

Label printing speed is nothing without control

RotoControl is taking the local South African market by storm – no fewer than ten sales have been recorded this year. GILL LOUBSER tracks the installations.

Following last year's agreement of Rototec to act as the South African agent for German-built RotoControl equipment (NARROWTECH 2-2009, p. 35), the business has grown by leaps and bounds. Eighteen months later, the directors are smiling happily, as they report a growing list of orders for RotoControl inspection, cutting and rewinding machines from South Africa's label printers.

Rototec's four directors consist of two sets of brothers – PASCAL and PATRICK AENGENVOORT and ANTRON and GRANT HENDRICKS – while paterfamilias, MICHAEL AENGENVOORT, takes on an international sales, business development and consultancy role.

The list of recent installations and pending orders is impressive – no fewer than ten pieces of equipment have been installed since March this year, including three RSC 340 slitter rewinders, complete with AVT Helios 100% inspection systems at SA Litho in Parow, Cape Town; plus two more similar machines – one at New Era Labels in Johannesburg and another at Advanced Label in Durban. In addition, an RSD 440 slitter rewriter with a semi-automatic turret has been commissioned at S&N Labels in Johannesburg. Aside from these slitter rewinders, an EDM 200 flexo overprinter has gone into production at Label Leaders in George.

Since these installations, Uni-print has ordered an RSC 640 slitter rewriter and Flexo-Process Labels has ordered an RSC 540. And why are these label printers choosing these machines?

«The RotoControl RSC series offers a full suite of standard features in an economical, compact, extremely robust machine designed to maximise operator efficiency.

Standard features such as cartridge slitting system, vertical inspection zone, automatic tension control, S-Drive servo-driven operation and functional controls means more time producing labels and less time in setup», is the answer from PASCAL AENGENVOORT.

Confidence for critical pharma label integrity

When SA Litho (part of the CTP Group) was considering an upgrade to its slitting capabilities, with particular reference to preserving the quality of data integrity, the company looked at several slitter rewinders, explains Managing Director LEON WITBOOL. «We considered ABG, RotoControl, Prati and Scantech», he relates. «In the end, RotoControl won the day; and we bought three RSC 340 slitter rewinders, complete with AVT Helios 100% inspection systems. We had a number of criteria for this purchase, and RotoControl matched them all, including local support, specifically Cape Town-based support, headed by PASCAL AENGENVOORT.»

LEON is delighted with the quality of the machines and the vision systems, installed in March this year, which he describes as a «light years away from manual inspection». With SA Litho's strong and growing emphasis on supplying pharmaceutical and nutraceutical labels, this 100% vision inspection is paramount. «The AVT systems give us total confidence in the integrity of these critical labels. In addition, the machines are extremely well built. CTP Group engineers have been very impressed with the build quality and the quality of the components used in their construction.»

It may be a case of «watch this space» as he indicates a tantalisingly empty area in the pharmaceutical label quarantine area where another RotoControl machine could easily be installed!

Flexibility for varied production requirements

Early September saw the commissioning of a RSC slitter rewriter inspection machine – with installation and operator training completed in one day – at New Era Labels, a Johannesburg-based subsidiary of Golden Era, the country's second largest printing and packaging company.



In Cape Town are Michael (right) and Pascal Aengenvoort involved in the RotoControl/Rototec business.

With the need to run unsupported film as well as standard label material, New Era Labels was particularly impressed with the standard cartridge slitting system allowing fast job changes using either razor or shear knife cartridges. The machine is equipped with a fully-integrated AVT Helios II system providing 100% vision inspection.

RAJ CHHITA, Golden Era's Operations Director, comments: «Our decision to invest in the RSC slitter rewriter inspection technology was based on the flexibility it provides with our varied production requirements, and the added benefit of 100% vision inspection. Having

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A RotoControl DRM dual rewriter semi-automatic turret has been installed at S&N Labels in Johannesburg.



access to local technical and sales support from *Rototec* was another key factor in our decision to select *RotoControl*.«

Another successful installation has been completed at *Advanced Labels* in Durban. Recently established by RICHARD JONES (formerly of *First Impression Labels*), *Advanced Labels* specialises in the production of labels for pharmaceuticals, home and personal care products, chemical products and all types of fast moving consumer goods. Comments RICHARD: »We evaluated other finishing machines, but chose *RotoControl* after seeing the machine in operation at another customer site. Since its installation, I have been



In March this year, SA Litho installed three RSC 340 slitter rewinders, complete with AVT Helios 100% inspection systems.

extremely impressed – not only with the machine itself, but with the outstanding service I received from *Rototec* throughout the entire process.«

Another installation was at *S&N Labels* who ordered its new *RSD 440* with two die stations and *DRM* dual rewind semi-automatic turret. Before the order was placed, PATRICK AENGENVOORT had accompanied a team from *S&N Labels* to *RotoControl*'s manufacturing facility in Hamburg/D to see a demonstration of the *RSD 440*. They were so impressed with the technology, specifically the *DRM* turret, that they placed an order then and there!

S&N Labels provides a total solution for customers' labelling and barcoding requirements. The company's products undergo a

stringent quality control process to ensure that customers receive labels of the highest standard. In addition to labels, *S&N* supplies thermal and thermal transfer printers, software, printing ribbons and scanning equipment, all of which undergo the same strict quality control.

»Having done business with PATRICK for many years, we naturally accepted his invitation to view the *RSD 440* in Germany«, relates SIMON GRISDALE, Managing Director of *S&N Labels*. »The demonstration exceeded our expectations, especially the *DRM* dual rewind semi-automatic turret technology«, adds TIM GRISDALE, Production Manager. »After doing the calculations on time saved it was easy to justify ordering the additional option.«

Second RotoControl flexo machine installed

Aside from these slitter rewinders, a second *EDM200* flexo machine has been sold in South Africa and has gone into production at *Label Leaders* in George, in the Southern Cape. »The installation went very well«, PASCAL AENGENVOORT relates. »The team at *Label Leaders* was astonished at the outstanding print quality of the labels printed on the day of the installation. It was very easy to train the operator and our customer was impressed with the speed and ease of job changeover, the accuracy in putting pre-printed labels in register and holding the register throughout the run.«

With a growing emphasis on wine labels, the team at *Label Leaders* are nothing short of delighted with the machine. »We're using it mainly as an overprinting machine to provide economic production of short-run and fast turnaround labels«, explains company founder BENNIE RAUBENHEIMER.

According to *RotoControl*, the *EDM200* is the world's first semi-rotary, servo-driven UV flexo machine, using sleeve technology for both print and anilox cylinders, and working with chambered doctor blade technology.

Ability to run unsupported film

Moving further along the coast,



At Label Leaders in George, Craig Stange (Factory Manager) and Bennie Raubheimer (Founder and Chairman) are happy to show off their latest »baby« – a RotoControl EDM200 UV flexo overprinter.

going east to Durban, the latest news is that *Uniprint* plans to run unsupported film production on its recently-ordered *RotoControl RSC* compact slitter rewinder.

The team at *Uniprint* – including BHARAT MEHTA, Managing Director of *Uniprint's* Labels & Packaging business, and Production/Technical Managers LIAM GIBSON and LORNE ANDERSEN – based their decision to purchase the *RSC* machine on its advanced *S-Drive* servo technology with the capability to run unsupported film material, which is a key market segment for *Uniprint*.

»Our vision is collaboration and innovation«, says BHARAT MEHTA. »Our goal is to ensure the highest standard of product and service quality in our offerings. We're confident that *RotoControl* will enable *Uniprint* to support this commitment with its market reputation and the local support and service provided by *Rototec*.«

Established in 1926, *Uniprint* has more than 80 years of industry experience and is one of the largest producers of self-adhesive and shrink sleeve labels in South Africa. It specialises in high-quality label printing utilising the latest multi-colour flexo, offset, digital, silk-screen, foiling and laminating equipment in a state-of-the-art, purpose-designed factory.

- www.salitho.co.za
- www.golden-era.co.za
- www.flexoprocess.co.za
- www.snlabels.co.za
- www.labelleaders.co.za
- www.rototec.co.za
- www.rotoccontrol.com



At New Era Labels, RotoControl's cartridge slitting system is allowing fast job changes using either razor or shear knife cartridges.