

For Immediate Release



Wake Forest, NC April 1, 2006: Among several strategic alliance initiatives announced today by Edward A. "Trip" Casson III, Chairman & CEO, Southern Lithoplate announces best-in-class industry partner NELA and the NELA RAO.

"Converting to CtP begins with a solid PlateSetter, workflow, and lithoplate consumables program for certain. To achieve near "lights out" prepress environments, the final necessary ingredient in a total system solution is the punch/bend configuration. The full power of CtP is precise imaging all the way to precise registration on press. Our NELA partnership completes and affords Southern Litho's loyal customers the full systems solution," stated Casson.

In the NELA RAO, single and double width offset plates are automatically positioned over electronically controlled alignment stops. Once in their correct position, the printing plates are punched and bent in one single working step, before they are carefully placed into the stacking station. An electronic control system guarantees register-true punching and bending of the printing plates.

The RAO is field upgradeable to the NELA VCP. In the VCP, video cameras detect the exposed register marks on the offset plates coming out of the plate processor. By employing state-of-the-art image processing and positioning units, the printing plates are brought into register-true positions that correspond with their type area. A register correction on the plates is possible over keyboard. The printing plates are punched and bent in one step in the same position before they are carefully placed into the stacking station.

"As the newspaper marketplace moves into mass adoption in Computer-to-Plate, NELA is proud to add Southern Lithoplate as a preferred NELA sales partner. Southern Litho's customer market demands dependable, affordable hardware that will last a lifetime. We at NELA stand side-by-side with Southern Litho to make CtP everything it needs to be," said David Klein, President, NELA USA.