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Take the 'Rotocon trail' around the show

At Labelexpo Europe, where several of their principals are among exhibitors, Rotocon's Michael, Patrick and Pascal Aengenvoort will be on hand to answer questions from South Africa's labelling and packaging converters. In fact, it's something of a family reunion, since Marco Aengenvoort (MD of RotoControl in Germany) is also attending.

Here's a good way to take the 'Rotocon trail' around the eight halls, to see leading-edge technology from these trail-blazing companies.

Starting in hall 4, Pantec GS Systems (stand 4C62) is the first port of call, where hot foil and hologram equipment, and hot stamping-embossing cylinders, are the main attraction.

Then moving across to hall 6, stop at Wink (stand 6C32) to inspect the full portfolio of premium diecutting solutions and services. Among highlights is the launch of an optimised version of GapControl, further improved in terms of handling and pressure control. Here visitors can enjoy live demos with MDO material on a thin PET liner to show the GapControl advantages under real conditions. The system is convincing with its particularly stable construction that even allows cutting-through metal-to-metal.

Wink's SuperCut flexible dies are well-known for extreme precision and durability; and Wink is showcasing new versions, mainly based on specific adjustments of blade geometry in combination with the right coating, eg for die-cutting difficult materials. Wink's ultra-hard MCR coating significantly increases tools' durability, especially when die-cutting very abrasive (thermal) materials in long runs, while Wink's optimised non-stick coatings offer maximum protection against glue and ink residues.

Moving into hall 7, RotoControl (stand 7D42) is presenting its leading-edge finishing machines for label inspection, slitting, rewinding, die-cutting, overprinting, digital and booklet printed labels for converters in the narrow-web industry.

Being launched is the next generation DT-series for processing and finishing digitally-created labels. Features include flatbed screen printing, inline finishing with digital presses, and increased speed to 67m/min in semi-rotary mode - said to be the industry's fastest.

The DT-series is equipped with an automatic knife positioning system and integrated with RotoControl's

FastChange fully-automatic four-spindle turret, A modular, versatile finishing machine, the DT also provides optional finishing modules designed to complement digital printing operations. Standard with a fully integrated flexo printing station and a semirotary die-cutting unit including high-accuracy register control, the DT-series is suitable for varnishing, diecutting in register, slitting and rewinding of printed or blank labels.

There's a treat in store in hall 9, where Screen Europe (stand 9B30) is unveiling its latest Truepress Jet L350UV inkjet label press (pictured below) featuring important innovations that combine to deliver superb quality, productivity and flexibility. Since the innovative Truepress Jet L350UV was launched just two years ago, the press has evolved significantly and in Brussels visitors can see the latest model featuring new 'vivid colour' extended gamut, JDF-enabled job control software and inline/offline finishing - all for the first time.

The high-productivity Truepress Jet L350UV uses Screen's high-definition CMYK+white UV inks and delivers photo-realistic quality at 50m/min on web widths up to 350mm.





BL Series: For the production of booklet labels



RSP Series: 100% inspection of pharmaceutical labels



DT Series;

FC Series: Fully automatic 4-spindle turret rewinder



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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2015



Partnerships, collaboration

Collaboration between industry-leading partners is another feature of Labelexpo Europe.

One example is MPS's technological cooperation with GEW for the hybrid UV/ LED drying system on the EF Neo press; with Kocher & Beck for the fully-automated Quick Change die unit; and with AVT for the PrescoNW system for the automated process of pressure settings on the print stations.

MPS is also joining forces with Henkel/
Novamelt, Appvion, Evonik, Maan Engineering, Ricoh,
Ravenwood Packaging and Bostik in the Linerless
Trail at Labelexpo Europe, which offers show visitors
an efficient way to get in contact with linerlessrelated technologies. Presented by a physical green
marked route on the map alongside the stands of the
participants, the Linerless Trail has been established to
introduce visitors of Labelexpo with linerless technology;
from basic materials through processing and everything
in between, in a convenient and efficient way.

MPS is also an official sponsor of Label Academy, which will host two master classes during the show: 'Conventional Label Printing Processes' and 'Digital Label and Package Printing'.

In addition, the award winning REVO team – consisting of Nuova Gidue, Flint Group, Apex International, AVT, DuPont, Esko, UPM Raflatac and packaging converter Adare Group – are bringing new technology to Labelexpo, demonstrating how low-migration UV flexo inks can be used to convert flexible packaging. Currently, most food-grade flexible packaging is printed with either solvent- or water-based flexo inks or with solvent gravure. UV has been considered problematic because the photo-initiators can migrate if not fully cured. The REVO team claims to have developed a technology to guarantee that every metre of film within a roll has been fully cured, and that brand colours are consistently matched by a seven-colour process ink set.

Also in hall 9 there's plenty to learn about print inspection, print process control and quality assurance. Take time to visit AVT (stand 9C05) that includes everything from the height of digital process control technology to premier offline proofing systems.

Among new offline proofing systems is SolidProof that provides 100% assurance for wide-web, narrow-web and sheetfed applications, ensuring that no critical errors have been overlooked in the print production process.

The show also sees the première of AVT's Helios S Turbo, a cutting-edge inspection system designed to help production lines reach maximum throughput.

In addition, this is the first major trade show since AVT announced its strategic alliance with Erhardt + Leimer (E+L) (see PPM June 2015), and the joint portfolio, born of AVT's and E+L's combined experience and technological skills is being demonstrated for the first time at both companies' partners' stands throughout the exhibition.

At the end of the trail in hall 11 (stand 11C20), visitors can look forward to MPS's unveiling of a new flexo press with an integrated high-quality inkjet printer. With its combination of conventional and digital printing, this hybrid press provides converters with fresh potential

Results of new collaborations with industry-leading partners are also being presented. For a fuller preview of MPS technology on show, turn to page 31.

Rotocon's newest agency, Matho (see full story on page 40) can also be found in this hall (stand 11A23) showing its line of cutting units and waste management systems.

Being demonstrated is a typical cutting and extracting module EM-160 in combination with the new generation of balers. The newly-engineered solution from Matho's Cuttopress family is a very compact baler system for self-adhesive matrix waste of one or two production machines.



Educational features

Labelexpo Europe also plays host to an array of educational feature areas.

The PackPrint Workshop gives practical insight into how printers can diversify and grow their businesses – with demonstrations by Xeikon using its 3500 for digital folding carton production and Nilpeter showing its FA* flexo press for flexible packaging.

The Smart Packaging Lab focuses on opportunities in intelligent and active packaging, while the inaugural Packaging Design Studio gives visitors a chance to network with some of the industry's leading creative designers.

With the return of the Print Your Future feature, HP Indigo and partners present their package printing solutions. Here Visitors can see a wide range of applications, including flexible packaging, shrink sleeves and labels alongside new advanced colour management tools and inks. Both the HP Indigo 20000 and WS6800 Digital Presses will be on display.

