the system such as computers and auxiliary components started to become obsolete or no longer supported. When looking at upgrading, it was critical the original operating system and existing databases be kept in tact. Furthermore, a preference of sourcing all components including the replacement auxiliaries be done through a single source both for ease of installation as well as for future support. Due to the long-standing and successful partnership with EAE combined with their recent acquisition by QI, an "all in one box" solution was possible and made the choice for the project vendor an easy one.

Another important consideration for this type of project is to be able to work around a 24-hour production schedule without inducing problems or delays. After working together with Wagner on the original installation, DPC General Manager Tom Bugbee looked to utilize his expertise once again and together established a detailed schedule and plan to enable EAE and QI to carry out the entire project in a 4 week period. In addition, all prepress work was done ahead of time so the new QI system could be brought on line seamlessly.

Bugbee commented, "Not only did the retrofit get done on time, but went off without a hitch and is exceeding expectations with quicker response times as well as fast and accurate print results with start up waste on many productions in as few as 250 revolutions. We have had a successful relationship working together with Sam over the past 10 years and again he along with EAE and QI were instrumental in the success of this most recent project"

► Sam Wagner may be reached at weboffsetservice@aol.com



► This layout graphic shows the Multi-format KBA Colora press at the Delaware Printing Company.



► Sam Wagner, president of Web Offset Services and Tom Bugbee, General Manager of Delaware Printing Company check out the EAE console.