

First drupa "Global Trends" report



Despite reporting significant regional variations, the first of the series of "drupa Global Trends" reports to be published before drupa 2016 (see PrintPromotion Newsletter No 94 of December 2013) does reveal a number of critical – and sometimes surprising – trends that are shared by all economic regions and across print segments (Publishing, Packaging and Commercial). As was to be expected, the report confirmed that the global printing industry's structural transformation is still ongoing, with increasing costs coupled with declining prices and shrinking margins. However, three other major findings of the study are more pivotal:

1. There are clear signs that economic conditions are improving. As a consequence the printing industry globally is planning increased investment over the next twelve months. Efficiency gains and the development of new services are driving investment in the industrialised countries. North America is leading the way

by gearing up for major transformation with high levels of investment in printing technology, IT and new services. In the emerging countries growing demand is the main driver.

2. The printing industry is in the midst of a transition from a product-driven industry to a service-driven one. The demand for new solutions and business models that better reflect the customer needs is clear.
3. As expected, digital printing plays an increasing role in the technology mix deployed. Among print services providers, 65% produce using both conventional and digital methods and one-third of commercial printers already gain a quarter or more of their turnover from digital printing. But conventional printing (especially sheet-fed offset) continues to be an important pillar for the print sector. Planned investment reflects this point as 29% of all printers say they intend to invest in sheet-fed offset printing.

This first drupa "Global Trends" report provides an initial assessment of the state of the global print industry. In order to monitor the trends going forward, the survey will be repeated in the fourth quarter each year. In parallel drupa will publish a series of "Global Insight" reports that will offer

detailed analysis into specific industry-relevant topics. An "Insights" report on "The Impact of the Internet on Print" will kick off the series in June of 2014. The objective will be to show the effects of the Internet on e-commerce, digital marketing, mass customisation and IT on the world of print and illustrate how future strategies and business models need to adapt. Some 2500 decision-makers from across the globe (119 countries) participated in the survey in the fourth quarter of 2013 and answered the extensive questionnaire. The majority (58%) came from print services providers, followed by suppliers (21%) and print purchasers (21%). An executive summary of the survey results (in German, English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Russian and Chinese) is available as a PDF download at: www.drupa.de/summary_2.



COMPANY NEWS

Baumann-Wohlenberg New restacker

Baumann-Wohlenberg have extended their range of products by the restacker AS-1000. It is related to the Baumann pile hoists, but has been especially designed for use in combination with perfect binders, stitchers, gathering machines or cutters.

The operator picks up the stacked products which are usually prepared by a compensating stacker and puts them – at an ergonomic working height – into the angle-stop of the restacker AS-1000. When a ream has been completed, the operator pushes a button and the restacker lowers the ream, controlled by a light barrier, enabling the operator to put down the subsequent ream at an ergonomic working height too.



The new AS-1000 restacker can be used with perfect binders, stitchers, gathering machines and cutters.

The platform of the AS-1000 is lifted and lowered hydraulically. A double-chain guarantees maximum safety. Like all other machines from the BSH-family, the new restacker can be moved on wheels and can easily be transported to another working place within the company.

The lifting platform has been designed for Euro pallets. Other pallet formats (up to a maximum format of 800 x 1200 mm) can be used provided that their bars run lengthways. Thanks to the bevelled edge, loading is easy. The down-movement of the platform is controlled by a photo-cell. As an option, the AS-1000 can be delivered with forks instead of the platform.