

Press Information

www.heidelberg.com

Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG

Postfach
69159 Wiesloch
Germany

Gutenbergring
69168 Wiesloch

Matthias Hartung

Phone +49 6222 82-67174
Fax +49 6222 82-9967972

Matthias.Hartung@heidelberg.com
www.heidelberg.com

January 3, 2024

Ten HEIDELBERG innovations cut costs and alleviate skills shortage

- **Costs per printed sheet key for print shops**
- **State-of-the-art sheetfed offset technology from HEIDELBERG ensures competitiveness**

The printing industry faces two main challenges – continuing cost pressure and, increasingly, a shortage of skilled workers. Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG (HEIDELBERG) offers print shops solutions that can help with both these key issues. “Cutting-edge sheetfed offset technology from HEIDELBERG is becoming ever more productive compared to the previous models. In certain cases, it can even double a print shop’s output thanks to the combination of Push to Stop and Performance Services. By automating the printing process, we are also helping to compensate for the difficulty in filling posts,” says Dr. David Schmedding, the company’s Global Head of Sales & Marketing. “At the same time, sheetfed offset remains many customers’ method of choice for cost-effective high-volume printing,” he adds.

Ten selected innovations and customer examples:

(1) Exceptional efficiency: With a printing speed of 21,000 sheets per hour, the Speedmaster XL 106 from HEIDELBERG makes it possible to increase net output in folding carton production by up to ten percent compared to the standard configuration with an output of 18,000 sheets per hour.

For in-mold label production on the **Speedmaster XL 106**, HEIDELBERG offers a performance package designed for the specific requirements of in-mold materials that enables up to 15 percent higher production speeds to be achieved.

Press Information

HEIDELBERG also offers a highlight that is not based on offset technology for high-volume folding carton printing. The company's new **Boardmaster** flexographic web printing system is all about efficiency. It achieves double the productivity of comparable systems in folding carton production. The Boardmaster boasts an availability of up to 90 percent and a maximum printing speed of 600 meters per minute, which is equivalent to around 38,000 sheets per hour in format 6 (sheet width: 148 cm).

One example of highly efficient packaging printing with HEIDELBERG systems is provided by [WestRock in the USA, Poland, and Germany](#).

One potential application for in-mold label production can be seen at [Metprint GZR in Turkey](#).

(2) Automation to combat the skills shortage: As it moves toward an autonomous pressroom, HEIDELBERG is equipping its Speedmaster presses with ever more fully automated processes that relieve the strain on operators. **Prinect software** integrates all processes – from incoming orders through to shipping – into an end-to-end workflow, while the established **Push to Stop concept** ensures highly automated operations that can also be linked to third-party workflows. As a result, print shops are seeing a significant easing of their staff's workload.

Besides boosting productivity, **Plate to Unit** can also alleviate the skills shortage at print shops. By almost fully automating the process of supplying and removing printing plates on the press, this solution ensures reliably high productivity and reduces the risk of plates being damaged. This system is a real game-changer when it comes to fully automatic plate changing.

How HEIDELBERG can work with customers to drive automation is demonstrated by the [example of Saxoprint in Germany](#).

(3) Intelligent algorithms: The use of artificial intelligence (AI) makes life easier for print shops by supporting the automatic configuration of complex production parameters. Initial functions implemented by HEIDELBERG include the process optimization solution Preset 2.0, the **intelligent assistance systems** Intellistart 3, Wash Assistant, Powder Assistant, and Color Assistant Pro, and the company's **Performance Advisor Technology (PAT)**.

Press Information

PAT acts as a kind of digital colleague. It visualizes and structures data, also offering practical suggestions and tips for improvements that boost productivity and save on resources.

Details are provided by the example of the customer [Girzig+Gottschalk in Germany](#).

(4) Sustainability cuts costs: The energy efficiency of printing presses is improving all the time. HEIDELBERG is working on as many different parameters as possible on its systems to achieve this. Enhanced standby functions, ultra-efficient blowers such as those in AirStar Pro air supply cabinets, and a workflow that minimizes waste all lower costs, for instance. In this connection, special **consulting teams** from HEIDELBERG visit customers and hold energy workshops to analyze where they can save on resources and cut costs.

Lots of individual targeted measures all add up and have a big impact. **The latest Speedmaster XL 106-6+L** consumes **some 40 percent less energy per thousand sheets** than an equivalent Speedmaster CD 102-6+L from 1990. This is achieved thanks to numerous functions that either reduce waste (such as Analyze Point for waste reporting and Prinect Inpress Control) or save on material (such as Powder Assistant and FilterStar).

One specific example of this is the customer [Biopax in Northern Ireland](#).

(5) Digital press setup via touch control: One HEIDELBERG solution can boost print shop performance in just a few clicks. **The Speedmaster Operating System** with intuitive operator guidance based on touch control (HEIDELBERG UX) ensures user-friendly control of the press. The Speedmaster Operating System is controlled via a 24-inch multi-touchscreen. Operators can call up settings with a click, while the scalable operation can be flexibly adapted based on the requirements profile (Smart Setup). What's more, the system offers innovative gesture control and integrated help functions in 27 languages.

One user of this system is [Omaks Packaging in Turkey](#).

(6) The result makes all the difference: End customers see and feel the difference. Accurate color reproduction plays a key role in the modern brand world of print shop customers. Colors must match perfectly, and it is especially important for premium products also to feel premium to the touch. The highly automated **color and quality measurement systems from HEIDELBERG** ensure absolute repeat accuracy and color fidelity in commercial and packaging printing. This, too, can be achieved on a highly automated basis.

Press Information

The unique Prinect Inpress Control 3 spectral measurement system finds the print control strips, paper white, and register marks fully automatically – color control starts without any operator intervention.

One example of highly automated color control in action is provided by [Modern Litho in the USA](#).

(7) Two printing technologies in one: HEIDELBERG seamlessly combines digital and sheetfed offset printing. The new digital printing systems **Versafire LV** and **Versafire LP** are equipped with an enhanced Prinect Digital Front End (DFE), thereby ensuring **intuitive interaction of offset and digital printing technology**. Offering comprehensive process and application expertise relating to both offset and digital printing makes HEIDELBERG unique in the industry.

Examples of satisfied Versafire users include [Mollet Printing](#) and [G2 Graphic Service](#), both in the USA.

(8) Precision down to the last detail: To provide its customers with presses that operate smoothly for long periods, HEIDELBERG has always focused on precision. This is already evident from its production of core components. The HEIDELBERG foundry at the Amstetten site manufactures high-precision components for the company's presses and also for industrial customers in a variety of sectors. Perfectly coordinated production processes ensure that all components, including gears of all sizes, ultimately contribute to smooth print production.

Machine guards, cylinders, gears, and many other components are developed and manufactured by the research and development department and the production team, all working together closely.

Take a look behind the scenes at the [HEIDELBERG foundry at the Amstetten site](#).

(9) Service champion: HEIDELBERG boasts the industry's most comprehensive service network worldwide. Its global sales and service network includes more than 2,000 employees at 250 sites in 170 different countries. The company's services also extend to scalable contract models and remote maintenance operations that help reduce downtime and safeguard customers' investments. In addition to this, the HEIDELBERG service portfolio helps print shops cushion the effects of the skills shortage by training staff and optimizing

Press Information

processes. Consulting and training for both management staff and employees focus on equipment-related process optimization at print shops.

One example demonstrating the HEIDELBERG service promise is provided by the customer [Bromberger in Germany](#).

(10) “Pay-per-use” model: HEIDELBERG provides everything a print shop needs for stable and effective production, and does so from a single source. Besides service, consumables, software, training, and consulting, the **Subscription Plus Model** the company offers in collaboration with Munich Re/relayr also covers the press itself. The amount customers pay for the all-in package depends on their output, that is to say the number of printed sheets they produce. Since Subscription Plus also includes the press, customers do not need to invest in this. Instead, they pay to use the press, also based on a price per sheet (CAPEX to OPEX).

A satisfied HEIDELBERG Subscription customer: [WEIG Packaging](#), Germany.

Figure 1: With a printing speed of 21,000 sheets per hour, the Speedmaster XL 106 makes it possible to increase net output in folding carton production by up to ten percent compared to the standard configuration.

Figure 2: The new Boardmaster is all about efficiency and availability. It achieves double the productivity of comparable systems in folding carton production.

Figure 3: A real game-changer when it comes to fully automatic plate changing, Plate to Unit boosts productivity and helps alleviate the skills shortage at print shops.

Figure 4: The latest Speedmaster XL 106-6+L consumes some 40 percent less energy per thousand sheets than an equivalent Speedmaster CD 102-6+L from 1990.

Figure 5: Digital press setup via touch control – the Speedmaster Operating System can boost print shop performance in just a few clicks.

Figure 6: The highly automated color and quality measurement systems from HEIDELBERG ensure absolute repeat accuracy and color fidelity in commercial and packaging printing.

Press Information

Figure 7: The new digital printing systems Versafire LV and Versafire LP with enhanced Prinect Digital Front End ensure intuitive interaction of offset and digital printing technology.

Figure 8: The HEIDELBERG foundry at the Amstetten site manufactures high-precision components for the company's presses and also for industrial customers in a variety of sectors.

Figure 9: HEIDELBERG boasts the industry's most comprehensive service network worldwide, with more than 2,000 employees at 250 sites in 170 different countries.

Figure 10: Besides service, consumables, software, training, and consulting, the Subscription Plus Model offered by HEIDELBERG in collaboration with Munich Re/relayr also covers the press itself.

You will find additional details about the company and image material in the [Press Lounge](#) of Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG at www.heidelberg.com and in the [Media Library](#).

Further information:

Heidelberger Druckmaschinen AG

Group Communications

Matthias Hartung

Phone: +49 6222 82-67174

E-mail: matthias.hartung@heidelberg.com