



ILARIA Fenino (center), Labeltech's sales manager, with INDET owners Franco Mason and Adriano Gozzi, stood before the three generations of CDS Italia/Labeltech equipment installed at the Italian label printer

The genesis of Labeltech

ITALIAN LABEL PRINTER INDET has been a customer of Labeltech since the beginnings of the company, and 10 years on has invested in its latest finishing and converting equipment. David Pittman reports

INDET is an Italian label printer with three decades of experience in the production of self-adhesive labels.

This includes blank, two-color and multi-color self-adhesive labels converted in roll or sheet form, produced using a range pre-press, printing and finishing equipment housed in its 3,500 sqm facility located just outside Milan.

Its equipment portfolio includes a Kammann screen printing unit, used to produce two-color labels, and a Xeikon 3300 in-line digital printing system to produce short-run work. This includes Safe Bag labels, which are used to trace luggage via a unique code printed on the label.

'In our facility you can see the best machines in the world,' says Francesco Mason, co-owner of INDET. 'Kammann, Xeikon and Labeltech.'

HERITAGE

INDET has been a long-time digital convert, having first invested in the process in 2005, as it has been a long-time user of Labeltech's finishing and converting systems.

Its first investment with the company came around a decade ago, through CDS Italia, the genesis of the Labeltech brand. Like INDET, CDS Italia had three decades of experience in the printing industry, producing machines to produce tissues, labels and ribbons.

In 2002, CDS Italia was approached by INDET to develop a slitter rewinder to suit its requirements, which resulted in work starting on the IT350.

CDS Italia's heritage was in the mechanical elements of printing machines and it was aware that it did not have the required electrical expertise to produce a unit for slitting and rewinding.

To fill this knowledge gap, CDS Italia approached industrial automation specialist GDE to assist in the development of the IT350.

GDE automation software engineer Gabriele D'Onofrio took on the challenge, and worked towards developing a totally electronic, full servo driven machine.

This was delivered to INDET in early 2003, and is still in operation today. A die-cutting unit has since been retrofitted, and it now handles the converting and rewinding of blank labels.

In its place, INDET is using two Labeltech machines that have been developed in the years after the CDS Italia IT350.

THE RECENT PAST

CDS Italia became Labeltech following the sale of the mechanical intellectual property to D'Onofrio in 2011. With the electrical, technical and mechanical knowledge brought under one roof, he launched Labeltech with the aim of supplying the label market with tailored finishing and converting systems.

The next unit INDET installed was a further IT350, commissioned in 2007, which was followed by the latest generation, the IT450, delivered in 2012.

The 2012 incarnation of the IT family has been lowered to improve functionality, but other than that the visual differences between the three generations is less pronounced than the technical improvements, such as an increase in the machine speed from 200m/min to 350m/min, and the Furu inspection system, as installed on the IT450 at INDET.

The Furu system is a high-performance inspection system based on fiber optics with a dedicated processor. It places

"In 2002, CDS Italia was approached by INDET to develop a slitter rewinder to suit its requirements, which resulted in work starting on the IT350"



SAFE Bag labels are highlighted as a product that can only be produced using digital.



INDET press portfolio includes a XeiKon 3300 digital press

"INDET had a very strong friendship with CDS Italia, and that transferred to Labeltech when it took over the complete machine production"

sensors in correspondence to the rows of labels, and can detect missing labels, and the presence of a matrix waste strip or flag/splice. As example of its high-speed capabilities, the Furu system can detect a 2mm matrix strip at 350m/min.

The functionality of the Furu system is controlled through a touchscreen interface, which is one of the largest physical differences between the CDS Italia IT350 and the Labeltech IT450.

Touchscreens were introduced to the IT family in 2007, with a 10in color screen to offer an enhanced user interface, with an 11in version launched in 2011.

Other technical enhancements have come about since the launch of Labeltech in 2011, including: remote connectivity, to allow operators to upload jobs and recipes from a central point and production managers to review performance; remote assistance, enabled through an Ethernet connection; USB connectivity, to allow the easy upgrade of software; and a new icon-based graphical user interface.

More recent developments include: a new two-in-one slitting system, which makes changing between rotary and razor cartridge slitters quicker and easier; EasyTens, a new system for tension control that has been developed and integrated with the touchscreen user interface; a new full servo driven die-cut to register unit integrated into the machine, which can support two die-cutting units to work on both sides of the web; and a new matrix/waste rewinder that is now fully electronic, and can be controlled and set-up directly from the touchscreen.

LABELS&LABELING



INDET is producing two-color labels on a Kammann screen printing unit

THE FUTURE

2013 has seen Labeltech move into a new facility to meet the demands of its growing customer base, and enhance the Furu system with FuruPlus.

This latest version of the inspection system features a dual counter to obtain different label quantities on each roll, and the ability to detect two different label sizes in two different formats.

Further, a stand-alone full rotary die-cut to register unit that can work in-line or off-line is to be introduced, and will be presented in Labelexpo Brussels 2013.

'INDET had a very strong friendship with CDS Italia, and that transferred to Labeltech when it took over the complete machine production,' says Adriano Gozzi, the other owner of INDET.

Ilaria Fenino, Labeltech's sales manager, says: 'We still develop the technical and electrical elements of our machines first, as this is fundamental to how they work. We then build the mechanics around this.'

'This process allows us to create a bespoke offering to customers that works for them, and provides the productivity they need.'