

Ill. weekly gets first inkjet CTP platesetter

BY TARA MCMEEKIN EDITOR

A small weekly in central Illinois is the first newspaper to use a low-cost, inkjet-based CTP system engineered to eliminate processing and processing chemistry.

The News Progress in Sullivan, about three hours south of Chicago, put into production Glunz & Jensen's iCtP NewsWriter XL platesetter last year, said owner Robert Best.

In its 50-plus years printing, the 3,500-subscriber paper has run the gamut in terms of prepress and production processes, Best said.

"I started out here melting lead and now I'm doing CTP," he told *News & Tech*.

The NewsWriter replaced the paper's Agfa filmsetter.

Best said he learned about G&J's NewsWriter XL — introduced at Graph Expo last year

— from the News Progress' local graphic arts salesman.

"He'd heard me complaining about the price of film, so we started looking at different CTP options and he'd recently began doing a lot with G&J, so we came to the NewsWriter," Best said.

Now the News Progress is making 60 to 75 plates weekly for the paper and handful of commercial printing jobs, including newspapers for surrounding areas.

Plates are imaged on a King Press NewsKing that's been in operation since 1976.

iCtP technology

In contrast with the subtractive process of conventional plate-making, G&J's iCtP uses an additive approach. Inkjet technology places a liquid dot formulation

onto the plate to the areas to be imaged, G&J said. The iCtP Finishing unit then bonds the image on to the plate.

Because there is no light or thermally sensitive coating, no coating needs to be removed, eliminating the need for a processor and processing chemistry.

"Not having to maintain a processor is a big plus," Best said. "And all of the color has been so much easier to deal with and we're getting better registration on the press."

The greener processing was appealing.

"There's no running water, no chemicals other than the ink and the gum," Best said. "It's nice not having to put chemicals down the drain."

Since converting to CTP, the News Progress has transitioned

from 4-color on one side to 4-over-4.

"I wouldn't have attempted that back in the film days," Best said.

Customers have taken notice, too, he said.

Despite its old method of doing things, Best said learning the new process was easy for the News Progress' three production staffers.

"The transition took like an hour," he said. "As soon as they had it installed, we started making plates."

The process of receiving files via PDF is the same as before and Best said all of the print dialogs were configured by G&J.

"We call up a job in the print dialog, send the pages, it prints and we put it on the press." Δ

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58 autopasters. In April 2011, meantime, Wifag acquired Solna and the Chinese sales integrator, Ekpac, to better serve the Chinese market. The integration process has since been successfully concluded.

We have also developed in-house automation resources and we have generated a profit from our business operations for the past two years.

• Part of a strong group. The integration of Wifag into the Wifag-Polytype Group is successfully completed. Wifag-Polytype provides volume of scale and provides us with in-house

manufacturing and sourcing competencies. Wifag-Polytype is self-financed and has no debts and no need for external financing and we are well-positioned to serve customers worldwide.

• Service commitment: We are striving to new levels of excellence in all our products and services; in the past 18 months 40 percent of Wifag customers have signed up for service contracts. Δ

Editor's note: Goss International was unable to get its answers to News & Tech by our deadline.

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Crisp said (Block Chairman Allan Block's) "vision is to keep the money we've been giving away to third-party vendors (now used by the industry to manage the relationship between advertisers and readers) and take back control over our subscribers' data."

"We want to bring back as much of that technology internally as we can. The more you know

about your audience, the better off you are, whether it's relevant information to the reader or relevant results to the advertiser."

Steve Lett, Libercus' senior partner, sales and marketing, said the software developer is in discussions with a number of newspaper publishers interested in using the platform. He said he expects to unveil some new users in time for February's Key Executives Mega-Conference in New Orleans. Δ

Paywalls from page 5

Media papers, Journal de Montreal and Journal de Quebec, with meters.

With the addition of the Sun Media papers, 17 major Canadian dailies now have paywalls. The Toronto Star and five papers owned by Postmedia said they will all launch some sort of paywall in 2013. *News & Tech* now lists close

to 400 North American newspapers with paywalls in place.

Finally, paywall holdout The Washington Post may be changing its mind as the paper reported it will "probably start charging online readers for access" to stories in the middle of 2013.

Advance Publications and Journal Register Co. are among the last remaining major publishers to forgo paywalls. Δ

briefs

Norwegian newspaper publisher Edda Trykk is upgrading its press with Honeywell's Printa press control and shaftless drive systems.