The team from Oberdruck at their new eight-colour Rapida 106 with LED-UV technology

New paths in the Alpine republic

LED-UV is the present and future for Oberdruck

An eight-colour Rapida 106 perfector for 4/4 printing with LED-UV curing has been in operation at Austrian printing firm Oberdruck in Lienz since summer 2015. Senior boss Hans Oberbichler and production manager Michael Platter took a closer look at the differences between conventional, HR- and LED-UV curing during an open house at the KBA plant in Radebeul before investing and came to the conclusion that:"LED-UV is the future!"

With 20 employees in pre-press, printing and post-press, Oberdruck mainly serves the market in East Tyrol. Along with a high level of flexibility, the company places great importance on production security. Several periodicals, including the *Osttiroler Bote* which is produced in sheetfed offset in very narrow time frame with a circulation of some 17,000 96 to 112-page copies, guarantee a fundamental level of capacity utilisation. The company works closely with local agencies and graphic artists to produce challenging commercial printwork.

Strong with uncoated stock

Along with eight printing units with perfecting after the fourth unit, the new Rapida 106 also has a coater for dispersion or UV coating, double-delivery extension and automatic plate changing. Its highlight is LED-UV technology which opens up new possibilities for the company. Hans Oberbichler not only underlines the faster lead times delivered by the press but also focuses on the topic of quality, especially in connection with uncoated stock: "Creative minds recognise the role that haptic qualities play in communication, this is in contrast to the way electronic media conveys emotions."

LED-UV technology retains the look and feel of uncoated stock. This is in addition to high colour brilliancy and crisp details even with heavy solids. The fold is not inclined to crack given elastic polymerisation even with high ink coverage. The efficiency of the folder and gang-stitcher can be increased substantially as powder is almost dispensed with completely cutting cleaning efforts during printing and in post-press. Silvia Oberbichler: "If you take these and other factors into account the higher costs for LED-UV ink are no longer an issue."

Fewer problems than with other UV technology

The same is true when it comes to the LED dryer which is slightly more expensive. Its service life stands at around 20,000 hours, whereby conventional UV dryers only manage around 2,000 operating hours. Further pros of LED dryers include lower energy consumption, they are ready for immediate operation and do not produce any waste heat. Problems that arise when using other UV processes such as swelling of blankets, ink misting or dissolving of the coloured film in the ink duct and difficulties with temperature-sensitive substrates are avoided. What is more, LED-UV technology is much more flexible when it comes to positioning the dryers, Oberdruck positions its dryer before perfecting and after the coater.

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Relevant website:
www.oberdruck.at