Press Release

# New Rapida 164 from Koenig & Bauer in daily print operations

Teamplayer-in-Print places faith in the new Rapida large format generation for folding carton and display production

* 15 to 20 per cent faster production and shorter makeready times
* Automation features with added value for the customer
* Industry pioneer in printing with an extended colour gamut
* Printing and inline finishing at the highest level
* Own ink and coating production

Radebeul, 23.11.2021  
The print companies Walter Grieger Offsetdruck in Nettetal and Gieseking in Bielefeld have been operating under the joint name ‘Teamplayer-in-Print’ since 2012, and together are leading service providers for carton products and corrugated board liners. Both companies concentrate on the production of folding carton and display printing products. And both also serve a number of their own end customers, alongside highly flexible production for major European packaging groups.

Their business concept of providing print services to producers of corrugated packaging makes it imperative to stay one step ahead of potential competitors at all times. For this reason, Walter Grieger Offsetdruck is frequently one of the first users of innovative printing technologies – and ever since the turn of the century, this has meant solutions developed by Koenig & Bauer. The first large-format Rapida for hybrid coating was used for production in Nettetal, as was the first press with direct drives. Now it is the turn of the first of the latest-generation Rapida 164 presses, which is also equipped for production with an extended colour gamut. When it comes to extended colour gamuts, Teamplayer meanwhile considers itself an advisor to the segment. Managing director Wilhelm Drießen explains: “We absorb everything that is happening at the manufacturers.” The distinctly technophile company has therefore also been closely involved with Koenig & Bauer’s market-leading technology developments over the past two decades. A further valuable partner on this journey has been Systemhaus Steuber, the general agency for the sheetfed offset division of Koenig & Bauer in North Rhine-Westphalia.

### Significantly enhanced performance

A new Rapida 164 has been boosting print capacities at Walter Grieger for several months now. Production on the seven-colour press with coater and extended delivery is 15 to 20 per cent faster than on the company’s two previous-generation Rapida 164 presses. The same applies to makeready times. This can, in part, be attributed to established automation solutions such as the sidelay-free SIS infeed, CleanTronic multi-function washing systems, including DriveTronic SRW, and pile logistics provisions with automatic non-step pile changing. At the same time, the use of unbent plates, pneumatic ink ducts with EasyClean coatings for fast ink changes, mounting aids for coating plates at the coater tower, and a plate lift up to the level of the gallery also accelerate and improve work processes.

Even the standard configuration of the Rapida 164 prints at speeds of up to 16,000 sheets/h and with sheet formats up to a colossal 1,205 × 1,640 mm. And those aren’t just theoretical values. Its full speed is often demanded in daily production. The pre-series press delivers over four million sheets per month with absolute reliability. That adds up to a sheet area of almost 8 km2, an area larger than the whole of Gibraltar – or two-thirds of the area of the Nettetal suburb of Kaldenkirchen, which is where the Grieger plant is located.

### Less waste, more quality

A lot has also been achieved in terms of waste savings. QualiTronic ColorControl and PDFCheck are used to configure the ink settings for the enormous sheets, including a comparison with the pre-press PDF. Start-up waste and imperfect sheets can be marked with a tag inserter, so that only the good sheets are shipped and passed on for further processing.

Wilhelm Drießen is also excited by the developments in networking solutions. The LogoTronic PPS from Koenig & Bauer has now become an important module for integration of the presses into an overall workflow. Grieger uses an MIS from Prosecco and a pre-press workflow from Hybrid. All three systems are perfectly coordinated with each other and, thanks to their CIP4 interfaces, establish the necessary end-to-end printshop workflow between the commercial offices and the actual presses. The precise contents of the plates are defined in the MIS. This information is sent to LogoTronic. The operator starts print production, and a fully automatic plate change is carried out as soon as the specified number of sheets is reached. Fewer colour corrections and ink changes are needed, and process reliability is increased.

### Packaging and displays in perfection

The prime goal for all automation solutions: they must offer added value for customers. The customers’ production jobs must be handled better, faster and more flexibly. This ensures that they can increase their own level of flexibility, as they receive their packaging or displays in tested quality even at short notice.

Walter Grieger Offsetdruck has been offering print services to display and packaging suppliers since 1988. When the first presses from Koenig & Bauer arrived, the customer base grew to include companies that process solid and corrugated board. Since the early days as a garage business, founded with just DM 500 of initial capital, the production space in Nettetal alone has grown to cover 11,000 square metres. The four sheetfed offset presses in Nettetal and Bielefeld operate 17 shifts per week. The automation systems used for them allow jobs from as few as 100 up to several 100,000 sheets to be printed profitably. And that not just for standard packaging, but even where UV finishing on silver or gold foils is required, such as the type used for cosmetics displays. The typically used substrates range from 170 g/m2 to as much as 700 g/m2.

### Full concentration on print

The list of customers served by Teamplayer-in-Print is equally diverse. They come from all over the German-speaking regions, as well as from the Netherlands, Belgium, Scandinavia and Great Britain. With its 90 employees, Teamplayer processes 35,000 tonnes of paper and board per year. Up to 10 million fresh and printed sheets can be stored at the two locations.

The special business concept means that both companies are highly streamlined. There are no packaging design offices or extensive post-press departments, because those process steps are handled by the customers themselves. Instead, full concentration is directed at the print process. And with it a workflow that is without equal in terms of process optimisation, throughput times and quality management.

The customers benefit from the high degree of flexibility, a large format process that is especially suited to both one-piece displays and appropriately optimised multi-part products, and the high production capacity with four large-format presses at two locations. From the basic chemical components to the finished product, Grieger produces all the required inks in its own ink kitchen. The same applies to coatings. This also benefits other print companies that find themselves able to obtain their coatings from Nettetal.

Interesting website: [www.teamplayer-in-print.de](http://www.teamplayer-in-print.de)

More interesting content relating to the launch of the new Rapida large format generation can be found at <https://www.koenig-bauer.com/de/newdimension/>

#### Photo 1:

The two managing directors Wilfried Grieger (right) and Wilhelm Drießen are proud to be branch pioneers yet again with the first Rapida 164 of the new generation

#### Photo 2:

The classic presses: two Rapida 164s from the previous series are installed at Walter Grieger

#### Photo 3:

The new star: the first of the latest-generation Rapida 164s is in use at Teamplayer-in-Print

#### Photo 4:

Logistics solutions enable the uninterrupted production of medium and long run lengths

#### Photo 5:

Printer Michael Bachmayer regularly utilises the full performance capabilities of the Rapida 164

#### Photo 6:

Overview down to the last detail: Teamplayer attaches great importance to consistent networking – also between its sites in Nettetal and Bielefeld

#### Photo 7:

An extensive coating forme store illustrates the diversity of finishing options that are part and parcel of daily business for Teamplayer in Nettetal

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#### About Koenig & Bauer

Koenig & Bauer is the oldest printing press manufacturer in the world with the broadest product range in the industry. For more than 200 years, the company has been supporting printers with innovative technology, tailor-made processes and a wide array of services. The portfolio ranges from banknotes, board, film, metal and glass packaging, and includes book, display, coding, decor, magazine, advertising and newspaper printing. Sheetfed and webfed offset and flexo printing, waterless offset, intaglio, simultaneous perfecting and screen printing or digital inkjet – Koenig & Bauer is at home in virtually all printing processes and is the market leader in many of them. In the financial year 2020, the 5,593 highly qualified employees worldwide generated annual sales of €1.029 billion.

Further information can be found at www.koenig-bauer.com