

## CutCon plus for dramatic waste rate reduction

Book printer Ebner & Spiegel bank on manroland cut-off register system

**A short time after paper runs through the LITHOMAN in Ulm, the bestseller is on the shelves of a bookstore in Leipzig. With a job turnaround time of four to five days in the peak season, one can see very clearly where rapid book production is heading.**

Fast delivery with the shortest turnaround times is only one of the trends in book printing. Shorter runs aimed at specific target groups also have to meet high quality expectations. This is why, besides fast makeready times, publishers insist on quality for color and register for both hardcover and paperback books. In addition, book printers have to keep waste rates as low as possible in order to achieve an optimal cost per copy price. All these requirements are resulting in increasingly industrialized production. Ebner & Spiegel GmbH in Ulm, one of Germany's largest producers of books, therefore decided to upgrade their LITHOMAN printing systems with CutCon plus, manroland's new cut-off register control.

### **Ebner & Spiegel – a trendsetter in book printing**

Ebner & Spiegel GmbH has positioned itself as an industrial-scale book printer with the highest quality standards. The company belongs to Groupe CPI of Paris, one of Europe's leading book manufacturers. Every year, 450 employees in Ulm produce around 63 million books including 36 million paperbacks, 18 million hardcover books, and 9 million calendar books. All facets of book production are handled by this full-service company, including delivery of the books.

### **“Waste rates are now four to five times less than before”**

In 2006, Ebner & Spiegel invested in one single-color and one two-color LITHOMAN to augment their web offset machine park of two single-color ROTOMAN presses installed in 2002. Now they have upgraded their LITHOMAN systems with CutCon plus, which is possible for all manroland commercial web presses built in 1999 or later and has a payback period of one to 1½ years. The new cut-off register control system has already met the expectations of printing plant manager Walter Fiderer in full. “With book printing, precise register is vital. CutCon plus readjusts register very quickly and accurately. Our waste rates are now four to five times less than before and we are completely satisfied.” Josef Oswald, production and engineering manager, adds: “Our customers regard noticeable cut-off register variations as a glaring fault which they cannot accept. Today with CutCon plus, variations in cut-off register are only around 0.5 mm. Achieving this accuracy with conventional systems necessitates much more waste.”

manroland AG is the world's second largest printing systems manufacturer and the world's market leader in web offset. manroland employs almost 9,000 people and has annual sales of some Euro 2 billion with an export share of almost 84%. Web and sheetfed offset presses provide solutions for publishing, commercial and packaging printing.

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Photos can be downloaded from [www.manroland.com](http://www.manroland.com) in the category **Press**.

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### **How does CutCon plus reduce waste rates?**

Stable cut-off register during start-up and blanket washing as well as reel changing ensures quality and thus reduces waste rates. When the press is accelerated up to production speed, CutCon plus is especially effective because after around 8,000 cylinder rph up to maximum production speed only good copies are printed. Also after blanket washing and register mark detection, CutCon plus readjusts the cut-off register quickly and reliably during the acceleration phase which minimizes waste. And since paper costs amount on average to some 50 percent of production costs, waste rate reduction has great potential for resource conservation and thus cost savings. When reels are changed, CutCon plus compensates for web tension variations. Walter Fideler is thrilled about the advantages this provides for print production: "During reel changing we no longer open the waste gate because it cannot divert so few copies. Reel changing is not even noticeable in cut-off register." The impressive result: with CutCon plus, there are now virtually zero complaints regarding register variations.

### **Seamless integration in the workflow**

"I like it best when the operators stand in front of the control console during printing with their hands in their pockets and whistle a tune", says Josef Oswald with a grin. He is surely just as happy to see his staff concentrating intently on monitoring quality and production. After all, with CutCon plus there is more time for this because the operators are relieved of adjustment tasks during production. They quickly became familiar with the system as they were involved in every stage of the installation. Ebner & Spiegel has nothing but praise for the cooperation with manroland in the sense of a development partnership. And Ebner & Spiegel is absolutely interested in further automation to produce faster with the same high quality. "DynaChange for flying job changeover with single-color books is very interesting." Still, even with the investments made in automation so far, one thing's for sure: the boom times for books such as next Christmas can be handled easily.

### **Captions:**

Josef Oswald, production and engineering manager, and Walter Fideler, printing plant manager at Ebner & Spiegel GmbH in Ulm.

Walter Fideler, production and engineering manager at Ebner & Spiegel, and Josef Aumiller, Vice President Sales Support Webfed Presses at manroland, are talking about efficient book production.

Every year over 60 million books are shipped from the premises of Ebner & Spiegel, one of Germany's biggest book producers.