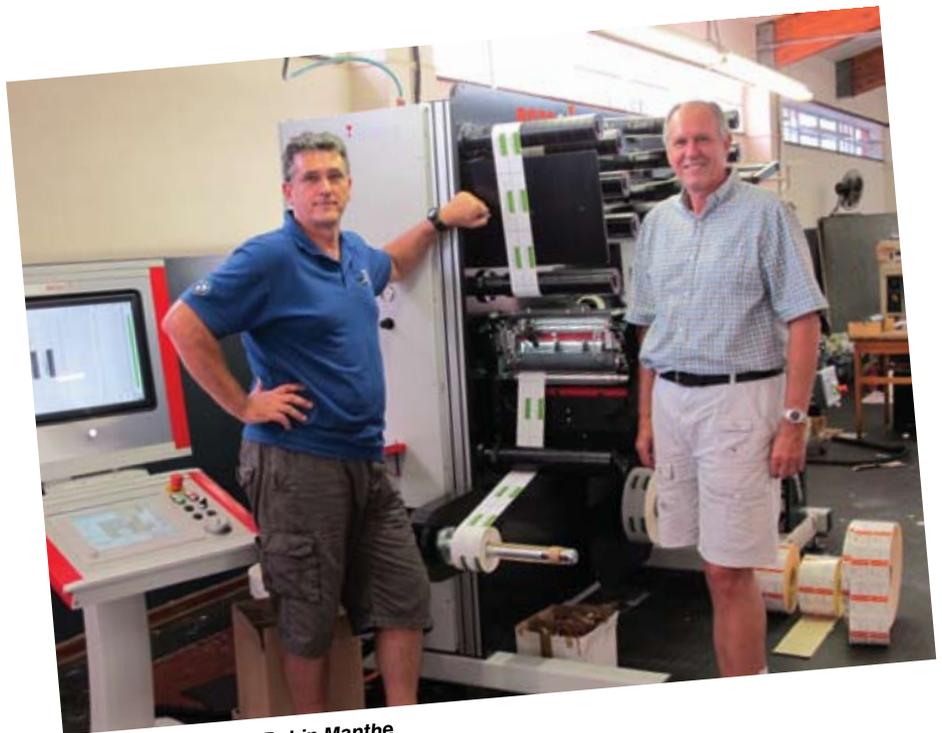


Rewinding the way to perfection

Noelex Labels recently welcomed the successful installation of a Rotocontrol RSC slitter/rewinder 340mm web width finishing machine. The installation was led by Rotocon, representing Rotocontrol in South Africa. **By Abby Vorster**

Operating as a well-established label printing factory in Port Elizabeth, in the Eastern Cape, Noelex Labels took the decision to purchase the new rewinder subsequent to tremendous growth over the past few years, into the pharmaceutical industry specifically. This saw the need for investment into equipment to produce the standard of label required by this market.

Steven Manthe, who co-owns Noelex Labels with his brother Robin, comments: 'The opportunity came about to supply pharmaceutical labels, which required the need for an inspection rewind machine. A Rotoflex was ordered and the doors opened to a very demanding industry. The work in this industry has grown to the extent that a further inspection rewind machine became necessary. Rotocontrol was the choice and has eased the burden of the increased workload. Noelex has increased its client base over the years to include many diverse players in the market place. By including a digital system, it has ensured that even the smallest full colour



Brothers Steven and Robin Manthe

and die cut to any shape label can be produced.'

In addition, the new Nikka system meets all the requirements of Noelex's pharmaceutical clients thus ensuring the consistency of the finished labels. He adds, 'Our focus on quality and consistency has now become more precise and controlled. In addition, the die station enables single pass production of blank labels at higher speeds while freeing up valuable machine time on our printing presses.'

The machine is equipped with a die station and a factory-integrated Nikka Research Alis D1 inspection system. The compact line scan camera inspects the full width of the web at all speeds and detects printing faults, fading colours, spots,

missing labels and matrix remains. Setup and operation are easy and done via a touch screen, conveniently positioned on the operator console. During production, the image of the web is displayed live on the monitor and the operator can magnify and pan to any position. Defects are clearly indicated and positioned in the repair position for fast repair.

New on the factory floor

According to Steven, the integration of the new machine into operations at the factory has gone seamlessly. 'From the point of commissioning, the operator was up and running within a few hours and is already confidently instructing other staff on the

Rotocontrol RSC slitter/rewinder specs in brief:

- includes a 100 per cent inspection system, the Nikka D1
- capable of 320 mpm even with inspection
- S-drive servo control provides for use with multiple label types and substrates
- presents a simple user interface with a graphical user interface touch panel
- includes a cartridge-style shear knife system.

operation of the machine. In fact, we plan to have all of our finishing staff proficient in its operation to accommodate shift work during busy periods,' he says.

The Rotocontrol RSC rewinder brings to Noelex a full suite of features in an economical, compact machine designed to maximise operator efficiency. Features such as a cartridge slitting system, vertical inspection zone, automatic tension control, S-Drive servo driven operation, job save and simple functional controls amount to more time producing labels and less time in set up. The efficiency and ease of use of the Alis D1 inspection system make it possible to inspect all products finished in the Rotocontrol RSC rewinder. The ready rolls are 100 per cent inspected and repaired. Another significant benefit is the feedback provided to the QC department as it assists in improving overall quality and streamline production.



The machine operator at Noelex, Ricaudo Kleintjies



The rewinder brings a full suite of features in an economical, compact machine designed to maximise operator efficiency



In terms of the rewinders' maximum efficiency level and minimal set up time, it boasts the following functionality and features:

- job parameters are saved in its memory so running repeat jobs requires minimal set up
- all controls are accessed through a simple graphical user interface (GUI) and touch panel
- the Nikka 100 per cent inspection display is installed directly over the operator touch panel on a movable console, which is highly efficient
- the automatic tension control means that the operator only needs to select the rewind tension once to maintain the required roll hardness
- the GUI controls allow for the use of simple slide bars and pop-up displays

- to set up all functions, which does away with the need for a keyboard or mouse
- the Vision system and machine are completely integrated and function as a single unit
- speed control, defect detection and placement, as well as starting and stopping are all automatically communicated between the systems
- the cartridge style slitting system allows set up on or off the machine.

More about Noelex

A leader in its field, Noelex produces a wide variety of labels from single-colour satin clothing labels to full-colour self-adhesive labels. With a large variety of dies, the company can produce labels from 10mm to 390mm long and up to 240mm wide. It also boasts an assortment



The Tickopres was the first machine the original owners invested in, in the early 1980s

of special shape dies and can have them manufactured according to clients' specifications.

The company was started in the early 1980s by Noelene and Rex Zeeman. The first machine they bought was a Tickopres, which was used to print onto die cut labels and print name tapes onto cotton tape for marking clothing. Noelex's next purchase soon followed suit with the addition of a Sohn upright two-colour press and a single-colour Flexo Die Cutter.

In 1992 Steven joined the business preparing artwork, typesetting and overseeing darkroom work. He also started making plates and learnt to print on the various machines, which now include a Mark Andy 830 and a Pacom 250. Steven and Robin bought over the business in 1999, and with this came the need for expansion. It was then that they purchased a Mark Andy Scout and a Mark Andy 2200 a few years later.

Noelex Labels boasts a highly dedicated team that continuously produces the quality that is expected of its clients and the various markets it serves. The management is well balanced with Steven handling the technical side and Robin, the financial. The Noelex family has been growing steadily over the years with continuous training of staff members as they become exposed to new components of the label industry. □