Confidential waste destruction – being secure and savvy



When handling sensitive documentation, compliance is the over-riding factor for any responsible business. But, as security printing specialist Smith & Ouzman discovered, it is possible to turn a confidential waste destruction system into an efficient recycling operation too.

Overview

Company: Smith & Ouzman
Shredder: UNTHA RS40
Input Material: Confidential documents
Output / Goal: DIN level 3 waste destruction

Eastbourne-based Smith & Ouzman has been providing bespoke security printing services since 1845. The independently-owned family business helps to produce an array of sensitive documentation including financial paperwork, ballot papers, examination certificates and local currency.

With such extensive experience in this specialist field, the organisation is no stranger to the stringent data protection laws that govern the sector – the robust destruction of confidential documents is as important as the compliant printing, storage and handling of these materials.

Committed to providing clients with utmost data protection reassurances, and dedicated to fulfilling industry obligations set out by the European DIN security standard, Smith & Ouzman has been shredding confidential waste on site for some time. In fact, for absolute peace of mind, all waste paper handled by the company is shredded, whether it contains sensitive information or not.

The company's previous shredder had continued to buckle under the pressures of the firm's busy operation. When the unreliable machine finally failed beyond repair, it seemed timely to invest in more robust, sophisticated technology capable of being a valuable asset for years to come.

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UNTHA
shredding technology





The team sought:

- A robust, larger capacity shredder capable of managing the strain of high throughput shredding
- Guaranteed precise particle sizing, to ensure effective data destruction to DIN level 3 requirements
- Product consistency for maximum recycling potential
- In-built machine reliability and ease of maintenance to prevent future breakdowns and operational disruption.

Unsure where to begin the search, Smith & Ouzman turned to Impact Air Systems, who were devising a new waste extraction solution for the Eastbourne site. They recommended industrial shredder manufacturer UNTHA UK.

The team was impressed with UNTHA UK's proven experience in this niche field, the shredder's specially designed hard-wearing cutters with a service life of over 3,000 hours, and self-cleaning contra shears which reduce the level of ongoing maintenance required.

The high torque, slow speed operation of the RS40 also promised to carefully shred the waste, without destroying the material fibres, which is especially important when processing paper for recycling.

Now, a fully automatic and compact packaged system designed by Impact Air, feeds the RS40 using a bin tipper and feed conveyor. This automatically regulates the amount of material entering the shredder, ensuring reliable non-stop operation without any human involvement. A pneumatic air conveying system then transfers the shredded material to a compactor, where it is collected for recycling.

"The RS40 is exceeding our expectations. The shredder takes everything in its stride and is certainly 'man enough' for this tough job.

Having increased our shredding capacity – filling a 26.7m compactor bin at least once a week – we've transformed our waste handling areas. With no back-log of waste it is much tidier, and the process is 80% more time efficient which frees up operators' time to undertake other jobs. We're also recycling more which aligns with our ISO14001 environmental commitment and provides a steady revenue stream. This, coupled with the lower whole life running costs of the shredder, will deliver financial benefits we were not previously experiencing."

Phil Ouzman, Managing Director

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