

CASE STUDY:

Akros Print – Improves Productivity with Presstek Compass CTP System

Company

Akros Print, East Kilbride, Scotland

Profile

Established in 1971, this second-generation family firm employs nine people and has a turnover approaching £1m. Run by brothers Jim and Gordon Wright, it produces a mix of offset and digital print catering to a wide range of commercial printing requirements for local and national customers.

Challenge

Increasing demand for short-run fast turnaround work was putting pressure on the operation's aging platesetter. To improve response times and enable smoother throughput for a greater number of jobs, the company searched for more than year to find the solution that would meet these demands.

Solution

- Presstek Compass 4038 platesetter with Presstek Aeon plates

Results

- Fourfold increase in plate production
- Eliminated bottleneck in platemaking department
- Productivity improved with system's continuous loading
- Pre-punched plates created time-savings

"Plate production is much smoother, and we are enjoying increased throughput."

Smoother Operation Generates Fourfold Production Boost



Jim Wright, managing director of Akros Print, established in 1971

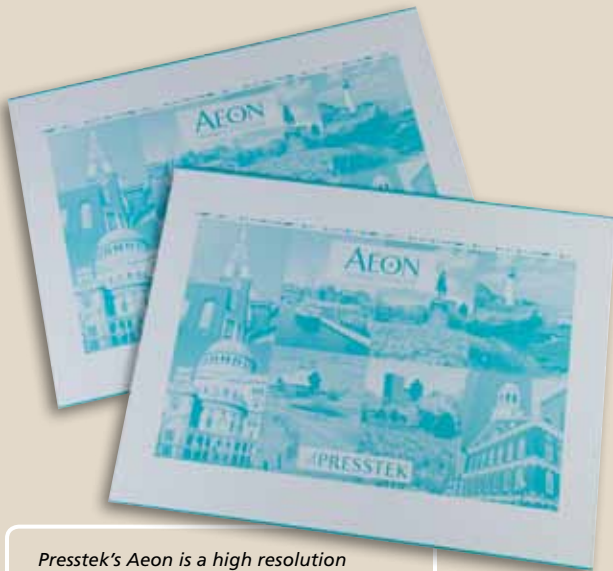
Shortening run lengths and tighter turnaround times require printing operations to produce high quality results fast. East Kilbride firm Akros Print understands these pressures all too well, which is why they chose a Presstek Compass 4038 platesetter with Presstek Aeon plates to help it become a more responsive and flexible operation.

Since this specialist in business-to-business commercial print made the investment, it has enjoyed a fourfold increase in plate production.

Our new Presstek Compass platesetter has dramatically reduced the pressure on our prepress department, plate production is much smoother, and we are enjoying increased throughput," says Jim Wright, Akros Managing Director. Wright runs the second-generation family business with his brother Gordon. Established in 1971, Akros employs nine people and has a turnover approaching £1m.

Plates generated by the Compass 4038 platesetter are used to produce B2 and B3 print on a Komori 28 and a Heidelberg SpeedMaster 52. Akros also uses a Konica Minolta Bizhub for ultra short runs.

Continued on reverse



Presstek's Aeon is a high resolution non-preheat thermal CTP plate that offers run lengths to 200,000 without baking; an optional post bake enables runs of up to one million.

"With the new Compass running at 35 to 40 plates an hour, we now have four times more productivity."

"Presstek Compass enables us to be more proactive with sales because we know we can confidently meet the ever-shortening response times customers require as a job prerequisite."

**For more information
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Continued

The choice of platesetter was one Akros considered very carefully, and in fact, the search began more than a year before the final decision was made. A thorough review of market alternatives was undertaken including a close look at Kodak's Magnus.

A key point that steered the decision toward Presstek's technology was the increased production speed of 38 plates per hour assured by the Compass 4038 platesetter. Also important to Mr Wright was the competitive price of the solution and his established relationship with Presstek.

"We were being asked to produce more short runs and turn jobs around faster. This was creating a bottleneck in the prepress department with our previous platesetter running at 10 plates an hour," states Wright. "Our operator was having difficulty keeping up with plate production requirements, and that sometimes meant the press was waiting for plates, cutting into our plant's throughput. But with the new Compass running at 35 to 40 plates an hour, we now have four times more productivity."

The benefits were felt from day one, particularly when it came to jobs such as a fine art catalogue that required 120 plates. Wright explains, "On the previous system, that project would have taken us two and half days. But with the Compass, we had all plates produced in three to four hours. The continuous loading is a huge benefit for us. Our prepress operator can work from his desk while the plates are loaded. That is a much better use of his time and increases the number of jobs we can push through every single day."

In addition, with every production second counting, the time-savings created by pre-punched plates is an added bonus, especially when combined with the numerous other productivity enhancements of the new Presstek system. Combined, these have eliminated prepress bottlenecks, freeing staff for more productive work, minimizing press down time, and allowing Akros to plan production more efficiently.

"It enables us to be more proactive with sales because we know we can confidently meet the ever-shortening response times customers require as a job prerequisite," concludes Wright. ■

