X-rite

"'Excellent addition' to the pressroom with faster production target densities reached in 20 minutes."

X-Rite IntelliTrax Helps Scottish Book Printer Carve Time Out of Makeready

Bell & Bain | Printing Market | Scotland

Challenge:

Bell & Bain has always been an early adopter of the latest technologies and among the first to comply with industry quality and performance standards. The Glasgow-based book and journal printer turned to X-Rite for an automated colour management scanning solution for on-press colour control to maintain the state-of-the-art status of its production platform.

Solution:

Combining an IntelliTrax automated colour management scanning solution with the AutoPilot™ Closed-Loop Color Control System from Rutherford Graphic Products provides the kind of closed-loop press feedback the firm was seeking to achieve.

Results:

The upgraded IntelliTrax system with closed-loop press feedback has more than halved the makeready time the firm achieved with its older IntelliTrax system and significantly reduced waste. Bell & Bain can reach target densities in 20 minutes for its large format four-over-four printing operation, down from nearly an hour.

The Glasgow academic book and journal printer Bell & Bain was founded by James Bell and Andrew Bain in 1831. The respected operation is one of the few Scottish academic printers to have survived the centuries to thrive in today's ultra-competitive market.
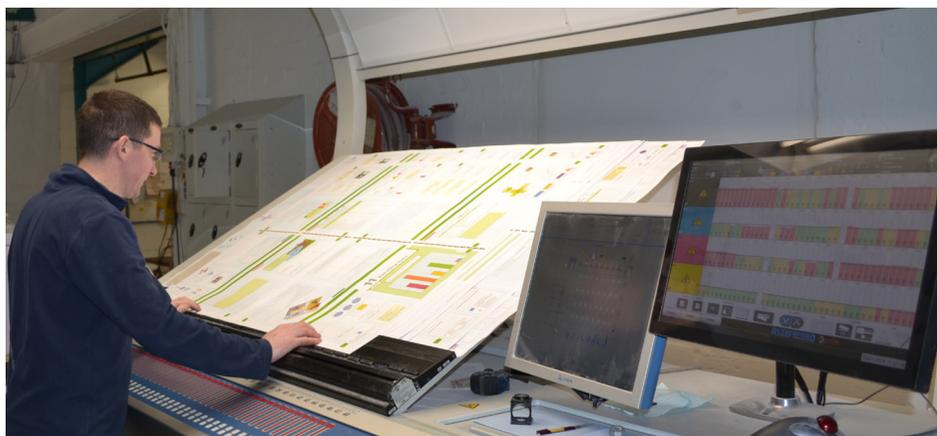
Bell & Bain employs more than 80 people, has a turnover in excess of £9 million and has more than 150 customers including most of the blue-chip names in international publishing.

The company operates three large format KBA Rapida 142 offset presses and a new B2 four-colour Rapida 75 with coater. The latest KBA press purchase was part of Bell & Bain's investment programme which has helped the firm increase turnover by 50% since 2005 and win new business that includes a portfolio of work in the fine arts sector.

Early Adoption Sets Standards

Bell and Bain has always been an early-adopter of the latest systems and among the first to comply with industry quality and performance standards. Its relationship with X-Rite and its investment in an IntelliTrax automated colour management scanning solution for on-press colour control are two critical factors in its business success and its ability to maintain a state-of-the-art production platform.

"The IntelliTrax scanning color measurement system with the AutoPilot Closed-Loop Color Control System from Rutherford Graphic Products is great," says Scott Hill, Print Manager. **"It has been an excellent addition to our printing department."**

"Our initial IntelliTrax investment made a huge difference to our operation, "Scott explains. "And now it is even more accurate in duct key changes with the integration of the Rutherford closed-loop capability that feeds back information to the press."

It is a lot faster too, according to Scott, who added, "I would say the upgraded IntelliTrax system with closed-loop press feedback has more than halved the make-ready time we achieved with the older IntelliTrax system and significantly reduced waste. We can reach target densities in 20 minutes and that's for large format four-over-four printing.

"On the older system, it generally took 24 minutes for four-colour make-readies, and that was only one side of the sheet. Now that we are perfecting our four-colour work, the new system has brought our make-readies down to just 20 minutes instead of the nearly one hour we consumed before."

![x-rite]
PANTONE®
Case Study

Ultra-Fast Scanning

Ultra-fast, X-Rite's IntelliTrax automatically scans the colour bar of a typical press sheet in less than 15 seconds. It can measure special colours, PANTONE® colours, non-process colours, and paper colour. Instant reports are then created and displayed on-screen. This enables press operators to quickly make adjustments that get them to approved colour faster.

Bell and Bain's Intellitrax was installed in conjunction with Rutherford's AutoPilot, a software solution that delivers fast and cost-effective off-line closed-loop colour control. It seamlessly integrates with pressroom colour control systems and its ease of use makes staff training and operation simple.

Scott adds, "The closed-loop system lets our press operators concentrate on other things, such as the quality of the delivery pile, filling ink ducts and preparation of the next job. If you have to manually change eight duct settings every 250 sheets on short runs and 500 on long runs, you are not left with much time for other important activities."

Scott concludes, "All in all, our upgraded X-Rite IntelliTrax with Rutherford AutoPilot has improved our productivity, decreased turnaround time and freed our press operators to plan ahead on their shift while maintaining the highest quality colour across all of our work."

Acronym List

CGATS: Committee for Graphic Arts Technologies Standards

CxF: Color Exchange Format

D50: Daylight, 5000°K

ISO: International Organization for Standardization

LED: Light emitting diodes

M: Measurement Mode

nm: Nanometers

UV: Ultraviolet

XML: Extensible Markup Language

XRGA: X-Rite Graphic Arts Standards

About X-Rite
Founded in 1958, X-Rite, Incorporated is a global leader in color science and technology. Including its wholly owned subsidiary Pantone, X-Rite employs more than 800 people in 11 countries. The company's corporate headquarters are located in Grand Rapids, Mich., with regional headquarters in Europe and Asia and service centers across Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas. X-Rite Pantone offers a full range of color management solutions used by manufacturers, retailers, printers, photographers and graphic design houses to achieve precise management and communication of color throughout their processes. X-Rite Pantone leading edge products and services are recognized standards in the printing, packaging, photography, graphic design, video, automotive, paints, plastics, textiles and medical industries. For further information, please visit www.xrite.com.

About Pantone
Pantone LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of X-Rite, Incorporated, has been the world's colour authority for nearly 50 years, providing design professionals with products and services for the colourful exploration and expression of creativity. Always a source for colour inspiration, Pantone also offers paint and designer-inspired products and services for consumers. More information is available at www.pantone.com. For the latest news, trends, information and conversations, connect with Pantone on Twitter, Facebook and Pinterest.