

The stretch limo of the carton board world

A 18 unit flexo inline press at Scientific Games International Ltd in Leeds/GB marks a world first for carton printing with multiple features

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In recent months *Scientific Games International Ltd*, the highly respected supplier of consumer security products including scratch cards and phone cards installed a unique *Flexline Intro* flexo press from *BHS Printing Machinery* of Weiden/D in their Leeds/GB factory. Unique because it has 18 print stations and is 68 metres in length! This really long machine can print 100–400 gsm carton board in one pass into several consumer security products depending on the configuration.

The beauty of this press is its flexibility, water-based and UV inks can be used at discretion anywhere on the press as alternative natural drying or UV curing systems are available for all stations. (In other applications, as additional feature the print stations can be swapped between flexo and gravure using a cassette system and by slightly altering the web path through the print unit.) Sleeved print cylinders mean extremely short changeover times can be achieved, equally the sleeves are stable during long press runs. Substrate web buffering means that reel changes can be carried out on the fly allowing a non-stop operation, waste is reduced and press downtime for reel

changes is eliminated.

Both sides of the board can be printed without using turner bars simply by altering the web path through each print unit.

A big feature of this press is the drive system which is totally gearless with individual servo motors for the print, impression and anilox cylinders. Register control is provided through individual vector drives and the press comes with a recipe control system to register existing jobs and pre-register new jobs.

This exceptionally long machine is controlled from a single control console although there are manual register adjustment controls at each print station. In place of drive shafts and heavy motors a plethora of electronic circuitry is evident in a purpose built container alongside the press. Another useful feature is online diagnostics which can be carried out in realtime via a modem connection to the *BHS* facility in Germany. In addition to getting the substrate from one end of the press to the other with high quality printing an additional satellite unit extends the web even further and adds another image for security purposes.

The *Hardcoat Plus* sleeve system for plates is supplied by *Polywest* and has a hard wearing surface for mounting plates. This new surface is

resistant to conventional inks and solvents and provides excellent adhesion between the mounting tape and the sleeve.

When asked why he had chosen a *BHS Flexline Intro* press for printing lottery scratch cards MARK SCHOLEY, Operations Director for *Scientific Games International Ltd*, said »Flexibility of the press was a main consideration. With 18 print stations we can handle a wide variety of jobs with only minimal changes to the press configuration. Quality was another reason – our exacting customers require consistent, high quality results all the time, every time. Gearless drives give us even greater control over the press parameters and with the non-stop unwind we can print in continuous mode for much longer periods.«

In fact this 68 metre press is effectively doing the job of three »normal« length presses but without the added burden of moving the substrate between presses for additional printing operations and risking waste and down time increasing. It also means that fewer operators are needed to run the long press as the controls are centralised.

Says JIM DUNLOP representing *BHS* and *Polywest*: »We are delighted that *Scientific Games International Ltd* chose the combination of this unique *BHS Flexline* press with the *Polywest* sleeve system as their solution for this highly specialised application of lottery scratch cards.«

- www.scigames.com
- www.bhs-print.de
- www.polywest.de

