



Label printing speed is nothing without control

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



In Cape Town are Michael and Pascal Aengenvoort – just two of the Aengenvoort family involved in the RotoControl/Rototec business. The others are Pascal's twin brother Patrick (based in Johannesburg) and older brother Marco, who is MD of RotoControl in Germany.

FOLLOWING last year's formation of Rototec to act as South African agent for German-built RotoControl equipment (PPM Mar09, p52), 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, plays an international sales, business development and consultancy role. For sales of RotoControl equipment specifically, Pascal handles the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal regions, with Patrick taking charge of Gauteng and points north.

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.

But that's not the end of the story. Since these installations, Uniprint has ordered an RSC 640 slitter rewriter and Flexoprocess 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 set up,' 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 MD, Leon Witbooi.

'We considered ABG, RotoControl, Pratti 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,





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

this 100% vision inspection is paramount. 'The AVT systems give us total confidence in the integrity of these critical labels,' Leon adds.

'In addition, the machines are extremely well built,' he continues. 'CTP group engineers have been very impressed with the build quality and with 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 an RSC slitter rewinder 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.

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 Helios II system from AVT, providing 100% vision inspection.

The order was placed through Rototec director, Patrick Aengenvoort, who's responsible for the Johannesburg region.

Raj Chhita, Golden Era's operations director, comments: 'Our decision to invest in the RSC slitter rewinder inspection technology was based on the flexibility it provides with our varied production requirements, and the added benefit of 100% vision inspection. Having 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 extremely impressed – not only with the machine itself, but with the outstanding service I received from Rototec throughout the entire process.'

This order was placed through Pascal Aengenvoort.

Below right: At Advanced Labels in Durban, a newly-installed RotoControl RSC340 fitted with an AVT Helios 2 100% inspection system provides total security.

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





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

Another installation was at S&N Labels who ordered its new RotoControl RSD 440 with two die stations and DRM dual rewind semi-automatic turret, through Patrick Aengenvoort.

Before the order was placed, Patrick had accompanied a team from S&N Labels to RotoControl's manufacturing facility in Hamburg 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, MD 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 in South Africa

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.

On-site to assist with the installation and training was Pascal Aengenvoort.

'The installation went very well,' Pascal 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 preprinted 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 Bennie Raubenheimer, the company's founder.

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.



At Label Leaders in George, Craig Stange (factory manager) and Bennie Raubenheimer (founder and chairman) are happy to show off their latest 'baby' – a RotoControl EDM200 UV-flexo overprinter.



Ability to run unsupported film

Moving further along the coast, going east to Durban, the latest news is that Uniprint plans to run unsupported film production on its recently-ordered RotoControl RSC compact slitter rewriter. Pascal Aengenvoort led the discussions that secured the order with Uniprint.

The team at Uniprint – including Bharat Mehta, MD 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 shrinksleeve labels in South Africa. It specialises in high-quality label printing utilising the latest multicolour flexographic, lithographic, digital, silkscreen, foiling and laminating equipment in a state-of-the-art, purpose-designed factory.

Ed's note: For our New Year 2011 issue, we're preparing an update on Rototec's other activities in the labelling and narrow-web sectors.

On show in Chicago



AT Labelexpo Americas 2010, RotoControl unveiled the RSP single pass 100% security inspection machine on the AVT stand, running live material demonstrations with the AVT Helios II 100% vision system, showing inspection of security in pharma applications and barcode verification.

Specifically designed for compliance with most demanding security label inspection and finishing applications, the RotoControl RSP features an extremely small footprint – only 1,2m x 2,6m of floor space, plus a moveable control panel.

The RSP machines are available in 340, 440 and 540mm web widths with all of the options normally associated with RSC slitter rewriter inspection machines including large capacity separate unwind, shear and razor slitting cartridges, waste wind-up, strobe illumination and multiple shaft sizes.

Comments Marco Aengenvoort, MD of RotoControl: 'We have invested a number of months carefully planning the design and performance of the RSP, as it is a strategic product for us worldwide. With this offering of full and controlled compliance along with high speed and 100% vision inspection, we are well positioned to meet the compliance needs of converters in this market.'

Ralph Beier, RotoControl's international sales manager, adds: 'Our partnership with AVT has been very beneficial and resulted in multiple machine orders with integrated Helios vision systems worldwide. The RSP 100% security inspection machine we are displaying on the AVT stand is able to demonstrate the advanced capability of the machine and the Helios II system as well as the advantages of close integration of both.'

Three machines were sold at the show in Chicago.



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