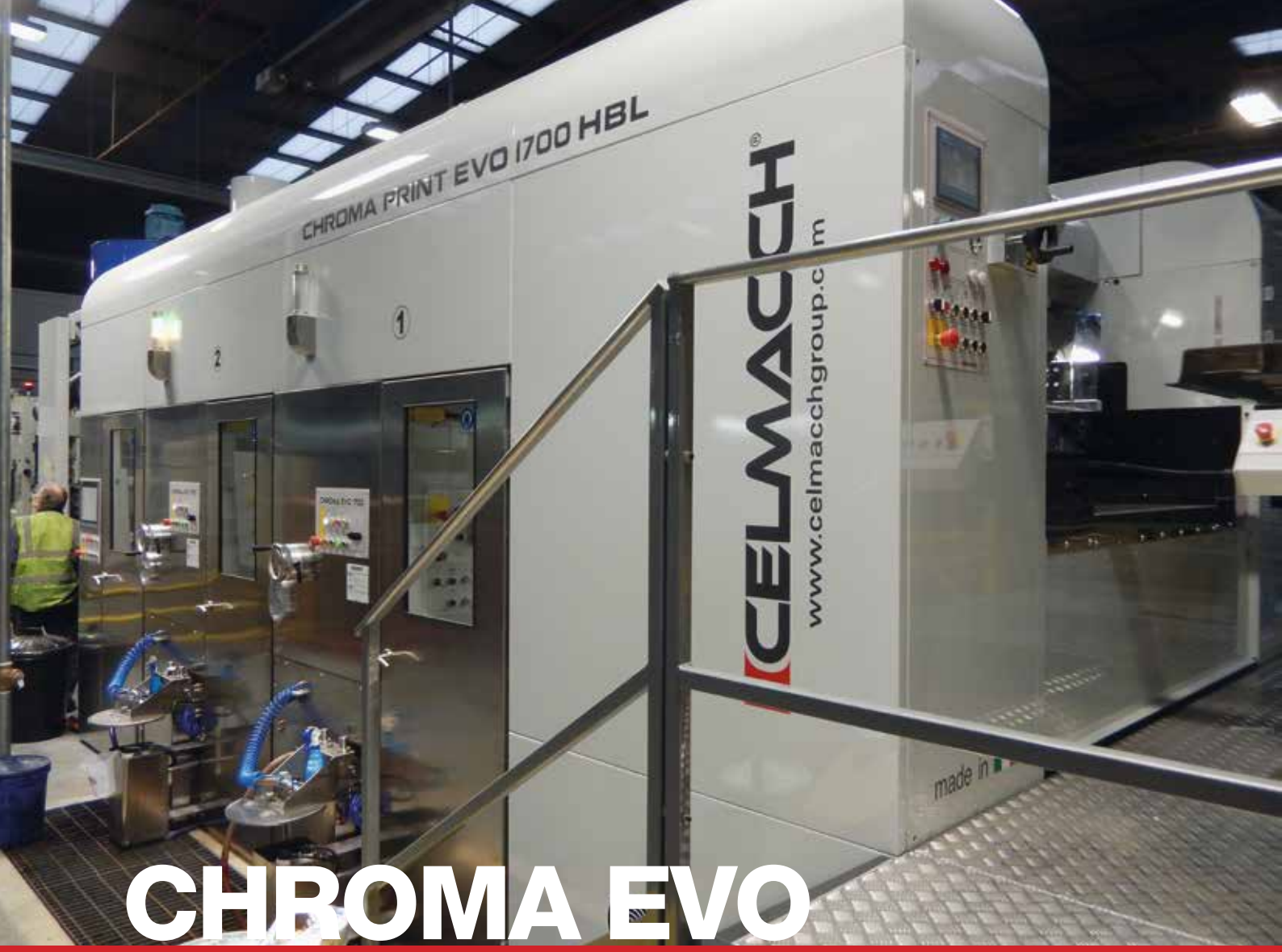

CHROMA EVO HELPS RIGID BOOST PRODUCTIVITY

A FLEXO PRINTER INSTALLED IN FRONT OF AN EXISTING DIE-CUTTER ALLOWS RIGID CONTAINERS TO INCREASE MARGIN CONTRIBUTION ON ONE OF ITS CONVERTING LINES AT DESBOROUGH FACILITY.

Based in the UK, Rigid Containers, part of the VPK Group, continues to invest in the latest converting equipment. In November 2015 a new Chroma EVO 1700 flexo printing machine was installed to feed a Bobst SPO 1600 automatic flatbed die-cutter. The machine was sold by Celmacch's UK sales agent, GTS (Europe) Ltd. "We were looking for a simple printing machine to run in-line with a flatbed die-cutter at a good price," explains Paul Johnson, Conversion Manager at Rigid Desborough. "The Chroma EVO, Celmacch's entry-level flexo printer, was a good solution for a two-colour printer in our view.

"In late 2014, we had identified a need to increase our die-cut capacity and replace an out-dated machine," he continues. "An under-utilised Bobst 1600 was

"THIS PRINTER IS A PERFECT SOLUTION FOR RUNNING HIGH QUALITY FLEXO PRINT ON A DEDICATED MACHINE IN FRONT OF A FLATBED DIE-CUTTER.

LUCA CELOTTI

identified in a sister site in Aalst and preparations were made to have the machine refurbished by Bobst. The decision was made to install two print units on the machine and we investigated a number of options. We finally settled on the Celmacch EVO on the back of a VPK Group deal. Prior to delivery, we sent key operators, engineers and our Print Manager over to Italy to view the machine at Celmacch's facility — it was a successful visit and was found to be of great use going forward."

He continues, "We took delivery of the printing units in mid-November 2015 and they were operational by the end of that month. Training was given by Celmacch for a week and a half and operators were signed off within the allotted time. We knew that interfacing a new printing machine with an older, albeit reconditioned machine might give us some problems and we did encounter an issue with the transfer section to the Bobst feeder, but a solution was found within about three weeks and fitted prior to Christmas. We have been happy with how the press is running since then and the productivity and quality from the line is good."

High graphics printing

The line is equipped with fully-independent servo drives, a direct drive feeder driven by rolls and the new upgraded vacuum transport system with precise belts, complete with adjustable suction system depending on the sheet size with automatic control. Other standard features include the carbon fibre chambered doctor blades and automatic wash-up which ensures reduced water consumption and quick job changeover. The Matthews fast lock system with double plates, angular skew correction and centreline allows the operator to mount the printing plate quickly and reduces machine set-up time.

A transfer station between the last print unit and the in-line die-cutter prevents the printed surface from making contact with the belts in order to avoid rubbing and to control the quality, by way of a dedicated sheet ejector.

"The Chroma Evo is our entry level machine," explains Luca Celotti, Marketing Manager, Celmacch Group. "This printer is a perfect solution for running high quality flexo print on a dedicated machine in front of a flatbed die-cutter. A lot of companies look for two or three colours in line and an installation such as the one we have undertaken at Rigid's Desborough factory is a perfect illustration of how we can enhance the offerings of a standard flatbed die-cutter by adding quality flexo print in-line. Considering the high levels of technology and competitive price, boxplants can increase margins significantly and see a rapid return on investment."

Mr Celotti concludes, "Since the Chroma EVO is able to deliver top technology and low ownership cost, it embodies the perfect union of quality, engineering, technology and affordability — qualities that have been creating interest among many multi-national companies and satisfying the needs of smaller companies looking for an affordable investment. Chroma EVO is equipped with advanced technology, but at the same time, is very user friendly and intuitive for the operator." ■