

a fragile surface, our specialists can help to choose and implement a solution that matches customers' expectations and specifications, as well as image criteria," adds Fermo. "We have cost-effective, UL-recognized choices for labeling a very wide range of durables goods, allowing converters to help brand owners meet regulations and safeguard essential product and security information."

INLAND TO ADD 50,000 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE

■ **Inland has announced the addition of 50,000 square feet of facilities** near its Airport Road location in La Crosse, WI, USA. The new space, which will house Inland's finished goods warehousing and distribution, follows the company's rebrand announcement in March of 2015.

According to Garet Wetzel, Inland's vice president of Supply Chain, the rebrand was a strategic decision based on the company's growth and expansion into new markets. "As

we continue to grow at Inland, it was important for us to look into how we could expand our current footprint," explains Wetzel. "Having these facilities will give us the flexibility to add additional equipment and continue providing quality products and services for our customers."

In addition to the new square footage, Inland is scheduled to install a new flexographic printing press in July and two new XL offset printing presses by October of 2015. The company has internally invested \$30 million since 2008 and has also placed and continues to recruit for over 50 positions to help with the expansion.

KOCHER+BECK USA'S SOLID DIES NOW AVAILABLE WITH SHARPENED DIE PROFILES

■ **Kocher + Beck USA has announced** that all of the company's solid die products are now available with completely machine sharpened die profiles.

"K+B USA has invested heavily in the Atlanta facility, including several new, state-of-the-art milling systems," says Jim Ward, vice president of operations in Atlanta, GA, USA. "We have had an intense R&D effort to develop tooling and software that allow us to make exacting machine sharpened die lines for virtually all applications. This new option is not only available for all of our current products, but it also allows us to add new products to our line of solid tooling."

The company reports that it also expects to make several new product announcements before the end of 2015.

LABEL IMPRESSIONS REDUCES WASTE WITH PAC TRIM REMOVAL SYSTEM

■ **Label Impressions, touted as the world's first carbon-neutral, wind-powered label printing company,** has bolstered its commitment to the environment by forming a cross-country partnership with

Omet unveils two new presses in Italy

Customers from around the world visited Omet's facilities in Lecco, Italy on May 19, 2015, to view the company's two new presses: the iFLEX, a narrow web press for labels, and the Varyflex V2 Offset mid-web for flexible package printing.

Italian minister of Social Affairs and Employment Giuliano Poletti received a guided tour of the company from Antonio Bartesaghi, managing director of Omet Group, and Marco Calcagni, sales and marketing director.

The event officially kicked off in the evening with the unveiling of iFLEX, which had been kept under wraps until then. Demonstrations for both presses then took place, and customers and journalists were encouraged to assist in the demos. According to the company, the displays showcased the machines' user-friendliness, efficiency and quick turnover.

The iFLEX press features iLIGHT, a pre-register system with laser pointers, and iVISION, a smart camera-assisted register on each print unit. The laser pointer indicates the best alignment of the plate holder, with the aim to speed up the changeover and time to register. An identical laser pointer is positioned perpendicular to the die to guarantee the quickest, and immediately effective, die changeover.

The iFLEX handles a wide range of formats (from 5 to 18 1/2") tailored to the needs of a small/medium label converter. It is designed to work continuously, without stops for maintenance.

"The iFLEX fills a technology gap in today's market, as it is the ideal complement of the equipment of medium to large label converters that produce large volumes of simple labels with just-in-time deliveries looking for a decrease in wastage," explains Calcagni. "At the same time, it represents for smaller label converters with less investment capacity, the fundamental technological resource to print any job, no matter the volume, with a very high ROI."

The Varyflex V2 Offset was used on shrinkable materials and thin films. Through its patented Easy Sleeve Format Change system, job changeovers are quick to perform, involve little waste and bring flexibility to the whole printing process. The press is designed to print flexible packaging in direct competition with CI flexo and rotogravure presses or to accommodate runs of shrink sleeves, IML, multi-layer films, laminates and special applications.

This press is available in widths of 26" (670mm) and 33" (850mm).



Precision AirConvey (PAC), a leader in trim and matrix removal systems. Each week, up to 800,000 square feet of raw material is unwound from rolls for processing at Label Impressions' Southern California manufacturing plant. After processing, trim and matrix from the rolls need to be rewound and manually removed. Occurring up to 90 times a week, this process costs hours of downtime and results in the loss of as much as 27,000 square feet of raw material every week.

Recognizing the opportunity to eliminate this waste, Label Impressions has retrofitting its plant with a matrix waste removal system from Precision AirConvey. By seamlessly capturing and shredding waste from the presses, the system will eliminate the need for rewinding rolls of waste. This improvement will keep nearly 1.5 million square feet of raw material from going to waste each year.

The PAC system also enables Label Impressions to purchase material rolls with thinner edges, further reducing raw material use by 1.67%. In total, the improvements will save Label Impressions an estimated

\$210,000 annually: \$132,000 through reduced material costs and \$78,000 through eliminated downtime. According to Label Impressions' President Jeff Salisbury, the system will pay for itself within a year, proving that environmental and cost-consciousness can go hand-in-hand.

"This new system demonstrates Label Impressions' continued commitment to implementing environmentally-friendly solutions at each stage of our production process," says Salisbury. "We're very pleased and excited to see the impact the PAC system will have on reducing our carbon footprint, as well as supporting the financial health of our company."

Precision AirConvey CEO Thomas Embley adds that the partnership is equally rewarding for his company. He says, "This installation is not the product of chance, but of design. We strive to engineer the best, greenest trim and matrix removal systems, precisely for the benefit of responsible companies like Label Impressions. We're delighted that they chose us from across the country, and believe it validates our position as an industry leader."

ERHARDT+LEIMER AND AVT TO FORM STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

■ Erhardt+Leimer and AVT have announced their intent to form a strategic alliance to provide a wider range of integrated automation products and machinery for the printing and converting industries. AVT intends to acquire Erhardt+Leimer's print inspection systems. The move broadens product portfolios and strengthens services for customers of both companies, including end users and OEMs, through equipment born of the two companies' combined experience and technological skills.

According to the companies understandings, in a first step, AVT will acquire E+L's automatic print inspection solutions and will assume the responsibility to develop and manage these solutions for both companies' customers in label and packaging applications, including the corrugated segment. In return, E+L will be entitled to future earn outs and a cash payment, as per the set terms. As part of the agreement, Michael Proeller, E+L's CEO, will be appointed chairman of AVT's Advisory Board and serve as an observer on AVT's Board of Directors.

Primera introduces LX2000 color label printer

Primera Technology, Inc., has announced its new LX2000 Color Label Printer, the company's fastest-ever desktop color printer. It produces labels at speeds of up to 6" per second – about 25% faster than Primera's LX900 color label printer (for comparable print quality).

Large, separate ink cartridges for cyan, magenta, yellow and black keep the cost per label low. Other features include pigment-based ink for stronger resistance to UV light, chemicals and water, a built in "pizza-wheel" cutter, a viewing window to see labelstock levels, and wired Ethernet or USB 2.0 and wireless connection options.

"LX2000 represents an entirely new product class in desktop label printing," says Mark Strobel, Primera's vice president of sales and marketing. "With large ink tanks we can offer an extremely competitive cost per label. Our print speeds rival printers that cost up to three times more. We have pigment ink that has far more resistance to water, chemicals and UV light. Print quality is superb. Add to that our wired Ethernet or USB 2.0 or wireless connection options, along with 8" print

width and you've got everything most companies would ever need. With LX2000, there are only benefits and no compromises."

Typical applications include product labels for coffee, wine, water, bakery, confectionary, meat, cheese and hundreds of other specialty and gourmet foods. LX2000 is also a great fit for private labeling, test marketing, pre-press proofing and retail labeling.

LX2000 is ideal for those who need a GHS compliant label solution. With its pigment ink and Primera's Tuffcoat Extreme PolyJet material, LX2000 has already passed Section 3, BS5609 testing. The testing included removal of print by adhesive tape, abrasion resistance and permanence of print evaluations under extreme conditions, including exposure to UV light and repeated salt spray and immersion. The material and printed images from LX2000 passed in all three categories.

Qualified substrates include many different inkjet label materials, including Primera's exclusive Tuffcoat Extreme white and clear polyester and white BOPP, as well as the new Tuffcoat Extreme PolyJet. Paper labels are also available in high-gloss, semi-gloss and matte finishes. The LX2000 is priced at \$3995 (MSRP) in the USA and Canada. It is available now from Primera's resellers and distributors worldwide.

