

CASE STUDY:

Metropolitan Community College – Raising the Green Flag

Company

Metropolitan Community College,
Kansas City, Missouri

Profile

This network (District) of five community colleges offers 70 career programs and transfer programs that cover the first two years of a four-year degree. The print shop employs six and uses a blend of offset and digital printing to support the District's printing needs.

Challenge

The District print shop had an aged polyester platesetter that was slated for replacement. Since the shop was producing an increasing volume of four-color printing on its two-color presses, its manager was seeking a metal platesetter replacement that was environmentally friendly.

Solution

Presstek Dimension450 Excel chemistry-free platemaker with Presstek Anthem Pro plates

Results

- Faster, more accurate four-color printing
- Eliminated outsourcing of metal plates
- Chemistry-free metal platemaking delivered increased efficiency and cost savings
- Increased savings and efficiency part of plan to self-fund acquisition of a four-color press
- District's drive to reduce its environmental footprint with elimination of chemistry, reduction of paper waste was satisfied

Presstek Dimension Excel Helps In-Plant Shop Continue Tradition of Self-Funding Capital Investments

The Metropolitan Community College print shop serves the printing needs of the District's five community colleges with three 2-color presses, two Digimaster 9110 high speed black & white printers and a Konica Minolta C6500 production digital color printer. The shop also offers wide format printing for indoor and outdoor signage, point-of-purchase materials, posters and banners.

"Our ABDick CP2000 polyester platesetter was a fine machine," said James Siercks, Print Shop Manager. "But it was slated for replacement due to age, and the limitations of polyester plates in meeting the increased demand for four-color printing from our 2-color presses, which was affecting our overall shop productivity." Siercks was interested in a metal plate solution to improve process control and reduce cycle time and costs. Finally, Siercks was seeking a chemistry-free solution that would allow him to promote the shop as environmentally friendly. The Presstek Dimension Excel chemistry-free platemaker with Anthem Pro plates fit the bill on all accounts.

"We operate on a cost-plus basis with charge-backs," explains Siercks. "I pride myself and our department on never going to the District cup in hand for any equipment purchases. Installing the ABDick in 2000 made us more efficient and started the ball rolling. Now with the Dimension Excel in place, we are even more cost efficient, and it is positioning us to be able to self-fund the future acquisition of a four-color press and an offline coater."



Metropolitan Community College has five campuses located in Kansas City, Missouri

“We were able to eliminate all of the hazardous chemistry from our plate room.”

“With the Dimension Excel everything we are doing, we are able to do better, with increased quality, increased throughput and a lower cost base.”

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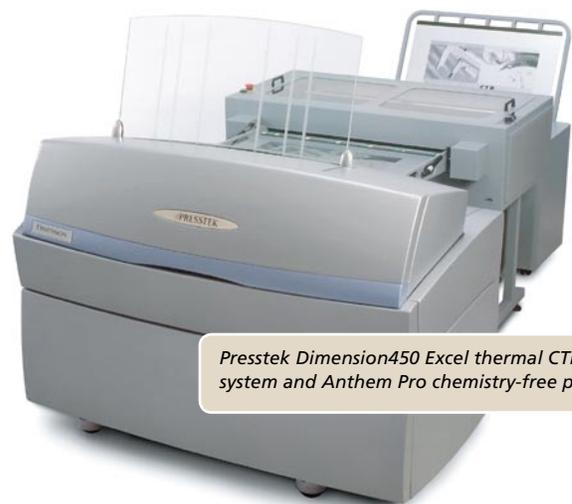
Case Study:

Metropolitan Community College Print Shop—Raising the Green Flag Continued

The department has had the Dimension in place since 2006. “Not only has it allowed us to eliminate outsourcing,” adds Siercks, “but it allowed us to raise the ‘green’ flag even before it was popular to do so. Our Risk Management department was delighted that we were able to eliminate all of the hazardous chemistry from our plate room, and the Dimension put us ahead of the curve as the rest of the District geared up to reduce its environmental footprint.”

With Anthem Pro plates, Siercks has also found that the makeready waste in the pressroom is substantially reduced. “This saves us both time and money,” he says, “and makes the operation even greener. The plates run up quickly and they are in near perfect register, eliminating the need for press operators to spend a lot of time in the makeready process.” Siercks is also delighted with the daylight safe operation of Anthem Pro, which meant the shop did not have to invest in special lighting conditions. “Although polyester plates are cheaper than metal plates,” he comments, “the metal plates allow us to have standing plate files and re-run jobs exactly when reprints are required. That ultimately saves us time and money as well, and you can’t do that with poly plates. So the total cost of ownership is actually less.”

Siercks and his team are very happy with the improvements the Dimension Excel has brought to the print shop. “Everything we are doing, we are able to do better, with increased quality, increased throughput and a lower cost base,” he concludes, “The Dimension is an important part of our overall strategy and is helping us move the needle toward our future investment goals. It is doing a great job of supporting our three 2-color presses, and it will be perfect for platemaking when we are able to acquire our new 4-color press.” ■



Presstek Dimension450 Excel thermal CTP system and Anthem Pro chemistry-free plates

