

B-Source Outline AG, Winterthur



A total solution from one source results in process reliability

With the white paper factory, B-Source Outline AG is following a logical path. While the printing of color forms and supplements has previously been done with outside vendors, this service provider for client communication management has recently integrated the total manufacturing process in-house using an inline process. From a technical standpoint, the task has been solved using two processing lines, each with a Ricoh InfoPrint 5000 along with pre- and post-processing systems from Hunkeler.

Costs, quality, reliability

Costs, quality and reliability are the driving factors in client communication management*. Regarding the output process, B-Source Outline AG is addressing these requirements with two new production lines. In summer of 2013, a changeover was made in the processing center in Winterthur from black & white laser operation to full-color inkjet technology. The two systems, each equipped with a Ricoh InfoPrint 5000, work from roll to roll at web speeds up to 128 meters/minute. Each also includes an integrated DP6-A (dynamic perforation and punching module) that

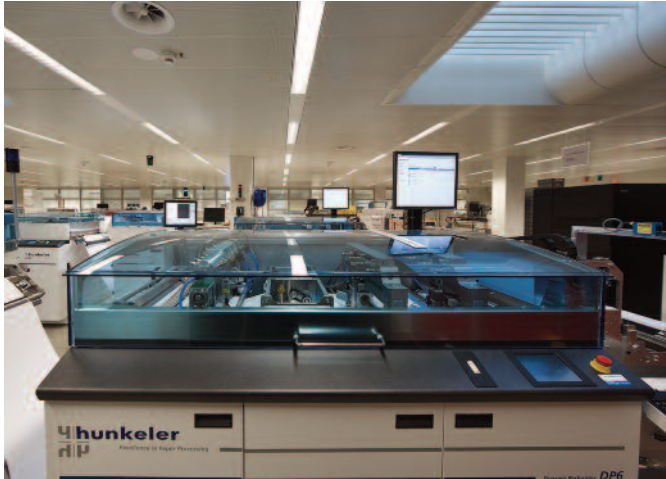


White paper processing places high demands on process reliability. For René Felder, CEO of B-Source Outline AG, the fact that Hunkeler can offer him a total solution from one source was a decisive factor in the selection process.

allows the dynamic application of 2- and 4-hole file hole punching as well as any desired perforation pattern in the longitudinal and transverse directions for 1-up and 2-up processing. All the information for controlling the process is included in a single data matrix code. Despite the complex capabilities of the DP6-A, its integrated editor makes the creation and management of punching and perforation patterns simple and easy. In addition to the simplex printing process on two paper webs running in parallel, the H alignment of the Hunkeler lines allows for printing of one web in duplex mode.

*B-Source Outline AG takes on total responsibility for its customers document management while maintaining the highest level of reliability, quality and cost-effectiveness.

B-Source Outline AG, Winterthur (Switzerland)



For each line, a DP6-A enables the dynamic application of file hole punching as well as arbitrary perforation patterns in the longitudinal and transverse directions during 1-up and 2-up processing.



Line manager Edgar Lehmann values the WI6 in many regards: the quality assurance system gives him production reliability so he can calmly address key tasks.

White paper production

"With the new inline production technology, we at B-Source Outline have implemented the white paper factory," comments CEO René Felder. Previously, pre-printed forms, supplements and envelopes were printed by external print shops in a separate operation. Then came the further processing at B-Source Outline with the imprinting of variable data and subsequent insertion in envelopes. In addition to the high costs and the extensive logistics effort, these processes were time intensive and often interrupted the workflow. Despite meticulous quality monitoring, the process was also continually subject to a certain risk of errors.

Now, all processes from the white rolls of paper through to the finished units ready for shipping are integrated in one continuous, in-house workflow. "We have more than doubled our productivity, and with print on demand we are totally variable and can change content on short notice. The complete contents of an envelope are now always printed on the paper web, and this includes full-color supplements. As a result, our production is leaner, more efficient and more cost-effective," states Felder.

Reserves for growth

Among its regular customers, B-Source Outline can point to companies in health care, power, the financial and insurance sectors and also credit card institutes. Prior to commissioning the two production lines, the company was running at full capacity over more than two shifts, whereas today the current volumes are handled in

one shift. These reserves are absolutely necessary – consider that since B-Source Outline started production in Winterthur 12 years ago, annual growth has been 30 percent. René Felder expresses full confidence in regards to the future, saying, "The advantages of white paper production are well known in the market, and this process is even a prerequisite for a large number of bids in our customer segment. We are now well equipped and will experience a clear increase in our previous levels of growth in the upcoming year," he forecasts.

Zero-defect quality thanks to the WI6

To ensure reliable operation of the white paper process, comprehensive quality control and monitoring of the data integrity are essential. As part of the output process, the WI6 web inspection system from Hunkeler ensures zero-defect quality. During running operation, a high-resolution camera captures as many as 50 arbitrary defined fields on each DIN A4 page. Aspects being verified include the general quality of the print image, typefaces, the register, colors as well as defined static and variable page content such as codings and alphanumeric sequences. Based on a comparison with a stored reference image, the system then reports possible deviations from the expected values. During the following envelope insertion stage, any incorrect pages are diverted along with the completely individualized dataset (forms, supplements, etc.) and replaced with a dataset that is automatically reproduced in advance. A reporting system captures the data and makes

it available for quality verification, post-production, analyses and statistics.

Front/back verification during duplex production

A web inspection module in each of the two Hunkeler lines is integrated at the end of the DP6-A. In addition to monitoring the actual quality of printing and the contents of individual pages, during duplex printing the WI6 also performs front/back verification in the second production line. Page by page, the contents of the front and back printed pages are verified to ensure they match up properly.

Swissness as a basic concept

The fact that Hunkeler is able to offer a total solution from one source is something that René Felder points out as a significant reason for the selection of this technology. In addition, he also places great value on Hunkeler's ability to have the head of development from Wikon himself on-site as necessary to clarify any questions. "In our opinion, Hunkeler is the absolute leader in the paper processing segment and currently offers the very best technology," he states. The choice of Swiss quality matches up well with additional projects that B-Source Outline is presently pursuing. As part of a continual Swissness campaign, paper and envelopes are produced strictly in Switzerland. This Swissness project is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2014 along with certification for climate-neutral production and preparation for the FSC label.