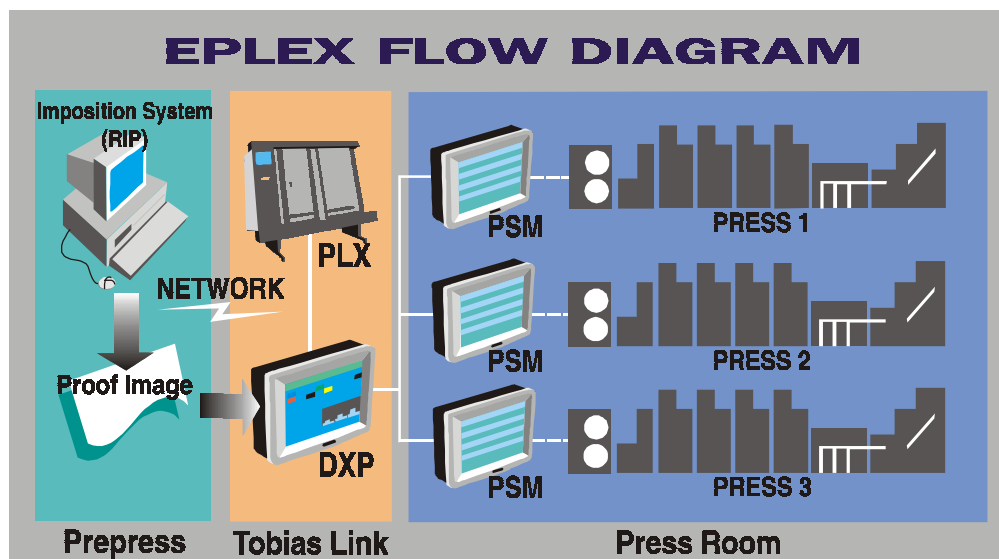


## EPLEX™ — Digital Presets from Tobias

It has long been acknowledged that an effective method of reducing pressroom makeready time is to preset the ink key fountains. Tobias Associates has been providing this cost saving advantage to the printing industry for almost 20 years in the form of its PLX Plate Scanner. This device optically scans the physical printing plate and determines the image coverage for each key zone. This information was then processed into key setting values and sent to the press to preset the keys for each fountain. Initially the PLX was press specific, but as the cost advantage of presetting the keys became obvious, the need to support multiple press lines at a single location grew. Tobias met this need with the introduction of the Press Side Module, the PSM. This took the coverage information from the plate scanner and converted into a form suitable for its press. In other words, each press has its own PSM that was programmed for the specific need of that press.

Today's printing companies are presented with a variety of options and associated decisions to cost effectively move into the digital age. One of the many areas of interest is CTP, or computer to plate technology. Many printers have made the move to CTP, but their operations are not yet 100% digital and indeed may never be completely so. This may be due to customer requirements, existing equipment, cost considerations, or any one of a printer's practical realities. Even those printers presently taking advantage of the substantial savings offered by presetting systems based on optical plate scanners could benefit from the move to CTP. The problem now is how to generate preset information using digital files produced by modern CTP systems. How can we maintain compatibility with existing equipment without major capital investment? And how can we provide these presetting advantages across multiple press lines?



Tobias Associates is now offering a flexible solution to these problems called **EPLEX**. Rather than have a single link between plate scanner and press, the **EPLEX** presetting system provides a networked solution that combines both the old and new technologies. The system processes digital files to give coverage data, accepts plate scanner data, and is able to preset any number of modern press lines. By acting as a storage device, it also provides increased flexibility in the operation workflow by allowing jobs to be stored, used, recalled and moved at will. Once a job has been run, it may be rerun on a different press if that is required by workflow considerations. The information derived from the **EPLEX** system may also be used as the basis for an ink estimation system.

The major advantage of the Tobias **EPLEX** system is in its modular approach. As new equipment is brought on-line, an additional PSM can be obtained to support the new press line, or if appropriate, an existing unit can be reconfigured with new software. Tobias brings many years of experience in interfacing to various press consoles, old and new, and can provide innovative solutions to the problems of connectivity.

By accurately presetting an offset press, the Tobias **EPLEX** Digital Preset System can save thousands of dollars in time and waste, as well as increasing productive capacity. **EPLEX** presents a viable, affordable solution to reducing the cost of pressroom makeready time and maximizing your ROI.