



## **NELA acquires M&A Pass-System GmbH**

**Lahr/Burscheid (Germany) – Wednesday, May 07, 2008 – With an ‘Asset Acquisition’, NELA acquired M+A Pass-System GmbH. Both companies are manufacturers of equipment for the pre-press industry.**

While NELA is active in the newspaper as well as in the commercial web and sheetfed markets, M+A has specialized in automatic register punching, sheering and bending systems for offset plates for the web market, focusing on high-quality and high-volume printers in Europe.

“The acquisition is a great chance to offer our customers even better and more comprehensive services,” comments Frank Neumeister, General Manager of NELA Germany. “The trend towards even larger plate formats on the new printing presses as for example the GOSS Sunday 5000 or the 96-page MAN Lithoman, which will be presented at drupa, also requires increased automation of plate production.”

Both companies have a wealth of experience in the commercial web market, with Ronald Metje (previous 2<sup>nd</sup> generation president of M+A) contributing more than 30 years of M+A expert knowledge to the merger. As the new NELA Sales Manager Commercial Web, Mr. Metje will continue to counsel national and international customers in the area of system solutions for the pre-press area.

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008, the municipal court of Cologne had decided to institute insolvency proceedings against M&A Pass-System GmbH. All operations from the M&A facilities in Burscheid and Leichlingen (Germany) will be transferred to Lahr (Germany) where the NELA corporate headquarters are located. Customer service and operations are guaranteed to be continued.

For NELA, this is the latest in a series of acquisitions in the past several years. Similar to the related business field of CTP and printing plate manufacturers, the consolidation process continues in the pre-press market. NELA acquired Ternes in 2000, Western Lithotech (except the plate production) in 2004, Stoesser in 2007 and now M&A in 2008.

**About NELA:** The NELA group, consisting of Brüder Neumeister GmbH (NELA Germany), NELA USA, Inc. and NELA Asia forms the largest register and pre-press automation company in the printing industry. Register systems include in-line punch and bend systems for newspaper and commercial printing, as well as plate automation and conveying systems. With more than 1,400 vision punch/bender systems installed worldwide, NELA is the leading technologist and state of the art manufacturer in plate automation and register systems in the world.

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