



OUT WITH THE OLD...

Anchor raised by switch from Heidelberg to Komori production

The Anchor Print Group has just replaced five Heidelberg presses with two pre-owned Komori presses supplied by West Park Graphic Equipment. The machines, a four colour Lithrone 420 and a five colour Lithrone 528, have just been installed at the company's 11,000sq ft works in Leicester and replace a four colour Speedmaster 72 and four GTOs, two two-colours and two single-colours.

"Because the Lithrones are so much more productive, we have fewer machines now, but we have increased our capacity," says Managing Director Richard Linnett. "Admittedly, it's partly due to the relative age of our old Heidelbergs, but we found that Komori offered much better value for money when we looked at the range of modern machines."

He continues: "The Lithrone 420 brings us the advantage of multicolour A3 production in one pass for the first time, and we think it's well designed and solidly built. Our old GTOs were so noisy it's a pleasure to stand next to the Lithrone 420 and have a conversation! As for our B2 production, the Lithrone 528 offers us the extra flexibility of a fifth colour, and it's fitted with an IR dryer. We have found this to be especially useful when turning jobs round quickly. Another great feature of the 528 is the large transfer cylinders which allow us to feed 650 micron board and produce packaging jobs - we have already used it very successfully for box work."

A high proportion of Anchor's workload is in the short-run market, which explains the company's decision to upgrade to more efficient equipment with off-press controls and a degree of automation for quick makereadies - but according to Mr Linnett, the company strategy is to attract longer runs. "Much of our short run work is produced digitally, and sometimes in conjunction with our litho machines," says Mr Linnett. "Now we have the two new Lithrones we can take on longer runs without causing bottlenecks, as they are so fast."

As first time customers, Mr Linnett and his team sought reassurances about West Park Graphic Equipment before committing to the investment. "We first approached West Park after getting plenty of positive feedback from contacts in the trade, and when we met with our finance company, they told us West Park were one of only a handful of used press suppliers they would be happy to recommend," says Mr Linnett. "We made the right choice, West Park have been excellent, the machines have been refurbished to a very high standard, and we have found all their people to be honest and professional in all respects."

Anchor Print Group offers a comprehensive service including design, conventional film-based origination, a choice of toner-based digital or litho output, plus a well-equipped finishing department. Its clients are a "mixed bag" and include a range of local businesses and agencies, plus several universities and other educational establishments around the midlands, who regularly require manuals and other support materials. It has an additional office in Peterborough and a high street premises in Atherstone, near Tamworth. It has 27 staff generating an annual turnover of around £1.25m.

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