

KP Services (Jersey) Limited



Hunkeler finishing technology on the biggest Channel Island

On the Channel Island of Jersey, KP Services (Jersey) Limited prints and processes up to 42,000 newspapers daily. The newspapers are printed on two Kodak Prosper 6000P Presses and then processed to either a broadsheet or tabloid products on one of four Hunkeler finishing lines. The new production process could be groundbreaking for printed newspapers.

Jersey is about 118 square kilometers (45 sq. miles) in size and the largest of the Channel Islands. The superlative applies also to the new printshop that began production this year on Jersey. In the so far largest production operation of its kind, KP Services (Jersey) Limited produces newspapers using latest digital production technology in the familiar broadsheet and tabloid formats.

42,000 newspapers per day

The production system includes two fast Kodak Prosper 6000P Presses and four, new generation Hunkeler newspaper production lines. On peak days, 42,000 newspapers are produced. The local newspaper Jersey Evening Post from the publisher Guiton



In the biggest production operation of its kind, KP Services (Jersey) Limited is producing up to 42,000 newspapers daily in the familiar broadsheet and tabloid formats using inkjet printing technology and Hunkeler's finishing technology.

Group is one of the titles. It appears six times a week. Its production run of 17,000 copies currently represents a substantial volume of printed products on Jersey.

Good reasons for technology change

It was a radical change. Just a few months ago the UK national newspapers were printed on ro-

tary coldset presses in England and then brought over to the island as air freight. There were quiet a number of good reasons to leave behind the conventional printing method and to change over to a production process that could be pioneering for printed newspapers.

First: inkjet printing technology has made great progress in recent years. This is particularly true of the production speed and the quality of the printed result.

Second: up till now many inkjet printing systems were limited to a maximum web width of 520 millimeters (20 inches). That restricted newspaper publishers in defining the final size of their newspapers. The Kodak Prosper 6000P prints on a web width of 660 millimeters (26 inches). This now makes

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KP Services consciously opted for a production system with an offline configuration. In the event of an interruption on a printing system or finishing line, continued production is guaranteed.



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it possible to produce full color newspapers up to Nordic size (400 × 570 millimeters).

Third: the airport on Jersey is not equipped with a flight management system. Pilots were often not permitted to land on the island due to poor visibility. As a result, the publishers lost money because several times a year they could not deliver their newspapers to the readers.

Fourth: the ratio of printing costs to transport costs per newspaper copy had reached a critical point. From the economic point of view, a change from conventional printing to inkjet printing plus Hunkeler's finishing technology was fully justified.

A technically mature system

The production center on Jersey produces newspapers with different formats and a page count of 24 to 140. Compared to web offset printing, KP Services has now greater freedom in the design of the newspaper products.

The finishing technology of the Swiss manufacturer Hunkeler plays a key role in this improvement. The technology enables the size length, number of pages and the number of sections per newspaper during a running production to vary fully automatically. With broadsheet and tabloid productions it is possible to change the number of pages with a four-page jump. The newspapers can be output as mixed broadsheet or tabloid product, postal route appropriate. The integrated gluing unit makes it possible to glue individual sections in tabloid production.

The many production variants and the seamless changeover from one newspaper title to the

next were important reasons for KP Services to choose Hunkeler's finishing line. But there was another argument: the customer wanted a technically mature design that was developed from the ground up for production in a modern digital environment. Hunkeler designed an economically optimal and ideally dimensioned system with user-friendly finishing technology. The four lines provide a great deal of flexibility and reliability at high performance.

The reliable offline configuration

The newspapers are printed on two Kodak Prosper 6000P from roll to roll and, independently of printing, processed on the Hunkeler lines. The customer consciously opted for an offline configuration. With an online system, KP Services would have sacrificed considerable flexibility and production reliability. Because the two production stages are separate in the offline configuration, production can nevertheless continue if there is an interruption of a printing system or finishing line.

A strong partner also in support

For a groundbreaking newspaper project KP Services chose cutting-edge production technology from Switzerland. But technology alone is not enough. Strong trust can be founded only on the certainty that a reliable and long-term partner stands behind the production system. Hunkeler's decades of experience and its proven pioneering spirit when it comes to finishing in digital newspaper printing were important factors in KP Services' decision to partner with the Swiss company.

The service that Hunkeler offered also played a key role. In the framework of Remote Assist, service technicians can access a system anywhere in the world and offer the customer fast support. Support is guaranteed 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Hunkeler Remote Assist adheres to strict security regulations: only when the customer personally unlocks the system does the service technician have access. And if needed, thanks to the worldwide Hunkeler network, technicians and replacement parts arrive quickly at the customer's site.

Showcase for digital newspaper printing

Modern newspaper production technology the world has never before seen is currently in use on Jersey. And even the authorities there have acknowledged and praised the project. The Minister for Economic Development, Senator Lyndon Farnham, calls it an important investment – Jersey has gained a unique showcase for digital newspaper printing. The new production operation also benefits the population of the Channel Island: new jobs have been created on the back of the latest technology. In the meantime, the employees have a good command of the production system. Instructors from Hunkeler have shown them how to setup production and supported them during the start phase of printing 42,000 newspapers every night. The currently biggest production center for digitally printed newspapers is successfully up and running on the biggest Channel Island.