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Press Release

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ELEVEN NEWSPAPER PRINTING LOCATIONS IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY WITH VIPER 830® PLATES

Southern Lithoplate CtP Alliance Provides Complete Newspaper Prepress Solution

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — Southern Lithoplate, Inc., a leading manufacturer of analog and digital lithoplates and related products for newspaper and commercial printing, announced that 11 newspaper locations recently incorporated VIPER 830 thermal lithoplates within the Southern Lithoplate CtP Alliance Solution.

Southern Lithoplate's CtP Alliance Solution provides the newspaper industry with improved computer-to-plate (CtP) solutions, including bulletproof consumables, platesetters that are completely self-serviceable and offer built-in redundancy and the lowest cost of ownership available, workflow management software options that cover any newspaper's needs, and punch solutions that ensure precise registration on press and

complete a virtually “lights-out” prepress facility. The participating prepress workflow partners are Polkadots Software Inc., Presteligen, ProImage America and Screen. NELA completes the Alliance with its proven Benchmark series of three-point and Vision punch registration equipment.

The following newspapers are fully enjoying increased production efficiency, improved color and commercial sales and enhanced print quality thanks to the CtP Alliance Solution:

Watertown Daily Times, Watertown, WI; Bear River Publishing, Preston, ID; Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Bozeman, MT; Idaho Press-Tribune, Nampa, ID; Pharos Press, Logansport, IN; South Georgia Media Group, Valdosta, GA; Press Journal Printing Co., Louisiana, MO; Salina Journal, Salina, KS; Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, Cheyenne, WY; Bradford Publishing Inc., Bradford, PA; and Owyhee Publishing Co., Homedale, ID.

Comprehensive Workflow Package for Watertown Daily Times

The Watertown Daily Times, one of the last family-owned daily newspapers in Wisconsin, prints 30,000 copies of the local paper six days a week. In addition, the Daily Times prints an internally owned weekly newspaper and several area publications that are produced on a contract basis. The Daily Times will use VIPER 830 lithoplates with its Screen PlateRite News 2000 thermal platesetter, Screen Trueflow Rite News workflow system and NELA conveyor and stacker.

“We wanted to speed up the prepress process and step up the quality of our printed products,” explained Greg Thrans, production manager. “We have had a 20-year

relationship with Southern Lithoplate. Our entire workflow package was purchased through the CtP Alliance. That includes the software, platesetter, printing plates, conveyor, processor and plate stacker. This arrangement worked really well. The service has been great.”

Three Pioneer Newspapers Locations Implement CtP Alliance Solutions

Bear River Publishing, Bozeman Daily Chronicle and Idaho Press-Tribune are members of Pioneer Newspapers, Inc., based in Seattle, WA. All three sites implemented VIPER 830 lithoplates, PlateRite News 2000 platesetters, NELA conveyors and Prestelligence NewsXtreme workflow systems. Higher quality and lower production costs were the main factors in the newspapers’ choice of equipment.

“The service has been excellent, especially Southern Lithoplate,” commented Joe Hansen, production and information technology director at the Idaho Press-Tribune. “Southern Lithoplate worked closely with other vendors to troubleshoot and resolve minor issues we had.”

Bear River Publishing prints the daily Idaho State Journal, Rexburg (Idaho) Standard Journal and Logan (Utah) Herald Journal and one weekly newspaper in the Pioneer chain. Commercial printing of magazines, tabloids and broadsheets contributes to the monthly demand for 7,500 printing plates.

The Bozeman Daily Chronicle is Montana’s fifth-largest newspaper, with a Monday-through-Saturday circulation of approximately 16,000 copies and Sunday circulation of approximately 17,000 copies.

The Idaho Press-Tribune uses 5,000 plates a month to produce the daily newspaper, in addition to special sections and such commercial publications as local weeklies, real estate guides and stitch-and-trim booklets.

Community Newspaper Printers Seek Higher Automation

Pharos Press and South Georgia Media Group, divisions of Birmingham, AL-based Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc., print a number of dailies, weeklies and commercial projects serving local communities. PlateRite News 2000 platesetters, NELA conveyors and Polkadots Software's Newsflo 2.0 Lite workflow systems are combining to deliver high-quality VIPER 830 lithoplates to meet various publishing deadlines.

"The CtP plate offers the advantages of less dot gain and less ink usage," said Randall Houle, production director at Pharos Press. "We are quite happy with the improvement we have made in quality. The entire installation went very well. There was a good support group involved in the process. We are pleased with the outcome."

Award-Winning Printer Makes News with CtP Alliance

Press Journal Printing Co., a division of Lakeview Publishers, has earned many awards for high-quality four-color publication printing. The company prints seven internally owned weekly newspapers and also produces coupon books, magazines, catalogs and phone books for local, regional and national markets. Press Journal Printing installed the PlateRite News 2000, Trueflow Rite News and NELA conveyor with its VIPER 830 lithoplates to handle its prepress requirements.

“The VIPER 830 thermal plates are able to hold halftone dots at 120-line screens,” pointed out Jeff Guay, general manager. “The images are very sharp. The plates can produce 200,000 copies at a time with no visible wear. They work well on short runs and long runs.”

Salina Journal Impressed with Southern Lithoplate Support

The Salina Journal has published daily for most of its 136-year existence. It runs two plate sizes to print the flagship Salina newspaper, as well as seven area weeklies, shoppers and the Kansas State University daily Collegian. The prepress system was configured with VIPER 830 lithoplates, the PlateRite News 2000 and Newsflo 2.0 Lite. The Salina Journal also opted for a NELA Benchmark 900S punch/bender for automated plate punching and bending, and a NELA conveyor.

“Southern Lithoplate put the CtP workflow package together for us,” recalled David Atkinson, production director. “We encountered a few kinks in the system components, which is normal with any installation. The response from Southern Lithoplate was very impressive. They jumped to our assistance, providing the technical support and training needed to allow us to handle future issues on our own.”

Wyoming Tribune-Eagle Invests in Prepress

The Wyoming Tribune-Eagle is Wyoming’s second-largest daily newspaper and one of five Wyoming dailies owned by the Wyoming Newspaper Group. The Tribune-Eagle’s pressroom uses 3,000 plates a month in printing about 16,500 daily copies and 18,500 Sunday copies, plus accommodating the workload of the sister publication Laramie Daily

Boomerang. To complement the VIPER 830 lithoplates, the PlateRite News 2000 and NewsXtreme workflow, the newspaper installed the NELA H-VCP, an automatic optical punch/bender for punching and bending exposed printing plates.

Bottlenecks a Thing of the Past at Bradford Publishing

Bradford Publishing Inc. owns three daily newspapers, including the Bradford Era, in addition to printing grocery inserts and numerous commercial projects. Supplying plates the conventional way often resulted in bottlenecks in production and added production costs due to overtime. The PlateRite News 2000, Trueflow Rite News workflow and NELA conveyor have helped the prepress department keep up with demand for VIPER 830 lithoplates, especially during peak production times.

Owyhee Publishing Transitions to CtP

Quality was a major reason that Owyhee Publishing Co. made the move to CtP. Owyhee Publishing owns the weekly newspaper Owyhee Avalanche, as well as printing area weeklies and shoppers for commercial customers. Owyhee Publishing installed a PlateRite News 2000 and NELA conveyor to complement its VIPER 830 lithoplates.

About Southern Lithoplate, Inc.

Southern Lithoplate, Inc., headquartered in North Carolina, specializes in the manufacture, distribution and service of analog and digital lithoplates and associated products for targeted print markets. Southern Lithoplate enjoys a reputation for Quality, Value & Performance throughout the world. Southern Lithoplate provides our customer

markets a full array of high-quality value-priced products. Southern Lithoplate's service infrastructure is designed to exceed the needs of their customer markets. Our state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities are located in Jackson, Tennessee, and near the world-renowned Research Triangle Park in North Carolina USA. For more information, call 800-638-7990 or visit the Southern Lithoplate website at www.slp.com.

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