

# RIND Survey

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## CATCHING THE EYE

*In Greater Noida, there's the 11th Printpack India exhibition coming up. And far away in Lucerne, Switzerland, Hunkeler Innovationdays 2013 will be opening its doors soon. Offerings, solutions, displays or demonstrations, it is at such exhibitions that buzz is generated and where business deals are struck. But the more significant point is that the focus is on the customer and businesses are growing more responsive and adaptive. At Printpack, Goss will showcase its Universal XL press (seen here in the picture) that has a 4x1 cylinder format, making it ideal for the Indian market where the ability to make frequent single plate changes cost-effectively is essential.*

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# Training on simulators benefits technical staff

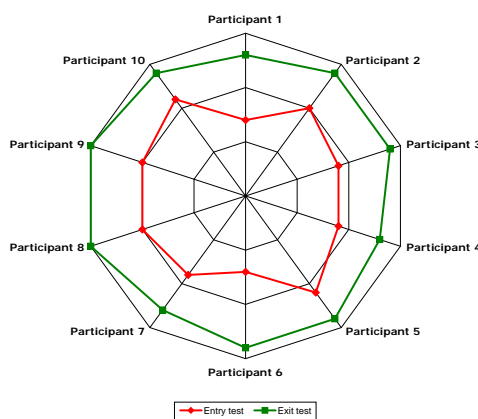
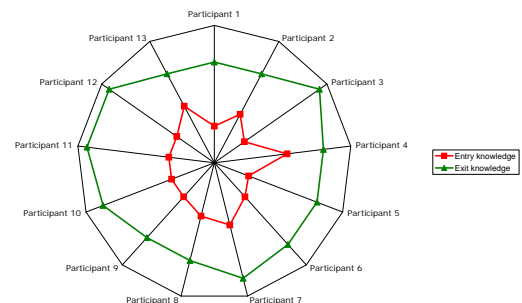
Training on simulators (related to newspaper production), similar to that which airline pilots undergo, is available for newspaper web offset printing executives, thanks to WAN-IFRA's Research and Material Testing Centre. The initiative that began in July 2011 has led to the training of more than 300 pressmen from across India, as well as from Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia. Significantly, the training has shown that technical staff from the press have benefited considerably in terms of knowledge gain. This was revealed by an entry-and-exit analysis test. The test analyses the knowledge level of participants before and after training.

The Research and Material Testing Centre had installed three web-offset simulators from Sinapse (France) with different cylinder configurations (2x1, 4x1 and 4x2) and different former and folder configurations, which allows for a wide range of training possibilities.

Says Anand Srinivasan, research engineer, WAN-IFRA who is in charge of the Research and Material Testing Centre: "The training is completely practical and the participants get a feel of working in a real press. The training covers all aspects of newspaper production from reel stand till folder". He also adds, "The participants have to solve over 100 production problems in two days and it is a fun way to learn".

## Entry-exit analysis

The Research and Material Testing Centre assures guaranteed results from its simulated press training, which is conducted at its facility in Taramani, Chennai. To analyse the effectiveness of the training, the Centre conducts an entry-and-exit analysis in all forms of training. The pre-training evaluation showed large differences between the overall knowledge levels of operators and between different areas of competence (for example,



theoretical knowledge, problem-solving). Post-training, two notable improvements were the reduction of the gap between operator knowledge (as everybody showed improvement). There is now a more even distribution of types of knowledge as each operator improved in his area of comparative weakness. Some examples of the entry and exit analysis are shown in the pictures below.



*Technical staff from newspapers working on a simulator at the Research Material and Testing Centre.*

### Training schedule

The Centre offers newsprint and news ink testing services, print quality evaluation and training on various newspaper production topics. Simulated press training is conducted once in every quarter. Here is the calendar for 2013:

- 14 and 15 March
- 13 and 14 June
- 26 and 27 September
- 28 and 29 November

For more information on the training and schedule, contact [anand.srinivasan@wan-ifra.org](mailto:anand.srinivasan@wan-ifra.org) ■

## One-stop centre for testing needs

The WAN-IFRA Research & Material Testing Centre, established in January 2007, seeks to serve the news publishing industry. It addresses the long-felt need for an independent, professionally managed laboratory to test newsprint and news ink. It is one of its kind in the Asia Pacific Region.

The centre is guided by WAN-IFRA experts but acts as an independent institute. It identifies the characteristics of materials and consumables from printing houses. It creates comparable test results across the industry. For example, it compares delivery against specifications and qualifies new material in comparison to used material. The various tests are conducted against ISO Standards; results compiled are compared with standards.

What are the benefits of testing? You can develop purchase specification for newsprint and news ink, select right materials that offer good productivity and savings, check consistency of materials over different batches, save newsprint and news ink cost and improve print quality.

What are some of the common problems in newspaper printing and testing solutions? There is variation in newsprint quality from batch to batch. Recommended tests include printability tests (ink mileage, print-through, set-off, picking), newsprint shade and grammage study on all batches of newsprint for a period of 12 months.

There are shade variations between different newsprint deliveries. Newsprint shade is the recommended test. Buying new news ink and evaluating quality needs consideration. The recommended tests are conformance of news ink to ISO 2846-2, fineness of ink grind, printability tests and ink mileage study.

Then there are quality variations between different news ink deliveries. Recommended tests are conformance to ISO 2846-2 study along with printability tests on every batch of news ink for a period of 12 months. There are problems in printing in conformance with ISO 12647-3. Quality evaluation service for a period of 12 months is recommended.

There are also fluff accumulation problems. All newsprint samples used for production can be tested and a comparative study done. For set-off and print-through problems, the recommended tests are set-off and print-through study before deciding on purchasing newsprint.

Equipment used at the centre include an X-Rite spectrodensitometer with colour master software, an IGT printability tester, a grindometer, a precision weighing balance from Mettler Toledo, and a Techkon register measurement device, with Register Pro software. ■