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Tulsa World turns to ABB for press controls and drives retrofits

ABB, one of the leading suppliers of automation solutions for the newspaper industry, has announced the successful completion of one upgrade project for Tulsa World in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the receipt of an order for a second project.

Like many newspaper printers and publishers, Tulsa World, part of the Berkshire-Hathaway group, is ensuring its future business success by taking on an increasing number of third-party print orders. The first ABB project can be seen in the context of securing additional work for Tulsa World in this direction. The two Wifag OF370 presses at Tulsa World do not provide the level of redundancy that some third-party publishers would like to see. To rectify this, Tulsa World decided to install two additional Goss Metroliner folders on its presses and turned to ABB to provide the motors and drives to power the folders and also to integrate the folders into the existing ABB press control system.

The commissioning of the new motors and drives, together with the system integration, was completed in March of this year.

Following the successful completion of this first project, Tulsa World placed the second order with ABB for the step-by-step modular retrofitting of new drives, production management systems and parts of the control systems on one of their two existing Wifag press lines.

Sam Hightower, Vice President Operations BH Media Publishing Solutions picks up the story: “We have had a long relationship with ABB in some of our various BH Media Group markets. We relied heavily on them during the installation of the back-up folders that were installed on both WIFAG presses in Tulsa. ABB completed their portion of the work within the timelines requested in this project. We are currently running both of these folders each week.

“Additionally, we are starting a four-year plan to replace all obsolete electrical components on the WIFAG press in Tulsa. This project should start later this year and should be completed in 2020. During this time, we will need both presses most nights for our current production schedules. Performing this project with ABB’s involvement certainly helps me sleep better at night.”

The project is divided into four phases.

In a first phase, to be completed this year, the press management system MPS Production will be upgraded to the latest version running in a cluster configuration, two obsolete versions of the MPS Control Console will be refurbished and put into production and two soft-proof clients will be added. In addition, the obsolete Wifag positioning systems on one printing tower will be replaced with the modern ABB APOS system and the drives will be replaced with modern ABB ACSM1 systems.

Phase two sees the replacement of the positioning and drives systems on one folder as well as a complete retrofit (controls & drives) of two reelstands.

The third phase sees similar retrofits on two printing towers and three reelstands, and the fourth and final phase, scheduled for completion in 2020, will cover two further towers and two reelstands.

ABB is a leading automation supplier to the newspaper industry. ABB Printing (www.abb.com/printing) delivers solutions that provide unique and totally integrated end-to-end control, protect existing investments and provide management information essential to improving profitability.

ABB (ABBN: SIX Swiss Ex) is a pioneering technology leader in electrification products, robotics and motion, industrial automation and power grids, serving customers in utilities, industry and transport & infrastructure globally. Continuing more than a 125-year history of innovation, ABB today is writing the future of industrial digitalization and driving the energy and fourth industrial revolutions. ABB operates in more than 100 countries with about 132,000 employees. www.abb.com.

Photos



Control room at the Tulsa World

For more information, please contact:

Steve Kirk
Phone: +41 58 586 8633
Email: stephen.kirk@ch.abb.com

ABB Switzerland Ltd
Segelhofstrasse 1K
5405 Baden-Daettwil
Switzerland