



# KBA Commander CT

The compact wet offset press for high-quality newspapers and semi-commercials



## In a shifting media landscape The future is compact

Koenig & Bauer has now expanded its range of compact presses to include the KBA Commander CT (Compact), a wet offset press that delivers a raft of benefits over conventional tower or satellite presses. Standing just 4.5m (14ft 9in) tall, the highly automated four-high Commander CT represents a major advance in ergonomics, cost efficiency, flexibility and quality to address shifts in newspaper and semi-commercial production scenarios. In just a short space of time its popularity among prominent newspaper publishers has made the Commander CT the world's top-selling newspaper press in the high-tech sector.

### Proven automation

The Commander CT is the only newspaper press in the global marketplace to feature StepIn towers that split down the centre at the touch of a button for easy access and maintenance. Convenient lifts on both sides of and inside the towers reduce walking distances. Other winning features are our fast yet highly reliable KBA PlateTronic automatic plate changers, KBA NipTronic cylinder bearings for adjustment of the printing pressure, and KBA RollerTronic automatic roller locks, which have proven their efficiency a thousand

times over and in terms of functionality and precision are far superior to other automatic locks.

The Commander CT has optimised spray dampeners and film inking units (with three forme rollers) and is available as a double-width (4/2) or triple-width (6/2) version engineered for full colour on both sides of the web. The modern compact web press is also available with KBA PressNet, a bespoke workflow package that ensures maximum press performance.

For newspaper publishers where space is at a premium, or where there is a need to extend conventional press lines without interrupting running production, the extremely compact design even allows the configuration of eight-high towers with an overall press height of just 9.8m (32ft 2in). This space-saving configuration is only possible with the Commander CT and the Cortina, and was initially implemented with the first Commander CT at the Main-Post in Würzburg, Germany. As well as various large-scale plants abroad, such as West Ferry Printers in the UK, the New



Our innovative, compact KBA Commander CT web press combines user-friendly operation and pioneering technology

York Daily News in the USA and Bold Printing Group in Sweden, large numbers of newspaper publishers in Germany and Europe have also opted for double- or triple width versions of the Commander CT.

One of the biggest print media groups in Canada, Transcontinental, has several production plants where Commander CT press lines equipped with hot-air dryers are printing not only coldset newspapers but also heatset supplements, and even hybrid products using both methods. Printers opting for the Commander CT enjoy the benefits of a highly innovative yet proven technology, offering a wide choice of options for both newspaper and semi-commercial production.

#### KBA Commander CT: major attributes

- Four-high tower just 4.5m (14ft 9in) high, even when printing full colour on both sides of the web with large-circumference cylinders
- Eight-high tower for extending existing press lines or for press halls where space is limited
- Glide-apart StepIn system for easy operation and maintenance
- KBA NipTronic bearer units for the optional setting of printing pressure
- No abrasion-prone bearer rings, cams or multi-ring bearings
- No oil in the printing units
- KBA RollerTronic automatic roller locks
- Proven KBA PlateTronic automatic plate changers (option)
- KBA DriveTronic dedicated drives for cylinders and inking units
- Enhanced undershot inking unit with three forme rollers
- Minimum fan-out thanks to reduced press height
- FanoTronic automatic fan-out compensation (option)
- KBA CleanTronic automatic blanket washing
- Dryer for semi-commercials (option)
- Ultra-short makeready, minimum maintenance
- Cutting-edge KBA ErgoTronic console technology
- Fast presetting via KBA PressNet (option)

# Intelligent automation

## For efficient production

Nowadays, web press automation systems must address some challenging demands: maximum output and flexibility, minimum waste and manning levels, a superb image quality in full-colour production and the ability to integrate the press in an all-digital workflow.

Even the basic version of our high-tech Commander CT features an extensive, module-based automation package that affords enormous flexibility in accommodating individual production specifications. User-friendly KBA ErgoTronic consoles with concise data screens are a standard feature. The interfaces to the master systems for press preset, process control, production monitoring via KBA PressNet and dedicated software are clearly defined.

### Press controls

The electronic processing stations for press controls and drive systems are located in the reelstands, printing units, folder and other subassemblies. They are connected to each other and to the console by high-powered data bus systems and enabled by cutting-edge

MLCs (motion logic controllers). The current operating status of the press, and any malfunctions which may occur, are displayed immediately at the console and remedial action initiated automatically if the need arises. The clear, logical system facilitates press operation and monitoring and affords greater flexibility when extending or modifying the press line.

### Copy- and press-based operation

Even the basic version of our Commander CT includes a valuable operator aid in the form of a copy-based system, which automatically assigns the printing couple(s) to the designated newspaper page. An optional press-based version allows the relevant printing couple or subassembly to be selected directly.

### Production management

For even more efficient and cost-effective newspaper production the console controls can be expanded to include KBA PressNet intelligent production management software (*see pages 6 to 7*). This can deliver substantial savings, e.g. by minimising makeready times and reducing waste.

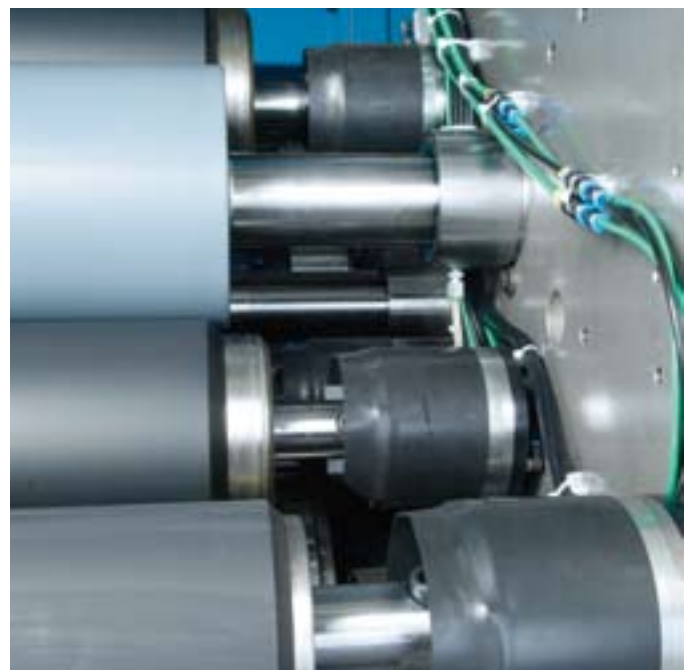
KBA PlateTrans closes the automation gap between pre-press and press. Depending on the specified configuration, even the feed magazines for the plates can be loaded and emptied automatically (*see separate brochure*).

### KBA RollerTronic: proven a thousand times over

Our remotely adjustable RollerTronic roller locks are a popular choice because they are superior to all other systems on



Our intelligent PlateTronic plate-changing system slashes edition changes by allowing the feed magazines for the plates to be loaded and emptied while the press is up and running



The RollerTronic automatic roller locks are set from the console



The Commander CT is controlled via cutting-edge console technology

the market. The inking and dampening rollers can be set automatically, either individually or collectively, in a matter of minutes. Throw-on pressure is set according to predefined reference values and the rollers then locked mechanically. Not only is this much more precise and delivers a more uniform print quality; it also reduces roller abrasion, energy consumption and maintenance input at the printing units and makes irksome, time-consuming manual roller setting a thing of the past.

**DriveTronic, NipTronic, PlateTronic, FanoTronic and more**

Incorporating as it does DriveTronic dedicated plate-cylinder drives throughout

and automatic adjustment of the printing pressure via KBA NipTronic, the Commander CT boasts an extensive module-based automation system which, with the exception of the waterless Cortina, no other newspaper press in the global marketplace can match. Other options, such as KBA FanoTronic automatic fan-out compensation for triple-width and large-format presses, and colour register controls, offer printers further tools with which to deliver a uniform print quality and minimise waste.

Another key feature of the Commander CT, and one designed to enhance cost efficiency when printing frequent short runs or local editions, is our PlateTronic

automatic plate-changing system, which can change individual plates, all 64 plates in a four-high tower (96 in a 6/2 press), or several hundred plates in multiple towers in two minutes or less, making it a much faster alternative to the high-maintenance robot systems offered elsewhere. Dedicated cylinder drives allow the blankets to be washed automatically while the plates are being changed. This saves time and dramatically increases output. When it comes to intelligent automation, the technology we offer is way ahead of the field and our practical experience is unparalleled in the industry.



# KBA PressNet

## Efficiency through digital networking

The digital networking and integration of individual production sequences plays an increasingly key role in producing newspapers efficiently and cost-effectively. It can deliver substantial savings by automating production scheduling, press preset and start-up, edition changes and press run-down. KBA PressNet is a bespoke workflow package that maximises the performance of our highly automated Commander CT by optimising production sequences.

Alongside production scheduling with EasyPlan and press presetting with EasySet, our PressNet suite includes EasyStart and EasyStop for automated press start-up and run-down, and EasyReport documentation software.

### KBA EasyPlan

Good planning is crucial to sustainable success. This also applies when producing newspapers with KBA EasyPlan. EasyPlan provides predefined production data which the operator can use when presetting the press, or which can be keyed in individually.

### KBA EasySet

In order to minimise edition changes and waste, and also guarantee production stability and quality, various press parameters must be preset ready for the next print run. KBA EasySet was developed to enable fast presetting of the overall press line from the console. The multi-

stage press preset system stores the preset data for register, web tension and temperature control, along with process-specific acceleration graphs. These values can be stored and downloaded for identical or similar print runs, making print production much more efficient.

**KBA EasyStart**

EasyStart allows the press to be automatically run up to production speed at the touch of a button. The ultimate speed, and the length of time that any specific speed is to be maintained during run-up to the ultimate speed, can be freely configured by the operator to match requirements.

**KBA EasyStop**

With a KBA press, automatic run-down at the touch of a button is also no longer a distant vision. EasyStop incorporates predefined sequences for automatically running the web free, cleaning the inking units and blankets, and removing all the plates. This tool gives the operator more time to prepare for the next job.

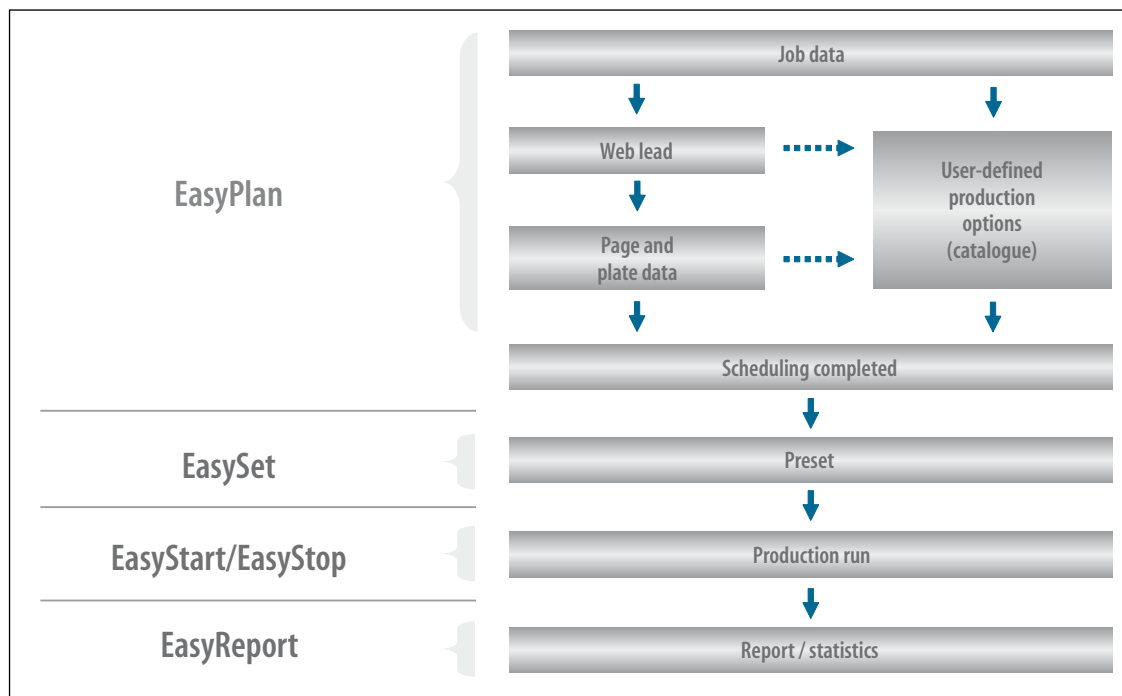
**KBA EasyReport**

Detecting, analysing and remedying errors – and learning from them – are also key factors in enhancing productivity



and cutting costs. KBA EasyReport is a valuable aid in documenting print production. A long-term history of all messages, plus the ability to export and filter them, supports error analysis and minimisation. KBA EasyReport's message system also allows the complete documentation of all print jobs, with detailed production logs for each one.

Production scheduling and press presetting are much easier with KBA PressNet automation tools



KBA PressNet: a few simple steps to the print run





# Compact design reduces fan-out

## Three forme rollers for a brilliant image

The press height of just 4.5m (14ft 9in) means that the distances between the individual printing couples in a compact four-high tower are almost as short as in a satellite press, reducing fan-out in 4/4 production by 50 per cent compared to conventional four-high tower press lines and achieving excellent colour registration. For wider webs, e.g. in 6/2 presses, we offer optional fan-out compensation via KBA FanoTronic, which is available in a choice of versions and automation levels.

### Quick-response inking units

The inking units on the Commander CT each have a dedicated drive, undershot ink ducts, three forme rollers, a new type of film roller and an optimised roller geometry. This reduces dot gain, enhances image quality on solids and image stability where ink take-up is low. The roller constellation with two direct ink trains responds swiftly to changes in inking commands and generates far less ink mist. An automatic ink supply is also available as an option.

Since spot colours are now rarely used in newspaper production, the Commander CT features one-piece ink ducts. The duct roller and ink knife can be accessed by swivelling the knife holder. The rollers are cleaned by a doctor blade. Further options include an automatic washing system for the inking unit, an ink-temperature control system (recommended for long production runs), and a swivelling roller that allows the dampening unit to be washed simultaneously. KBA RollerTronic resets the ink-forme rollers automatically at impression ON.

The ability to preset and pre-ink the inking units automatically reduces start-up waste, which on the Commander CT is already lower than on conventional tower

The optimised geometry of the inking units on the Commander CT reduces response time, dot gain and ink mist while enhancing image quality on solids and image stability where ink take-up is low

Right:

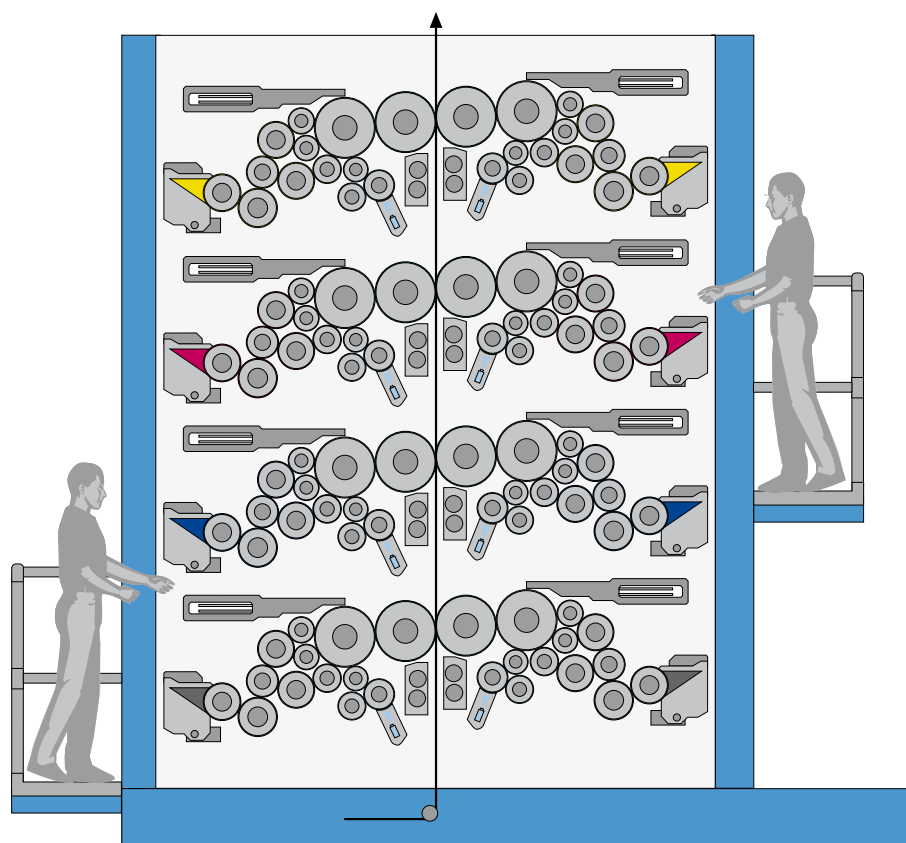
The four-high version of the Commander CT – even for large formats – is no higher than 4.5m, and this schematic shows the linear arrangement of the cylinders together with the inking and dampening units, blanket-washing units and automatic plate changers

presses. An optional state-of-the-art RIP interface is also available for transferring pre-press data for presetting the inking and dampening units.

### Optimised spray dampeners

The optimised triple-roller spray dampeners are installed in the pre-moistening position as standard. The fount solution is transferred to the chrome roller via a cylinder-wide spray bar with

eight nozzles (twelve on the 6/2). Metering is regulated by controlling the impulses to each individual nozzle. The outer nozzles can be regulated separately to eliminate marginal toning. The fount solution is transferred contact-free, virtually eliminating the risk of contamination. Each press section has a dedicated water-preparation unit. As an option, the water temperature, pH value and conductivity can be displayed at the console.



# Manual or automatic

## Customised reel logistics

Streamlining the paper flow from reel reception to the reelstand is a key factor in enhancing production efficiency. The Commander CT, like our other presses, can be embedded in a customised reel logistics system. By configuring it with a high-performance KBA reelstand and our Patras paper-reel transport system (*see separate brochure*) it is even possible to automate changes in copy thickness.

### **KBA Patras reel-handling system**

A flexible, high-performance system, KBA Patras is module-based to support a wide range of versions from manual, semi-automatic or automatic reel loading to a complete reel-logistics system, enabling it to be customised to suit individual production scenarios and architecture. At the highest level of automation the new reels are unloaded from the delivery lorries, stored, prepared for splicing and loaded onto the reelstands, and the used cores removed, with virtually no manual intervention. With Patras A, reel logistics from reception to stub disposal are embedded in a networked production flow, bringing substantial savings in time, labour and waste, and thus in costs. KBA plans and develops a customised reel-logistics system to suit individual requirements.

### **KBA stripping station**

This is an operator aid for removing the wrapping quickly and with a minimum

of waste. The weight of the reel with wrapping and after stripping, slab waste removal and splice preparation can be logged individually for internal evaluation purposes.

### **KBA EcoSplice**

An automatic splice-preparation unit engineered for a rapid throughput, KBA EasySplice enhances productivity and safety, eases handling and cuts preparation times by standardising the entire process.

### **New-generation reelstands**

Depending on press output, web width, reel diameter, maximum reel weight and other specifications, the Commander CT can be configured with one of two versions of our Pastomat reelstand, whose reliability is well proven. The classic Pastomat C is engineered for web speeds of up to 15.2mps (2,992fpm). The Pastomat CL is engineered for a maximum reel weight of 2.2 tonnes (4,850lbs),

a maximum reel diameter of 1,270mm (50in) and a maximum web width of 1,760mm (69.29in). For wider or faster newspaper presses we have developed the heavy-duty Pastomat CL (classic large), which can handle web speeds of up to 17.2mps (3,386fpm), a maximum reel diameter of 1,524mm (60in), a maximum web width of 2,520mm (99.22in) and a maximum reel weight of 6t (13,228lbs).

Both models (*see separate brochure*) are driven and braked by robust AC servo motors via the reel core and have infinitely adjustable divided arms for simultaneously handling reels of different widths, enabling them to support pagination changes on the fly. They also have distributed operating screens and are fully embedded in the press control system. Even at high web speeds, our Pastomat reelstands function reliably and safely, are easy to operate and require minimum maintenance.



Right:  
Automated reel logistics from splice preparation to the AGV-accessed reel store and the reelstand

Our high-performance Pastomat CL reelstand represents a new dimension in terms of reel width and weight





## Fast and accurate

### Productivity and diversity

The superstructure on the Commander CT is as compact as the press itself, yet easily accessible. Press hall roof clearance permitting, the CT can, of course, be configured with the standard Commander superstructure whose performance has been well proven on countless press lines. But whichever you choose, our superstructures are engineered for productivity, diversity and high-speed edition changes, thanks to ergonomic turner bars, short web paths and a straightforward production flow for multiple web widths – not to mention our proven high-performance folders.

#### **Superstructure**

The ergonomically positioned slitters on the draw rollers in the turning tower enable the web to be slit into half-width ribbons or, as an option, into quarter- and half-width ribbons. The ribbons are monitored by photoelectric sensors as they are guided to the former infeed via easy-access turner bars.

As with all Commanders, extras include bay-window rollers, insertion decks and double decks. The double deck (with the option of two pairs of turner bars instead of four) enables the web to be guided to the left or the right over the former without repositioning the turner bars, which cuts changeover times. The page count for the individual signatures can be adjusted quickly and easily to changes

in specifications. Colour and/or cut-off register controls can also be installed upon request.

#### **Folder superstructure**

The standard constellation is two adjacent formers, but presses can also be configured with formers positioned one above the other (e.g. four formers in a balloon arrangement). AC drives for

the draw and transfer rollers enable web tension to be controlled with absolute precision. Other optional extras include a length gluing unit, length/cross perforator (Zip'n'Buy), a skip slitter, a ribbon stitcher and a four-page centre spread capability.

#### Proven folders

There is a choice of three cutting-edge folders, each of them engineered for a specific output and page count. Our KF 3 jaw folder has a maximum hourly output of 84,000 80-page broadsheet copies in straight production. Our heavy-duty KF 5 folder can handle up to 90,000 120-page copies per hour straight. Our new high-end folder, the KF 7, is engineered for 90,000 144-page broadsheet copies per hour. All KBA folders are highly automated and fully embedded in the shaftless drive and press presetting systems. The diameter of the folding cylinder can be infinitely adjusted to copy thickness, either at the folder itself or from the console. Over- and underfold adjustment is also integrated in the presetting and control systems. Conversion between collect and straight mode is actuated by push-button at the folder or via the presetting controls at the console. If desired, the KF 3 and KF 5 folders can be fitted with a single or dual quarterfold capability and/or a section stitcher for delivering stitched magazines in either production mode.

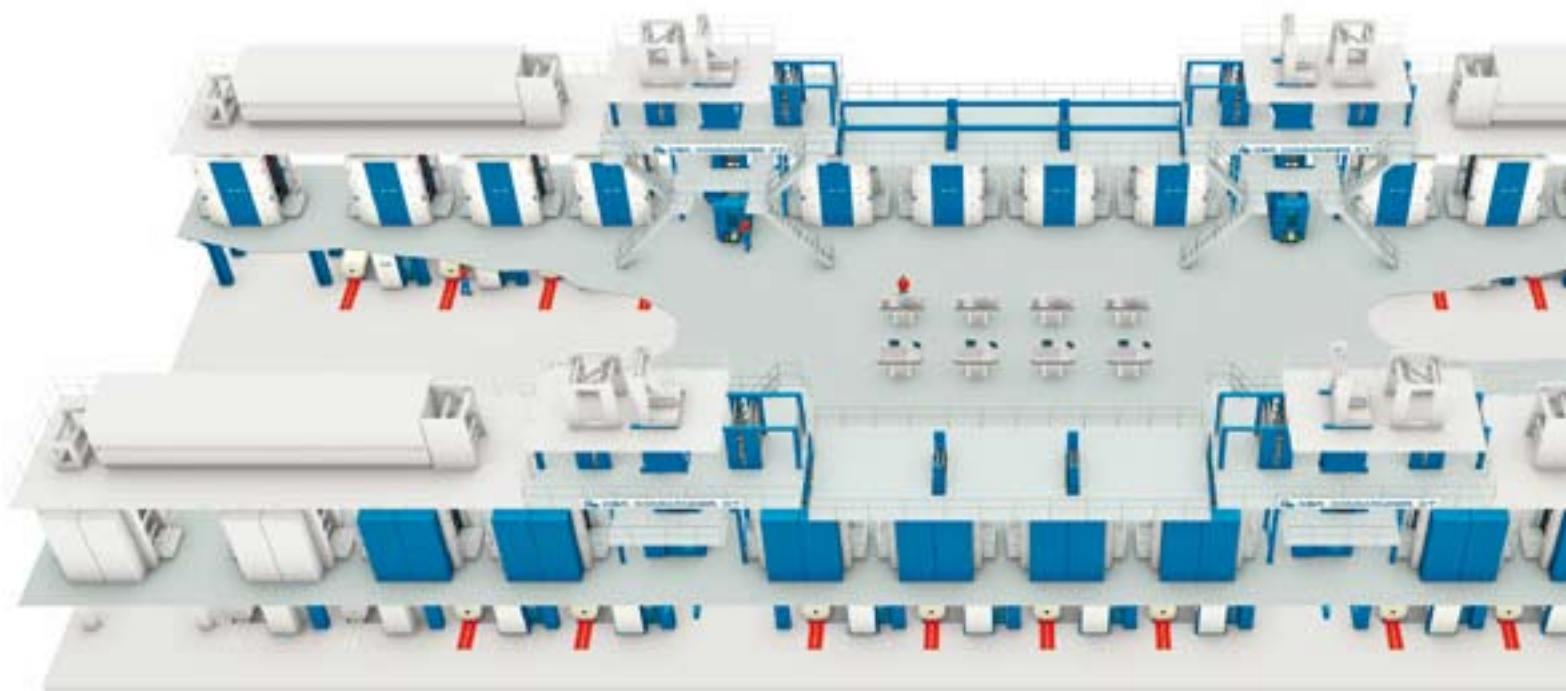
#### Top:

For standard industrial buildings with limited roof clearance we have developed an ultra-compact superstructure which supports the same product diversity as a standard superstructure

#### Right:

Our high-performance KF 5 is a popular choice of folder for Commander presses





Big Commander CT press line at West Ferry Printers in Luton, north of London

# KBA Commander CT

## The space saver

The abbreviation CT signifies an ultra-compact, modular design which, like that of the Cortina, delivers a substantially higher page and colour capacity per square metre of space than the conventional four-high or satellite presses currently on the market.

Both our compact models are available as floor-mounted versions with adjacent reelstands for standard industrial buildings with low roof clearance, but they can also be configured with under-floor reelstands. A unique feature of the waterless Cortina and conventional wet offset Commander CT is that they can be stacked to form eight-high towers, e.g. for press extensions or new installations in existing high press halls where there are restrictions on press length. They can therefore eliminate the need to relocate to greenfield sites by enabling capacity to be expanded at existing premises. And with energy prices heading skywards, substantial bottom-line benefits can be gained from limiting the size of

the production hall and thus energy consumption for climate control.

On top of this there are ergonomic benefits to be gained, since the press crew can access the individual printing couples via platform lifts on either side of the tower, so they no longer have to climb stairs. The compact design thus creates a more attractive workplace that enhances staff motivation and reduces physical strain, particularly for older workers whose numbers are sure to increase in many countries as a consequence of demographic changes. The reduced press height also means that the crew have a clearer overview of the entire installation.



# KBA Commander CT

## At a glance

Specifications			
<b>KBA Commander CT 4/2</b>		<b>Inking/dampening units</b>	
Maximum output <sup>1</sup> :	45,000 iph	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimised film inking units with three forme rollers</li> <li>• Undershot ink ducts</li> <li>• Throw-on roller</li> <li>• Triple-roller spray dampening unit</li> </ul>	
Web width <sup>2</sup> :	1,200 - 1,680 mm (47.24 - 66.14 in)		
Cylinder circumference <sup>2</sup> :	900 - 1,197 mm (35.43 - 47.12 in)		
<b>KBA Commander CT 6/2</b>		<b>KBA Pastomat C reelstand</b>	
Maximum output <sup>1</sup> :	45,000 iph	Maximum reel diameter: 1,270 mm (50 in)	
Maximum web width <sup>2</sup> :	2,100 mm (82.68 in)	Maximum reel weight: 2.2 t (4,850lbs)	
Cylinder circumference <sup>2</sup> :	900 - 1,156 (35.43 - 45.51 in)	<b>KBA Pastomat CL reelstand</b>	
		Maximum reel diameter: 1,524 mm (60 in)	
		Maximum reel weight: 6 t (13,228 lbs)	
<b>Compact design</b>		<b>KBA KF 3 folder</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four-high tower just 4.5 m (14 ft 9 in) high</li> <li>• Eight-high tower approx. 9.8 m (32 ft 2 in) high</li> <li>• Approx. 50% less fan-out due to reduced press height</li> </ul>		2:3:3 cylinder ratio	
		Maximum capacity: 80 broadsheet pages collect	
<b>Printing units</b>		<b>KBA KF 5 folder</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plate and blanket cylinders in one line</li> <li>• DriveTronic dedicated drives for cylinders and inking units</li> <li>• RollerTronic remote-controlled roller locks</li> <li>• PlateTronic automatic plate change (option)</li> <li>• CleanTronic integrated blanket washing</li> <li>• FanoTronic fan-out compensation (option)</li> </ul>		2:5:5 cylinder ratio	
		Maximum capacity: 120 broadsheet pages collect	
		<b>KBA KF 7 folder</b>	
		2:7:7 cylinder ratio	
		Maximum capacity: 144 broadsheet pages collect	
<sup>1</sup> Depending on format and folder			
<sup>2</sup> More available on request			



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from Koenig & Bauer AG**

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