



Canon

PRESSES UNIVERSITAIRES DE MONS

CASE STUDY FROM CANON

Learn how the University of Mons in Belgium (UMONS – Université de Mons) has turned a repro shop into a full scale printing operation with two Canon imagePRESS V1350 colour digital presses, two Canon varioPRINT 6180 TITAN high-speed, monochrome systems and the ambition to bring all outsourced print jobs back in-house.



Aurore Lemaire, Print Operator, Universitaires de Mons

For over twenty years, the University of Mons offered students and teachers a repro shop on campus to produce course material and provide an affordable photocopy service. In 2022, the university decided it was time to take things a step further and bring back in-house all the print jobs that had been until then outsourced to third party printers.

When Jean-Marc Dubray, now Managing Director of Éditions Universitaires de l'UMONS, joined the team early in 2022, he was given a clear roadmap: rethink the organisation and grow the university's legacy copy centre into a professional grade, digital printing operation. The goal was to handle all the university's monochrome and colour print jobs, which included exam sheets,

course syllabuses, PhD theses, brochures and flyers, as well as posters and any other print material the university needed. As a bonus to becoming the university's one-stop shop for printed material, whenever remaining production time was available, the new print room turned out to be a valued partner to other schools in the Hainaut district in Western Belgium.

SCALING UP THE PRINT ROOM

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With all the documentation supporting our courses being updated at a faster pace due to changes to the curriculum, outsourcing was becoming unpractical and costly. Bringing production back in-house and keeping our outsourced jobs to a minimum was clearly the way to go.

**Jean-Marc Dubray, Managing Director of Presses,
Universitaires de Mons**

ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES AND OVERCOMING CHALLENGES



Enhance the print quality of monochrome documents

The main requirement was to enhance the print quality of the course syllabuses. Previously, these documents had been printed in the repro shop on two Canon varioPRINT 135 presses and a Canon imagePRESS C710. With high-quality digital printing becoming mainstream, the university wanted to take advantage of the best of what professional digital printing could provide to be able to offer course material of a quality on par with what could be produced using monochrome offset.



Optimise operational costs

With paper and energy prices having risen substantially over the past two years, the university wanted to gain better control over its procurement costs. The university hoped to achieve this and benefit from the competitive prices associated with higher volumes of purchases by handling all print jobs in-house. The team also wanted to avoid incurring the additional margins on consumables from third party printers and to eliminate the costs of storing large volumes of documents.



Manage colour print jobs in-house

The second main requirement was to introduce colour digital printing and produce all the university's colour documents in-house on digital systems that offered a print quality that matched what external print providers could deliver.



Streamline production

By setting up a new colour production workflow and improved monochrome production capacities based on robust systems with high uptime and low operator monitoring, the university also wanted to achieve the highest level of automation and throughput.



Prevent waste of obsolete documents and avoid costly last minute reprints

Brochures and other volume prints had previously been outsourced to offset print shops ahead of the academic term and stored for as long as required. This meant that a number of stored documents became obsolete before being distributed and had to be destroyed, causing a massive waste of paper, ink and energy. At the same time, whenever the university attempted to limit initial volumes, the documents often ran out of stock and had to be reprinted as a succession of short-run, last minute jobs ahead of a given event. This proved to be very costly.



Our two new imagePRESS V1350 systems were delivered and started production in November 2023, only weeks before we moved the print room to larger premises off campus. Canon was with us the whole time on both locations, making sure everything went seamlessly.

Vincent Urbain, Production Manager of Presses, Universitaires de Mons



INTRODUCING THE imagePRESS V1350 COLOUR DIGITAL PRESS AND THE varioPRINT 6180 TP HIGH-SPEED MONOCHROME PRESS

Left: Benoît Chanut, Print Operator - right: Vincent Urbain, Production Manager of Presses, Universitaires de Mons

To meet their colour requirements, the University of Mons invested in two imagePRESS V1350 colour digital presses with toner technology, delivered in November 2023.

The imagePRESS V1350 offers a 135 ppm (A4) print engine with 2,400 dpi resolution and an in-line spectrophotometric sensor for automated colour adjustments – a perfect fit for the university's colour requirements.

Presses Universitaires de Mons also invested in two toner-based, high-volume varioPRINT 6180 TITAN TPxp systems, designed for transactional printing and direct mail to handle monochrome jobs. These were delivered in February 2024. The varioPRINT 6180 TITAN is an ultra-reliable, energy-efficient and highly productive monochrome unit with a print speed of 182 ipm (A4 duplex) and an exceptional production productivity – enough to cope with the university's production peaks.

All four systems are driven through the PRISMAprepare document preparation and imposition software and have an integrated sensing unit that checks front-to-back registration during production.

Additionally, the university invested in a large format Canon Arizona 250 GT roll fed, colour inkjet system with UV inks.



BENEFITS



Excellent speed, quality and cost control

Investing in high-speed production equipment allowed Presses Universitaires de Mons to scale up dramatically, moving from three million clicks a year to a million clicks a month. A large part of this progression involves colour documents for which the print quality delivered by the imagePRESS V1350 fully meets the university's requirements. Printing digitally 'on demand' also lets the team produce just the right quantities, substantially cutting down production costs.



Perfect front-to-back registration

The digital presses' sensing unit makes sure front-to-back registration remains perfect throughout an entire print run. Previously, front-to-back registration could only be checked manually after the binding stage and if an incident occurred, the entire job had to be scrapped and reprinted, resulting in a very high level of paper waste and production delay. Using the imagePRESS V1350 and the varioPRINT 6180 TITAN, paper waste dropped from a staggering 30% to less than 10%.



Optimal environmental footprint

With digital printing generating less waste and using none of the consumables associated with offset (plates, blankets, chemicals, etc), the development of a top-level printing operation was achieved while maintaining a low environmental footprint. In addition to lower emissions and less heat and noise, the imagePRESS V1350 and varioPRINT 6180 TITAN systems also consume less energy while producing millions of prints.



Outstanding customer support

A long-standing Canon customer for over ten years, the University of Mons made the decision to renew their copy centre equipment with high-volume Canon digital presses, to ensure that they continued to benefit from the level of customer support they had grown accustomed to. Both Jean-Marc Dubray and Vincent Urbain praised Canon's customer support and presence in getting the new system up and running.



Key specs:

imagePRESS V1350

- Up to 2.4 million colour A4 prints a month
- 9,000 A4 paper supply capacity (80 g/m²)
- 60 to 500 gsm paper weight
- 0.5 mm front-to-back registration

varioPRINT 6180 TITAN

- Up to 2.5 million monochrome A4 prints a month
- 24,000 A4 paper supply capacity (80 g/m²)
- 45 to 300 gsm paper weight
- 600 x 1200 dpi engine resolution



SETTING UP A NEW COPY CENTRE ON CAMPUS

Jean-Marc Dubray, Managing Director of Presses, Universitaires de Mons

“ Becoming a full-scale printing operation took us to a whole new level of productivity,” says Jean-Marc Dubray. “At the same time, it distracted us from our initial mission of offering photocopy and printing services to our students, with our equipment now located in a facility away from campus.”

This is why the next step for Presses Universitaires de Mons will be to offer the University's 13,000 students, 1,500 teachers and 2,000 administrative personnel a brand new copy centre in a 400m² location, ideally placed between the university's premises across town. The team is considering a varioPRINT iX1700 sheetfed colour inkjet press as its production system. With an A4 print speed of 170 ppm, the system will offer a level of productivity even higher than the imagePRESS V1350 (135 ppm).



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