|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Contact**  Ozan Ozturk  Global Marketing & Communications Manager  M: +32 498 105 504  ozan.oeztuerk@xsysglobal.com |

**DEHN moves to digital platemaking with new ThermoFlexX imager**

**The German electrical engineering company has digitalized the imaging process with the installation of an XSYS ThermoFlexX 30 for the production of pad printing plates. The conversion from analogue to digital has drastically reduced the throughput time and increased consistency and quality thanks to the highly innovative technical characteristics of the new solution.**

**Accelerating production with digital imaging**

DEHN is a global specialist in the fields of surge and lightning protection as well as safety equipment. In production, the company works with many types of printing technologies including inkjet, laser, direct thermal and pad printing to make components for a wide variety of devices and systems. Having in-house printing facilities not only speeds up production and controls cost, it improves supply chain traceability and facilitates the implementation of product design changes very quickly.

Until recently, the company relied on time-consuming analogue photopolymer plates for their pad printing operation. This involved a number of manual steps, including positioning the print image by hand, while the plate imaging was performed with traditional tube exposure.

“The analogue process we had in place before was a real bottleneck in our workflow,” said Willibald Fink, Head of Special Projects at DEHN SE. “It involved getting the artwork created externally, before making the plate in-house using mechanical processes and exposures. Altogether, this took about a week. In addition, the in-house processing tied-up the platemaking for as long as an hour.”

Wanting to streamline and optimize the workflow while removing the risk of human error, DEHN decided it was time to go digital and invest in an imager that would allow them to improve the print resolution and quality, whilst also reducing waste of plate materials and energy consumption for improved sustainability and lower costs. Once DEHN was convinced of the high accuracy of the laser and the speed at which plates could be produced, they placed an order with XSYS for a ThermoFlexX30.

“We are known for our consistently high product quality but that doesn't stop us from striving to improve further with innovative and future-oriented logistics and production technologies combined with modern ergonomics. As we move to digital platemaking, choosing the ThermoFlexX imager is a small but very important piece of the puzzle that will help DEHN be even more successful,” added Harald Daffner, Head of SPD assembly at DEHN SE.

**Finding the optimal solution**

The ThermoFlexX 30 Imager from XSYS is designed for the imaging of photopolymer plates for flexographic and letterpress printing as well as direct engraving of pad printing plates as part of a digital workflow. At DEHN, the imager is used with the XSYS nyloprint® DLE S 30 pad printing plates – a combination of best-in-class technologies that offers superior printing quality at a resolution of up to 5080 dpi.

The ThermoFlexX imager operates a fibre laser with the option of simultaneously imaging multiple plates at different resolutions which significantly lowers waste and increases efficiency. To handle the steel-backed nyloprint® plates, the device has been fitted with the hybrid drum option and customized register pins. “The conversion from analogue to digital processes has not only reduced the throughput time to about 10 minutes (from digital template to imaged plate), but the repeatability is also much higher; in part thanks to the register pins incorporated on the drum which correspond precisely to the holes in the plate,” said Harald Daffner. All in all, the new device contributes to process optimization and, as a result, to better product availability and increased sustainability.

**Full satisfaction and great support**

Although the partnership with XSYS was only established very recently with the purchase of the new imager, this addition to the platemaking department has certainly impressed the team at DEHN.

Furthermore, the comprehensive service and support offered by XSYS facilitated a smoother set up phase allowing DEHN to progress rapidly with the switchover to digital.

“We received good on-site support and the overall cooperation with XSYS has been excellent” concluded Harald Daffner.

**ABOUT XSYS**

*Headquartered in Willstaett, Germany, XSYS operates globally and remains one of the largest suppliers offering both flexographic and letterpress prepress solutions, including plates, sleeves, processors, workflow solutions, and expert professional services, designed to help these industries move forward with increasing innovation, improved productivity and profitability, and a reduced environmental footprint.*

*In recognizing our endeavor to bring more brilliance into the packaging industry – into the lives of our customers and colleagues – XSYS has achieved a Silver Medal rating from EcoVadis for its sustainability. This distinction goes beyond our commitment to protecting the environment by also evaluating our dedication to social responsibility, diversity, and human rights.*

*The broad XSYS portfolio comprises some of the industry’s best-known brands of consumables (nyloflex® and nyloprint® plates), plate processing equipment (Xpress, ThermoFlexX, and Catena), surface screening software (Woodpecker), plate mounting (rotec®), and washout solvents (nylosolv®). Brilliant products and services for brilliant print results and business success.*

**ABOUT DEHN**

DEHN is a leading, international family-owned electrical engineering company based in Neumarkt, Germany. With its comprehensive portfolio, DEHN addresses the megatrends of our time, from e-mobility and renewables to the protection of critical infrastructure.

The company offers solutions and services for lightning and surge protection as well as safety equipment – fields in which DEHN is a leading innovator with more than 1,100 patents. The company's products protect   
  
  
people and buildings, systems and telecommunications technology, process industry, as well as photovoltaic systems and wind turbines.

With more than 2,200 employees worldwide, the DEHN group achieved revenue of around 385 million euros in the fiscal year 2021/2022. Over 110 years of experience and constant growth based on the highest quality standards and a consistent orientation towards customers and markets worldwide.