



CASE STUDY

Significans Automation custom workflow solutions increase productivity by 80% at global pre-media giant Sonoco Trident

Sonoco Trident produces 10 million square inches of flexographic plates a year, with numerous step-and-repeat functions. The task used to be labor intensive and time consuming until the company turned to Significans Automation. With its leading-edge custom workflow solutions, Significans enabled the pre-media giant to reutilize its step-and-repeat work force by 40% and simultaneously drastically increase production speeds by 80%.

Sonoco Trident, a global, multi-location pre-media packaging company for consumer goods, serves a wide array of clients in segments that include retail, beauty, grooming, food, lawn and garden, pharma, and nutrition. The company has a hand in creating most of the products consumers see on store shelves every day. In addition to brand-management and design services, Trident's other key function is to produce flexo plates for packaging applications on behalf of its globally renown roster of clients.

At the time that Trident called in Mircea Petrescu, CTO of Significans Automation, the company was producing almost 70,000 sq. ft. of flexo plates per year, using 5 employees. "We had multiple people at multiple locations that were doing step-and-repeat processes depending on the marks printers were looking for," said Joseph Kohler, Managing Director for the Americas at Trident.

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– Joseph Kohler
Managing Director, Trident

Petrescu and his team spent 3 weeks with Trident at its Charlotte, North Carolina, location, learning and assessing the company's processes, challenges and objectives. Working from Esko Automation Engine and Esko Suite, Petrescu was able to engineer streamlined processes and

create new software scripts that fully automated the step-and-repeat functions and the entire platemaking process from end to end.

The result: Lower head count, faster speed of delivery, higher quality and increased capacity. The step-and-repeat head count at Trident declined to 3 employees from 5, while step-and-repeat processes were accomplished in 10 to 25 minutes, a steep reduction from the original

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Sonoco Trident is a subsidiary of Sonoco Products, a leading U.S.-based global packaging company with sales of US\$5 billion. Trident, founded in 1993, operates from 11 locations with 600 employees. It provides pre-media services, such as brand management, artwork creation and related services, prepress and platemaking for dozens of the world’s leading brands in many consumer categories.

Significans Automation

Significans Automation Inc., in Toronto, is a global professional services company that specializes in bringing efficiencies to the graphic arts industry. It provides custom workflow development, color management, prepress training, and business integration with the end goal of creating unmanned production environments that deliver the benefits of artificial intelligence and robotics.

Newly set up in 2018, Significans Automation had operated as Myrpress Consulting for the previous seven years, developing an impressive customer base in 27 countries. Its game-changing services allow print providers to optimize the performance of their foundational software, creating an integrated workflow, automating labor-intensive operations, and integrating modules that prepare graphics firms for robotics and robotic workflows in the future.