

TRM takes top trophy at EFIA

The Best in Show gold winner at the EFIA Awards 2015 was TRM Packaging for the Border Biscuits Luxury Mini Pack entry, which also came top in the corrugated post print – coated line & screen category, sponsored by Kodak.

The winning job was printed using DuPont plates on the company's seven colour Göpfert Impression press, which was installed 18 months ago at its Burscough facility in Lancashire. Pre-

press and plates were supplied by V&W

Graphics (now Chemence Graphics UK Ltd), anilox rollers came from ALT, inks from Flint Group, and tape from BiesSse.

Trevor Maund, CEO, commented, 'We're overjoyed with the result – the wins are a real testament to the strengths, capabilities and expertise of TRM.'

The judges said that the outstanding entry showcased the print quality that can be achieved with the



The team from TRM Packaging celebrate their win

right application of design and manufacturing knowledge. 'The Border Biscuit pack is a real showstopper and a perfect representation of what TRM as a business has to offer – appropriate high quality design, industry leading print and exceptional market insight combined with incomparable expertise in our field.'

The win comes at a time when the company has

been expanding its capabilities significantly. During the first few months of this year, TRM has announced two major investments. A Bobst Mastercut die-cutter will be replacing the current Bobst 160s to complement the Göpfert press, along with a new BHS corrugator. These complete the first phase of an ambitious £8 million investment programme for the company.

Cost situation for printing inks

Crucial raw materials for printing inks have become more expensive for European based ink manufacturers due to currency exchange effects, reports the European Printing Inks Association, EuPIA.

The reduction in purchasing power of the euro is the critical driver behind the increased costs of almost all raw materials, with the US dollar, the global currency for trade, gaining more than 15% over the euro in the last year.

The prevailing low price of crude oil can only compensate for part of these exchange rate losses. In fact many ink formulations have only a limited direct relationship to oil, whereas increasingly higher prices are now being paid for other raw materials. Some of these, such as gum rosin and nitrocellulose have increased significantly in USD terms over the past 12 months. In EUR terms the impact is even more dramatic leading to higher cost for vegetable oils

as well.

The latest drop in crude oil prices has no significant impact on pigment production either, as the direct crude oil cost component in pigments is relatively low, with speciality chemicals, environmental costs, increasing labour costs in China and India, and unfavourable currency exchange rates as key cost drivers. Furthermore the market for titanium dioxide is becoming smaller as suppliers consolidate and take out capacity.

In brief...

Avery Dennison has filed a lawsuit against UPM Raflatac, asserting that Raflex MDO infringes a patent on its Global MDO pressure-sensitive film product. In response **UPM Raflatac** disputes that any infringement has occurred, stating that it has continuously sought to seek mutual understanding in this claim.

Anilox manufacturer **Apex Group of Companies** has changed its name in an effort to align its global operations and will now be known as Apex International.

Heidelberg Sweden has bought Fujifilm Sverige AB, and will now supply the full range of Fujifilm plates, workflows and wide format digital technology alongside its comprehensive graphic arts products.

Gallus Group increased its sales in 2014 by 8% to CHF 202 million, from CHF 187 million in 2013, after achieving record sales in the final quarter of the year.

Edale is offering a new three year warranty on its FL-3 press for orders received after 30 March 2015. This includes parts and labour as well as an annual maintenance visit from a service engineer.

In its series of regional networking events, **BPIF labels** will be at UPM Raflatac, in Scarborough, on 13 May. Presentations will include an update on labelling legislation and new product developments followed by a factory tour.