

FLEXO

Market News®

Serving The Flexographic Printing Industry In Print and Online at www.nvpublications.com

FTA Announces Virtual Forum 2020

The Flexographic Technical Association has cancelled Forum and INFO-FLEX 2020, due to the continued rapid spread of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

In its place, FTA has announced Virtual FORUM 2020, an online replacement for this year's in-person conference, where content previously planned for the event will be broadcast live in a webinar format utilizing FTA's Zoom Meeting platform. FTA members receive complimentary registration for the three-day event; non-member registration is \$200.

Virtual Trade Show

Each day of Virtual FORUM 2020 will feature a pair of technical sessions spread between the morning and afternoon. The schedule of sessions is as follows (all times ET):

Wednesday, April 22:

- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - An abbreviated version of the FTA Awards Banquet Presentation
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Contrast in Print Technologies: Preprint

(Cont'd on Page 11)

**For exclusive content
and breaking news
please visit**

www.flexomarketnews.com



Uteco Open House Focuses On Flexo

by Greg Kishbaugh

Uteco North America hosted an open house at its headquarters in Kennesaw, Georgia, on March 12. The event provided the press manufacturer the opportunity to showcase its Crystal flexo press through live demonstrations.



Mario Mucciaccaro, Uteco North America's Executive Vice President, leads Open House attendees through the live demo of the company's Crystal flexo press.

The new Crystal, while especially designed to print on food packaging, is also suitable for various additional applications

(Cont'd on Page 5)

Uteco Open House (Cont'd from Page 1)

requiring a high level of automation in order to speed up the job changes and to reduce the waste of materials, inks and power consumption.

The press features Uteco Direct Drive Evo technology, which is said by the manufacturer to ensure a perfect register accuracy between the colors for the entire press life.

The standard configuration of the Crystal includes front unwinder and rewinder for a better reel handling.



The Uteco Open House allowed attendees to get close-up views of the company's printing press technologies in operation.

The Crystal features an automatic positioning system for all print decks, which is said to improve the stiffness of each printing unit and the precision of its positioning.

The Crystal press includes:

- New ejection system for plate and anilox sleeve;
- Chamber Doctor Blade rotation of 90 degrees for tool-less and on-press blade/end-seal replacement;
- Programmable blade consumption/maintenance via the press HMI;
- Between Color Dryer rotation of 180 degree for on-press air nozzle inspection;
- Optimization of air nozzles geometry by means of a CFD fluid dynamics design; and
- Automatic adjustment of the drying air flow, respecting the production speed with high efficiency motors and inverters.

The press features additional options such as Kiss & Go, a unique system that sets-up the printing pressures at every new job start-up; the Sprint Wash modular washing system, which can accommodate solvent based, water based inks or both types; CrystalShopWare, a newly

(Cont'd on Page 7)

Sustained solutions to your most pressing pressroom concerns.

smart SOLUTIONS

We begin with an investigation that benchmarks the most common causes of waste/downtime and their costs including:

- ✓ Job Changes
- ✓ Mid-run Press Stops
- ✓ Customer Complaints
- ✓ Excess Blade Consumption
- ✓ Inadequate Best Practice SOPs
- ✓ Anilox/Cylinder Wear and Damage
- ✓ Print Defects Like Dirty Print, Streaks
- ✓ Lack of On-going Compliance Training

After careful ROI analysis, we help you develop and implement a sustainable solutions plan.

FLXON

Exceptional Quality. Superior Results. Guaranteed.

Ask About Our Proven Track Record!

FLXON INCORPORATED
(800) 756-6474

To learn more visit www.flxon.com



WEB BLAST

Reach thousands of potential customers by sending a targeted web blast to the entire online readership of

Flexo Market News.



To take advantage of this opportunity contact:

Greg Kishbaugh / 317-306-1060 / flxo@nvpublications.com

Robyn Smith / 910-553-4055 / rsmith@nvpublications.com

Uteco Open House (Cont'd from Page 5)

designed HMI that allows an operator to access to a multi-page color display in order to operate the press and to have control of the different parameters related to printing; and LogiPack, an integrated robotic system, which takes care of the preparation of the expandable shaft and core for the next splice, as well as the lifting of the unprinted reel on the unwinder and the discharge of the printed reel from the rewinder for its disposal on a specific dedicated area.

A live demonstration of the Rainbow Solventless Laminator allowed Open House attendees to witness how the web tension control of the machine allows for a variety of substrates to be used in the production of food packaging.

The machine's configuration, featuring two compact columns, reportedly allows for easy and safe access to all key points of the process.

Rainbow 4.0 is supplied with a separate adhesive mixer, an automatic washing system of the coating nip-rollers, an integral transfer roller, and a "three rollers" laminating unit. Pneumatic opening of the dosing cylinders for easy cleaning is included.

Representatives from Uteco's partner company Kodak were on hand to discuss the Sapphire EVO W Digital Press. The hybrid press offers digital and analogic printing for packaging, with uniform dot size and accurate dot placement of the ink, regardless of coverage or material, even at very high speeds. Water based inks guarantee the minimal environmental impact.

Mario Mucciaccaro, Uteco North America's Executive Vice President, stressed the point that the Sapphire is a production press capable of short and medium runs, promotional printing with reduced production time, one shoot printing, localized small batch manufacturing, personalized products, lotteries, and customized advertising.

The Importance of Training

The topic of attracting, retaining, and training personnel in the flexo industry is something Uteco has focused on for many years. It is, without question, the most pressing, ongoing concern for most flexo printing operations. Marco Verini, Uteco North America's Service Director, spoke to Flexo Market News about training in the flexo industry and the ways in which it will dictate printers' future success.

Please discuss the importance of proper training as it relates to the flexo industry (and specifically operators running Uteco presses).

The automobile is often used in analogies about printing presses, particularly as a flexo press owner express-

(Cont'd on Page 9)

THE TOP MINDS IN THE FLEXO INDUSTRY ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU

Get your company in front of the flexo industry's key decisionmakers. **Flexo Market News'** readership is comprised of Presidents, Owners, VPs and General Managers of flexo operations — the key people who make decisions on equipment purchases.

An ad in **Flexo Market News** is a direct sales meeting with thousands of the industry's best thinkers and most influential leaders.

**REACH OWNERS,
PRESIDENT, VPS
AND GENERAL MANAGERS**



An NVS Publication
FLEXO
Market News®

To boost your market presence contact:

Greg Kishbaugh / 317-306-1060 / flexo@nvpublications.com

Robyn Smith / 910-553-4055 / rsmith@nvpublications.com

Uteco Open House (Cont'd from Page 7)

es his expectations of an operator; you have the gas, you have the brake, you steer it and get to your destination.

The problem is that flexo presses have evolved from hands-on mechanical machines to highly complex electronic machines integrating multiple systems. The electronics make information, feedback and control available to the operator but we find that many companies do not benefit from them because operators are not trained to use them. There are items such as "crush compensation" and "repeat correction" which optimize print quality in spite of defective plates or film of lower quality which are available to operators, but only operators with advanced skills or who have received advanced training know the benefit.

Operators are often overwhelmed by a new piece of equipment and production demands. Advanced training is appreciated by operators as an investment in them, and results increased quality, decreased waste and often improved processes.

How is the flexo industry affected by inadequate training of its operators?

As an OEM, at Uteco we talk about training as it applies to the operator's ability to use the equipment, but the operator also has the responsibility of producing

good quality print. In larger operations there are pressroom supervisors, quality control people, and Standard Operating Procedures that supervise and limit the variables in the pressroom, but often in smaller operations everything is left to the press operator.

We are finding that often the operator is also the one who calls us when there is a presumed machine malfunction and we find ourselves troubleshooting for a machine error when any number of process parameters could be the cause.

Training, whether from an OEM on the equipment or from any of the schools on printing technologies and pre-press is the key to increased productivity, higher quality and decreased scrap including in extreme cases the rejected order.

What steps should flexo printing companies take to improve training in the future?

Flexo printing companies should always have a continuous improvement program for operators, maintenance, and all personnel in general. The obvious returns will be as previously stated in terms of quality-related profits, but equally important is the personal growth of personnel and the satisfaction that comes with higher achievement, however small, which brings

(Cont'd on Page 11)

THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU

An ad in **Flexo Market News** is a direct sales meeting with thousands of Presidents, Owners, VPs and General Managers of flexo operations — the key people who make decisions on equipment purchases.



An NVP Publication
FLEXO
Market News®

Greg Kishbaugh
317-306-1060
flexo@nvpublications.com

Robyn Smith
910-553-4055
rsmith@nvpublications.com

Uteco Open House (Cont'd from Page 9)

loyalty and interest in a company's growth.

From Uteco's perspective, a well-trained person makes a good machine excellent. We offer training courses for operators and maintenance personnel from entry to advanced levels, either in-house or on location. We have common interest with The Sonoco Institute at Clemson, for example, in expanding theoretical courses to hands-on press experience at our training facility in Georgia. There are relatively few courses available for operators as many younger people choose pre-press and graphics. Flexo printing companies often have to grow their own operators from a pool of different skill sets, recognizing the common interests that training brings opens the budgets and the returns for everyone involved.

Virtual Forum (Cont'd from Page 1)

vs. Postprint: Comparing preprint and postprint tech, and how corrugated printers and their customers can choose the right process for each job

- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Press Optimization: Straight from the Mouths of Printers: Establishing consistent print quality, workflow stability and efficiency of operations, through press optimization

Wednesday, April 29:

- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Color Consistency: Achieving the Target: How using hardware to capture data and software to visualize it allows production crews to print to the numbers and ensure color consistency

- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Inside the Minds of Brand Owners: Why We Care: Brand owners discuss the ways in which color is important and how its importance affects their package-branding decisions

Wednesday, May 6:

- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Innovation & Technology Born from Frustration: How color is affected by ink, anilox and plate selection—and improved by cutting-edge technologies—along with finding the best combination of consumables

- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - FQC: Exploring Technology & Defining Value in Packaging: Technology advancement born from in-depth research conducted by industry members and students of flexography

The three remaining sessions from FORUM 2020 will take place later this year at Fall Conference 2020:

- Evaluation, Optimization, Control: The Complete Plate Making Package

- Print Quality Scoring: Friend or Foe?

- The Defectives II: A "Virtual" Guide to Troubleshooting.

THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU

An ad in **Flexo Market News** is a direct sales meeting with thousands of Presidents, Owners, VPs and General Managers of flexo operations — the key people who make decisions on equipment purchases.



Greg Kishbaugh / 317-306-1060 / flexo@nvpublications.com

Robyn Smith / 910-553-4055 / rsmith@nvpublications.com



State-of-the-Art Training Facility

- State-of-the-art training facility that combines press time and class time for the highest quality of education.
- Hands on training for experience and deep understanding of the printing mechanics.
- Designed for operators, maintenance workers, electrical and mechanical engineers.
- Courses specifically designed depending on your role.
- Classes taught by Uteco's in-house representatives alongside industry experts.
- Customized theoretical and applicative training for operators and maintenance managers.



Course Benefits

- Increase your productivity
- Operational Efficiency
- Workload Efficiency
- Less waste in production runs
- Optimize production time



WWW.UTECONA.COM

Operator & Maintenance Training Program



Uteco North America, Inc
3400 Town Point Drive Ste 160
Kennesaw, GA 30144
Ph: 770-427-4100
email: north.america@uteco.com