

proROTO successfully launched at Drupa

Janoschka and SWG/Sächsische Walzengravur unveiled their recently developed gravure printing cylinder concept **proROTO** to industry specialists at the Drupa trade fair.

proROTO combines the weight and cost advantages of sleeve technology with the circumferential variability and mechanical stability of regular gravure cylinders. During development, emphasis was placed on the ecological sustainability of the system, but the greater cost pressures in the packaging sector were also taken into account.

The system was developed at the Innovation Centre of the Janoschka subsidiary SWG/Sächsische Walzengravur in Frankenberg, Germany, in cooperation with Chemnitz University of Technology and Leipzig University of Applied Sciences.

The proROTO system comprises the following three main components:

proROTO Sleeve

A brand new type of printing sleeve based on an electrically conductive high-tech polymer that offers a significant reduction in weight compared with conventional cylinders whilst at the same time allowing, thanks to its thermoplastic properties, a very high degree of circumferential variability. Using electroplating processes, the plastic used can be coated with all the popular materials (copper, nickel, zinc) and is fully recyclable.

proROTO Expander

The second main component is a completely newly developed mandrel made of carbon fibre composite material. The mandrel allows highly accurate and stable tensioning of the proROTO sleeves and is also compatible with the system concepts already on the market. The advantage here lies in the simple mechanical tensioning principle, which ensures very high process stability both on the press and in cylinder processing.

proROTO Helix

The third component is the adapter for large differences in circumference, which is still in development. Similar to the concept in flexographic printing, the adapter allows the use of very thin and light proROTO sleeves with only one mandrel size, but a high degree of circumferential variability. Besides reduced material costs and transport weight, the system also enables considerable cost savings whilst making a sustainable contribution to environmental protection.

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The daily live demo of the system on the Janoschka stand was extremely successful and was accompanied by some very constructive discussions. Many potential project partners were found this way - a clear indicator of the substantial market interest in this innovation, along with the high number of visitors to the proROTO homepage (www.proroto-system.de): there were up to 300 visitors a day during the exhibition. In total, the page has been accessed more than 2,500 times to date.

www.janoschka.com