Changes in the Management Board of Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG

Jürgen Otto will succeed Dr. Ludwin Monz

Jürgen Otto (59) will become the new CEO of Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG on July 1, 2024. He succeeds Dr. Ludwin Monz, who will resign from his position as Chairman of the Management Board at his own request and in agreement with the Supervisory Board. Dr. David Schmedding, currently Head of Sales, will become a new member of the Management Board of Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (Heidelberg) as Chief Sales and Service Officer on July 1, 2024.

The new CEO as of 01.07.2024 is Jürgen Otto

At the end of June 30, 2024, Monz will step down from the Management Board of Heidelberg. The Supervisory Board passed a resolution to this effect on April 19, 2024. The Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Dr. Martin Sonnenschein, comments: „We very much regret Dr. Ludwin Monz's decision to leave Heidelberg. He has decisively advanced our company strategically and operationally and thus strengthened our foundation in a difficult market environment. With Jürgen Otto, we are gaining a proven leader. With his experience and network, we will continue to consistently prepare Heidelberg for the future, increase profitability and further strengthen our significant technological expertise in the printing and packaging industry and beyond."

Dr. Ludwin Monz says: „I really enjoyed working at Heidelberg. I would like to thank the Supervisory Board, the management team and all employees of the company for their good cooperation."

Jürgen Otto brings decades of experience in the sustainable orienta-

tion of large industrial companies, complemented by experience in the field of turnaround management in the recent years. Looking ahead to his upcoming role, Jürgen Otto comments: „Heidelberg is an icon of German industry with product quality and service expertise that is appreciated worldwide. I am looking forward to becoming part of Heidelberg and working together with the management team around Tania von der Goltz and David Schmedding as well as all employees on a successful future for the company."

At its meeting on April 19, 2024, the Supervisory Board of Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG also expanded its Management Board. Dr. David Schmedding (47), previously Head of Sales, will join the Management Board as a new member. As of 01.07.2024, the Management Board will therefore consist of Jürgen Otto as Chief Executive Officer, Tania von der Goltz as Chief Financial Officer and Dr. David Schmedding as Chief Sales and Service Officer.

Commenting on the appointment of Dr. David Schmedding, Dr. Martin Sonnenschein said: „Due to his previous management positions in the company, Dr. David Schmedding is an accomplished Heidelberg resident. With his appointment to the Management Board, we will place an even stronger focus on convincing our customers with innovative, high-quality products and services and advancing their performance in the future."

Dr. David Schmedding adds: „I would like to thank everyone for the trust they have placed in me and look forward to the task of helping to shape Heidelberg as a member of the Management Board on its way forward and to further de-

velop it in the interests of our customers."

XSYS streamlines flexo plate processing with new Catena-BE 48

The objective for the development of the Catena-BE 48 was to provide another automated solution that allows platemakers to take out manual steps in the process and thereby accelerate plate production and secure quality. By automating plate transfer between imager and exposure unit, the ThermoFlexX Catena-BE 48 eliminates operator intervention and optimizes efficiency and consistency.

XSYS is proud to introduce ThermoFlexX Catena-BE 48, the company's latest innovation designed to increase efficiency and decrease waste in flexographic platemaking. The Catena-BE48, incorporating both hardware and software components, allows a seamless integration with the ThermoFlexX TFxX 48 Imager. This integration is facilitated by a bridge that enables this automation, creating an efficient, and touch free workflow. Catena-BE 48 employs a precision gripping system which ensures zero waste of plate material during transport.

With this innovative method, the TFxX 48 Imager can be pre-loaded and prepared for the next job while the previous plate is transferred autonomously to the Catena-E 48 LED exposure unit. This automation not only saves significant time but also guarantees that job presets are maintained throughout the process, ensuring that there are no configuration errors, to prevent waste and enhance efficiency.

Reducing operator handling of plates minimizes the risk of accidental damage or misplacement and therefor prevents waste.", said Bert Eeckhout, Product Manager XSYS PrePress. „As automation takes over manual and repetitive tasks, operators can dedicate more time to other important aspects of the production process, aligning with lean manufacturing principles."

Customers currently using a ThermoFlexX TFxX 48 can improve their capabilities by upgrading from a standalone Imager to an automated imaging and exposing line by adding a Catena-BE48, taking advantage of the latest innovation developed by XSYS. This upgrade not only enhances efficiency but also significantly boosts competitiveness, ensuring they remain leaders in an increasingly demanding market.

Epson launches latest evolution in Heat-Free Line Inkjet printing

Epson has continued its drive to bring Heat-Free Line Inkjet technology through its office print range, launching the AM-C400 and AM-C550 MFPs to deliver improved solutions to the A4 market. These new products offer all the energy saving and productivity advantages afforded by Epson's existing Line Inkjet printers but in a smaller, A4 format. This launch expands Epsons existing A4 inkjet line-up and provides an ideal solution for users with higher print volumes. For the channel they represent and easily maintained, profitable solution that supports sustainability agendas.

Boasting high print and scan speeds (up to 55ppm for print and 100ipm for scan), high paper capacities and high yield ink cartridges of up to 31,500 pages, both printers deliver enhanced productivity benefits; and with an improved colour touchscreen user interface, operation is quick and easy. The 'C' shaped paper path used in their design means their footprint has been reduced, placing these printers among the smallest in class and making them ideal for environments that demand a highly reliable, productive device but where space is limited.

Jose Sanandres, Epson Europe, said: „Launching this range means we close a gap in our product line-up and can offer the advantages of Line Inkjet throughout our office print range. These A4 models expand our AM-C family and deliver comparable levels of impressive productivity to those seen on the

AM-C A3 models, with a seamless user experience due to the shared user interface, but with a smaller footprint."

Fast print speeds, reliability and a small product footprint are coupled with the reduced energy consumption and waste reductions expected from Epson Heat-Free inkjet, further supporting the sustainability agenda and offering a compelling alternative to traditional laser printers.

Developed using Epson's Open Platform, these MFPs are easily integrated into existing technology infrastructures and are compatible with all 3 rdparty software solutions.

Miraclon and Bobst reinforce strategic partnership

Miraclon and Bobst have reinforced their strategic partnership, with Miraclon named as the plate technology partner in Bobst's new Competence Center in Atlanta. Officially opening this week, the center is home to a Flexcel NX System and Flexcel NX Ultra Processing Solution to support Bobst's goal to produce plates that maximize the performance of their presses.

The Bobst Competence Center will also be utilized by Miraclon for on-press demonstrations and print trials, giving printers and trade shops in North and South America the opportunity to see firsthand the onpress productivity and savings that Flexcel NX Technology offers.

Emma Weston, Chief Marketing Officer, Miraclon, said, „We've been collaborating closely with Bobst since our partnership in Europe started more than eight years ago. Visitors to the Bobst Bielefeld Demo Center in Germany have been able to see Flexcel NX plates in action after we installed a Flexcel NX System in 2019. Our strategic relationship underscores both companies' commitment to enabling our customers and partners to achieve their efficiency, sustainability and quality goals with some of the best technology and expertise in the industry."

The Miraclon and Bobst partnership will likewise see the companies

co-hosting industry events to promote how the technology enables efficient packaging printing.

Emilio Corti, Region Business Director, Americas at Bobst said, „Our longstanding partnership with Miraclon underpins our vision of shaping the future of the packaging world. With sustainability at the forefront of our customers' and brand owners' minds, our partnership enables them to see how our collaboration maximizes their investment and help to unlock new potential in the press room."

Color-Logic verifies three Canon production digital presses for Skandacor Sleekpro

Color-Logic has evaluated and verified sleeking on Canons imagePress V900, V1000, and V1350 presses, using the Skandacor Sleekpro process. The process evaluated enables owners of Canon imagePress presses to produce up to 924 foil colors with a single silver-based foil. The process also enables Canon printers to produce a wide array of embellishments with Color-Logic palettes and plugins for Adobe Creative Cloud.

Commenting on the process, Color-Logic Director of Sales and Marketing Mark Geeves said: „The Skandacor process, together with Color-Logic software and the extraordinary registration of Canon image-Press digital presses, is the perfect means of producing sleeking. The Color-Logic design tools create a single separation containing all the colors and effects. The Color-Logic separation is printed with Canon black toner and is then sent through the Skandacor foiling unit where the foil only attaches to the black toner. This foiled sheet is then sent back through the Canon digital press where CMYK inks are printed atop the file. The results are outstanding foiled sheets for a variety of printing applications including direct mail, counter signs, certificates, coupons, and cartons. This sleeking solution can open new markets and applications for the users of these Canon digital presses."

Gary Bernstein appointed as new Executive Vice President of Fedrigoni Special Papers North America

Fedrigoni is pleased to announce Gary Bernsteins appointment. Bernstein will lead the Commercial Team and utilize his extensive experience and network to drive significant growth across mature and emerging markets in North America. In his career, Bernstein has driven opportunities with significant brands within the high-end retail, food & beverage, beauty & personal care markets, with a strong focus on fiber-based alternatives to plastic. He brings a wealth of expertise in packaging and sustainable solutions, having worked at Neenah Paper for 25 years, and held previous roles supporting the printing and creative communities in North America.

Melissa Stevens, who comes from various marketing and sales leadership roles at Mohawk and will now serve as Chief Marketing Officer, will join Bernstein to develop the Fedrigoni Special Papers North American presence. Simon Pilkington, Sales VP, will also work alongside the new team. Pilkington previously led the Fedrigoni UK team and has now relocated to North America.

Amtech and Label Traxx combine to create an industrial software platform for packaging industry

Amtech, LLC (Amtech), a leading industrial software solutions provider to the packaging industry, has completed its acquisition of Label Traxx and its leading software suite for the label printing and flexible packaging segments. The combination further solidifies Amtech's position as a sought-after industrial software platform to the packaging industry.

The combined Company will provide software solutions to more than 750 customers and 1,200 manufacturing sites spanning packaging end markets across the globe, including in North America, Latin America and Europe.

Label Traxx provides a comprehensive software suite with end-to-end capabilities including ERP, MES, MIS, CRM, and other solutions that are complementary to Amtech. The company serves a diverse, global customer base spanning more than 500 manufacturing sites that supply a wide variety of end markets.

„Together, Amtech and Label Traxx form a highly differentiated, premier software platform within the packaging industry," said Chuck Schneider, CEO of Amtech. „The combined company will offer best-in-class, end-to-end solutions to meet our customers' packaging and labeling needs across the world, while optimizing their operations at both the enterprise and plant-level."

„We are thrilled to invest in the combination of the Amtech and Label Traxx," said Preston Thomas, Managing Director of Peak Rock Capital. „We're excited about the value the combined platform will provide to all customers and the significant growth momentum of the business going forward."

Pete Leibman, Managing Director of Peak Rock Capital, added, „Over the last several years, Amtech has experienced transformative growth, spurred by investments in R&D, new product offerings, and strategic acquisitions. The Company is well positioned to continue its growth trajectory through continuing new customer wins and additional acquisitions."