Press Release

# Foster Printing Company Acquires Two Key Koenig & Bauer Postpress Assets

New Koenig & Bauer Allpro 145 folder gluer and an iPress 145 K PRO blanking die cutter fuels growth in the folding carton market for this Southern California printer

* Clients request a “one-stop-shop” to print, die-cut, fold, glue, and finish their folding carton jobs
* The new Koenig & Bauer postpress equipment will enable additional services to compliment current top sheet market production
* Both new pieces of equipment will work in tandem with the firm’s current two large format Koenig & Bauer presses on Foster’s production floor

Dallas, 14.2.2024
Responding to ongoing customer needs, Foster Printing, a leading large format trade packaging printer, is adding new finishing capabilities, such as folding gluing and die cutting, to its production offerings as its corrugated finishers, mid-format printers, brokers, and print buyers look to Foster as a one-stop-shop for their folding carton orders. After seeing an impressive live demonstration at a Koenig & Bauer Dallas open house, the Southern California printer chose to invest in a new Koenig & Bauer Allpro 145 folder gluer and a Koenig & Bauer iPress 145 K PRO blanking die cutter to expand its capabilities into finishing for the folding carton market. The two new machines will be delivered in the spring of 2024.

“Our goal with this strategic investment is multi-pronged,” says Kris Blackburn, Foster’s vice president of sales. “We have clients who have been pushing us to add postpress equipment to become a ‘one-stop-shop’ in which we can print, die-cut, fold, glue, and finish their folding carton job all at our 46,000 sq ft facility in Santa Ana. We also service customers who have finishing capabilities on the corrugated side and now on the folding carton side. With our new equipment, we can be an asset to them and their overflow work. It’s an exciting time for us to open the door to a whole new market and to have the ability to print and finish in-house.”

Higher speeds, faster turnaround, extra capacity, versatility, and more efficiency are the capabilities that Foster anticipates it will gain. Foster’s team was impressed with the versatility of the iPress to die-cut several types of substrates including paper, plastic, board and corrugated material. This, says Blackburn, will allow Foster to support its customers packaging needs to whatever extent they need and what its new equipment can handle. Another important capability, says Blackburn, is the new blanker for high-speed production on the iPress. “All of our equipment in-house has newer automated technology, which allows for higher run speeds and to finish larger runs at a quicker pace,” he notes.

Foster’s management team was drawn to the Allpro 145 folder gluer for its flexibility, efficiency, and versatility. It operates at top speeds of 300m/min and produces a variety of standard carton styles such as straight line, double wall, crash lock, 4 x 6 corner, and auto bottom as well as complex carton jobs. Its full glue inspection and ejection system unleashes higher productivity and customer satisfaction. “We’re excited to be supporting the growing folding carton market,” says Blackburn. “Having this versatile folder gluer allows us to meet our production requirements, maximize productivity and profitability, and produce endless carton box design possibilities.”

Blackburn anticipates both pieces of finishing equipment working in tandem. “Having the two large format Koenig & Bauer presses on our floor already, it will be easy to feed the finishing equipment with high quality printed sheets,” he says. “And with the feeder on the iPress being the same as the feeder on our Rapida 164 six-color press, we anticipate the learning curve to be much easier on our current staff.”

Choosing Koenig & Bauer equipment was a “no brainer” for Foster. “We’ve been loyal Koenig & Bauer customers for more than 15 years,” says Blackburn. “Our Rapida 205 81-inch press, installed in 2012, and our Rapida 164, installed in 2021, are powering our print output. This has allowed us to see first-hand the high print quality and first-class customer service and support they offer.”

Foster prides itself on providing an amazing high level of customer service and offering its customers the flexibility to rearrange jobs to facilitate a customer’s need. “We are in a service-based industry and have invested in equipment that allows us to offer our customers the fastest turnaround and highest quality,” he says. “Our operators are eager to be assigned to this new postpress equipment and we’re just as excited to open new doors for our business.”

Interesting website: [www.fosterprint.com](http://www.fosterprint.com)

Photo:
Left to right: The Foster team: Tim Blackburn, president; Dennis Blackburn, CEO; and Kris Blackburn, vice president of sales; are excited for the new opportunities in the folding carton market with their new Koenig & Bauer Allpro 145 folder gluer and a Koenig & Bauer iPress 145 K PRO blanking die cutter.

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**About Koenig & Bauer**

Koenig & Bauer (US) is located in Dallas, Texas and a member of the Koenig & Bauer Group, which was established over 206 years ago in Würzburg, Germany. Koenig & Bauer’s claim, “We’re on it.” gets to the heart of Koenig & Bauer’s values and competencies for all target groups. The group's product range is the broadest in the industry; its portfolio includes sheetfed offset presses in all format classes, post press die cutting, folder gluers, inkjet presses and systems, flexographic presses, web presses, corrugated presses, special presses for banknotes, securities, metal-decorating, glass and plastic decorating.

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