



The new Mount Edgecombe factory – operating alongside Freedom Stationery’s main production facility and distribution centre – has 800m² more floor space and offers an additional 10m in height for finished goods storage and 3 000m² for storing raw materials. More floor space and better workflow enable the efficient production of ready-erected cartons for the fast-food, confectionery, convenience food, personal care and pharmaceutical sectors.

The freedom to **grow and improve**

Freedom PrintPak has invested in new premises and additional printing capacity in its bid to remain one of KZN’s leading suppliers of cartons for the fast-food, confectionery and convenience food sectors, reports NICI SOLOMON.

FREEDOM PRINTPAK has moved to a 3 540m² factory in Mount Edgecombe and invested in a high-speed, full sheet size Heidelberg press in its quest to remain one of KZN’s leading suppliers of ready-erected cartons.

Marketing manager, Shiraz Hans, explains the rationale behind the move from the company’s original premises in New Germany.

‘The Mount Edgecombe premises offer additional factory floor space, an improved workflow and increased storage space for raw materials,’ he says. ‘It also houses our primary stationery production facility and distribution centre – which services the KZN area and five national branches – centralising our logistics, warehousing and management team.’

So far as space is concerned, the business gained 800m² of floor space and an additional 10m in height for finished goods storage, providing an enhanced stockholding capacity to ensure swift response to customers’ needs. In addition, 3 000m² is now available for raw materials storage.

In terms of workflow, Shiraz is pleased with improvements over the previous premises. Workflow now starts with the sheeting operation, with the two Heidelberg presses lined up to face the delivery section of the sheeter. Then comes die-cutting, leading to gluing, final assembly, and straight to dispatch.

Logistically, Shiraz points out, it’s more economical to combine deliveries of stationery and packaging to any specific area, while a further advantage of having all operations under one roof is the ability to manage the packaging business on a daily basis. As Shiraz notes, it was previously taxing for the management team to travel to New Germany more than twice a week.

Expanding footprint

The company sees many opportunities in the South African market. ‘Our first aim is to expand our footprint in the confectionery industry beyond a few manufacturers and independent supermarkets,’ says Shiraz.

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Freedom PrintPak's six-colour Heidelberg Speedmaster is placed in line with the company's new six-colour Speedmaster CD 102. The latter enables the doubling of sheet size to 720mm x 1 020mm and an increase of output to 15 000 sheets/hour.



The Speedmaster CD 102's intelligent, parallel washing programme for blankets, impression cylinders and inking units shaves two minutes from each wash-up cycle."

'Our second aim is to break into the pharmaceutical market. We intend to be more aggressive in our marketing to obtain business and volumes.'

And the new factory premises are undoubtedly attractive to new customers from such sensitive industries.

The business has been reaudited and recertified to FSSC 22000 and ISO 9001 standards, reflecting a total commitment to maintaining a secure, world-class manufacturing operation.

Great performance, great value from new press

In its quest to ensure state-of-the-art packaging products, Freedom PrintPak continues to invest in cutting-edge printing and converting technology. Its latest acquisition is a six-colour Speedmaster CD 102, enabling a doubling of sheet size to 720mm x 1 020mm and an increase of output to 15 000 sheets/hour.

Heidelberg Speedmasters are true all-rounders. They're capable of handling a wide variety of packaging formats and substrates, allowing converters to satisfy customer requirements in constantly-changing market environments. They provide reliability in production and investment security by delivering trademark Speedmaster excellence when it comes to print quality, reliability and value retention.

According to Heidelberg, the Speedmaster CD 102 is the best-selling press series by far in this format. There are many good reasons for this, the company claims.

Says Ryan Miles, Heidelberg Graphic Systems Southern Africa's MD: 'The Speedmaster CD 102

has gained an outstanding reputation on the market over many years thanks to its productivity and value retention and has undergone continuous development.'

The press offers amazing flexibility. The range of substrates extends from thin paper (0.03m) to thick cartonboard (up to 1mm); and the DryStar Combination Carton feature with its two slide-in modules for infrared/hot air and hot air has been developed specifically to meet the needs of folding carton production.

The extensive equipment supplied as standard includes the Preset Plus Feeder and Preset Plus Delivery, AutoPlate plate changer, and Prinect Press Center.

The press can be fully integrated into the Prinect workflow and connected to the Prinect Image Control colour measuring and control system.

A time-saving feature is an intelligent, parallel washing programme for blankets, impression cylinders and inking units – monitored by the ink fountain sensor – said to shave two minutes from each wash-up cycle.

Heidelberg's Intellistart operator guidance system also reduces walking distances between the control station and the press, reducing downtime by up to 70%, depending on the complexity of the job change.

Overall, the press boasts simple operation and excellent reliability thanks to optimum and stable print quality throughout the run. Its high net productivity makes it a safe investment with a short payback period.

Ed's note: Freedom PrintPak was established in December 2012 as a BBBEE level one company, receiving 135% procurement status, with the objective of providing value and exceptional quality service for folded cartons and PVC display window inserts. With fully-automated equipment Freedom PrintPak offers in-house sheeting, printing, die-cutting, gluing, guillotining, fast-food packaging and confectionery packaging.

