

Report

PRODUCTS · PRACTICES · PERSPECTIVES

Premieres at every turn

A packed programme

It was all systems go for KBA in the first six months of the year. We kicked off by snapping up Grafitec, a Czech manufacturer of small-format sheetfed presses, which has since been embedded in our global organisation under its new moniker, KBA-Grafitec.

This was followed by an open house on brand protection and hybrid finishing options at our sheetfed plant in Radebeul and a technology roadshow, KBA Podium 2005, which was well attended throughout its tour of 14 cities in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Then came the inauguration of a 40-metre-plus Rapida 142 14-unit perfecter in Sydney, Australia.

The production start-up of the first 48-page Cortina mini tower press at Rodi Rotatiedruk in the Netherlands was accompanied by a contract from Edipresse in Switzerland for a 64-page version.

B&K Offsetdruck, a commercial printer in Ottersweier, Germany, pressed the button on the first new-generation high-performance 16pp Compacta 217.

Meanwhile shipments continued at regular intervals of Rapida 205 VLF press lines, some with up to seven printing units. And just over a year after Drupa we celebrated the inauguration of the 65th new-generation Rapida 105 to roll off the production line. Read on for features on all of the above and much, much more.



Premiere in the Czech Republic: our new subsidiary, KBA-Grafitec, appears at the Embax Print fair, Brno, in KBA livery



Premiere in the Netherlands: the first 48-page Cortina rolls into action at Rodi Rotatiedruk



Premiere in Germany: B&K Offsetdruck in Ottersweier inaugurates a new 16-page Compacta 217

Premiere in Australia: the 40m, 14-unit Rapida 142 perfecter at packaging printer Anzpac in Sydney



Contents

KBA

Value-added has its price 2

Digital Print

46 Karat in Slovakia 3

74 Karat in Florence 6

74 Karat in Manhattan 7

Sheetfed Offset

Grafitec joins KBA 8

Three Rapidas at Mohn 10

Eleven Rapidas

for Tonic, Algeria 12

Long Rapidas at

Buxton Press, UK 14

5/5 in 3B or straight

in large format? 16

Cool ideas at Pinguin 17

Genius 52 in Italy 18

Trio of Rapida 105s

for IAPCA, France 20

2nd Hybrid User

Meeting in Radebeul 22

Large format in China 24

Rapida 185 debuts

in France 26

Record perfecter

at Anzpac, Australia 27

POS specialist Holbox 28

Genius 52 UV

a winner in Sweden 30

Commercial Web Offset

Pros and cons of

alcohol-free printing 34

Innovative turner bars 38

Compacta 217 debuts

in Germany 40

Compacta 418

in Brussels 42

Newspaper

German publishers

kit up again 44

Cortina goes Dutch

at Rodi Rotatiedruk 46

Commander 6/2

for Marseilles 48

First 7-segment

newspaper folder 49

Prisma for

Bangkok Post 50

Shorts

51

(34), who established the company in 1995, now has a staff of six. Print jobs – 50% promotional and other corporate literature, 30% small periodicals and 20% books – are delivered ready-prepared by ad agencies and other clients, either for platemaking, in the case of the older wet offset press, an Adast Dominant (SRA2), or for direct imaging in the 46 Karat. If finishing is specified the sheets are conveyed to a Duplo brochure-making line.

Even before the fair took place Jan Holcik had obtained detailed information from Presstek, supplier of the ProFire imaging heads and the PEARLdry-Plus polyester plate rolls used in the 46 Karat. Having sold off two of its four conventional sheetfed presses a few years ago, investing in CTP just did not enter the equation when Ultra Print tabled plans to upgrade its equipment.

“Why should we prolong the era of conventional offset with computer to plate and all the associated updates?” comments Holcik. “Installing a fast, compact DI offset press like the 46 Karat, which is clean, easy to handle and easy to maintain, has allowed us to leapfrog several stages in press evolution.”

The main reasons Holcik cites for choosing the 46 Karat are that it is good value for money and the delivery time-frame was short. One of the other two manufacturers in the

running could neither demonstrate a press nor offer an acceptable shipping date, while the third was simply too pricey. KBA dealer Eurograf in Bratislava, however, was not only able to give an immediate demonstration but could also promise prompt delivery.

The 46 Karat printed its first sheet just seven days after installation work started. By the middle of January the two operators were fully conversant with the new technology and the press was running flawlessly. Initially it was operated in one-and-a-half shifts but this has since been expanded to two full shifts. Any incoming jobs considered suitable for DI offset are now scheduled to the Karat. Most of these are for advertising agencies, which often require a same-day service. Almost all the company’s clients are located in Bratislava and include a number of foreign firms that have opened subsidiaries there.

*Typoset Print:
focus on high-end offset*

Prior to installing Slovakia’s second 46 Karat, Ludovit Karpinsky (34), Pavel Kordos (41) and Augustin Fischer (43), joint owners of a graphics studio in Bratislava with a staff of nine, first had to set up a dedicated printing company and hire two press operators. The press went live at Typoset Print



Typoset in Bratislava was the first printing plant in Slovakia to achieve ISO 12647-2 accreditation for proof-to-print colour fidelity

in February, and is one of the first installations of a 46 Karat^{PLUS} worldwide. The ^{PLUS} indicates that it can print an AM screen resolution of up to 120lpc (300lpi) and even an FM screen, supported by Presstek’s new ProFire-Excel imaging system. This capability was the reason why Typoset decided to expand into print: no other press came into the question.

Over the years Typoset has established a reputation for top-quality graphic design and prepress among customers both in

the domestic market and further afield, in Austria and the Czech Republic. Karpinsky and Kordos bought the 46 Karat^{PLUS} as a logical extension of their prepress portfolios, since it supports the same high quality standards and can convert the superior front-end products the company creates into equally superior print. The press operators set about mapping the Karat’s quality potential within the first few weeks of its coming on stream. This necessitated some minor assistance from KBA’s rapid-response support



Typoset proprietors Ludovit Karpinsky (left) and Pavel Kordos use their 46 Karat^{PLUS} to address the high end of the offset market



Promotional literature, sample books, book covers, CD sleeves and envelopes are among the many products printed on the 46 Karat^{PLUS} at Typoset Print