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PrintWeek

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COVER STORY - UFLEX

UFlex: In praise of its CI flexo mission

By Abhay Avadhani ▼

Sanjay Sabharwal, EVP and COO – PAM marketing, engineering business, UFlex shares how flexo is a priority – and how it intends to make use of its tech-advantage to diversify

Abhay Avadhani (AA): In the aspect of effectiveness, inventory and cost of gravure cylinders is high as compared to flexo, and the space taken by 10–15 jobs of gravure = space taken by 100 jobs of flexo. What is your take on this?

Sanjay Sabharwal (SS): In this scenario, not only the cost but charges of carrying inventory, space, and the turnaround time of flexo plates is much less compared to gravure cylinders.

AA: There are trade shops in every major city that have flexo expertise. To what extent has the trade shop benefitted the CI flexo movement in India?

SS: Trade shops have not only supported the adoption of flexo technologies but have also made available the required expertise at the printers' end. With a focus on mono-layer and recycling materials, this is quite beneficial.

AA: How much process control is required to get the expected performance out of the plate even though it's integrated with CI flexo?

SS: Flexo printing is not only machine-oriented but a process-oriented technology. The silver lining is that with proper SOPs and depending on the automation levels of the machines, best results can be obtained.

AA: How can flexo become more popular with the implementation of EPR and single-use plastics ban? Is it going to become a government-favourite over gravure?

SS: The very basic principle of CI flexo, by virtue of wrapping the films on drums helps in using even stretchable films with accurate printing. With more focus on EPR, this becomes a necessity. Additionally, the ability to work with different solvents, including water, makes it a preferred option.

AA: What are the potential areas of automation in the pre-media segment? How can these be linked with flexo for better efficiency?

SS: Automation is the base of success for any technology, and with auto pressure settings, auto registrations, auto cleaning, and staggered plate mounting, the best results are obtained.

AA: How is flexo competing with gravure on things like speed to market, sustainability?

SS: As far as speed is concerned, the cost of inherent features like a doctor chamber blade, CI flexo can work at much higher speeds with lesser waste. In other words, quick changeover and high speeds help in getting better output and better uptime of the equipment.

AA: Converters believe that the finer the line screen, the better the image. In order to achieve high LPI, the press speed can be reduced, and does that not lead to a drop in efficiency?

SS: With the integration of new technologies and the possibility of lesser bouncing, better images at reasonable speeds are possible. ■



Sanjay Sabharwal, EVP and COO – PAM of UFlex

NEWS

Rahil Foam installs the Manuflex CI flexo press

Rajkot-based Rahil Foam, a leader in the production of cast PE films, has invested in a Manuflex 1308-350 CI flexo printing machine. Kolhapur-based Manugraph manufactures the eight-colour gearless press.

Lalit Kagathara, director, Rahil Foam invested in a Manuflex 1308-350. He said, "The reason to invest in a Manuflex is to meet our growing production demand. The CI flexo press' ability to print on a PE film prompted the purchase. The new investment will help us to maintain our higher print quality and improve cost efficiency."



Rahil Foam buys Manuflex 1308-350 from Manugraph

Kagathara said, the Rahil team didn't see any other machines at the time of purchase. But they were clear that "the deciding factor in favour of a CI flexo press from Manugraph was the value of money with all its technologies." Kagathara added, "We

believe this investment will help us maintain our higher print quality, improve cost efficiency and reduce costs."

Presently, Rahil Foam is equipped with two presses of eight-colour from W&H and Manugraph and two other presses of six-col-

our and four-colour. It has four cast lines for producing PE films, and two lines for producing CPP films related to consumer marketing companies in India and abroad.

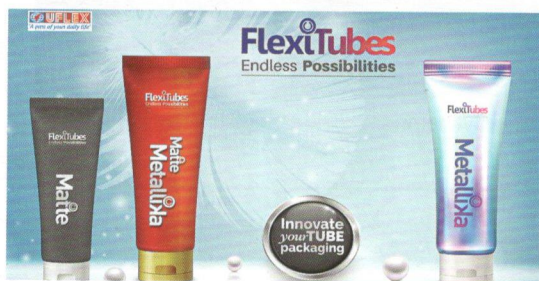
The Manugraph team shared with WhatPackaging? that "Manugraph has manufactured the Manuflex 1308-350 in collaboration with Carraro SRL of Italy." The press offers a maximum speed of up to 350 m/min; repeat range of 400-850 mm; and a maximum printing width of 1,300 mm. It belongs to a new generation of gearless CI flexo presses

and is the only made-in-India machine.

A key feature is its auto deck position control, which offers accurate pre-registering. Its servo shaftless platform includes a fully automatic turret-type unwinder and rewinder. Among other elements, the machine has a five-metre-long tunnel for improved drying.

Rahil Foam is an ISO 9001:2015 certified Indian company. It supplies eight-colour CPP and LDPE films for outer packaging in hygiene industries to customers, including Unicharm India and Nobel.

UFlex exhibits flexible tubes at Cosmohome



UFlex displayed Remika, Kraftika, and Earthika at the show

UFlex showcased a wide range of flexible tubes and packaging solutions at Cosmohome Tech Expo 2023 in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, from 19 to 21 July.

The company exhibited its sustainable portfolio for brands in the beauty and cosmetics industry. It

put on display Remika, Kraftika, and Earthika, its popular range of eco-friendly tubes and several other anti-counterfeit packaging solutions at the expo. Of which, Kraftika is suitable for all applications and reduces plastic in sleeve weight by 45-50%.

SIG's net-zero goal across value chain by 2050, validated by SBTi

Switzerland-headquartered SIG has received approval for its net-zero science-based target from the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). It is among the first 300 companies to have its target validated by the SBTi; and is committed to reach net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across its value chain by 2050.

SIG has set a series of near and long-term science-based emissions reduction targets with the SBTi, committing to reach net-zero. It envisions beyond operations



SIG is reducing its scope 1 and 2 emissions

and commits to the decarbonisation of its entire value chain in-line with climate science.

The company's near-term 2030 commitments include 42% absolute reduction of scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions; 100% renewable electricity through 2030; and 51.6% reduction of scope 3 GHG emissions

per litre packed.

The long-term 2050 targets include 90% absolute reduction of scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions; and 97% reduction of scope 3 GHG emissions per litre packed.

Samuel Sigrüst, CEO at SIG, said, "The approval of our net-zero pathway by the SBTi is a milestone achievement that showcases our dedication to decarbonising our operations and value chain. Decarbonising our business will not be an easy task, but we're excited to speed up our journey to net-zero."