



# FLEXO INVESTMENTS CONTINUE AT RIGID

**WITH A GÖPFERT EVOLUTION FOR DESBOROUGH AND A BOBST FFG 924 NT FOR LIMERICK, RIGID CONTAINERS CONTINUES TO INVEST IN THE LATEST FLEXO PRINTING EQUIPMENT FOR ENHANCED GRAPHICS ON PACKAGING.**

**A REPORT BY DANIEL BRUNTON.**

**R**igid Containers, part of the VPK Group, has recently commissioned a state of the art flexo rotary die-cutter at its Desborough facility in Northamptonshire, England and a high specification flexo folder gluer at its site in Limerick, Ireland. Part of a multi million pound investment, the high graphics machine at Desborough is a four colour Göpfert Evolution. To ensure maximum productivity, the machine has been fitted with an automatic pre-feeder as well as end of line breaker and palletiser. The new flexo folder gluer in

Ireland, commissioned in mid May, is a three colour Bobst FFG 924 NT, complete with Bobst pre-feeder, Mosca bundle strapper and Dücker Corrpal palletising line.

## **Desborough evolution**

As the company has expanded its footprint throughout the UK, ensuring consistency of



*"WE CONTINUE TO INVEST IN HIGH QUALITY FLEXO PRINTING TO ENSURE WE OFFER THE HIGHEST QUALITY PRINTED PACKAGING FOR OUR CUSTOMER BASE."*

**JULIAN FREEMAN**



manufacturing capabilities across each of its sites has been critical. The installation of the Göpfert Evolution took place earlier in the Spring, with the four colour high board line machine being commissioned in April. To ensure maximum productivity, the flexo die-cutter has been supplied with pre-feeder, breaker and palletising equipment. A final flexo dryer was installed by JB Machinery to ensure printed sheets are dried prior to breaking and palletisation. Absolute chamber blades were installed throughout the machine.

"Installing this machine is just another step in ensuring we have mirrored operations between our Selby and Desborough sites," explains Julian Freeman, Sales & Marketing Director. "The quality of print achieved on these Göpfert flexo die-cutters is outstanding and we have been very pleased with the start-up phase of the machine at Desborough."

This is the third Göpfert flexo



**JB Machinery flexo dryer.**

converting line to be installed in the UK by Rigid Containers. In addition to the new line at Desborough, the company runs two Göpfert machines at its site in Selby, Yorks.

"We continue to invest in high quality flexo printing machinery to ensure we offer the highest quality printed packaging for our nationwide customer base," continues Mr Freeman. "As well as excellent print, we chose the Evolution to help us significantly increase our die-cutting capacity at Desborough. Add to this the fact they are the most accurate of machines, we can guarantee that the boxes will run efficiently on case erecting machines at our customers' sites."

### **Irish investment**

Since the company acquired ICS Europaks last year, a priority for Rigid has been investment in equipment and systems to enhance the plant's productivity. "Following the acquisition, we have invested heavily in our Limerick facility," explains Mr Freeman. "We have rolled out Kiwiplan's suite of software for plant scheduling and shop floor data collection, as well as beefing up the converting



**L to R: Colm Loughran, Richard Coward and Steve Whitby.**

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STEVE WHITBY



Bobst FFG 924 NT, with in-line Mosca bundle strapper and Dücker Corrpall palletising line. To ensure maximum productivity from the entire converting

**Bobst FFG 924 NT with Mosca bundle strapper and Dücker Corrpall palletiser.**

hall and renovating the reception area, meeting rooms and front of house signage. Most significant has been the installation of a

department, we have also added a Dücker end of line conveyor system that feeds the finished pallets into a Mosca pallet strapper and poly-wrapping line – every pallet now leaves the site fully shrink-

wrapped to ensure perfect pallet presentation at the customer’s site.”

To bolster the management team, the company has sent over Steve Whitby to act as site director. “Steve is a key part of our management team and having him as the eyes and ears on the ground in Limerick is one of the reasons the plant is increasing its production levels month on month. He is a great asset for us,” says Mr Freeman.

“When Bobst installed the new machine, we received some excellent training for the two crews that will run the machine,” explains Mr Whitby. “Bobst did an excellent job with our people and we are happy with how the machine is performing after only a short period of time. To start with, we have had both crews running the machine together, but soon we will split them down into two shift crews as the order mix increases. Overall, we have been happy with the start up and the quality of work coming off the machine is very good.”



**Customer commitment**

“Rigid Containers has invested heavily in machinery and people over the last few years and this trend continues, thanks to the support of our parent company VPK Group,” comments Richard Coward, Managing Director. “Elsewhere in Europe, VPK Group shows its commitment to its growing customer base thanks to similar investments in state of the art corrugating and converting equipment throughout its network of wholly owned companies.” ■