

## “Time to take up the Debate Again” Changing Market for Paper Recycling – INGEDE Symposium in Munich



INGEDE Symposium in Munich - Panel Session

“For several years, the graphical paper industry has been experiencing a substantial drop in consumption”, Michael Söffge stated in his keynote speech on the occasion of INGEDE’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Munich. Söffge, General Manager of Steinbeis Holding, sees growth currently only in the board and packaging segment. “This will not only change our industry, but also our paper for recycling.” With the utilisation rate of paper for recycling going up from 38 to 51 percent in Europe within the last 25 years, and in Germany from 48 to 71 percent, one would expect a significant increase of paper for recycling used for the production of graphical paper. Instead, “the most significant amount is used for the production of packaging paper and board”. With the political discussion about mineral oil migrating into food from packaging, the debate about separate collection of paper and board has been “reignited”, Söffge says. He also warned that “sooner or later digital printing will pose the same threat to deinkers as flexographic printing did 25 years ago”. Asking for “intelligence

and cooperation, he criticised the “alarming ignorance of certain individuals of the paper chain who are trying to negate scientific insights with power or money”.

### What is new in digital print deinking?

HP recently again claimed deinkability of their Indigo prints. The claim is based on pilot plant and laboratory results but not on mill experiences. INGEDE’s Axel Fischer addressed that none of the members’ deinking mills is willing to accept Indigo overprint as raw material due to the bad experiences in the past. There is no indication in HP’s recent communication that the intrinsic properties of the prints have changed.

The situation is different with inkjet, Fischer explained. Here new approaches have been developed, showing promising results in lab experiments. Still, the high volumes such as foreign newspapers are still produced the cheapest way possible – which is dye-based inks on uncoated paper, acting

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

26–27 Mar 2014

INGEDE working group  
Paper for Recycling  
Dordrecht, the Netherlands

2–3 Apr 2014

bvse 17. Internationaler  
Altpapiertag  
Düsseldorf, Germany

7 Apr 2014

INGEDE Project 144 14  
INGEDE-DPDA Project 2,  
Ink Study  
Munich, Germany

13–14 May 2014

PTS–CTP Deinking Symposium  
Munich, Germany

20–21 May 2014

INGEDE working group  
Deinking Process  
Kriebstein, Germany

24–26 Jun 2014

Zellcheming Expo  
Frankfurt a.M./Germany

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like a sponge full of soluble ink and impeding all brightness gains in the paper recycling process. This is especially the case for the Kodak Versamark VL4200 presses that have recently also been installed in Rome, Milan and Berlin to produce newspapers such as the German BILD and DIE WELT in Italy. Two more Versamark presses have already been announced for Frankfurt and Munich, with their high productivity about to challenge newsprint mills in Southern Germany.

The revision of the EN 643 standard, the "European list of standard grades of paper and board for recycling", has been one of the major achievements in the last year, INGEDE's chairman Ulrich Höke pointed out. The official documents of CEN and the National standardisation bodies should be available in Feb 2014. As this standard will be only commercially available at a considerable price, CEPI has

issued a guidance document that is currently available in English, French and Portuguese. A German version will be prepared by VDP and GesPaRec after publication of EN 643. All these documents will be accessible through the CEPI website, there is also an overview with all relevant links including a video by CEPI on INGEDE's website.

The most relevant changes in the new standard, Höke explained, are a better structure as well as more and clearer definitions. All grades now have maximum levels of non-paper components and total unwanted material, also list of prohibited material (with zero tolerance) has been added. Most relevant for the deinkers are the specific requirements for the grades intended for deinking: Deinkability is now required according to the ERPC Scorecard, the age of newspapers will be checked and certain minimum contents for old newspapers and magazines have now been fixed. Data about the incoming quality of paper at the mills have sig-

nificantly supported the discussion e. g. about moisture and age of the paper delivered for recycling. All in all, an increased awareness and consideration of deinkability in the paper value chain can be seen. This includes the recognition of the relevant competent bodies for ecolabels, who more and more include recyclability into the necessary criteria.

### EU Administration to get "Back on Track"

Before 1975, "waste was simply an issue of safe disposal". Jori Ringman of CEPI paralleled the development from "waste paper" to "paper for recycling" with the development of INGEDE and CEPI. He warned that the "circular economy" should not become just a "global economy" - the result would be "exporting pollution by promoting recycling in regions with lower environmental standards, and importing unemployment as EU-based producers would suffer in competition." Ringman

introduced a new campaign aimed at pushing the EU administration "back on track": The campaign named "Basta!", supported by a video clip on YouTube, on the occasion of the European election this year, is "calling for the EU to put the manufacturing industry at the heart of the European economy", opposing constant changes in regulations that mean a risk for the industry in Europe, demanding to "free us from red tape". Europeans have to carry the burden of environmental impacts alone, Ringman says, e. g. high gas prices are damaging European companies, and competitiveness and internal market deserve the same attention as environment and safety. Therefore CEPI asks politics to "rethink existing policies" in order to make the European industry more competitive, not only the paper industry.

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*Truth or fiction? The UK government considers comingled collection as an option, explains Barry Read of PITA (center), as long as it is sorted to a high-quality. Reality has made UK deinking paper mills to install their own sorting plants. Read contributed to the "Collection Panel" at INGEDE's symposium, together with - left to right - Klaus Große (Stora Enso Sachsen), Stefan Endras (Utzenstorf Papier, Switzerland), David Barrio (Aspapel, Spain) and Josef Augusta (Austria Papier Recycling). Große illustrated how, different than in the UK, separately handled newspapers and magazines, collected under control of a monitored (bring) system, can be a contamination-free valuable resource.*

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Ulrich Höke tapping a keg

This year, INGEDE celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To celebrate this birthday the members met in the evening for a common dinner. Ulrich Höke, in his



INGEDE Member Symposium

function as INGEDE chairman had the pleasure to tap a keg of Bavarian beer. He did a good job and soon everybody was provided with a glass of fresh beer. The INGEDE member symposium, that was held the next day had a quite good response. The members dis-

cussed more in detail INGEDE topics and defined together targets for the INGEDE work in 2014. After lunch at the General Assembly the INGEDE finances 2013 and the budget 2014 were on the agenda.

Axel Fischer, Marion Klabunde

## Entry Inspection Training - new INGEDE member service

INGEDE now offers a training for entry inspection of paper for recycling. It is based on the relevant INGDE Methods including the draft of INGEDE Method 18. The first training performed by Andreas Faul and Christian Trieb is already successfully realised at the Papier- und Kartonfabrik Varel in mid of January. The training is split in a theoretical and

a practical part. In Varel we discussed about deinkability in general, the reforms in EN 643 and the INGEDE Methods 7,8,14 and 18 draft version. The practical part started with the distinction of printing technologies at different printed samples. Afterwards we visited the storage of the paper for recycling and analysed the composition of paper bales.

If you are interested in a training course for your paper mill please contact the INGEDE Office. For further development, all information to improve and complete the draft of INGDE Method 18 are welcome. Please request the latest version from office@ingede.org. The training and the method is available for members only.

Christian Trieb



Photos: Christian Trieb, entry inspection training at Papier- und Kartonfabrik Varel