



JKN Digital installs first Durst Rhopac packaging printer in the UK

JKN Digital of Preston has recently added a Rhopac to their already extensive machinery list of large format output devices, which includes a Durst Rho 160 inkjet printer. The Rhopac is wide format UV curing inkjet printer incorporating Durst's Quadro Array printhead technology which enables the finest quality print with the highest output. It prints to a width of 2050mm and is also capable of printing white ink and varnish, previously not possible with this type of technology. The Rhopac is the world's first UV inkjet that is specifically designed for printing corrugated packaging material as well as other point of sale and display items.

JKN was founded in 1988 by the current Managing Director, Peter Nicholls as a specialist signage and display company. Five years later they invested in a four colour thermal printer, the first of its kind. This was to become a pattern for JKN as they have always been quick to invest in new technology in order to maintain a competitive edge. Almost from the outset they established themselves as a trade supplier to the industry and by the middle of the 1990's, concentrated their production on digital print and, in particular, large format print for external applications. Printing full colour directly onto vinyl in 1999 was seen as virtually a unique service and proved to be a successful market for JKN. They installed their first Zund UV flatbed printer in 2001, three months later a second and eventually a third, before investing in the Rho 160.



Why has JKN now invested in a Rhopac?

Peter Nicholls, replied: "We have enjoyed increased business levels consistently month on month for the last five years and, with the extended customer base, it is crucial that we maintain the levels of service and quality that JKN has become known for, which means increasing our in house capabilities. To this end we have two or more of each type of our wide range of different equipment, in order to maintain short lead times even with increased business levels. Our business is geared to service our customers needs, who include many well known large corporations, such as; Barratt Homes, English Partnerships, the Tote, William Hill, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Alton Towers and many Local Authorities and Universities. The choice of the Rhopac was to not only satisfy the increased demand but also

to help further diversify the business. The area we are particularly interested in is the low to medium volume packaging market, where we believe there is great potential. We now have the equipment and expertise to supply a complete service to all our clients. We have two automated cutting tables using i-cut technology, a 2.5m x 3m and a 2.5m x 6m, which is also



capable of routing and cutting roll fed material. In addition to the investment in the Rhopac, we have taken on five new members of staff to help support the new projects, including a new additional salesperson, a new production manager and a specialist packaging/point of sale/retail display 3D designer."

Why the packaging market?

"We have always prided ourselves with our ability to supply the best possible service," said Peter Nicholls. "That is one of the reasons we have been able to maintain our trade business and we believe that there is a large potential market in being able to offer the same digital print service to the packaging industry. There is a trend for shorter run packaging, including personalisation, local and regional promotions as well as the need for fast turn round of 3D prototypes and proofing. Until now digital print was not really capable of providing a complete solution. With the Rhopac and our other equipment, we can print on corrugated board, cut, crease and glue – all in one operation and at the highest quality. We will now offer a one-stop solution to this requirement, combined with the very fast turn around we are used to."

"It is our intention to provide both an "off-the-shelf" and bespoke design service for packaging. We have already created a portfolio of dozens of standard display solutions, which will be available at competitive prices for different print runs i.e. 1 to 10, 10 to 50 etc. These will be available at very short notice, if required. Similarly, if the customer requires something different, we have the expertise to provide a tailor-made solution."

Why choose the Rhopac?

"Having decided to break into the packaging market with digital print, there is only one UV inkjet printer on the market that is specifically designed for that industry and that is the Rhopac. We believe that printing with UV ink is important in this market. The Rhopac also provides outstanding quality of print and output speed. Two more major factors are the ability to print white ink and varnish. Durst is a tried and tested and is a world leader in this field and has always been at the forefront of technological innovation. Furthermore, Durst equipment has the ability to be upgraded, which helps keep one's business very competitive by being at the leading edge of technology."

"Needless to say, the Rhopac will, of course, be used for all our existing business as well. The Rho 160 will be used mainly for printing on roll material whilst the Rhopac for printing on boards. An important factor is that neither machine is exclusive to one type of media so that we can use whichever machine is best suited to the job."

For more information on the Durst Rhopac and the Rho Range, telephone Durst on 01332 223980. For more information on JKN Digital, telephone 01772 722735 or e-mail sales@jkn.digital.co.uk.



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