



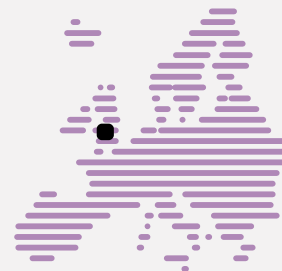
▲ High contrast codes on electrical cabling



PP Control

Makes connection with Markem-Imaje

One of the world's largest and most respected suppliers of electrical control systems, cable harnesses and sub-contract manufacturing solutions, PP Control & Automation has installed two Markem-Imaje continuous inkjet printers, to print codes on the electrical cabling which the company installs in a wide variety of machinery and other applications.



Walsall, West Midlands / **UK**

Founded in **1917**

200+ employees

Turnover of **£25m** per year

Global machine tool manufacturer operating in **power & distribution, energy, food, medical** and **packaging**

Best Factory in the UK, Best SME, Best Electrical Plant **awards**



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PP Control: guaranteed high-quality build



“The print quality has to be perfect. Codes have to be clear, readable and precise. We’re lucky to have printers from Markem-Imaje that do the job and do it 100%, perfectly.”

◀ **Ken Scott**, Total Productive Maintenance Manager (PP Control & Automation)



▲ PP Control's Schleuniger cut and strip machine integrates two Markem-Imaje inkjet printers

An award-winning provider of strategic outsourcing solutions to many of the most successful and respected machinery builders worldwide, today PP Control & Automation is the largest independent supplier of control and automation solutions in Europe. PP Control & Automation's manufacturing facility in Walsall, West Midlands, UK, covers over 5,500 m². Their recent investment of more than £1 million in the latest

automation for cable preparation, enables the company to offer industry leading quality for electrical inter-connectivity and associated reliability for its customers. Ken Scott, Total Productive Maintenance Manager, who oversees daily operations at PP Control & Automation, said: “To maximise our production capability and to maintain PP Control's reputation for best-in-class build quality, we needed a coding and marking

partner with printers that guaranteed the same high-quality levels.” PP Control needed a solution which was compatible with their Schleuniger Power Strip equipment, which would be easy to use, and which would allow operators to monitor and diagnose any faults. The ability to print high contrast codes which could be read quickly and easily by staff assembling cable looms was also particularly important. Taking advantage of

the Markem-Imaje SMILE package, PP Control & Automation selected two inkjet printers for their reliability, high build quality and printing capabilities: the 9450 E and the 9450 Ec.





Markem-Imaje 9450: built to a high standard

“We decided to install two Markem-Imaje printers both of which were selected for their reliability, the easy to use touch screen interface and their low use of consumables,” explained Ken Scott. White and black inks are used depending on the colour of the cable. The majority of cables are grey, so a black ink is ideal. On any other cable, a white ink provides high contrast codes and does not fade. Every cable is coded on both sides, so that the person building the looms can see the code and place the cable exactly where it needs to go first time. “Poor quality or illegible codes could result in faulty machinery and would impact negatively on efficiency,” Ken continued. Both printers require minimal maintenance which reduces unnecessary downtime. As part

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◀ Every cable is inkjet coded on both sides to help operators build the looms

of the SMILE package, which incorporates a bespoke service package and removes the need for capital expenditure, Markem-Imaje services the 9450 E once a year and the 9450 Ec contrast printer, twice a year. “Both printers also reduce the cleaning and maintenance requirements, which means operators have more time to focus on the job they are there to do rather than maintaining the equipment. We used to have to clean the printheads every day, there is no need to do so with the new printers – the printheads clean themselves when we shut down. The build quality of the Markem-Imaje printers is also excellent – when you look inside everything is built to a high standard including the printheads. Everything is absolutely perfect,” Ken concluded.

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PP Control & Automation wanted to integrate easy-to-use, reliable coding systems into their Schleuniger cut and strip machine. They found the solution with two Markem-Imaje continuous inkjet printers: a 9450 E to code their grey cables with black ink and a 9450 Ec to code their black cables with white ink. Both printers are compatible with PP Control’s Schleuniger system through a specific software developed by Markem-Imaje.



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