



Allied Reliability Group is a global family of companies comprised of best-in-industry maintenance, reliability and operational consulting and services, training, staffing and integrated software solutions servicing the industrial and manufacturing sector. The company helps businesses maximize the Return on Asset Reliability through optimizing asset utilization at the lowest possible cost.

The 16-year-old company has reliability engineers and other experts deployed at locations across 40 U.S. states and in five countries. The company is well known for the quality of services it offers, including reliability management and comprehensive training and personnel services for industrial operations. Allied Reliability's in-plant printing facility, based in the company's Charleston, S.C., headquarters, supports those activities with its digital print production and fulfillment operation.

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Fiery Workflow Suite Drives Higher Productivity and Quality at Allied Reliability Group In-plant Facility

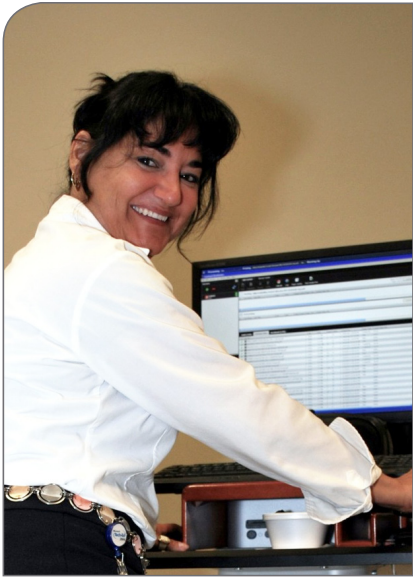
Challenge:

Growing demand for training and marketing materials and a desire for higher-quality output led Allied Reliability Group to look for new production printing solutions.

Overview

Allied Reliability Group models itself on efficiency and productivity, part of what has made it the service provider of choice in so many industrial environments. For its own in-plant printing operations, the company's network of 200+ employees relies on Production Specialist, Cindy Ley, and her digital print shop, which provides hundreds of thousands of training manuals, training certificates, course catalogs, brochures, posters and other materials each year for use at customer locations across the U.S. and Europe.

A successful expansion in training operations put pressure on the company's printing capacity. At the same time, Allied Reliability Group wanted to present a more professional image, and make its shipping logistics more efficient, by switching from three-ring binders to perfect-bound books for its training manuals. When the company switched from a smaller digital production device to a new Ricoh Pro c901 digital color press, Ley also upgraded her workflow environment with a state-of-the-art print production workflow, including an EFI™ Fiery® server — one of the most innovative, productive, scalable and integrated front-end systems for digital print engines.



Solution:

"I was looking for a workflow that was easy and the Fiery server gives us simplicity even though we are handling more work."

— Cindy Ley
Production Specialist
Allied Reliability Group

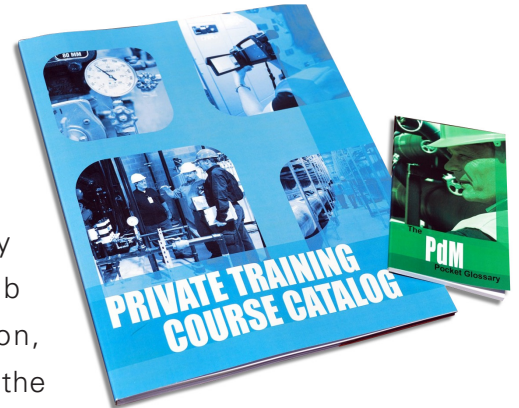
Solution

The Ricoh production system coupled with the Fiery Workflow Suite, a comprehensive set of integrated products to streamline and automate print processes, have increased Allied Reliability Group's quality and efficiency. While much of the company's print output consists of manuals and training documents, Allied's Fiery Driven™, high-quality capabilities gave Ley the ability to create new products like four-color glossy magazines with stunningly good results.

"I was looking for a workflow that was easy and the Fiery server gives us simplicity even though we are handling more work," she says.

The Key Ingredients to Superior Productivity and Quality

The installation, with a Fiery console and a remote workstation, gives Ley the ability to handle key production tasks at her desk by using Fiery Workflow Suite components, including the intuitive Fiery Command WorkStation job management interface and Fiery Impose, EFI's visual document imposition application. Many workflow tasks, such as job preparation and job submission, are now automated to optimize the press' utilization and minimize downtime.



"We run a quick color calibration with our EFI ES-1000 spectrophotometer on a daily basis to guarantee the color quality is always consistent and reliable," Ley says. "Our customers are speechless when they see what we're capable of providing. The quality and colors look like they just came from a major print shop."

Ley's color production workflow has not only become more robust, it is now easier to manage.

Higher Throughput with Stunning Quality Results

"Our production has skyrocketed with what the Ricoh Pro c901 and Fiery server have to offer," says Ley. "Make-ready tasks that took 30 minutes

or more now take 5 to 10 with Fiery Impose. I don't need to go back to the design application to merge, assemble and impose the job anymore, all make-ready tasks are done at the Command WorkStation."

Now, Allied Reliability Group's composition workflow is streamlined. The company can quickly maneuver, impose, and drag and drop pages from multiple files to create new documents. And, with the Fiery ImageViewer feature, "Softproofing files to preview how jobs are exactly going to print helps me reduce print errors and reduce waste dramatically," Ley says.

Fiery Training Drives Results

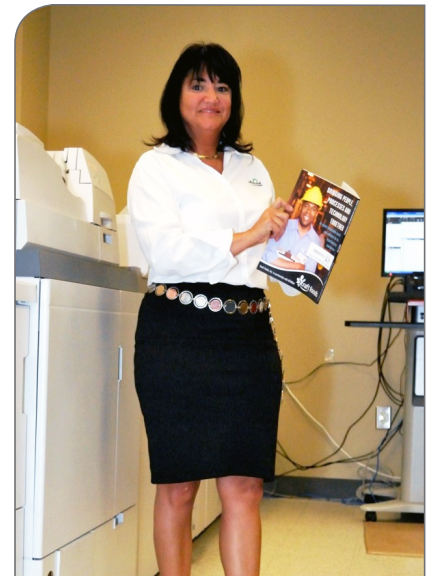
Allied Reliability's in-plant production became even more efficient after Ley attended her first EFI Connect user's group meeting, an event that features dozens of workshops to help customers get the most out of their Fiery systems.

"Many of the tips and tricks I learned at Connect were things that make me more productive," according to Ley. "I learned how to save time by automating production on repetitive booklet types, for example, by dropping files to Fiery Hot Folders containing print settings, including Fiery Impose templates."

Exceptional Support

One of the best benefits of having the Fiery system is knowing how much EFI stands behind its products. "I am a producer and I take pride not only in what I do and present, but in the people I represent at Allied Reliability Group," says Ley. "I want to produce the best work possible, and deliver it on time, so it is great knowing that I have Ricoh and EFI support teams to help me stay up and running at all times—the best of the best when it comes to service."

The Fiery server is a powerful digital front end (DFE) that gives graphic arts professionals the power to produce growing volumes of complex jobs faster. As a component in Fiery Workflow Suite, the server is the center of a modular and integrated set of offerings that increases production efficiency, maximizing users' print engine capacity and capability while lowering labor costs and reducing touch points.



Results:

"Our production has skyrocketed with what the Ricoh Pro c901 and Fiery server have to offer. Make-ready tasks that took 30 minutes or more now take 5 to 10 with Fiery Impose. I don't need to go back to the design application to merge, assemble and impose the job anymore, all make-ready tasks are done at the Command WorkStation."

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Fiery Workflow Suite includes modular offerings ranging from job submission to output and allow in-plant operations like Allied's to meet continually evolving business demands. Allied specifically choose the Fiery server, Fiery Impose and Fiery Graphic Arts Package, Premium Edition to overcome their business challenges.

Fiery Workflow Suite is a comprehensive set of integrated products that:

- Increases print production efficiency with streamlined and automated workflows
- Maximizes use of print engine capacity and capability
- Processes more jobs more quickly — regardless of complexity
- Lowers labor costs by reducing touch points
- Helps you offer new higher-profit, value-added services

Learn more about product included in the Fiery Workflow Suite at www.ef.com/fieryworkflowsuite.

Beat the competition and profit with EFI's integrated Fiery®, VUTEK®, Jetrion®, EFI Wide Format, Print MIS and Web-to-Print solutions. Visit www.efi.com to learn more.

Why EFI?

EFI™ (www.efi.com) helps businesses worldwide bring their visions and goals to life with a scalable, digital product portfolio. Our powerful servers; controllers; RIPs; inkjet printers, and precise color and imaging solutions help companies increase their brand recognition and market reach on signs, buildings, bus wraps, graphic displays and more. Our business automation software helps companies work faster and more cost-effectively. Our office, enterprise and mobile cloud solutions help companies create, access, and communicate impactful information that can win them more business.