Excellence in Paper Processing

DVLA – Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, Swansea (Wales)

Thanks to the PP6 (middle of the picture), starting with white rolls the DVLA has increased production volume now done in-house by between 50 and 60 million documents per year.

With stacks reaching 700 mm, the FF6 folder stacker achieves the excellent quality that is the pre-requisite for a noticeable jump in productivity during insertion.

reliability, and an increase in productivity. The intent was to improve processing reliability and productivity primarily with a suitable pre- and post-processing system. The decision was made to go with a Kodak VL4200 as well as pre- and post-processing technology from Hunkeler. Both lines are set up identically and allow the selection of roll-to-folding or roll-to-roll production.

Production costs cut significantly

In his role as Business Implementation Manager, Stephen Hartnoll was responsible for the evaluation of the new systems. He explains very matter-of-factly how they arrived at the decision to go with the Hunkeler line saying: "We sought the solution with the best technical features and the one that was most cost-effective. We found it with the Hunkeler technology."

Similar to the previous system, production from roll to fanfold had to be ensured. Mr Hartnoll gains many advantages with the FS6 folder stacker. "With a stacking height of 700 mm, we exceed the previous system many times over. Thanks to a reduced switchover cycle, we increase productivity. In addition, the excellent stacking quality brings noticeably more stability to the insertion process. This in turn means that with the Hunkeler line we were able to significantly reduce our production costs."

Quality monitoring is assured with the WI6 web inspection system. "With the older system, we did quality checks manually. For small stakks that was still economically viable. The stack heights now possible with the FS6, however, made it necessary to find an automated solution. With its high-performance camera, the WI6 operates absolutely reliably in every respect," adds Mr Hartnoll.

Substantial savings

The PP6 punching and perforating module that is placed between the UW6 unwinding module and the Kodak printer plays just as important a role in cost savings. According to its own figures, the DVLA is seeing annual savings of several hundred thousand pounds. Mr Hartnoll is more specific and says: "Previously we produced large volumes from pre-printed rolls that we had manufactured by outside print shops. These paper rolls were prepared for the insertion process with guide holes along both sides of the web. Besides higher production costs, for us this sub-contracting meant a significant amount of logistics overhead, as well as a loss in value-added."

Thanks to the PP6 punching and perforating module, the situation today is completely different. As Mr Hartnoll explains: "In conjunction with the Kodak printing system, we can now also produce full colour documents ourselves, and the guide holes and folding perforations are done directly in-line with the PP6. In this way, we can increase the volume that we produce in-house from white rolls to between 50 and 60 million documents per year. Due to the fact that we work almost exclusively with one type of paper, we also make gains through more economic warehousing and much simpler logistics."

A strong, reliable partner

For the DVLA, technical aspects and cost-effectiveness were clearly the focus when making their decision. How thoroughly did they investigate the company that stands behind this solution? Here, too, Mr Hartnoll has a conclusive response: "The DVLA had never before worked with a pre- and post-processing solution from Hunkeler. However, we were aware of the technology from other users and trade show visitors, and we were also aware of this Swiss manufacturer's reputation. In addition, Hunkeler has a proven sales partner in the UK with Friedheim International, a company in which we place our full trust."

The PP6 punching and perforating module is a crucial component that leads to economic operation and value-added in the DVLA production lines. The ability to add guide holes and fold perforations (the perforating cylinder is shown in the picture) is integrated into the same module. The in-line process makes it possible for the DVLA for the first time to dispense with externally prepared rolls of full colour pre-printed documents and instead produce them in-house on the two Hunkeler lines.

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DVLA – Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Technology and cost-effectiveness – a winning combination

The DVLA generates roughly 130 million documents annually. For the past year, these have been produced on two pre- and post-processing lines from Hunkeler. Thanks to the PP6 punching and perforating module along with the FS6 folder stacker, the DVLA has experienced significantly higher productivity and dramatically lower operating costs.

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) was established in 1965. Since then, the number of new registrations has continued to grow each year, and in 2010 there were approximately 35.5 million motor vehicles in the country.

Two sites each running three shifts

The DVLA has been assigned the challenging task of issuing and managing the millions of driver's licenses and vehicle registration certificates. To accomplish this, the company employs a total of 5,500 people around the country. Of these, 210 work in the Output Services Group, which is located in the headquarters in Swansea on the southern coast of Wales. There they have two production centres for printing, processing and distributing 130 million documents per year. These two centres are located roughly six miles from each other for security reasons and for situations where a back-up system is required. Production runs in three shifts from Monday through Friday at both locations.

As the Business Implementation Manager, Stephen Hartnoll headed up the latest modernisation project at the DVLA. "We sought the solution with the best technical features and the one that was most cost-effective. We found it in the Hunkeler technology," he states very matter-of-factly.

Clear goals

Two years ago, it was time to modernise the printing and processing equipment. With the switchover to a new production line in each of the two locations, the DVLA had as its goal improved print quality, significantly higher processing