ALYGN

SUCCESS IN GERMANY

Background

allflex Folienveredelung GmbH & Co. KG is a well-established printing company for flexible packaging. Since 1986, **allflex** has a factory in Aachen. This was followed in 1991 by a new plant in Ascgersleben. Today **allflex** is producing high-quality print on various flexible packaging materials such as OPP, PETP, OPA film, metallized film, PET and PVC shrink sleeve material, as well as aluminium foil. The main share of the production is printed on 3 rotogravure presses from 8 to 11 colors.

allflex is ISO certified and holds quite a number of awards from the packaging industry. Customized solutions, high flexibility and quality are the factors contributing to the success of the company.

Mr. Frank Neumann, factory manager of allflex Folienveredelung in Aachen, and Mr. Anuj Bhagwati, managing director of the A.T.E. Group, in front of the first "ALYGN" system made in India, installed at allflex Folienveredelung in Aachen.

Challenges

In order to improve the register performance of their 8 colour DCM printing press, **allflex** decided to invest in a new register control system. After looking at all alternatives, a decision was finally made in favor of the "ALYGN" system, developed and manufactured by **EcoAxis** from Pune, India, a member of the **A.T.E. group**.

THETA SYSTEM Elektronik GmbH in Gröbenzell is **EcoAxis'** exclusive marketing partner for Europe. **THETA** sold the first Indian register control system from **EcoAxis** to **allflex**, Germany.

There were a number of demands that had to be met by **EcoAxis** and **THETA**:

- This retrofit project was to be completed with a minimum of downtime.
- The existing register control system was deeply integrated into the machine which made the replacement very demanding.
- In addition, **EcoAxis** had to provide various interfaces to other auxiliary systems which remained on the printing machine.
- To provide consistent register mark detection was an exacting demand of **allflex** of the new system, because very low contrasts on various substrates are printed day after day.
- In order to increase the overall machine productivity, the important criteria for **allflex's** decision were control performance, system reliability and an "easy to use" HMI.

Solution

The team of **THETA SYSTEM** and **EcoAxis** carefully evaluated this retrofit project and designed the register control system specifically to meet exactly the requirements of this application. Clear specifications and perfect preparation were the keys to the final success of this installation.

A detailed project plan was made together with the production management of **allflex** to carry out the implementation of the "ALYGN" system in the shortest possible time.

After system delivery the installation was carried out in parallel to production by the service technician from India together with the maintenance crew of **allflex** in a demonstration of perfect team work.

Result

- The system installation took less than two days downtime and was completed during a weekend.
- A short period of parameter optimization followed and then the machine was handed over. The machine was back in full production immediately after installation.
- Until today there is no register mark which could not be detected with "ALYGN" sensors with white light LED technology.
- Jobs with high demands on register accuracy can be produced with higher production speed as compared to the speed prior to the retrofit.
- The overall register performance is improved.
- The operators are happy having such a system that is very easy to operate.
- The double eye measurement mode is a must in some cases to provide different sensor adjustments for specific colour-contrast/ substrate combinations. With this innovative feature from **EcoAxis,** called LDC (Light spot Distance Compensation) fine-tuning is nearly eliminated even in measurement mode, which gives unique advantages and big savings for production especially during setup.

This project was the starting point of a long term and mutually beneficial partnership between **allflex** on one hand and **THETA SYSTEM** with **EcoAxis** on the other hand.