

chemical listened and then dedicated its resources to finding an innovative answer. "We ended up with this new ink technology."

"The process allows colors to trap over each other at the printing station to the next without any special requirement is to have an electron beam or UV lamps to dry the printed matter after the printing unit. This is good news for the environment and for incinerators.

"I believe that the largest impact may be the use of flexible packaging. For example, the new technology would allow converters who adopted the technology to eliminate multiple interstation drying—high energy consumption—by simply using a heated EB unit or UV station after the printing unit. The technology would not only prove itself but also provide savings in terms of environmental costs.

"The technology would no longer be an expensive option with common impression cylinders, simplified, and in the long run, reduce the need for expansion.

"Flint, Ann Arbor MI, has also added a new line of EB curable ink systems for flexo printing. The FLEXURE™ and ARCURE™ are curable systems that withstand the rigors of shipping, handling, and distribution without loss of quality. Flint's systems for label printing—personal care items, beverages, and others that require powerful point-of-purchase displays. Director of Marketing Steve D'Angelo says, "The industry is a high-service, high-performance segment that changes constantly and demands the best printing technologies." D'Angelo says, "The UV and EB ink systems offer significant benefits that deliver on-press performance benefits by retail manufacturers."

"The new list of new inks, UVitec Printing Ink Systems, introduced its 87 series of UV flexo inks. The company's new ink system also has been applied to a variety of different substrates. The new hot stamp quality in a variety of colors, metallic, and fluorescent colors. Because the UV flexo ink is essentially (free of organic compound) free, the inks are environmentally friendly.

"I can't tell if UV flexo inks will become the standard for the package printing industry, but I believe so. For now, his customers need to test out UV inks through successful testing."

Inside info on ink pumping systems

Bill Mason, sales manager for Powerwise USA, in Erie, PA, had much more to add on current and future ink pumping systems. Here are a few of his thoughts outside the UV flexo ink realm.

1. What are the newest "must-have" developments in ink and inking systems for packaging?

The pump system that has been causing the most interest over the past few years has been the peristaltic tube pump that is crossing over from medical and non-printing related fields into the printing marketplace. Printers, in their ever-increasing desire to find a self-cleaning pump, have been drawn to the peristaltic tube pump because clean up is quick and easy and changing hoses only takes a few minutes.

At Powerwise, our centrifugal three-rod designed stainless steel pump and our nylon-coated models are still the most popular because they are industry standards and workhorses that provide constant flow. They are also excellent for the enclosed doctor blade chambers that are now prevalent throughout many printing operations.

2. More specifically what has Powerwise introduced recently to the market?

We have created non-stalling, air-driven, double-diaphragm ink pumps. The stalling of diaphragm pumps has always been its major negative, and to have a guaranteed non-stalling pump helps the printer use the pump with confidence. We have also introduced a Lo-Flow version of the Trifugal pump that has 100-percent success in the industry. Electric-inverter-driven peristaltic tube pumps have also been well received.

3. What improvements in the near future can be expected for ink blending systems?

I believe that soon, ink pumping systems will make more use of the expanding technology of inverters. These devices are becoming less expensive and will allow press operators to program the ink flow. They are also reversible which is a big help for draining the press station. Larger printers may demand complete automation of pumping systems to fall in line with the ever-progressing demands of the new age of printing presses.

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