

## COMPANY NEWS



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# Eskay Expands with Focus on Wide Web Embossing

*Further to the recent feature on hologram embossing equipment (see HN Vol 19, No 6), Holography News visited Eskay Holographics' at its new premises to find out more about the company's latest products and plans for expansion.*

Eskay Holographics Ltd, Steve Kyle's company that specialises in the design and marketing of embossed hologram production equipment, is investing heavily in new show-room premises in southern England, where it will house working embossing machines, electroforming and combining equipment for demonstration purposes.

Kyle has worked most of his career in holography, having started with Graham Ridout at Intraplastics (which became Amblehurst and was bought by De La Rue to become the foundation of De La Rue Holographics). Some of the earliest mass production embossed holograms were made at Intraplastics on machinery custom made to Ridout's designs. Kyle then worked with Light Impressions before branching out on his own to develop and sell production equipment. He worked at Westmead Technology, backed by Walter Clarke, but when that relationship broke up he reverted to his own company, and has built a close relationship with Henderson Engineering, a small company based in Manchester, UK which specialises in web handling equipment for the converting and packaging industries.

## Standardising Range

Henderson became involved in holography through supplying custom built embossing machines to two of the hologram producers based in northern England, but working with Kyle has developed a line of soft embossing machines to cover hot and cold systems up to 1700 mm embossing width. Kyle told **Holography News** that many of the machines they have supplied have been custom designed, but they are now standardising their range to facilitate competitive pricing and simplification of specifications. They will continue to offer custom machines but at a premium price, and have an engineering design team

amongst a total staff of 26 to work on specific customer requirements.

## Modular Systems

The soft-embossers offered by Eskay, built by Henderson, include a modular system which can be integrated with wind/unwind, lamination and slitting equipment, and a framed, stand-alone embosser. Each system is available in 800, 1000, 1200 and 1650 mm web width, to handle most substrate films or coated paper, at production speeds up to 300 m/minute. The largest system installed by the team to date is a 1.7 m width cold and hot embossing system running at 300 m/min, at AET in Canada. They have installed a dozen turnkey systems around the world in the past 3 years alone, at prices ranging from £350,000 for an 800 mm system to £2m. Customers include several well-known wide-web hologram producers as well as start-up production operations such as the China Banknote Printing and Minting Corporation (which issued banknotes with holograms on August 31).

The cold embossing method allows embossing direct into OPP film, which is warmed to soften it, embossed at low temperature then chilled to harden it. But despite its focus on soft embossing, Eskay also offers hard embossing machines in widths from 310–800 mm.

Henderson also makes laminators and a precision rotary shim cutter marketed through Eskay. Additionally, Eskay offers electroforming systems and a recombine system, the latter to an accuracy of  $\pm 25 \mu$ . Kyle plans to have everything available as running demonstration equipment in the new 200 sq m showroom, and together with Henderson is investing over £500,000 to do so. Kyle obviously is optimistic for the future of wide web holography!

Contact: [www.eskayholographics.com](http://www.eskayholographics.com).