

Game-changer:
IPCO steel belts power the fastest digital packaging press on the market

Customer: Agfa, a leading manufacturer of innovative printing solutions

Challenge

To develop a high-speed digital packaging press capable of:

- **Breakthrough speeds**
  Transforming the packaging printing market.
- **High precision**
  Maintaining stability and minimizing vibration at high speeds.
- **Maximum print quality**
  Precise sheet positioning for high-quality digital printing.

Solution

Agfa incorporated an IPCO stainless steel conveyor belt with a vacuum system to ensure precise sheet positioning at speeds of up to 150 m/min.

Results

- **Agfa SpeedSet 1060 inkjet press**
  Ground-breaking speed and precision.
- **Fastest digital packaging press**
  Capable of printing 11,000 B1 sheets per hour.
- **Offset-like quality**
  Predictable sheet positioning for Agfa's high-resolution inkjet technology.

Short-run packaging at groundbreaking speeds

Agfa's SpeedSet 1060 inkjet press is redefining digital packaging printing with its ground-breaking speed and precision. A crucial factor in this innovation is IPCO's stainless steel conveyor belt, a key enabler of the press's ability to print 11,000 B1 sheets per hour. By ensuring exceptional stability and precise sheet positioning, IPCO's technology allows Agfa to push the boundaries of high-speed, high-quality digital printing.

Innovative system set to transform the market

Agfa is a global leader in imaging technology and IT solutions with over 150 years of expertise. Its Digital Printing Solutions division is dedicated to advancing inkjet printing across multiple industries. Agfa provides high-quality inkjet printers, inks, software and services, ensuring best-in-class productivity, sustainability and cost efficiency for its customers.

One of the company's latest innovations, the SpeedSet 1060 inkjet press, is set to transform the packaging printing market, combining the robustness of an offset press with the flexibility of inkjet technology. The press was first showcased at Agfa's Cambridge facility, demonstrating its ability to handle short-run packaging needs with unprecedented speed and efficiency.

"The SpeedSet is a game-changer in the packaging printing market. With its killer speed of 11,000 B1 sheets per hour, it is simply the fastest digital packaging press around. The use of a steel belt was an important factor in achieving this ground-breaking performance."

Matt Brooks, Head of Packaging, Agfa

The challenge: High speed, high quality

As digital printing technology advances, the need for higher press speeds and enhanced print precision becomes paramount. To set a new industry standard, Agfa needed a conveyor system that could:

- Maintain stability at extremely high speeds.
- Ensure precise sheet positioning for consistent print quality.
- Minimize vibrations to prevent defects.
- Handle a variety of substrates, from folding cartons to micro-flute materials.

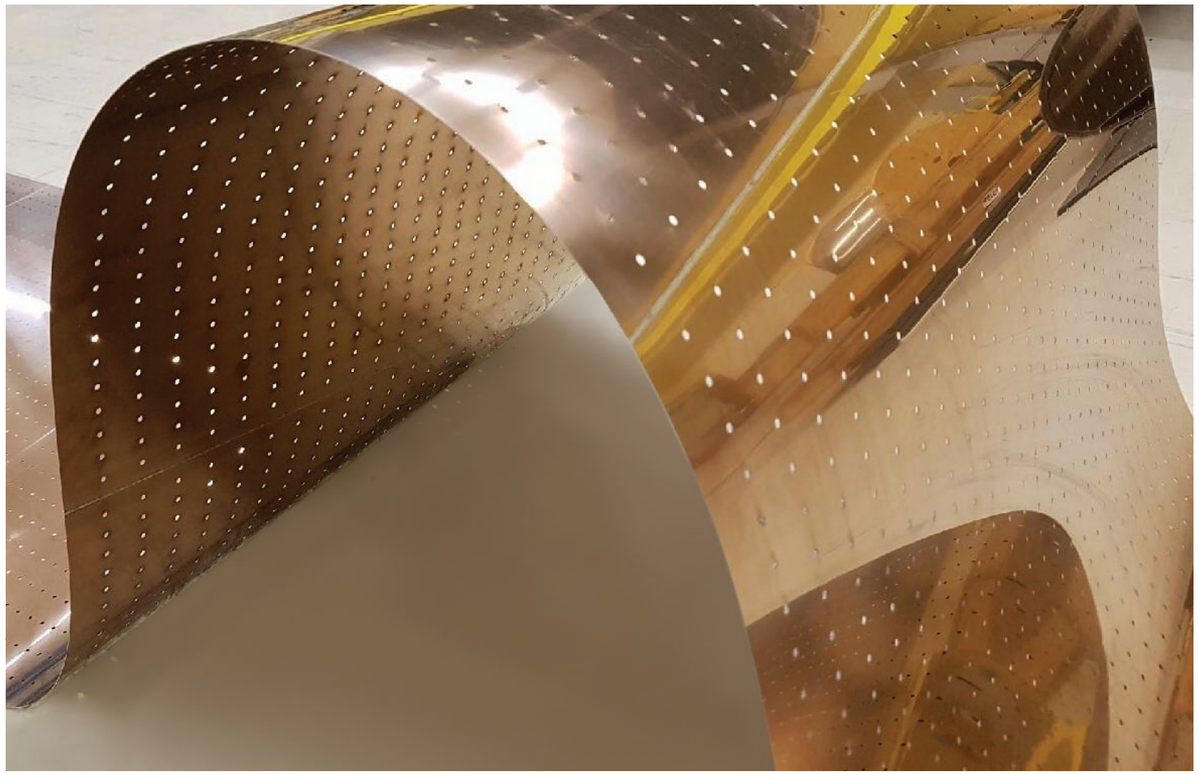
Traditional plastic belts lacked the stability and vibration control required for such a high-speed application, making a new approach necessary.

IPCO precision steel belt solution

Agfa partnered with IPCO to integrate a stainless steel conveyor belt into the SpeedSet 1060. This steel belt was manufactured with perforations for use with a powerful vacuum system, which ensures precise positioning of each sheet as it moves under the print heads.

IPCO steel belts offer several advantages:

- **Unmatched stability**
  Proven to generate up to six times less vibration than plastic belts, ensuring superior print accuracy.
- **High-speed capability**
  Enables speeds of up to 150 m/min without compromising print quality.
- **Consistent precision**
  The belt ensures predictable sheet positioning, crucial for Agfa's high-resolution inkjet technology.
- **Durability and efficiency**
  Stainless steel provides longevity, reducing downtime and maintenance.



Revolutionizing digital packaging printing

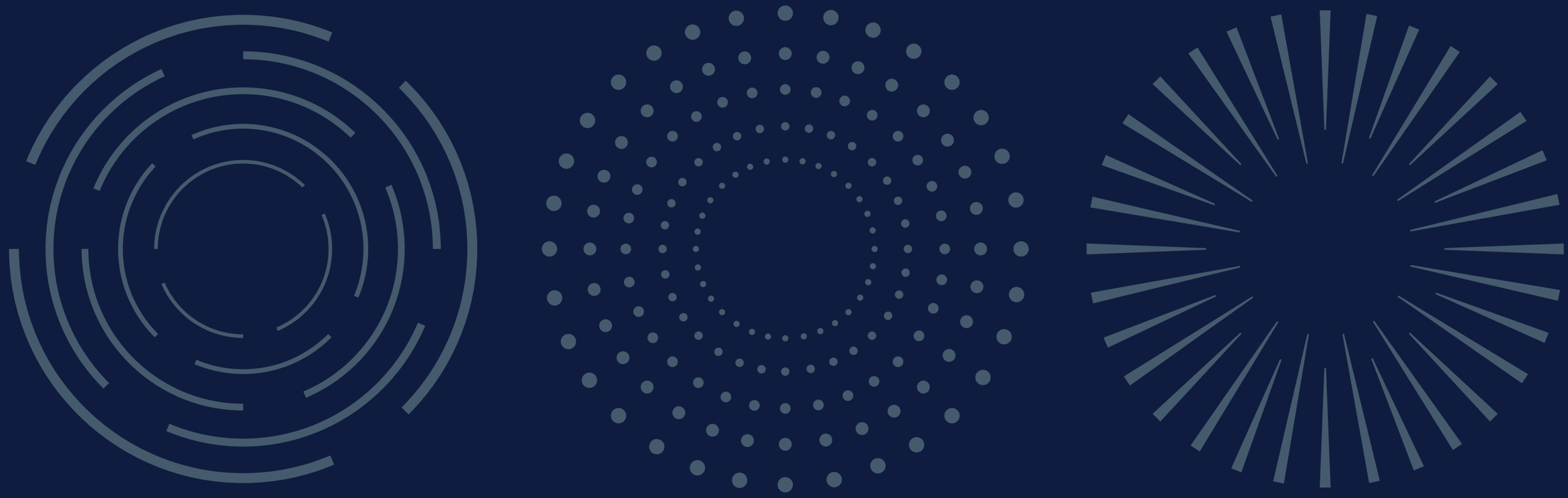
The SpeedSet 1060 inkjet press has revolutionized digital packaging printing, offering speeds of 11,000 B1 sheets per hour – making it the fastest digital packaging press available today. This breakthrough was made possible in part by IPCO's stainless steel conveyor belt, which ensures precise sheet positioning and stability at high speeds.

The SpeedSet 1060 press enables packaging converters to:

- **Increase efficiency** by streamlining workflows and reducing production bottlenecks.
- **Cut setup times**, enabling faster transitions between print jobs and shorter lead times.
- **Minimize material waste** through precise sheet positioning and optimized ink usage, leading to cost savings and sustainability benefits.
- **Offer cost advantages for print runs against offset**, with reduced per-unit costs compared to traditional offset printing.
- **Enhance flexibility** by accommodating a wide range of substrates, from folding cartons to micro-flute materials, making it ideal for diverse packaging needs.

By partnering with IPCO, Agfa has successfully pushed the boundaries of digital print technology, setting a new benchmark for speed and precision in the packaging industry.





IPCO has a long history of delivering advanced technological solutions for various industrial processes. With over 125 years of experience in steel belt and manufacturing equipment, we continuously push the boundaries of innovation.

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info@ipco.com

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