

A Bulgarian newspaper group working with Müller Martini equipment

At the beginning of 1997, the 168 hours newspaper group in Sofia, that belongs to the German WAZ group, installed the latest Müller Martini inserting equipment, including Newsliner inserting machines, PrintRoll N-220 units, PrintStack CS-70 compensating stackers, and complete product evacuation lines with film-wrapping and cross-strapping.

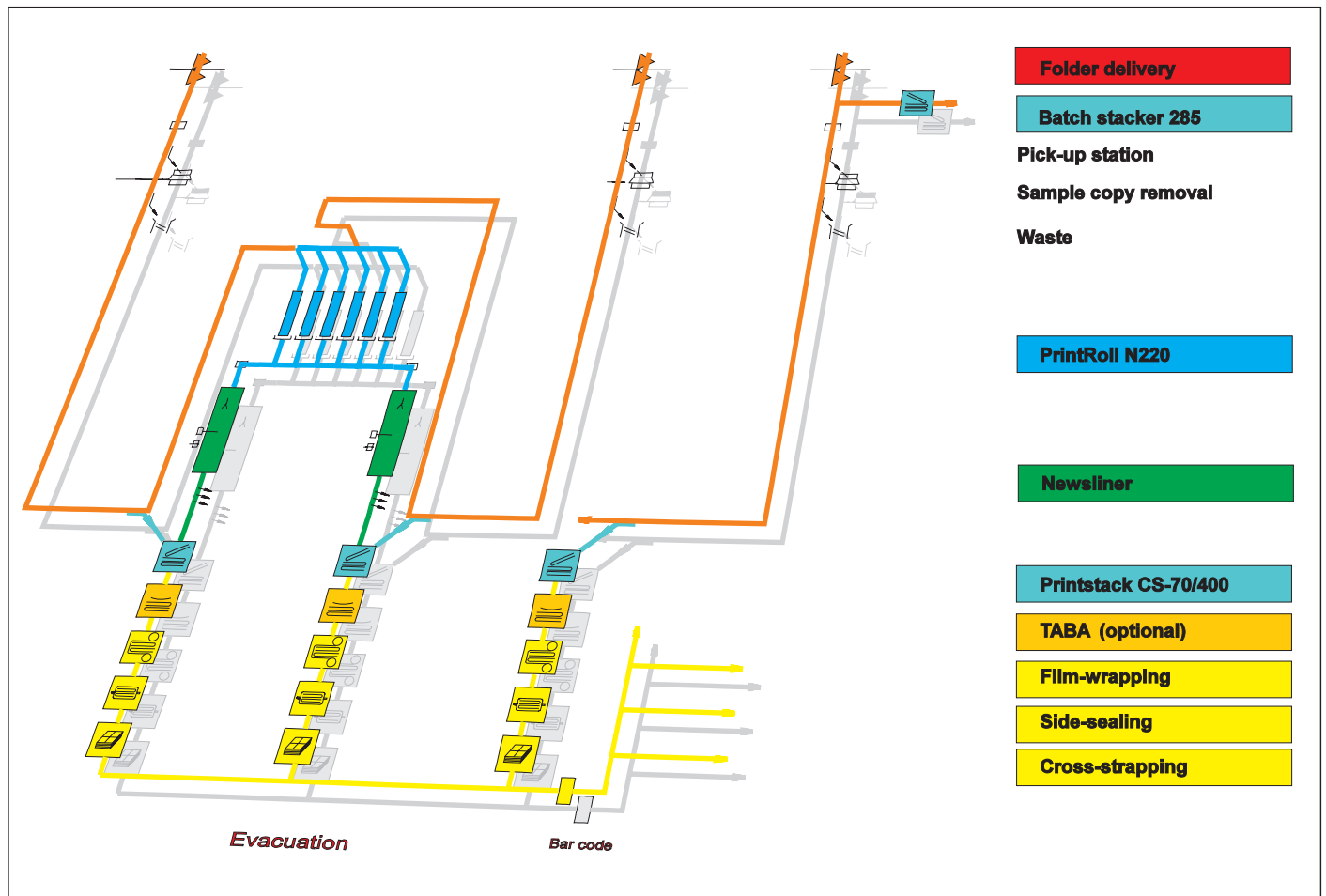
The WAZ (Westdeutsche Allgemeine) newspaper group acquired a 70 percent share in 168 hours, which is the largest private newspaper printing operation in Bulgaria, at the end of 1996. Today, the newspaper printing plant claims to have the most modern total system in Bulgaria. Printing is done on three MAN Roland Geoman presses that were put into production at the end of 1996. The three identical web offset presses are equipped with four-high towers. In addition, each press has two autopasters and one folder (*see also newspaper techniques, June 1994, Page 57*).

At 168 hours, more than four million copies of daily and weekly newspapers are produced every week for the Bulgarian market. Printing of the two largest-circulation

Bulgarian daily newspapers, 24Chasa ("hours") and Trud with a total circulation of about 550,000 copies, is done at night. During the day, production of the evening newspaper is carried out. Other objects produced include the six weekly newspapers Zelt Trud, 168 Chasa, Westnik zazenata, Bulgarski Fermer, Lud Trud and Trimata Glupazi. In March 1997, the WAZ also took over a regional daily newspaper in Plovdiv that is published as a supplement to 24 Chasa.

For product finishing, the 168 hours newspaper group decided in favour of inserting equipment from Müller Martini. Installed also were Newsgrip conveyors; the installations are controlled by state-of-the-art computer technology.

In direct printing, the individually gripped newspaper copies are guided straight to the PrintStack CS-70 systems. The compensating stackers can be programmed with the SCS-PC Stacker Control System and produce ready-for-dispatch standard and odd bundles. Bundle wrapping can be done with film-wrapping and strapping or just with cross-strapping. Side-sealing of the plastic film is provided



A schematic representation of the production flow of the Müller Martini mailroom installation at ExprintAG/168 hours in Sofia.

A view of the new mailroom at 168 hours in Sofia.



for very small bundles that are not suitable for strapping. The finished bundles are then transported to the compatibly designed loading ramp for delivery trucks and vans.

The two Newsliner machines offer an inserting capacity of 80,000 copies/h. With the upstream PrintRoll buffer and storage system, inserting is dynamically separated from the press but still carried out in automatic online operation. The PrintRoll store is designed for one preprint. Working

in the inserting mode, it is therefore possible to automatically feed one preprint as well as two other inserts. Quality control ensures that only complete newspaper copies are passed on for bundle production. Stacking and wrapping are carried out in the same way as in direct printing production.

—Vassil Vassilev
Editor-in-chief, *Polygrafia, Sofia*

Five U.S. newspapers make orders for GMA's SLS2000 inserting system

Sales of GMA's SLS2000 inserting system have increased to 43 units with recent orders from several major metropolitan and regional newspaper customers in the United States.

Madison Newspapers of Madison, Wisconsin, which produces the daily and Sunday morning Wisconsin State Journal and the evening Capital Times, has purchased a 22-into-two inserting system. Standard SLS2000 features include GMA's Missed Insert Repair System (MIRS) and the company's Lincs packaging line control software. Madison has also ordered GMA's mailroom management basic application software, Plans, and several supplemental modules to optimise its packaging and distribution program.

A 28-into-two SLS2000 system has been ordered by the **Omaha World-Herald**, Nebraska, to support its growing Sunday packaging operations. Additional equipment includes GMA Mini Loaders, a modified version of the AF200 hopper loader designed for application where floor space is at a premium. The Omaha paper has also ordered

Plans and several supporting subsystems, as well as equipment for ink jet labeling.

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, **The Advocate** has purchased an 18-into-two SLS2000 system, several hopper loaders and mini loaders, and ink jet labeling equipment for more efficient processing of its inserting and distribution needs.

The El Paso Times, Texas, a Gannett newspaper, has begun the installation of two large SLS2000 inserters with 20-into-two and 24-into-two configurations. Each unit will be equipped with GMA's exclusive online Press-to-Hopper system which processes product directly from press conveyor to inserter hopper at press speeds.

The Monitor of McAllen, Texas, has ordered a 10-into-two SLS2000 system from GMA. This Freedom Communications property has also ordered the Plans mailroom management software and supplemental modules.

40 units have now been ordered by U.S. newspapers; three have been purchased by customers in Europe and the United Kingdom through GMA's corporate parent, Müller Martini of Switzerland.