

CASE STORY

Security Printing

Banque de France Chamalières, France

The Banque de France has modernised their banknote printing centre in Chamalières. The bank institute commissioned Hunkeler Systeme AG with the design and installation of the new disposal technology. The previous manual work processes was now adapted to an automatic workflow.



The margin strips are separated in a rotary cutter from the transport air and automatically compressed in a container.

In Chamalières, west of the city of Clermont-Ferrand, the Banque de France prints the banknotes for the country. Just recently, the financial institution has invested in state-of-the-art production technology. The renewed capacities affect the production level with the separation of the printing sheets into the individual banknotes and sorting the banknotes according to defined quality criteria. At the end of the process chain, there is an automatic disposal system, which takes into ac-

count the very strict security regulations affecting the processing of banknotes and bonds.

The Banque de France commissioned Hunkeler Systeme AG with the planning and installation of the entire disposal system. Important for their decision was the compact, space saving components, a one hundred percent integration of mechanical and technical controls and the high-grade/quality automated processes. According to the customer, Hunkeler Systeme AG was the right partner when solutions for demanding and complex tasks are required.

Two separate disposal channels

The automatically controlled workflow replaces a disposal regime which relied on manual work processes. The newly organised process begins with the separation of the printing sheets into the individual requirements on the Cutlink-X-lines, supplied by Koenig & Bauer Banknote Solutions (previously KBA NotaSys). The paper strips which accrue during this separation are disposed of via an extraction and compaction system, which Hunkeler Systeme AG designed specially for this use.

On each Cutlink-X-Line, three suction positions are amalgamated to one duct. This, in turn, connects to a rotary cutter, which separates the paper strips from the transport air and brings them to a newly developed container with pressing equipment. The transport air is generated in negative pressure via two compact extractors HKU 10000, cleaned with jet-filter technology and is returned to the environment dust-free and without odour (active charcoal filter).

Banknotes, whose quality does not attain the defined criteria, are removed from production flow in



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the sorting system and are shredded. An extraction system takes the small paper scraps and compresses them to compact briquettes on a hydraulic press.

For the disposal of the paper strips and those banknotes whose quality is deemed unsatisfactory, there are very strict legal requirements. The system can only begin the shredding process when it has been ascertained that the sum of the individual banknotes corresponds to the delivered total value. Additionally, paper strips and banknotes are to be destroyed separately via their own dedicated channel.

Investment in competitiveness

Thanks to this investment, and according to their own statement, the Banque de France has lowered costs and strengthened its competitiveness.