

Printing in Hong Kong & China

Leo Paper Group

Several big projects are under way to shape Leo Paper's future at the outset of its 35th anniversary, with transforming and upgrading to become an Industry 4.0 smart manufacturer the main goal.

"Strengthening and enhancing new and re-engineered processes over the next two years is one of our key corporate policies," says director Alvin Lai, pointing out that "upgrading our manpower and operational management will enable our personnel to move away from unnecessary and non-value-added daily processes to value-creating tasks to meet future development needs."

This year also marks Leo Paper's 10th year of lean implementation and reform strategy. "Given the market pressures and challenges, we have prioritized improving efficiencies, minimizing waste, and reducing labor dependence to maintain our competitiveness," adds Lai, noting that Leo Paper is a lean manufacturing pioneer in China's printing industry. "It builds the foundation for us to upgrade current manufacturing operations to Industry 4.0, where the tools will further help us to realize our lean philosophy." TPM+E (total productive maintenance plus efficiency), says Lai, "is essential to supporting our long-term production automation, capacity, and productivity enhancement goals."

By aligning Made in China 2025 (a government-driven plan to comprehensively upgrade the country's industries) with Germany's Industry 4.0 initiatives, Leo Paper has been connecting machines, processes, data, and people to optimize overall production. "Real-time data management can support smart manufacturing, enabling rapid responses to dynamic changes and decision-making that are based on scientific and objective information sources," adds Lai, whose team is working on smart logistics, the building block of Industry 4.0. "With further R&D and adoption of new equipment such as robots and automated guided vehicles, we



(L. to r.) Alvin Lai, Henry Woo, and Andy Lau of Leo Paper Group

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

The 2017 edition is the ninth collaboration between Leo Paper and Ripley Entertainment. "Every year, our client asks for a unique and eye-catching cover design, and we deliver," says general manager for sales Andy Lau, whose team was involved in the product development process from the beginning. "This allows us to provide innovative ideas and value-added suggestions to speed up the design and development stages," Lau says. "We suggested mixing and matching LeoTouch secondary processes—which are developed in-house and ready for customization—to meet Ripley's specific needs. Our team also proactively sourced alternative foil patterns to achieve more outstanding effects, and reworked the full-color graphic into a scintillating 3-D cover using our in-house lenticular process."



aim to achieve unmanned logistics in the long run."

At the upcoming Frankfurt fair, Leo will launch Magic Paper World, "a host of unique offerings to make paper products more inspiring and engaging through our innovation, new technologies, and paper engineering expertise," says Henry Woo, general manager of the company's OEM business department. Licensed-character Rody (accompanied by LeoTouch secondary processes for case-bound books) will also make its debut at the fair. "Rody will inspire clients with ideas on mixing-and-matching of innovative processes to characters of their own or from their licensed partners," Woo adds. "Or they can obtain the right to use Rody in their markets."

In order to achieve its goals and growth in the coming years, supply chain collaboration is all-important, Lai says: "Sustainable growth needs win-win-win results for clients, Leo Paper, and suppliers. Complex and fast-changing market situations call for strengthened collaboration among partners because individual strength alone, no matter how secure, is simply not enough."