

PRODUCTION JOURNAL

A QUARTERLY NEWSPAPER FOR ALL ENGAGED IN NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION

20 years ago

MORE than 70 members of the WONA Advanced Technology Group travelled to Maidstone for the 21st annual general meeting, a seminar and a visit to the Kent Messenger Group.

In the plant at Larkfield, delegates found a 70-terminal CPU system, with a 22 terminal tele-ad operation and 16 terminals in use for production keyboarding. Company executives said they had no plans to move into a direct-imput editorial operation and that the present system was operating smoothly and cost-effectively.

Two special technical exhibits at the plant attracted a lot of interest, reported *Production Journal*. "Graham Parrett, managing director of Associated Kent Newspapers and a director of Kent Messenger Group, demonstrated the Apple Macintosh computer using software from Concept Publishing Systems who offer a total package for display ad composing, editorial and classified advertising using Apple PCs and a network system".

Nearby, Michael Barnes' company MB was demonstrating the Communicator from General Information Systems - a 16-bit computer with built-in modem, capable of performing a considerable number of operations. It cost just £1,500 complete with monitor.

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THE Burton Daily Mail Ltd placed an order with AKI Ltd, of Reading, for the Profile III System to handle the storage, merging, editing and updating of the Burton Daily Mail Group's classified advertising. Project manager John Hadfield said that once the Profile system was installed the group would have completed the changeover to photocomposition in only a little more than 12 months.

THE *Oban Times* of Argyll had recently installed a Goss Community web offset press to print its weekly newspaper, circulating in the West Highlands and Islands. The complete press could produce up to 16 pages broadsheet at 18,500 copies per hour. It also had the capability to print spot and four colour work and quarter folded A4 size magazines. The change to the offset process marked the end of 114 years of letterpress for the *Oban Times* which had been in the Cameron family for the previous 93 years.

JOHN Barrons was named as the new managing director of Westminster Press. He had been a prominent member of the Newspaper Society's technical committee for several years. His previous role as director and general manager at Westminster Press was to be taken over by Frank Barlow, former MD of King and Hutchings at Uxbridge.

NEWSPAPER SOCIETY PRODUCTION JOURNAL

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ALL ENGAGED IN NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION

40 years ago

POLYPROPYLENE twine had several advantages over sisal twine for use in string tying machines, experience at the Birmingham Post & Mail had shown. The group printed more than 400,000 papers each afternoon, more than half of which passed through the eight Sheridan string tying machines. Polypropylene twine had an even thickness and a high knot strength and a constant breaking strain. Sisal - a natural fibre - did not have dead level thickness and therefore had variable breaking strains.

TO improve customer service, Harris-Intertype Ltd had inaugurated a round-the-clock communication system. During all after-business hours and all holiday periods a special Slough number could be called. "Speak the message and it will be automatically recorded, with complete accuracy and security, for action immediately business re-commences," reported *Production Journal*.

PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH

GOSS

121 YEARS OF GOSS NEWSPAPER PRESSES

News International signs €110 million contract

MORE details have been announced of the strategic ten year partnership set up between News International (NI) and Agfa Graphics which was first reported in PJ in November 2005. Under the agreement, which is part of NI's €650 million investment in new printing facilities, the newspaper printer will adopt a new production model whereby Agfa Graphics provides full facilities management from when the files leave the editorial department to when the press-ready plates are delivered to the press.

The deal, which Agfa says is worth €110 million, is the largest contract in the history of Agfa Graphics. It not only covers 20 Polaris XCV-S violet platesetters, Arkitex workflow software and N91v violet digital photopolymer plates but also 24/7 staffing, support maintenance and technical services.

Implementation will start in September this year at NI's new Eurocentral printing plant in Glasgow, Scotland. It will then be rolled out to Knowsley and the Greenfield site at Broxbourne.

Each press will have its own line rather than each plant having a plateroom and a conveying system. The Arkitex workflow software will be inter-



● Pictured left to right at IPEX: Kurt Smits, worldwide sales director, Agfa Graphics; Ian McDonald, managing director of operations, News International; Stefan Vanhooren, president, Agfa Graphics

faced to the new MAN Roland Pecom press control systems being installed at the three sites, as well as the plate processors and punch benders. Agfa says that 25 of its engineers and technicians will provide 24/7 staffing and support to ensure that NI receives an uninterrupted and timely supply of press ready plates.

"As we planned pre-press and production for our new

printing sites, we were looking to buy more than technology," said Ian McDonald, NI's managing director of operations. "What we wanted were fail safe operations from file intake to the printing press."

"Agfa Graphics understood our needs and came up with a value proposition that more than meets our production requirements for the next ten years. We are very optimistic about the partnership".

McDonald added that if there was something wrong with a plate, then it was Agfa's problem. In other words, NI is purchasing imaged plates ready for press. As a result, it eliminates the need for plateroom staff and does not have to worry about quality. In addition, Agfa will handle plate deliveries, manage the stock, maintain the workflow systems and the plate lines, and take away all the waste.

Munster Express installs Quad-Stack towers

THE Quad-Stack press from Web Press Corp is compatible with single-width one-around presses from other manufacturers. It has been used as an add-on answer by more than 100 installations world-wide since it was launched in 1998.

One such installation is at the *Munster Express* in Waterford, Ireland. Here, two Quad Stack units have been added to an existing Linonews press line. Kieren Walsh, editor and general manager said: "The Quad-

Stacks have allowed advertising and editorial colour pagination in *Munster Express* to double. Improved colour quality has resulted and this has led to greater advertising revenue".

The improved colour quality is the result of the Quad-Stack having four-stacked Universal Printing Modules (UPMs). These are shaped so that they can be placed one on top of the other, with each added module enabling the printing of an additional colour on each side of the

web. Each module consists of four solid stainless steel printing cylinders - two plate and two blanket - and individual inking and dampening systems.

The modules can be mounted above either a reel-stand or a base frame: the floor model Quad-Stack tops out at 2,545 mm and the roll under model at just under three metres. This means that all maintenance can be done from floor level.

"The ability of the Quad-Stack to fit into the existing

press line without having to have major building alterations was a major plus factor for me in the making the decision," said Walsh. He concluded: "The staff really like them as they are easy to use and do not require too much training. We have also put in ink levers to make them easier to operate".

Guernsey Press upgrades to QuarkXPress 6.5

GUERNSEY Press is part of the Guiton Group which includes the *Jersey Evening Post*. It publishes a daily newspaper, the *Guernsey Press and Star*, a weekly subscription title, the *Guernsey Weekly Press*, and a weekly free publication, *The Globe*. As reported in the December issue of PJ, the company has undergone a £4 million investment including a new building and the installation of Adapt, a new editorial and production system from Press Computer Systems.

As part of this, the company has also upgraded to QuarkXPress 6.5 running on the latest specification G5-



● Richard Digard

based Apple Macintosh computers and Mac OS X.

"QuarkXPress has been our page layout tool of choice for many years at Guernsey Press," said Richard Digard,

Guernsey Press's editor. "By upgrading to QXP 6.5, we are now using the latest in page layout software bringing us more creative freedom as well as efficiency in our day-to-day business".

Digard was especially impressed with the native PDF support in QuarkXPress 6.5 which has enabled the move to an all-PDF workflow and freed the company's live and archive servers from storing heavy loads of EPS files. Digard also said that users are benefiting from functionalities such as comprehensive support for native PhotoShop files and image optimisation utilities.

Mosca strapping at Irish News

AS PART of its investment in its new mailroom at its Greenfield site in Belfast, the *Irish News* is using specialist strapping equipment from Mosca. Since the facility produces a number of regional titles in addition to the *Irish News*, the company required fast and reliable strappers, and with past experience of Mosca, Dave Wilson, the production manager, believed that Mosca would make a suitable partner.

The installation comprises two RO-TAI-5 machines integrated into the production lines, and one ROMP-4, Mosca's stand-alone automatic strapping machine.

"Both the on-line and off-line machines are performing well," reports Wilson. "Mosca machinery is highly efficient and user friendly".

The RO-TAI-5 was specifically designed for newspaper production and is able to deliver up to 35 bundles a minute. It incorporates Mosca's all electric technology which eliminates the need for costly compressed air and its related maintenance requirements.

Northern Scottish papers star at the SNPA awards

THE *Shetland Times* and Highland News Group were the star performers in this year's SNPA Advertising Awards by each winning two categories. The other winners were the *Paisley Gazette*, *Cumbernauld News*, *Hamilton Advertiser* and *St Andrews Citizen*.

In the category for Best Niche Publication, the judges described *The Shetland Times* publication of a 16-page newspaper every day for the six days of the Island Games as a 'fantastic achievement'. They said that "It was well designed with excellent photography and was high quality from first page to last".

President of the Scottish Newspaper Publishers' Association (SNPA), Ernest Petrie, commented: "The entries, nearly 200, demonstrated the high quality work produced in the Scottish Weekly Press and some innovative thinking in serving advertisers. It was particularly pleasing to witness the enthusiastic support from large and small companies alike in this second year of the SNPA Advertising Awards".