Always keeping a firm focus on the printing industry and what makes it tick, Ferag’s newly launched high performance conveyor (HPC) and high performance stacker (HPS) have been developed owing to the fact that the area of added value in the printing industry has most certainly shifted to postpress solutions. In addition to the HPC and HPS showcase, Ferag demonstrated how key features of the MiniSert inserting line introduced a year ago, have been subjected to further development.

The reveal of the new and updated technology took place at Ferag’s headquarters in Hinwil, Zurich, Switzerland.

Ferag’s know-how and decades of experience in the design and construction of conveyor and stacking technology are behind the development of the two new products. In addition, they are a response to a need that has been expressed by many customers in the BRICS markets, to update their newspaper production processes with quality Ferag products. Therefore, the group is placing robust technology with an excellent price-performance ratio at the disposal of these users in the form of the HPC and HPS.

Less than 12 months have passed between the decision to invest in the development of the HPC-HPS system and the first preview, and the new technology will be available on the market from the first quarter of 2014.

Low operating costs
The new HPC conveyor system has been designed to transport newspaper products from A to B at production speeds up to 90 000 copies per hour. The chains and grippers are manufactured from high-grade plastic, with a specialised finite element method employed in the design of the HPC gripper and in the verification of its tough physical properties. According to Ferag, the robust construction guarantees dependable production even under high loads, with low operating costs over a long service life. Thanks to
the lightweight gripper and chain construction, the power consumption of the HPC remains low, bringing a further boost to the efficiency of this conveyor system.

Offline processing
The conveying system grips newspapers at the end of the line at speeds of up to 90 000 copies per hours. Products are assigned as a paced copystream to the HPC grippers in the HPC forwarding station. In addition to connecting the conveyor system via separate forwarding stations, variations are also possible with two looped stations for transferring newspapers after the second or third fold, as well as tandem configurations on double folder deliveries. With the HPC, products can be taken to all postpress processing steps that are equipped with a delivery belt. Aside from delivery to bundling, an additional option would be a feed to a winding system with subsequent processing, such as inserting, stitching, or trimming, etc. in offline mode.

Universal use
The HPC is based on a chain system that is universal in its application. Instead of the HPC grippers, chain links can be equipped with any conveyor components. One version is the familiar PKT plate chain conveyor, which is used by several newspaper printers for transporting newspaper bundles from the MultiStack sector to the loading docks. However, the HPC chain is also a basis for the conception of made-to-measure, economical and energy-efficient conveyor and transport solutions throughout the whole logistics segment.

In bundling, the new Ferag production system is matched by the HPS. The concept, based on tried-and-tested MultiStack technology, comes with one exceptional feature, the universal servo drive. This ensures high-precision, synchronised cycles from separation of the incoming copystream through stack formation and control of the elevator/turntable to controlled ejection of the bundles.

The lateral guides are said to ensure excellent bundle quality, while the HPS is programmable, and can be equipped with a light version of the navigator control as an option. The compensating stacker achieves a performance of 25 bundles per minute. Up to three HPS units can be series connected in line for parallel and series bundle production.

MiniSert developments
This is Ferag’s small-scale inserting machine for the lower circulation segment. Now, in 2013, the line can be extended by twin modules to a maximum of 12 (previously six) hopper stations. MiniSert has become more flexible in terms of product width, in addition to the lap opener, opening devices are now available for magazines, broadsheet newspapers and products in half format, without an overlap. According to Ferag, the opening components are exchangeable to suit the product being processed.

Alongside the sales successes of MiniSert in the United Arab Emirates, the Philippines and South Africa, the Frankfurter Societäts-Druckerei (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung) has also installed a MiniSert line with six hopper stations. The inserting line covers production peaks when processing a partial run of the Frankfurter Rundschau when the five high-performance Ferag MSD lines are running at full capacity with the production of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and other national and international papers.

For more information about Ferag’s new mailroom solutions, contact Hannes Kritzinger at Kamboo Marketing (www.kamboo.co.za), the sole distributor of Ferag products on the African continent.