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Sir Nicholas Hewitt
on the strengths
of the regional press –
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production

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Last orders from News International

AS PART of its £600 million investment in its printing facilities at EuroCentral (Glasgow), Knowsley (Liverpool) and its new southern greenfield site at Broxbourne (London), News International (NI) has now purchased all its major equipment. As is explained by Brian McGee, NI's group director of manufacturing, in an exclusive interview with Production Journal: "All the key equipment has been selected and we are in the final stages of formalising all the contracts".

The latest orders cover press services including systems for the ink supply, reverse osmosis water, fountain solution, blanket wash supply and recovery, waste water recovery and ctp waste disposal. These systems will be manufactured by Chicago-based BEK systems and will be supplied via MAN Roland, as will the printnet production workflow management and monitoring system which



● **Discussing the printnet installation above, from left to right: Ian Dickson, Robert Ruhle and Brian McGee... and finalising the details of the Ensys Dring equipment order are Robert Dring and Omar Ibrahim (far right)**

has been developed by MAN Roland and ppi Media.

The third order covers waste handling including the conveying and compaction of printed waste. The supplier here is Ensys Dring.

A main factor in the selection of BEK and printnet was the benefits to be gained from 'one stop shopping' as is explained by Ian Dickson, NI's group chief engineer.

"There are a number of different companies which could have supplied the individual press service systems but we were looking for a 'one stop shop'. We also discovered that,

in the United States, BEK Systems is a main supplier to MAN Roland. It therefore made sense that MAN Roland, which as part of the press order is already providing the blanket washer and fountain water supply system, also provides the other press fluid systems.

"This will not only ease installation and commissioning but also the integration of the control systems. The 'one stop shop' also provides the opportunity for efficient spares holding and maintenance programmes".

Dickson continues: "It also makes sense for MAN Roland



which is already supplying our press controls and reel transportation systems to provide the production tracking system which will process all the production information, and monitor the stacking, palletising and loading systems".

Interestingly, this will be the first printnet system to be installed in the UK. It will also be one of the largest such systems ever supplied by ppi due to the number of presses involved and the fact that the system will not only be linked to the NI equipment but also that of the contract printers.

"We have not received such

a large order solely for tracking and reporting," says Martin Ruhle, chief technology officer, ppi Media. "It will be a huge operation since the system will be receiving hundreds of messages from all the equipment every minute and these will have to be filtered and combined so that the system provides tracking views in real time. To do it for one installation is quite easy but there will be 19 NI press lines plus those of the contract printers".

It is also the largest order ever received by Ensys Dring as Robert Dring, the managing

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director, reports: "It is a substantially larger order than normal by a fairly wide margin. You have to look at it in the context that it involves three sites and most of them are far bigger than the average individual press house".

For this reason, walking floor trailers which can accommodate newsprint weight up to 26 tonnes will be used at Broxbourne and Knowsley. However, Dickson has every confidence that things will run smoothly.

"The company has supplied systems to us in the past and our experience is that they supply, install and commission them with 'fitness for purpose' materials and strict adherence to the press installation schedules".

For the full story see the next issue of PJ.

Vote Now.



LET your fingers do the walking – across your keyboard to newspaper awards.co.uk where you can vote for the top industry innovation of the past decade. The winner, of a special birthday award sponsored by Fujifilm Graphic Systems (see page 3) will be announced at this year's 10th Anniversary Newspaper Awards which are being held at London's Park Lane Hilton on Wednesday May 10.

PJ editor Gary Cullum has listed his magnificent seven top innovations.

Agree with him – or disagree and nominate a newspaper industry innovation of your choosing by visiting the web site now.

And for all the printed and newspaper web site categories – an entry form is downloadable from the Awards web site, though for your convenience, your last hard copy form is inserted with this issue of PJ.

Johnston Press orders

JOHNSTON Press has opted to buy a technotrans hydraulic ink pumping system for feeding its new MAN Roland triple-width presses to be installed at its Sheffield greenfield and Portsmouth sites, representing an investment of £500,000. The decision was taken following a thorough investigation, says Jon Roche, project manager.

"The new presses will be running at up to 90,000 cph and we need to be flexible with ink viscosity to prevent misting and spitting issues. The use of hydraulic power packs rather than compressors gives us the ability to upgrade the pumping force to meet the ink requirements more easily".

In addition, a hydraulic pumping system is said to use around 25 per cent less energy than a pneumatic system. Consequently, despite a higher initial capital outlay, there is a payback in terms of running costs.

The Sheffield plant took delivery of its inking system last month and the one for Portsmouth will be delivered next January. In the meantime, as was reported last month, Peterborough Web, also part of the Johnston Press group is upgrading its Goss Universal 70 press with two additional four-high towers making a total of ten towers. This will make the Peterborough site one of the largest Universal installations in

Europe and will enable the company to print a 160-page full colour tabloid in a single pass.

Peter Griffiths, managing director states: "The extension of our Goss Universal 70 press ensures that the high quality output from our presses meets the needs of customers and their products by maximising the overall colour capacity of our existing press technology. It will increase productivity by allowing us to print more titles mid-week which is our busiest time".

The press upgrade is part of an £11 million investment at the plant which includes a new Ferag mailroom.

"Capital investment continues to be a major factor in enabling



● **Jon Roche of Johnston Press pictured with Cliff Whalley of technotrans**

us to provide customers with full flexibility, not only with regards to colour, inserting and value added products, but in geographical position, and keeping distribution costs and deadlines to a minimum," adds Griffiths. He concludes: "With our Goss Universal 70 expansion, we

believe we are well positioned to not only serve the needs of our own publishers, but also offer both existing and new contract customers benefits in production techniques and print quality that will enhance their publications and grow future revenue streams".

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