



## Daetwyler SwissTec cleans up

Daetwyler SwissTec continues to expand its services to provide perfect printing solutions for its customers. EMMA ROWBERRY met with GUIDO HEINTZER at Propak West Africa in Lagos, Nigeria, to discuss Daetwyler SwissTec's new line-up of cleaning products.

**HAVING achieved success manufacturing the highest quality doctor blades – with numerous coatings and in versions made of carbon steel, stainless steel and plastic – Daetwyler SwissTec expanded its services to include a variety of commercial products to offer customers goods and expertise for perfect printing from one source.**

Traditionally on offer from MDC are doctor blades that provide a variety of high-tech coatings and lamella configurations – custom-made to exactly meet customers' needs. MDC's long-time bestseller is the Longlife blade, which, as the name suggests, is highly economical thanks to its long life span, less

press down time and less waste. Flexolife, with its rounded lamella, offers optimal ink release ideal for full tones, while a stainless corrosion-resistant blade, is specifically suited to water-based inks and coating applications. Finally, MDC's standard blade guarantees an even and sharp doctoring process thanks to its constant contact zone.

Last year, the company launched a range of high-quality cleaning products and accessories, primarily for flexo, offset and gravure printing. These include a variety of cleaners and separating agents, special brushes, cylinder covers, ink filters and control instruments.



Present at Propak West Africa (see page 11), Guido Heintzer, Daetwyler SwissTec's area sales manager (responsible for the Middle East, Africa and France).

According to Guido Heintzer, Daetwyler SwissTec's area sales manager (responsible for the Middle East, Africa and France), the company's vision is to provide a full spectrum of consumables from one source.

'South African printers are currently spending a lot of money on cleaning products. 'Our Lion Star Clean heavy-duty cleaning agent for extremely contaminated ceramic anilox rolls is 50% cheaper than our competitors' products,' Guido points out. 'It takes just 20 to 30 minutes to get anilox rolls and gravure cylinders back to being as good as new,' he adds.

Daetwyler SwissTec initially launched its cleaning range with six products, but this has rapidly expanded to 16, plus a range of cleaning accessories.

Products include Clean Star, a standard cleaning agent for ceramic, chrome, anilox and rubber rollers; Clean Star Plus for more intensive cleaning of heavily-contaminated ceramic, chrome and anilox rollers; Water Star Wash for water-based inks and varnish; UV Star Wash for UV inks; and Solvent Star Wash for solvent-based inks.

In addition, High Star Auto is suitable for water-based inks and for manual cleaning, while High Star Uni – a special cleaning gel for all inks, metal/aluminium, anilox rolls and rotogravure cylinders – removes lacquers and pastes.

High Star Hand is a nurturing and protective gel, while Aqua Star Auto (water-based inks) and Aqua Star Uni (UV ink) are used for daily upkeep cleaning. Aqua Star Hand, a general-purpose cleaner for gravure cylinder, anilox rolls and associated printing tools, is also used for daily cleaning of water-based inks with the added advantage of being biodegradable.

Rounding out this comprehensive range, Lion Star Neutra neutralises cleaning waste; Uni Star is a universal quick-cleaning agent for fast, easy and practical use during ink changes, downtime and maintenance; Flex Star is a separating agent for printing plates; and Hand Clean and Guard conditions and protects operator's hands while effectively cleaning hard-to-remove dirt.

Daetwyler SwissTec's range of cleaning accessories includes protecting sleeves, stainless steel and brass brushes, cleaning brushes, ink filters, optical equipment and digital microscopes to measure

cylinder and roller volume and to control the grade of contamination.

Some of these products are offered in a concentrate form – for example the Water Star Wash. One 20kg bottle of cleaning agent diluted with water gives up to 2 000 litres, making it extremely economical.

All Daetwyler SwissTec's cleaning products are readily available locally from its Paarl-based operation. Additionally, free samples of these products are offered for trial purposes, and Daetwyler's technicians are on hand to run tests on customers' presses to establish the best washing equipment and products for their requirements.

Daetwyler SwissTec offers a worldwide sales and consulting network that consists of highly-trained and experienced printing experts who recognise customers' requirements and guarantee fast, comprehensive assistance.

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LONGLIFE | long-lasting.

MDC DOCTOR BLADES  
NEXT GENERATION

**Main applications:** Illustration gravure printing | packaging gravure printing | special applications

**Characteristics:** THE MDC high performance doctor blade | extra long lasting due to hardened coating

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