

# Independently better

Established in 2008, Humidity Solutions, the UK's independent specialist in humidity control, is celebrating its tenth anniversary.



**P**aper is a natural substrate and as such reacts to the conditions around it. It will alter its properties if there is moisture in the air, or if the temperature changes dramatically, or if it is not conditioned properly for the press. Problems on press are often reactions to these issues. Your print clearly needs to be stable to ensure good quality print and accuracy, and to meet the standards required by your customers.

Humidity control is ideal here, removing a major climatic variable from the printing process and ensuring the same humidity day in day out and therefore paper at the same condition day in day out allowing the machine speeds to be maintained. Humidity at 50%rh also eliminates static and provides dust suppression in the press hall and with the cold water humidifiers also achieve up to 8 C of cooling, which are all added advantages. And, it is as important whether you are a big multinational company or a single press printer.

This is exactly what Humidity Solutions offers to print companies, and its consultative approach means that it can provide the best solutions for each application. In fact, it not only works with print comp-

anies, but across a very broad range of industries, including pharmaceuticals, leisure, transportation, data centres and more, which has allowed the company to build up an enviable depth of knowledge.

The company is now celebrating its tenth anniversary and looking forward to a successful future. Humidity Solutions recently marked the milestone of 10 years with an event in London, which was followed by a celebration in Westminster Abbey – Humidity Solutions actually provides the humidity control for Westminster Abbey Museum.

At the event, the company's John Barker explained the breadth of choice available to customers, saying 'As an independent company, we can select the best products from around the world.' This means that it works with a number of partners including DT Group, HldROS, Neptronic, Devatec, and Airtec to ensure that the best solutions are found for the differing requirements of each and every customer.

The Humidity Solutions team has more than 100 years of applications knowledge, which means John said, 'It is hard to find an application that we can't help with!'

John also explained that the company is now looking forward to the

## Finding a humidity solution

Humidity Solutions set out to do what it does best – solve a problem.

When the humidity control system at a large digital print company was coming to the end of its life, a new start was needed.

Since the original installation the press hall had become full of equipment and stock, so it was difficult – if not impractical – to reach and maintain the ceiling suspending humidifier nozzle heads. At eight metres up, the scissor lifts were required but could not be manoeuvred through the presses and finishing equipment.

With a large humidification load of 600 kg per hour generated by the Airtec Hydrosens control panel, the ceiling mounted heads offer an attractive amount of moisture per head and would normally be the solution – but what about the access? Wall mounted humidifier heads offer half the duty per unit but they could be positioned around the perimeter of the press hall at 4.5 metres from the floor so access was practical for both installation and future maintenance. With air recirculation generated by the heating system the moisture would be evenly distributed throughout the space, even without vapour pressure creating equilibrium across the press hall.

The system has been divided into five zones across the 100 x 70 metre space using HydroOne single nozzle heads below the mezzanine floor area and the 54 Hydrotrio heads evenly divided between the other four zones ensuring 50% relative humidity is maintained across the large area even with different loads being generated: for instance close to the despatch doors compared to the relatively still air in the finishing area.

The client works over six large digital presses, so to stop production whilst the installation took place was not possible. The perimeter design installation was completed from start to finish in under two weeks, with the humidity control only being lost for four days. The Humidity Solutions Installation team of eight engineers planned the method statement with the site facilities team to minimise disruption.

future and he outlined some of the clever technologies coming up in humidity applications such as solar and wind powered systems and those that generate their own power.

The next step in the company's growth is due to be launched towards the end of this year. The brilliantly named, HumDehum, is an e-commerce site to make the ordering of humidifier and dehumidifier consumables easier for those requiring a quick efficient service without the need for a lengthy telephone

conversation and with the added incentive of free delivery.

The secure site is straightforward and intuitive, with easy navigation and quick access to purchase history and repeat orders.

The site also offers complete humidifier and dehumidifier systems suitable for smaller applications where a discussion with a specialist engineer is not required. The humidifier systems are ideal for small commercial offices and light industrial units, such as digital printers. **PS.**



The Humidity Solutions team – whose focus is on customer care and quality of equipment for all humidity control needs no matter what technology you are using and no matter what sector you are in.