



Quality on demand book production



Printforce

Six books

average print run per order

ABOUT PRINTFORCE

Founded in 2004, Printforce specialises in the on demand print production of “single copy” books. Rik Thijssen (Operations Manager) and Rogier Calsijn (Process Engineer) explain: “Every book we produce is unique, even if it is a print run of several copies. In fact, we always include a printed code, so every print is always traceable.” Since 2019 Printforce has been located in Culemborg, NL and is an important scientific and educational publisher. With over 100 employees, 15 to 20 thousand books are produced daily, in three shifts, with an average print run of six copies.

CHALLENGE

Printforce produces both softcovers and hardcovers, including sewn copies with a rounded spine. “For the insides of those books we have rotary inkjet presses in full colour and black and white,” Rik Thijssen says. The covers are manufactured on Ricoh toner-based production systems. “When those systems were due for replacement, we were considering possibly switching to inkjet there as well,” adds Rogier Calsijn. But, “The quality requirements for book covers are high. Especially when producing a single copy: any deviation on the cover can be grounds for the customer to complain or return.”



Stable and good print quality are at the top of our wish list. Every book cover has to be good.

Rik Thijssen (Operations Manager) and Rogier Calsijn (Process Engineer)



SOLUTION

Thijssen and Calsijn drew up a wish list. Of course, the new printing systems must be easy to integrate into the existing workflow. Paper size also matters: "An SRA3 sheet is not large enough for a hardcover or for a dust jacket, for example." Then, of course, there is the cost aspect: "With toner, you have a fixed price, whereas inkjet is often more expensive due to high coverage." Stable, consistent and good print quality are key: "Every cover must meet our requirements." This sum of factors and their good previous experience made Printforce choose Ricoh again and install two RICOH Pro™ C9500 machines.

RESULT

Both Ricoh Pro C9500 full colour production systems are identical and thus interchangeable, ensuring that sufficient capacity is always available. In addition to paper trays for three different paper types, Printforce's machines feature an XL tray for non-standard paper sizes such as those needed, for example, for dust jackets or covers with flaps. Thijssen and Calsijn are satisfied with the performance, "Every month at Printforce we hold a quality meeting to see where we can optimise our processes and performance. We find there that the quality of the covers is hardly an issue anymore, because the promised colour stability is actually delivered in practice."

ABOUT RICOH

Ricoh is a leading provider of integrated digital services and print and imaging solutions designed to support digital transformation of workplaces, workspaces and optimise business performance. Headquartered in Tokyo, Ricoh's global operation reaches customers in approximately 200 countries and regions, supported by cultivated knowledge, technologies, and organisational capabilities nurtured over its 85-year history. In the financial year ended March 2024, Ricoh Group had worldwide sales of 2,348 billion yen (approx. 15.5 billion USD). It is Ricoh's mission and vision to empower individuals to find Fulfilment through Work by understanding and transforming how people work so we can unleash their potential and creativity to realise a sustainable future. For further information, please visit www.ricoh-europe.com.