



Glaswerke Haller's glassware production site in Kirchlengern, Germany.

Upgrading to automation for standardised screens

Andreas Ferndrager explains how automated screen-making equipment from SignTronic and Grünig has helped German glassware manufacturer Glaswerke Haller to modernise and optimise its operation.

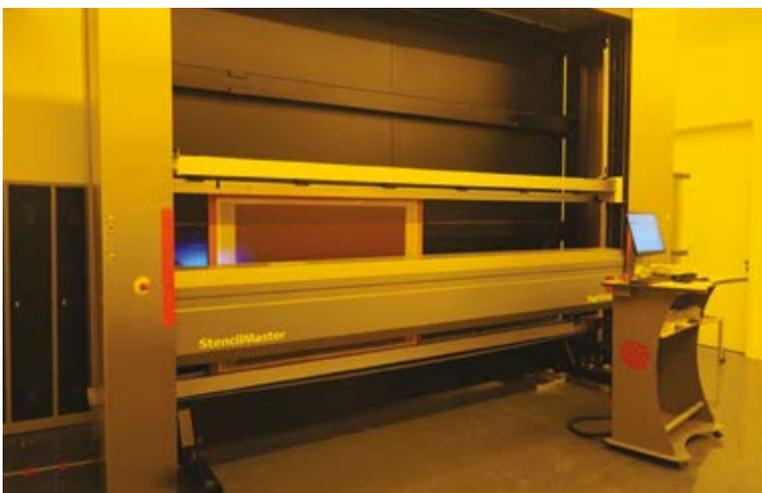
A specialist in glassware for 75 years, Glaswerke Haller offers optimal solutions for any type of individual requirements – from smaller to larger projects and even up to exclusive single parts. Certified to standard ISO 9001: 2015, the manufacturer is also distinguished by its development of

prototypes up to series-production readiness and experimental testing of glass models, designs and products (e.g. ball-drop tests, climatic testing, bullet-resistance tests).

Glaswerke Haller is currently focusing strongly on the screen printing sector for its high-quality ▶



Grünig's G-COAT 415 enables automatic and therefore standardised coating of the highest quality.



SignTronic's STM-3124 for automatic CtS direct exposure.



Glaswerke Haller customers are now "benefitting from an improved quality" in its screen-printed glass products.

decorations and functional printing. "A continuous market monitoring is the basis of our aim to continue our re-interpretation of the material glass. The sector of high-quality decoration is particularly diverse and interesting for our customers as well as us," said a company representative.

Embracing automation

Decorative or functional screen printing requires high-value and standardised processes to produce high quality screens with maximum flexibility and absolute reproducibility, and at low costs.

In order to guarantee the standards of its products and achieve continuous improvement in quality, automation and technology were the "obvious instruments" to help Glaswerke Haller to optimise its processes and to meet the growing requirements of its customers.

According to the company, its top priorities were "profitability, quality and enhanced flexibility". Another aspect that influenced

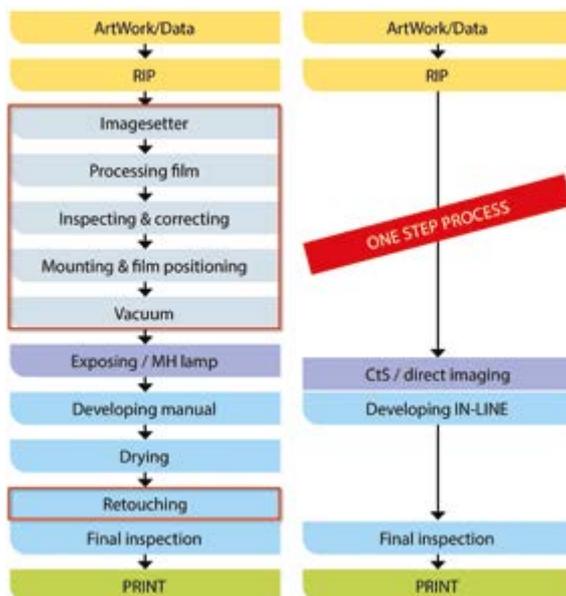
its decision to upgrade were good references from other printing companies already using the latest automated screen-making equipment.

Suppliers were chosen on the basis of the following criteria: readiness to perform, experience, market presence, service performances and accessibility, as well as price/performance.

Glaswerke Haller ultimately opted for an automatic screen manufacturing solution from Grünig/SignTronic and their partner in Germany – Simon GmbH, on the grounds of the companies' "excellent service offer as well as the attractive price/performance ratio."

Optimised screen-making

Automatic and therefore standardised coating of the highest possible quality was a basic prerequisite for the giant step that Glaswerke Haller took: direct exposure based on CtS technology. Grünig's G-COAT 415 covers the extensive range of possible screen sizes to be handled by the glassware company. All the



Work processes involving CtS direct exposure: before/after.

various processes can be programmed and memorised within the state-of-the-art control concept.

Using CtS direct exposure considerably simplifies and accelerates the screen making process. A large number of former process steps are simply no longer required and can be deleted without substitution.

In addition, Grünig/SignTronic's equipment enables energy costs to be reduced since a vacuum frame and an energy-consuming 5kW+ MH-lamp are now surplus to requirements.

Advantages for company & customers

"Thanks to the new screen making procedure, we can benefit from a constant screen quality which is tantamount to an unchanging high quality of our products," explained Glaswerke Haller's representative. "Furthermore, we are now capable of responding with a lot more flexibility to individual and special wishes of our customers. And last but not least: this new equipment has also enabled us to improve the work conditions of our staff – working with less effort and more precision is a strong motivation for all our team members.

"For our customers, the pricing per screen has become more favourable, and at the same time they are benefitting from an improved quality. In addition, we are now more flexible and thus in a position to easily cater to any requests for modification." ●



A screen-printed end product from Glaswerke Haller.

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