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Naples Daily News invests in new facility, equipment

NEXT SPRING, the Naples (Fla.) Daily News (average daily circulation, 44,014) plans to go live with its new WIFAG evolution 371 press and a new integrated post-press packaging system by Goss International Corp. and FERAG.

The equipment will be housed in the Daily News' new 186,000-square-foot headquarters designed by Dario Designs Inc. The facility which will include office and warehouse space in addition to production space, is still being constructed.

"We needed the additional space because we have outgrown our old building on the business side of operations," says Thomas J. Sewall, director of operations at the Daily News. Sewall declined to say how much the new equipment and facility would cost.

The WIFAG press, which will be configured in two lines, will replace the newspaper's 1976 Goss Metro press, Sewall says, and give the newspaper full-color capability "The current press is 32 pages full color in an 80-page product and the WIFAG is 96 pages of full color in a 96-page product," he says.

The WIFAG also will be equipped with six reelstands, two jaw folders with balloon formers and image-based, closed-loop controls for cutoff and color register. The new press will have a 21-inch cutoff and a variable web width between 18 inches and 36 inches, allowing the Daily News to save money potentially by printing its own niche products, Sewall says. The Daily News currently outsources its 20 weekly and monthly niche products to a commercial printer. Press operators will begin training in preparation for the new press by December, Sewall says.

The Daily News' upgraded post-press system will include two FERAG UTR press gripper conveyors, three Goss NP400 gripper-to-hopper online in-feed units and two servo-drive Goss Magnapak packaging machines. The corresponding control systems include FERAG IMS press delivery monitoring, Goss Omthone packaging supervisory controls, Goss Omnicon automatic inserter controls, Goss DSC bulk and key bundling and bundle labeling controls.