



Inspecting the new EF 340 press at the factory in The Netherlands are Alan Town (Paragon Inks), Henri Massyn (GM Graphix) and Arnaud Fleuren (MPS).

## GM Graphix goes UV LED with third MPS press

South Africa's first flexo press to use UV LED curing has been ordered by GM Graphix, the company's third MPS press.

**AN order for a six-colour EF340 MPS multi-substrate flexo press, featuring Phoseon's UV LED drying, marks the first press in South Africa to use this type of curing. The sale was concluded by Rotocon, local representative for the extensive range of MPS flexo and offset presses.**

GM Graphix has been a loyal MPS customer for many years – in fact was the proud owner of the very first MPS press ever sold in South Africa.

Headquartered in Alberton, with a branch in Bloemfontein, the company produces self-adhesive labels, sachets, shrink sleeves and wraparound labels, particularly for FMCG and pharmaceutical applications. The new six-colour EF340 MPS press, equipped with

full automation (APC Advanced), will be used to expand printing capacity, especially for shorter print runs.

Partnering with Phoseon for UV LED curing technology makes GM Graphix a pioneer in the South African market. The partnership resulted from the need to meet growing demand for lower running costs and energy costs. Phoseon's UV LED technology offers significant energy savings (above 50% the company claims) and its instant on/off capability helps to deal with South Africa's power outages and fluctuations.

Paragon Inks was also involved with this sale, through its collaboration with Phoseon in the development of UV LED ink. Says Amanda Jones, Paragon's business development & marketing director,





'An important consideration for this project was to ensure that GM Graphix's existing optimisation and minimisation systems were able to continue. This was achieved by ensuring that ink performance equalled that of existing MPM (Medium Pressure Mercury) curing systems.'

Owner of GM Graphix, Pieter Massyn, is pleased with the cooperation between MPS, Phoseon and Paragon Inks:

'I'm grateful to these companies. Their innovative technologies have provided an effective solution for the energy supply challenges we face in South Africa. With this leading LED curing solution on our new MPS press, we will increase productivity while saving a considerable costs and energy.'

Phoseon's UV LED curing system is built into the new EF 340 destined for delivery to GM Graphix.

**Ed's note:** According to Rotocon's Michael Aengenvoort, this new press is currently 'on the water' and is due to be commissioned in early December. He points out, too, that Rotocon employs two MPS-trained and qualified technicians to support MPS products in South Africa.

## JMB Labels orders second MPS

**AFRICA's first MPS EB label printing press has been ordered by JMB Labels. It's the company's second MPS press.**

Ordered through Patrick Aengenvoort, Rotocon sales director, during Labelexpo Europe, the press features predictable high-quality label printing, reliable productivity, and operator-friendly operation. Its Crisp. Dot light technology delivers superior print quality; the iSet feature ensures intelligent pressure settings; and iStop technology means zero waste at roll change, full-length rail system, quick change die-station and a pre-register function.

Printing speeds are impressive – up to 165m/min. Also part of the order from JMB Labels is a laminating unit.

Additional equipment on JMB's EB press will be supplied by another of Rotocon's principals, Wink, including Wink's magnetic dies and print cylinders and the revolutionary Wink GapControl adjustable anvil system. GapControl allows precise, double-sided adaptation of the gap (and thus the liner strike) for a number of applications and materials. Its advantages are mainly rooted in its high stability that allows problem-free cutting-through at high production speeds.

Managed and owned by Ahmed and Aslam Monia, JMB Labels is a fast-growing label printing operation. From humble beginnings back in 1928, JMB Labels now occupies a 1 500m<sup>2</sup> site in Amalgam, Johannesburg.

Comments Aslam: 'Our decision to invest in another MPS press was easy considering the proven success



JMB Labels will get Africa's first MPS EB label press.

of our premium MPS EF press and the dependable support we receive from MPS and locally from Rotocon. With our new EB press, we will benefit from its superior operator-friendly design, low-cost maintenance, and advanced press automation as our business continues to grow.'





The FirePower FP501 – for installation on flexographic presses – is available in different widths up to 700mm. Phoseon's FirePower family of high-power water-cooled products allows new applications and increased speed in the narrow- and wide-web segments.

## Pioneers in UV curing

**AS reported in the article on pages 49/51 [GM Graphix goes UV LED with third MPS press], partnering with UK-based Phoseon Technology for UV LED curing technology makes GM Graphix a pioneer in the South African market.**

UV curing has traditionally been accomplished using mercury-vapour lamps but with the advent of LEDs capable of producing UV radiation, curing devices using the technology are increasingly found in printing applications; and one name that's at the forefront of this technology is Phoseon Technology. The company has been developing UV LED technology since 2002.

According to Phoseon, UV LED curing systems allow printing of high-quality materials at maximum speeds. For label printing, it shows measurable advantages in high productivity, low energy usage, reduced heat load for thinner substrates, and clear environmental benefits. Being solid-state devices, UV LED systems offer instant on/off with no warm-up time and without ozone creation – so there's no need for air ducts or ventilation. All of these features combined can represent savings of up to 70% on electricity, the company claims.

Leading the advancement of sophisticated LED-based curing systems with a wide product portfolio – serving OEM and end-user markets worldwide – Phoseon believes its LED technology can be extended in many forms to allow entirely new applications, to increase productivity, improve workplace safety and minimise adverse environmental impacts when compared to incumbent technologies.

Phoseon's R&D team has extensive knowledge in the development of UV LED systems and the capability to design and build leading-edge products to meet the industry's technical demands. With over 200 patents and trademarks, Phoseon has earned a worldwide reputation for innovation, quality and reliability. In addition, the company is ISO certified.

And, thanks to a co-operation agreement with Paragon Inks the two companies – both with global reach – are marching forward taking UV LED technology into an ever-expanding market.

As printers worldwide fast become part of the LED revolution, Paragon has worked closely with key OEMs, co-suppliers and printers to bring its

next-generation energy-curable ink and coating systems to market.

'We see UV LED inks and coatings as the next rung on the technology ladder,' asserts Paragon Inks' Amanda Jones. 'These products not only offer printers and converters considerable cost savings but also the flexibility of being able to print on both supported and unsupported materials using UV LED curing.'

### Top quality and maximum speed

For increased speed in flexo printing, Phoseon's FirePower line's intense UV output (up to 20W/cm<sup>2</sup>) paired with UV LED flexo inks have achieved record speeds.

Phoseon recently unveiled the FireJet FJ240 UV LED curing solution, its highest UV power air-cooled light array yet. Providing an additional 33% of UV power compared to existing FireJet products, the new system is designed for increasingly demanding single-pass printing and area curing applications. These products are available in 75/150/225/300mm window lengths with 40mm width and peak irradiance up to 8W/cm<sup>2</sup>.

Stacy Fender, Phoseon's VP (Worldwide Sales), says, 'The new FireJet delivers the highest amount of UV radiant power in an air-cooled solution, offering customers increased production and higher yields. The FireJet family of products comes in a scalable form factor to accommodate various curing lengths, allowing customers ease of installation and low maintenance.'

### Phoseon on show at European Ink Jet Conference

At this month's European Ink Jet Conference in The Netherlands, Phoseon Technology is showcasing a full range of high-quality UV LED curing solutions, a broad portfolio that includes solutions for all printing applications from small- and wide-format digital printers and digital and flexographic label printers to screen and 3D printing.

Phoseon continues to invest in R&D and product development, enabling breakthrough capability and performance while accelerating the adoption of UV LED curing in UV printing applications.

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