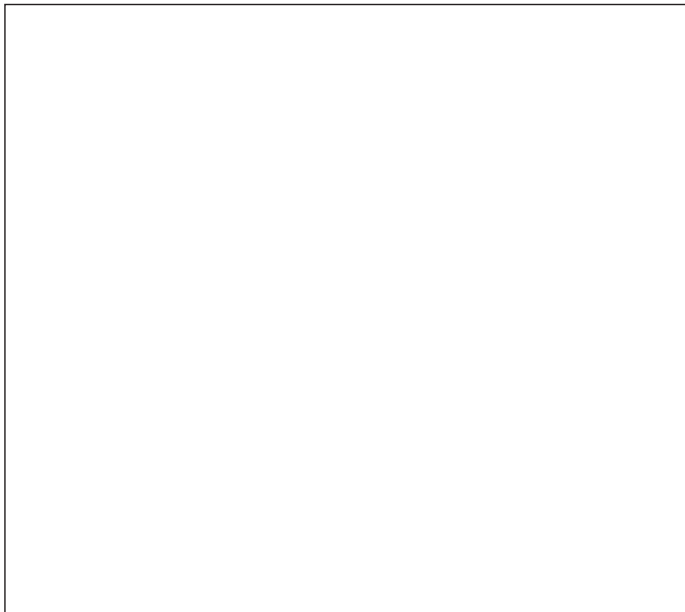


Heraldo de Aragón installs a shaftless KBA Comet



The area of distribution of Heraldo de Aragón covers the regions of Huesca, Saragossa, and Teruel.

In mid-April, the publishing company of the regional daily newspaper, Heraldo de Aragón in Saragossa, Spain, began the installation of a new shaftless-drive KBA Comet press. Saragossa is the capital city of the province bearing the same name, and the most important city in the Aragón region that borders on France. Besides Saragossa, the region of Aragón also includes the provinces of Teruel and Huesca. With a total sold circulation of about 62,000 copies, Heraldo de Aragón is the highest-circulation newspaper in its area of distribution.

Other titles produced by the publishing house are Heraldo de Huesca, a 16-page broadsheet daily newspaper delivered together with the main newspaper, and the independent tabloid Heraldo de Soria 7 días. Besides these newspapers, the publishing house, which has been family-owned for generations, produces a large number of supplements, magazines, etc., with various formats and on different paper qualities.

Printing plant located in industrial zone

Whereas the publishing building is situated in the centre of Saragossa (a fact that is highly valued by the members of the editorial staff), the printing plant is located in an industrial zone on the outskirts of the city. To date, having separate premises has not been a disadvantage, according to Technical Director José Manuel Lozano Orús, as it takes a messenger only about seven minutes at night to deliver the exposed complete pages on paper or film from the editorial department to the printing plant.

For this reason – and because until recently telecommunication costs have become somewhat more favourable – to date it has not been considered necessary to establish a dedicated line between the editorial department and the printing site. Platemaking is done on OPC 2000 plate imagers at the printing plant. The production schedule for the three newspapers is organised on the basis of staggered press start-up times: beginning with the Heraldo de Huesca at midnight, followed at 1 a.m. by Heraldo de Aragón (both newspapers are printed on the KBA Express 60 press); production of Heraldo de Soria (at present still printed on the Compacta 30) starts at 12:30 a.m.

The new press will be used initially for printing the Heraldo de Soria daily newspaper, of which the maximum page count will then be doubled to 64 tabloid pages. Up to 16 pages can be printed with four colours and positioned at any desired place in the section by means of a bay window device. The single-width, double-circumference (1156 mm) KBA Comet is designed for a maximum production speed of 30,000 copies per hour in collect run, or 60,000 copies per hour in double production. It consists of three arch-type printing units, one four-high tower comprising two H-type printing units, four Amal two-armed autopasters for a maximum reel width of 840 mm, as well as a jaw folder. Provision was made when designing the foundation block for the addition of another four-high tower.

It took just 10 days to assemble the entire rotary press – excluding cabling – with the aid of a compact mobile crane. The arch-type printing units were installed on the auto-

The configuration of the KBA Comet press installed at Heraldo de Aragón in Saragossa consists of one, four-high tower, three arch-type units (a total of 14 printing couples), four Amal autopasters as well as a jaw folder with superstructure. The broken lines on the left indicate the planned addition of a second four-high tower and two autopasters. The press is 3 m wide, 6 m high, and nearly 25 m long; in its final configuration it will be more than 35 m long.



Three newspapers, one publishing house: Heraldo de Aragón and Heraldo de Huesca are broadsheet products (49 x 33 cm), and Heraldo de Soria 7 días, which will be printed on the new rotary press, is a tabloid newspaper (41 x 28.9 cm).

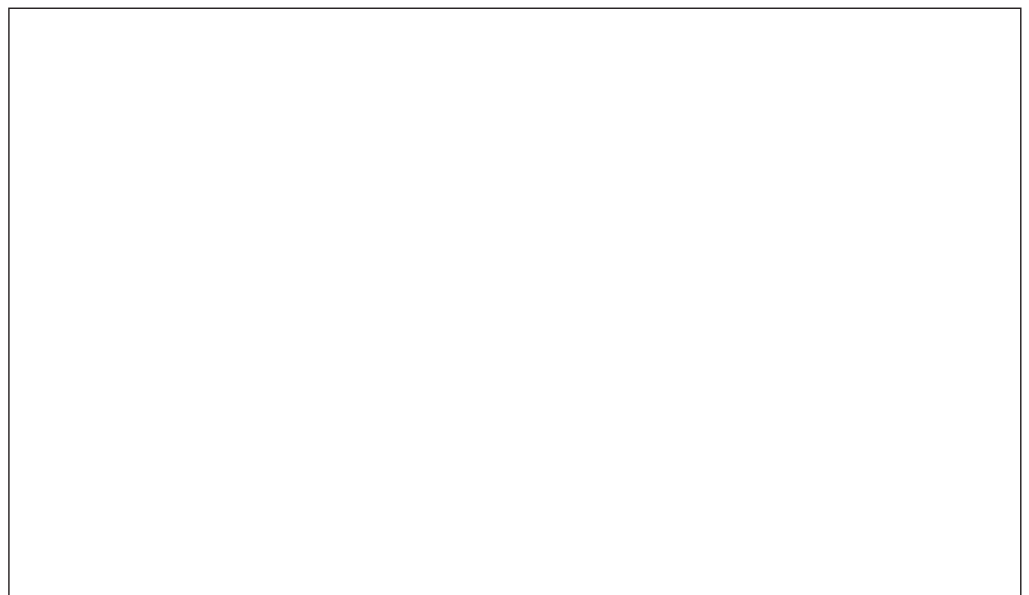
pasters that are insulated from the foundation by means of Airloc elements. When installing the four-high tower, the top printing unit was introduced and positioned first of all. Using a chain entered through the glass roof (for which purposes only one pane had to be removed), the unit was then raised, the lower unit taken into position, and the top part of the printing tower lowered and fitted.

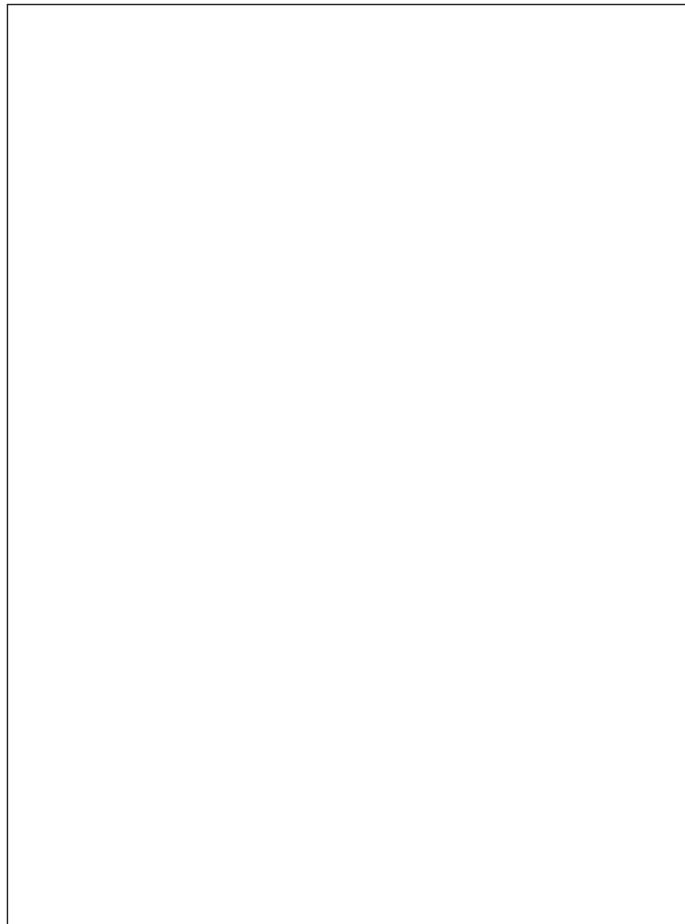
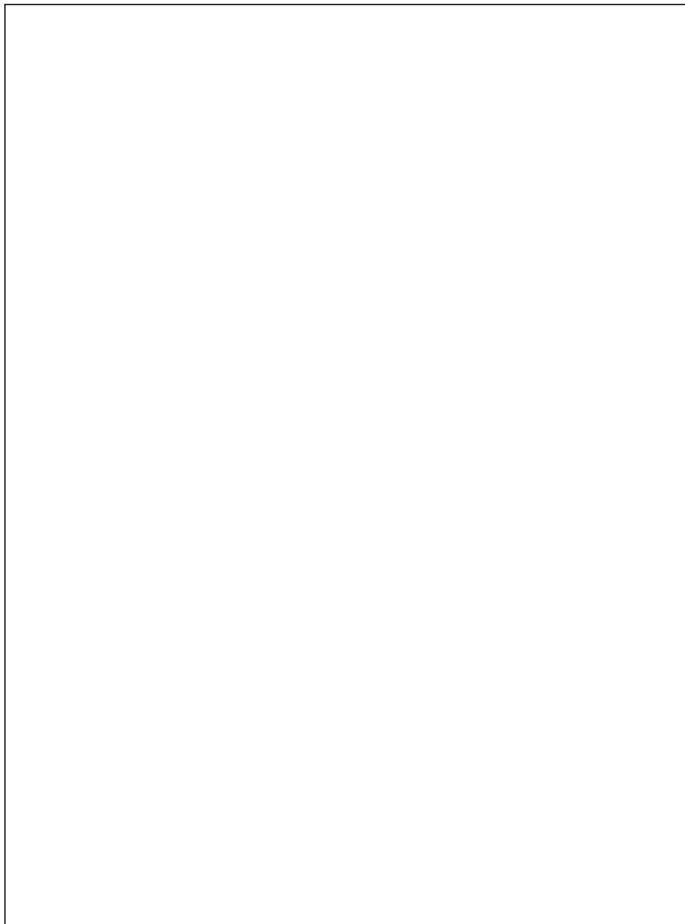
The press is equipped with an automatic ink supply system for black ink, and it is planned to install a

corresponding system also for colour inks, although at the time of our visit (at the end of April) the system supplier had not yet been decided. The same applies also in relation to the mailroom equipment. The company has developed its own reel transport system consisting of rails installed in the floor and turntables.

It is planned to have a three-man crew operate the press – two operators working with the control consoles, one person for reel preparation. $\Sigma \rightarrow$

A view of the still empty press hall with the basin in which the press foundation was later installed. Seen clearly on the left-hand side are the ducts for the rail-borne reel transport system, the main duct running parallel to the press and the cross-tracks, arranged in each case at the level of the auto-pasters. The glass panes in the roof of the press hall provide ample natural light.





The final printing unit is installed: the generously-dimensioned press hall offers the mobile crane sufficient room to move.

The timetable, which has been adhered to so far, had scheduled printing tests to start on June 15th, with daily production of *Heraldo de Soria* due to commence on July 1st 1997. It is possible that the new press may be used in the future to also print *Heraldo de Aragón*, though this would mean a change in the format size of the paper, a step that would be implemented only after careful consideration.

Experience of working with KBA in Saragossa

The KBA Comet does not represent the publishing house's first experience of working with the German manufacturer's presses. This is already the fifth KBA press for *Heraldo de Aragón*, even though not all were acquired new. Two other KBA presses are at present still in use: the aforementioned KBA Express 60 (built in 1988) as well as the second-hand KBA Compacta 30 that is 20 years old but still fully operational.

On this press, of which one half is equipped with a dryer, magazine-type products (supplements) could be printed on the left-hand side and newspapers (*Heraldo de Soria*) on the right-hand side. In view of the fact that there

are no space problems, consideration is being given to what else could be done with the press. J.M. Lozano reports major improvements in the service provided in recent years by the non-Spanish press manufacturers: today, it is a matter of course for the entire documentation to be offered in the Spanish language, and the company has had similar positive experiences with the mailroom equipment manufacturers.

No day passes without inserts

Every edition of *Heraldo de Aragón* includes editorial and advertising supplements – on the weekend an entire bundle. To ensure that they are all delivered safely to the 15,000 subscribers and sales outlets, the supplements are wrapped in film that is then sealed. The independent distribution operation, DASA (*Distribuidora de Aragón S.A.*), which is located by the printing plant building, was founded originally for the distribution of the *Heraldo de Aragón*. Today, it avails of its well-developed distribution network to handle a large number of its own and outside (also foreign-language) publications. – CJ