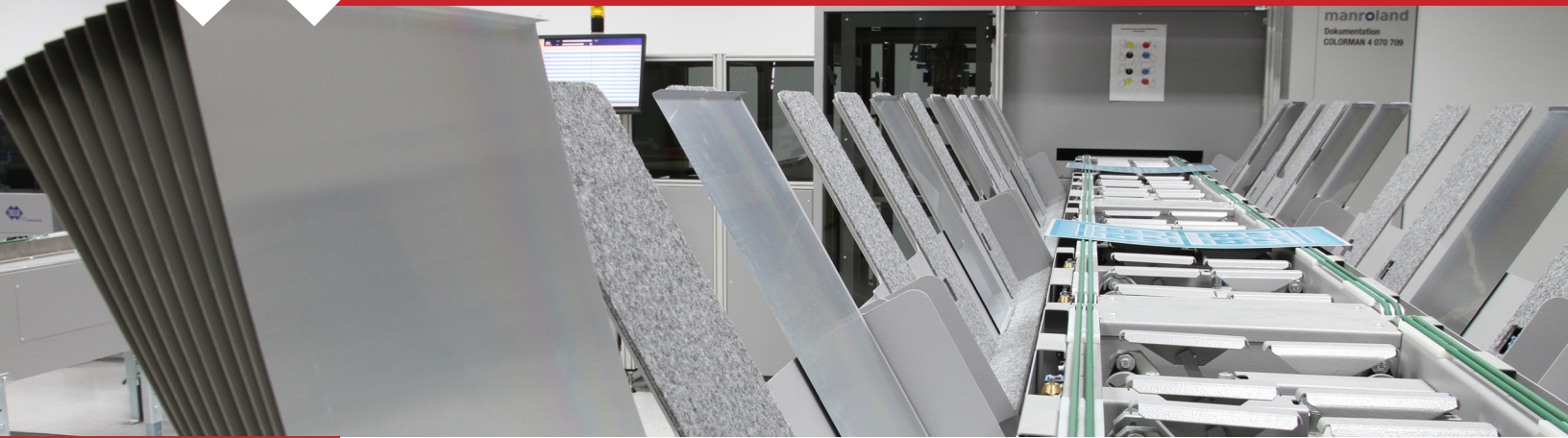




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**NELA** Automation solutions

# NELA Plate Sorting Software

## Pre-press automation solutions

The rapid development of printing presses with respect to capacity, automation and speed, as well as the continuously growing pressure to reduce costs, is constantly challenging the established plate making processes. With editorial deadlines being further extended, large quantities of plates often have to be imaged and prepared in shorter time periods. Which plates are required when, is finally determined by the printing press, based on the production plan.

As a pre-press automation specialist, NELA offers solutions for the just-in-time supply of press-ready plates right at the time and in the sequence, in which they are needed. Manual plate handling is – as a consequence – widely eliminated or reduced to a minimum. Our just-in-time concepts not only increase efficiency and quality, they even help reduce the cost of plate handling significantly. Three automation stages are available for different requirements.

## NELA NPS Static Sorting

**NELA NPS** is the ideal solution for small and medium plate volumes. Production data is encoded in a barcode, which is imaged on the printing plates, outside of the image area. This information is read and enables the NELA system to place the right plates into the correct stacker positions. Possible criteria for sorting are product, color, or press unit/cylinder. For example, all plates that are dedicated for one press cylinder can be placed together into one stacker bin. Individual sorting profiles can be generated for different applications.





## NELA NPS<sup>smart</sup> Plate sorting according to press position

NELA NPS<sup>smart</sup> is an extension of the proven NELA NPS-software and offers additional functions, such as:

- Control of job completeness
- Visualization of sorter bin assignment on a large screen
- Alternated sorting between "plate stations"; static sorting within a "plate station"

With NPS<sup>smart</sup>, plates are not statically assigned to one specific sorter bin, but the software independently assigns free bins to certain plates. Typically, all sorter bins containing plates belonging to the same print job are pooled to one "plate station".

The size and number of stations – and for the total number of sorter bins – depends on

- the plate volume
- the capacity of the CtP lines
- the press configuration, and
- the structure of print jobs.

To identify the plates, all information that is relevant for plate sorting must be included in the imaged barcode, for example job-ID (product/edition), plate-ID, press location (tower/cylinder/zone/position), number of plates per job, etc.

### Your benefits in the plate production:

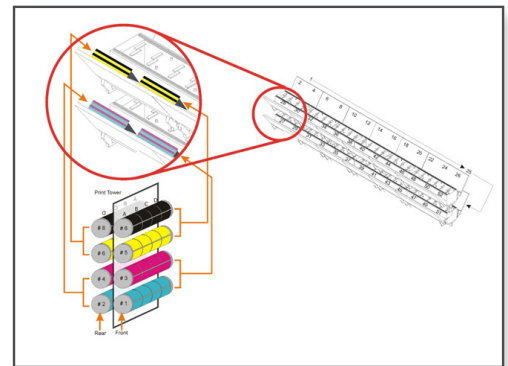
- Specification of plate sorter according to your individual plate volumes and production peaks
- Provision of plates for different print jobs, plates are therefore available just-in-time when needed on the press
- Visualization of sorter bin assignment on large monitor for easy locating of plates, including control of job completeness

## NELA PlateFlow Intelligent plate sorting

The NELA PlateFlow software offers comprehensive automation options, up to the direct connection to the CtP-workflow or the production planning software. Sorting criteria do not have to be encoded in the barcode any more, however, they will be collected for each plate from the connected system. The NELA system knows exactly which plates are needed when, where, and for which job. NELA can even trigger the next job for imaging, as soon as the required number or sorter bins is available.

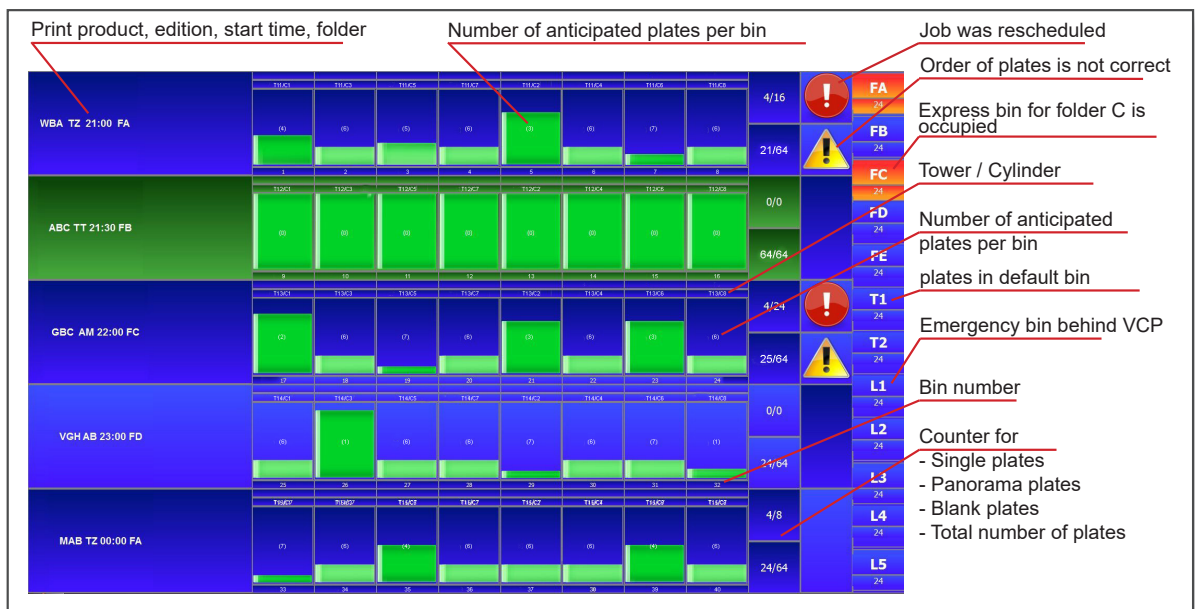
### Your benefits in the plate production:

- Communication with workflow or production planning system (permanent synchronisation)
- Complete dynamization of sorter saves sorter bins and space
- Visualization on large monitor including control of completeness and listing of remakes



Above: All plates dedicated to one press cylinder are in the same sorter bin. The number of plates per bin depends on the press type and varies between 8 and 12 plates, which can easily be collected in one stack.

With PlateFlow the sorter bins are allocated in a fully dynamic way, so that free stacker bins are assigned to the next print job immediately. Fewer stacker bins are required with this space-saving sorting method. The sorter bin assignment is shown on a large monitor, and completeness of print jobs is automatically controlled. The operator can view each job at any time and see, if all the required plates are available.



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