

Bigger, higher, wider!

Andreas Ferndrigger presents the world's largest serigraphy screen, which recently entered production at a German screen service provider.

Earlier this year, Böttcher Siebdruck-Service GmbH took delivery of the world's largest G-Coat 421 XXL Portrait automatic coating machine from Grünig-Interscreen AG/SignTronic AG. Used for automatic coating followed by a drying process, the installation accommodates a maximum screen format of 12,000mm tall x 4800mm wide.

There had been considerable speculation whether it would be possible to ensure satisfactory quality of the XXL size screens, which continue to grow bigger and bigger. Today, the answer to this question is a resounding yes, thanks largely to compliance with the following series of clearly defined specifications and objectives:

- The frame profile must be capable of resisting the considerable forces present. A special profile has been developed for this particular application.
- Good stretching results (up to 25N/cm), this in spite of a mesh surface of up to 55m².
- An excellent preliminary treatment of the mesh, involving degreasing, rinsing and drying.

- Safe loading and unloading (using a crane) of the screens, each of which weighs 300kg.
- Use of a special loading station with lateral screen insertion.
- Coating in a portrait position. The coating trough must be designed to hold a sufficient amount of emulsion to treat a coarse mesh with a height of up to 12m.
- Automatic process, with coating on one side or both sides of the mesh.
- It must be possible to programme many parameters in an optimal manner, in order to accommodate various mesh types. Relevant parameters include speed, contact pressure, coating moves and waiting times.
- Optionally, preliminary drying of the emulsion avoids problems regarding dust adherence.

There is a central loading station for inserting the screens in one direction towards the G-Coat 421 XXL machine or in the opposite direction, towards the STM-41100 CtS system for direct exposure. This process is also performed using a portrait technique by the CtS system from SignTronic, ie without films. ■



Stretching process, polyester mesh tension up to 55m².



Digital screen making, automatic direct exposure with 1270 dpi, film-free stencil production.



Automatic coating process, wet on wet coating up to 12m in height, followed by automatic drying after coating.



Automatic developing, degreasing and de-coating - one stainless steel unit for three automatic processes provides perfect handling for XXL screens.

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