

## Seacoast christens N.H. plant

*Publisher of Portsmouth Herald first customer to purchase combination press and postpress line from Goss and first U.S. printer to buy Magnum.*

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Photos: Seacoast Media

Seacoast Media Group Feb. 25 inaugurated its \$21 million production plant in Portsmouth, N.H.

The Ottaway Newspapers Inc. unit prints a number of papers, including The Portsmouth Herald (daily 12,865; Sunday, 17,292), the twice-weekly Exeter (N.H.) News-Letter and weekly York County (Maine) Coast Star.

Seacoast equipped the plant with a Magnum two-around single-wide press from Goss International Corp., which also provided the postpress equipment.

Seacoast was the first customer to purchase a combination press and postpress line from Goss, which began marketing postpress systems after it acquired Heidelberg's press and postproduction lines in 2004.

It was also the first U.S. publisher to buy the 75,000-copy-per-hour Magnum press, introduced in 2005.

Seacoast Director of Operations Paul Briand in early March said the first week following commissioning "went well," with only a few unexpected glitches. "We've had some very good runs," he told *Newspapers & Technology*.

### More capacity

The 21.5-inch cutoff Magnum is configured as three four-high towers, two two-high towers and a Goss Universal 2:3:3 jaw folder with two formers. It permits Seacoast to print up to 48 broadsheet pages with 24 full-color pages and 16 spot-color pages in collect mode.

Seacoast left some room in the press hall to accommodate a future fifth and sixth tower, plus a second folder.

Meanwhile, Goss installed a NP632 22-hopper inserter, equipped for zoned inserting with Goss' Omnicon controls. NP125 inserter gripper conveyors round out the postpress project.

Briand said the increased color and printing capacity of the press, which replaced a straight-only machine, will give Seacoast additional flexibility to print a variety of publications beyond the core papers.

"We have a tremendous amount of commercial work



Plate and press manager Alan Laskey looks over the first edition of The Portsmouth (N.H.) Herald to roll off the publisher's new Goss International Corp. Magnum press. To his right is press shift foreman Jerry Wornica.



Paul Briand, director of operations, on the first night of live production. Seacoast prints papers for readers in Maine and New Hampshire.

already, and this press gives us the chance to get some larger jobs with longer runs," Briand said.

In addition to the press and postpress upgrade, Seacoast migrated to computer-to-plate, installing two platesetters from ECRM. One, a Mako Newsmatic, can process up to 60 broadsheet plates per hour. The second, a Mako Newsmatic HS, can handle up to 125 plates per hour. Seacoast is the first U.S. publisher to install the high-speed machine, ECRM said.

The new technological foundation requires "different habits," Briand said. "We have a whole host of new processes, and we are dealing with them."

Seacoast also manages distribution of The Wall Street Journal, Barron's, The Boston Globe, USA Today and other publications in coastal New Hampshire and southern Maine.

Dario Designs Inc. designed the 70,000 square-foot building, which also houses Seacoast's administrative and editorial offices. --NT