Goss Vpak web offset presses allow flexible packaging, folding carton, preprint, and label producers to fully exploit the productivity, print quality, process automation, and short-run agility advantages unleashed by the latest advances in web offset technology.

Goss Vpak 500 and Vpak 3000 web offset press models are available in web widths from 20.5 to 75 inches, print at speeds of up to 1,500 feet per minute, and accommodate film and paper/board packaging substrates ranging from 36 gauge film to 30 point board. Quick-change sleeve adapter technology allows infinitely variable repeat settings within the design range of each press model, making it fast and simple to match the cylinder circumference to the repeat length for each specific job.

One judge emphasized, “The critical component to this one is the variable sleeve offset technology; it’s a real issue in the packaging industry that they’ve dealt with in a clean way.” Another echoed this, saying, “That’s where we’ve always struggled with offset: the variable cutoff, but they’re able to go there, allowing it to print at the repeat lengths required and not be fixed as offset normally is. It’s faster and cheaper on the setup than flexo or gravure.”

Force loaded cylinders—a feature unique to Goss—extend this versatility and present a significant operability advantage. Servo motors, hydraulics, and pneumatics move the Vpak cylinders and ink train into position relative to the substrate and repeat length (cylinder circumference), but the impression and blanket cylinders are then automatically loaded, under force, against the plate cylinder according to fixed hard-stop positions. This allows absolute repeatability and eliminates the need to manually adjust the pressure with each change of substrate or repeat length (cylinder circumference).
Goss Vpak presses incorporate proven presetting, inking, dampening, and control systems from their innovative web offset presses. Such technologies make it easier and more cost-effective to excel in short-run applications and to exceed the increasingly high quality demands in the packaging sector. Vpak systems can be equipped for heatset, EB, and UV production and installed in a wide range of roll-to-roll or inline converting configurations. Flexography, gravure, and digital stations can also be incorporated to combine the economical and quality advantages of web offset with the inherent coating or personalization advantages of the other processes.

With packaging producers under intensifying pressure to cut costs, accommodate shorter run lengths, reduce turnaround times, and achieve higher print quality, web offset is gaining momentum as a better alternative than flexography, gravure, or sheetfed offset. Web offset lithography is an inherently stable process ideally suited for the challenges of high-quality packaging applications, including precise color tones, intricate reverse screens in excess of 200 lines per inch, and stochastic printing. Vpak presses also run fast and deliver that quality consistently—across the web, throughout the run, and from job to job. Advances in automated presetting, process integration, and closed-loop control give Vpak systems competitive advantages at a full range of run lengths, including short runs once considered to be in the exclusive domain of the sheetfed process.

As one of the judges said, “This would bring full litho benefits to packaging and could be an opportunity for web offset printers to expand their market.”