



**ALLEN CODING**  
A DIVISION OF ITW

# Razor sharp print quality

**The Diagraph IJ4000, a large character inkjet printer from Allen Coding GmbH in Wurzburg, guarantees high quality print, even when marking pulp bales 24/7**



The pulp mill in Stendal, based in Saxony-Anhalt, is the most up to date plant of its kind in Europe. Here, the mill, which is a subsidiary of the Mercer International Group (Canada) produces high quality, long fibre wood pulp. The pulp is the essential element for such every day products as tissues and printing paper. Mercer Stendal employs 440 people. Sales in 2017 were more than 400 million euros. Every year about 680,000 tonnes of pulp are produced.



In 2017, when the previous printing systems became obsolete, new investment in a large character ink jet printer became an immediate priority at the Stendal plant. It was imperative that the new printer should meet several important requirements.

Mercer Stendal wanted a far higher print quality to exceed that given by its predecessor model. Also, they needed a high resolution printed image with a height of at least 10 centimetres. The printer also had to be connected to the existing plant control system. To ensure the systems ran smoothly, the Allen Coding team met up with Valmet, (who supplied the mill's production software) in Sweden in 2017. There, all the system connections were programmed and tested in advance.



Axel Wabersky, Head of Maintenance, summed up their needs: “We had to have a sharp print quality and a specific print height which meant the print on the pulp bale had to be absolutely precise. Another important factor was the minimum distance between the object to be printed and the printer.”

Testing began in February 2017 and following a successful trial, two large character printers with four printheads, were put into operation on the two bale lines in October 2017. “The Allen Coding service had already convinced us during the test run. They have proved themselves as a company throughout the trials,” added Axel Wabersky.

The high-resolution LCIJ printer from the Würzburg-based company, Allen Coding GmbH, offers industry-leading print consistency to customers. Not only does it produce high quality printing of barcodes, logos and text but these can also be quickly changed without any machine down-time.



#### **Lower acquisition costs and saves time over 24-hour operation.**

For Mercer Stendal, since the changeover, there have been clear technical and financial benefits. On the printing side, a high-resolution image is possible, even on rough and porous surfaces. Even with a print throw distance of 10 millimetres or more, a good print can be created with a height of 100 millimetres, using a single printhead.

The new investment has also lead to significant cost-savings on consumables. According to the pulp mill, ink consumption has dropped by nearly 50% since the IJ4000 was introduced.



The IJ4000 has a unique central ink delivery system which can supply up to four printheads, simultaneously. The ink can be replaced when the printer is running, thus reducing machine down-time.

There is also reduced maintenance as the IJ4000 has an automatic self-cleaning nozzle that saves time. The previous machine had to be stopped each time it needed to be cleaned, which took several minutes.

## Ink Handling Made Easy

For Timo Podymski, a member of the production team, there are other advantages.

“The ink bottles of the IJ4000 printer contain only 500 millilitres so it's much easier to change than the old 20 litre barrel on the previous model.”

The IJ4000 supplies two printheads with ink at Mercer Stendal, on their production line, which print the pulp bales alternately from right to left. Thus, a total of 8000 bales per day are marked on two lines.

Axel Wabersky sums up the advantages of the installed solution: “Allen Coding has the best combination of price, performance and quality and offers the best customer service.”



## A Short Profile of Allen Coding – June 2018

The present company Allen Coding GmbH, was founded in 1989 as Allen Codiergerate GmbH and is based in Würzburg. In 2010, the US company ITW (Illinois Tool Works) based in Glenview, Illinois acquired the company. Today, Allen Coding is part of ITW's Marking and Coding Group with sister companies in the US, South America and Asia. Currently, the company has 50 employees at its headquarters in Würzburg and 10 employees in the UK branch, based in Stevenage, north of London.

The company's wide offering includes sophisticated printing systems and software solutions in hot stamping, thermal transfer and inkjet. The product offering focuses on primary marking (directly on the product) and secondary marking (on the outer box or packaging); they are marked for traceability and health and safety reasons.

The devices are developed and produced at the company's headquarters in Würzburg. The product portfolio is further enhanced by printing systems from Hitachi and the US sister company, Diagraph.

The company sees its advantages not only in terms of its extensive product portfolio, but also its ability to offer training both inhouse or onsite. It provides customers with a single source for printing systems, accessories and consumables through its company networks. Being true to the company motto, “We mark your products”, Allen Coding is a reliable partner for anyone who needs a modern printing and coding solution.



**ALLEN CODING**  
A DIVISION OF ITW

### Germany

Allen Coding GmbH  
Friedrich-Bergius-Ring 30  
D-97076 Würzburg  
Tel.: +49 (0) 931 25076-0

### United Kingdom

ITW  
Unit 9, Gateway 1000,  
Whittle Way, Arlington, Business Park,  
Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 2FP  
Tel.: +44 (0) 1438347 770

[www.AllenCoding.com](http://www.AllenCoding.com)

