

“After 20 months of operation the system is rock solid”

In early February of 2008, Conley Publishing became I-TECH's first installation. It has now been over 18 months since we installed our ribbon control system on their G-16 press and we wanted to revisit the performance of the product to date.

Per Jim Dittmann, President, “The system has reduced our waste by at least 500 impressions per make ready and

substantially improved our print to cut/fold tolerance. Prior to the I-TECH System, we were only able to hold a tolerance of about 0.024” by eye. Now the system holds tolerance well under 0.008” and this has allowed us to lower our run waste and keep it low. Our customers also have really noticed and been impressed”.

Furthermore, Dittmann indicates,

“The robustness of the system has been very solid. We have not really had any failures to speak of and the I-TECH service and on-going training support has been excellent. They are able to support their equipment extremely well over the built in internet connection”.

“All in all, we are delighted with the Ribbon Control system from Imaging Technologies, Inc.”

Amidon Graphics

“It has performed so well we bought another one”

When Mike Amidon, vice president of production at St. Paul, Minn.-based Amidon Graphics first saw Imaging Technologies Inc.'s automatic register control system, he knew he had found a system he could bank on.

“It's a much quicker installation and the entire system will require a lot less maintenance.”

“We know about other vendors and their register control systems, and we liked them OK, but with I-TECH we're talking about a completely new technology, and we believe it will be a lot more responsive to our needs,” Amidon said. “Plus, the installation will be much simpler.”

To that end, the I-TECH deployment will require only two cameras, located at the top and bottom of where the web exits the press. What's more, I-TECH's novel system won't require Amidon to install any additional rollers to support the web as it travels from the press to dryers; the advanced, high-speed cameras monitoring registration have been designed to accommodate any bounce in the web as it leaves the press.

“We'll mount the camera and that's about it,” he said. “It's a much quicker installation and the entire system will require a lot less maintenance.” The

family-owned commercial printer produces a wide variety of products on its Harris M-100 five-unit press - Amidon said, “from brochures to cover wraps.”

While the seven-year-old machine is currently equipped with a register control system from another vendor, the system doesn't satisfy Amidon's needs.

Among its major shortcomings: It forces press crews to widen each web by an additional 1/4-inch in order to accommodate the system's requirements. With paper costs soaring through the roof, Amidon said the last thing his company needs is to consume paper unnecessarily.

“Saving that quarter inch of paper will be a big benefit, as will the more accurate registration,” he said, adding that Amidon's customers will get the biggest benefit from the I-TECH system.

“We do lots of 4-color and the I-TECH system will not only help us improve our registration but it will also allow customers to send us files with more stylish layouts and designs. That will give our customers more flexibility, and that's what we want to do.”

Update: One Year Later

Mike Amidon states, “It has now been a year since we installed our first

I-TECH register system and it has proved to be one of the best equipment decisions we've made in recent years. We were so thrilled with the performance of the first we installed a second on our Zirkon press.”

“Our ‘getting to register time’ with the older systems used to be around 2500 impressions for a cold start and 1250 impressions for a single plate change, blanket wash, or splice. Now, those numbers are closer to 250 and 150 respectively. This order of magnitude reduction has allowed us to lower our waste significantly. It has also freed up our operators to focus on the in-line finishing portion of our process. As a result, overall waste has gone down by 25% since we started up with the I-TECH register system”.

“Furthermore, the installations went very smoothly and the whole system has been very robust.”

“We love the fact that I-TECH can support us remotely over the internet for the life of the product. Over the last year we have had very few if any issues with the system. We never feel alone, we feel supported and we would never buy a register system from anyone else again”.