

Productivity levels reach new heights at S&G



Caption (l to r)

Nathan Davies and Byron Jones who controlled the plate room during this period.

With state-of-the-art equipment and highly skilled staff, Stephens & George is setting record levels of production within each department. In February the press hall achieved impressions totalling 19,997,361 sheets, the largest number the company had ever produced in a single month and it was the shortest month of the year – 28 days. Now, in March, it has set yet another record of 20,568,054 impressions.

In addition, during March the prepress department, which is one of the busiest in Europe, equipped with two of the very latest Agfa Avalon N8 platelines and Apogee workflow, has set further records with an output of 35,955 plates equating to 78,000 colour pages. In a twenty-four hour period over 2,200 Azura TU chemistry-free plates were imaged. All the plates were produced with Agfa's intelligent 'Sublima' screening technology, which achieves photographic-quality print and ensures a full range of tones from 1% through to 99%.

"This feat is even more extraordinary as the 2,200 plates cover 66 individual jobs printed on our five multi-colour Heidelberg presses with a total of 40 units," commented Jamie Awford, prepress manager at Stephens & George.

In March one of the plate lines produced a huge 1,186 Azura TU plates whilst running at 98% total capacity for the entire 24 hour period. The CX cleaning units, which require no mains water and minimal maintenance, also help make this possible.

"We have worked very closely with our suppliers for many years and these relationships combined with our dedicated and professional staff have all played their part in achieving these outstanding results. The next challenge is maintaining these volumes" Awford concluded.

Caption (l to r) Nathan Davies and Byron Jones who controlled the plate room during this period.

About Azura TU

Since the launch of Azura over ten years ago, Agfa Graphics' chemistry-free plates have been the leading technology in sustainable platemaking. With Azura TU, Agfa Graphics has expanded the reach of Azura to serve all sheet-fed commercial printers.