

Printing in Hong Kong & China

Leo Paper

Thanks to long-term strategic corporate planning and business development needs, Leo Paper opened a new factory (for roughly 1,000 workers) in Hunan Province last year. “We simply do not see any easing up on labor pressures—including tight supply and high wages—in Guangdong Province in the near future,” says director Alvin Lai. “Setting up a new factory in Hunan, which is the province north of Guangdong, makes perfect sense. Having factories in different locations to meet different product needs is a strategic move that also supports our transformation goal of technology-based smart operations.”

Last year, Lai and his team kick-started a new initiative, Factory Next, to bring about real-time, data-driven production operations and new applications in manpower and technology. “The main goal is to increase operational efficiencies and enhance our agility in meeting fast-changing market and client needs,” he says. “The groundwork commenced when we implemented lean manufacturing and management processes back in 2007. The ensuing reengineering of our business process had simplified complex and inefficient workflows, standardized processes, and improved efficiencies. Now, as we embark on the next phase in our manufacturing journey, we are more convinced than ever that we are on the right track toward a smarter and more sustainable future in our business.”

Deskilling workers is also taking place in the factory. “This is the result of long-term manpower planning and concerns over occupational health,” Lai says. “Now that our skilled workers are nearing retirement age, we are working to simplify their labor-intensive tasks by means of automation. This reduces the workload on existing workers, making it a win-win proposition in terms of occupational health and labor retention. At the same time, certain tasks are becoming data-driven and require fewer skills under smart manufacturing.”



L. to r.: Henry Woo, Andy Lau, and Alvin Lai of Leo Paper

Meanwhile, one innovative offering from its LeoTouch secondary processes is set to provide book covers with an even stronger visual impact. “Our multilayer and multidimensional embossing process will make a book stand out on the shelf,” says Henry Woo, general manager of the OEM business department. “It will help our clients to achieve market competitiveness and product differentiation—the two areas crucial to their bottom line.”

Woo’s team has seen significant growth in the children’s book business in recent months. “We saw growth of more than 30% in board book orders in the first half of 2018 compared to the same period in the previous year,” he notes.

Leo Paper’s in-house experts have also successfully introduced three new eco-friendly types of materials for silk-screen varnishing, UV curing, and adhesive cleaning that further enhance its green manufacturing capabilities.

A Sampler of Outstanding Projects



Redefining Complexity

Beauty and the Beast, praised as “an engineering wonder” by the Printing Industries of America, won three Benny awards at the 2017 Premier Print Awards and later swept the top prizes at both the Gold Ink and

China Print Awards. “Our product engineering team collaborated closely with our client, Ronshin Group, right from the start and was inspired by the traditional Chinese lantern in creating this 360-degree pop-up,” says Andy Lau, general manager for sales at Leo Paper. “Several Chinese cultural elements—intricate die cutting and lighting effects, for instance—were added to this beloved Disney classic. The result was a harmonious East/West blend of product that is targeted at the domestic Chinese market. Extensive application of LeoTouch secondary processes further enhanced the value of this book and increased its appeal for children and parents alike.”