

Fitness program in Jönköping

In recent months, Herenco Press AB in Jönköping (Sweden) has been running production of its newspapers on up-graded mailroom technology. This is a used installation, with planning and assembly handled by Swiss trading and engineering company SITECH SYSTEMS GmbH. Production control was developed by the Norwegian software designer Realcom.



A complete high-value system

If used production technology is available on the market and in good condition, then there's no reason to invest in a new system. That was the opinion of the management team at Herenco Press AB when they opted for a retrofit solution. And with Sitech Systems GmbH, they had an experienced partner at their side. The engineering company from Switzerland assumed overall responsibility for dismantling the equipment at the previous location, and for reassembly, commissioning and training. In addition to technical expertise, a further issue that arose during the project planning stage was cost awareness.

Several components were adopted from the previous installation in Jönköping and integrated into the extended structure. Today, Herenco Press produces the editions of eleven of its own daily titles plus several freesheets on a complete system incorporating inserting, trimming and bundling technology. The four bundle production lines are equipped with inline topsheet printing, foil wrapping and cross strapping, with bundles automatically reaching the correct loading dock via a circulating plate-chain conveyor. Also integrated into the production control system is a Sitma addressing and quarterfold line.



A Sitma addressing and quarterfold line is integrated into the production control system.



Loading dock displays show drivers how production is progressing in real-time.

Production of the smallest bundles – with no overruns

The production control software has been designed by Realcom of Norway. One outstanding feature is the consideration of small bundles from 15 copies down to the individual newspaper which make up 30 to 40 percent of the total. One of the biggest tasks was processing this bundle structure on two compensating stackers without overruns. The problem was compounded by the fact that, on the upgraded mailroom, production is run simultaneously off two folder deliveries, so that in each case bundling must be assigned to two compensating stackers. Realcom came up with an elegant response to the demand for overrun-free

bundle production: virtual buffering. Continuity is thus assured, in that at least one bigger bundle is placed between small bundles containing very few copies. As soon as a stacker reaches its performance limits, the system moves the follow-up small bundle into the virtual buffer, to release it as soon as sufficient stacker capacity becomes available again. Continuous forward- and backward-looking analysis of the bundle structure and a correspondingly optimized allocation of bundles to production ensures that routes are finalized with single-bundle precision, and that the time windows are maintained.

Control technology in detail

With the three modules from Realcom, UniStack, UniLoad and UniTrack, Herenco Press AB has a complete solution for both controlling and logging production.

UniStack controls bundling on the four compensating stackers, including inline topsheet production. A single-copy addressing and quarterfold line from Sitma for postal dispatch is also wired into the UniStack module.

UniLoad secures the transfer of bundles to the correct loading positions. In addition to the four lines for tabloid production, a fifth exit allows the assignment of addressed newspapers off the Sitma line to the loading docks.

UniLoad includes a registration system for the vehicle drivers. Loading dock displays show drivers how production is progressing in real-time.

UniTrack monitors each separate newspaper copy from pick-up off the folder delivery through to its release to the compensating stacker. The module enables logging and evaluation of production according to efficiency-relevant criteria (waste, production time, number of individual copies in the buffer, etc.).

To communicate directly with the compensating stackers, Realcom has developed its own production control protocol. That way, the compensating stackers could be taken as they were, with no need to modify the hardware, and thus allow cost savings that were by no means insignificant.