Border control

AS CROSS-BORDER MAIL CONTINUES TO RISE, THERE IS AN INCREASING NEED FOR A FULLY AUTOMATED MAIL PROCESSING SYSTEM TO HANDLE THE VARIOUS REQUIREMENTS THAT COME WITH OVERSEAS CONSIGNMENTS

Whether it is packages, letters, catalogues or magazines, cross-border mail volumes are on the rise. The increase in mailpieces travelling overseas and across borders has proven to be a growing revenue source for posts, but it has also proven to be challenging for mail processors mainly due to the fact that different countries have different mail classifications, rates, and labelling and reporting requirements. To help capture this new revenue without adding more labour costs, ID Mail Systems has developed a family of products with solutions to turn these challenging requirements into one simple process.

The Dispatcher MX and the Dispatcher Max are systems designed for processing large volumes of cross-border mail with automatic and manual feeding, imaging, OCR and BCR reading, weighing, format detection, labelling, printing, sorting and data reporting capabilities – all in a single pass. Previous methods were done by hand or by assorted partial automation solutions. However, these were costly and time consuming. Sorting cross-border mail by hand was a labour-intensive process. It involved the operator to either memorise which delivery partner would provide the lowest cost for shipping the mailpiece, or the operator would have to look it up for each individual piece.

Dispatcher MX Since the savings differ depending on the country of destination and/or weight (even up to .01 of an ounce), a manual approach to sorting the mail would require simple routing matrices. With the Dispatcher MX, a completely automated system, the sorting matrices can be as complex as necessary, which means more savings, creating higher profits. The software is programmed to sort in real time

ID Mail's Dispatcher MX at Post Denmark in Copenhagen, Denmark

and is configured with all the destinations, formats and delivery routes.

The Dispatcher MX sorts the mailpiece to the bin designated to the delivery partner with the highest savings, and can be equipped with up to 150 bin locations. Therefore, the Dispatcher MX not only provides a faster way to save on postage savings and allows for more mail to be processed, but also saves on labour costs.

Dispatcher Max The Dispatcher MX and Max can both process up to 10,000 pieces of mail per hour, however, the MX handles thin postcards to packets up to 30mm thick. Meanwhile, the Max can process a wider range of mail types, including pieces up to 40mm thick, 400mm long, 300mm wide and a maximum weight of 3,000g.

The materials of the mailpieces used on the Dispatcher Max can be more varied as well. Not only does it sort standard paper envelopes, but also tyvek, cardboard, giftwrapped packages, lumpy items, and extremely small items down to 60 x 80mm in size. Mailpieces can be sorted by weight, size and location, depending on the country, to achieve ultimate savings.

Variety of benefits The Dispatcher MX is equipped with a 12in (305mm) field-of-view camera with an increased depth of field that ensures the system's imaging and coding capabilities cover the widest spectrum of mail sizes. The OCR coding software provides precise address and barcode recognition to process each postal item correctly.

Virtually any printing task can be accommodated, including mail indicia or franking, destination coding (1D barcodes and 2D barcodes), indicia, logos, addresses, tracking numbers and endorsements. The labeller can be used to cover domestic indicia, or to print on busy backgrounds or plastic envelopes. Following printing, pieces are sorted to the ergonomically designed multi-tiered TL3 modules or single-tiered SL3 bins according to postal code, country or other destination.

Versatile solutions ID Mail equips each machine with command/control software to ensure each mailpiece is accounted for and that it reaches its intended bin.

The software is not just designed for cross-border mail, but domestic mail sorting too. The software can handle domestic mail to postal code or delivery point barcode using house number, street name, city and postal code, with predefined

Below and left: The Dispatcher Max key features include sorting bins with bin full detection and LED display, delay module with 0-30 second delay configuration and multiple OCR and overseas video encoding

address databases. It is also designed for custom-built databases using ID Mail's flexible coding engine.

Private delivery couriers can also benefit from the system's capabilities for processing mail. These capabilities include assigning a track and trace barcode, sorting for delivery routes, and building a delivery manifest and customer billing data.

The Dispatcher MX and the Max are highly versatile machines with many different capabilities. The software on both machines can easily be configured and customised for applications to any sorting requirements to maximise savings for postal organisations worldwide. ■