



## A shared priority on high reliability

With its wide range of products in different sizes, colors, substrates and coding requirements, Cables RCT needs a marking solution that can handle complexity. A system of 10 Markem-Imaje inkjet printers designed for extrusion lines and controlled by CoLOS<sup>®</sup> packaging intelligence software guarantees high-quality, error-free codes.

### Customer

Manufacturer of low-voltage flexible cables for a range of electrical wiring purposes



Zaragoza, Spain

Founded in 1965

223 employees

Annual turnover:  
€140 million

3,000 different types  
of cables produced

[www.cablesrct.com](http://www.cablesrct.com)



## Challenge

### Committed to quality

Cables RTC, an independent cable manufacturer based in Spain, produces thousands of types of cables for customers in over 20 countries. Its production facility in Zaragoza has 14 production lines that make millions of kilometres of cables per year. In cable production, printing is one of the biggest challenges, as each cable has specific marking requirements: the brand name, voltage, date of manufacture, compliance information, etc.

“There is a huge variety of possible combinations,” explains Enrique López, director of planning at Cables RCT. “Plus, the information has to be readable for as long as the cable is in use, whether it’s buried, aerial, exposed to harsh industrial conditions, etc., so the mark needs to be stable and resistant.” The entire length of the cable—a typical length is 20 km—has to be marked at regular intervals. “Moreover, some companies require metre marking so that the person installing the cable can cut exactly

“Markem-Imaje CoLOS software means the operator just scans the barcode on the order and the correct information is sent to the printer, reducing risk.”

Enrique López, director of planning, Cables RCT



the length need,” continues Enrique. “In this case, we need a system that measures the precise distance and sends the information to the printer.”

For the wide range of cables produced, Cables RCT uses four different types of coder, including marking wheel, marking transfer technology and laser for the most difficult cases such as very thin cables (2.5–4 mm) or substrates on which ink does not adhere well. But the majority of its production is coded by Markem-Imaje inkjet printers.



▲ Cables RTC's production facility in Zaragoza has 14 production lines that make millions of kilometres of cables per year.

## Solution

### Specific printers for cable marking

Seven of the production lines at Cables RCT are equipped with ten 9450 E/EC inkjet printers. “We produce about 20 different colors of cable, so the printers are set up with black, blue or white ink for the best contrast,” says Enrique.

“A few months ago, we introduced a new ink (MC469) by Markem-Imaje that gives good results on most colors, avoiding having to set up several printers on one line. It’s a really effective solution.”





## Benefits

### Reliability and results

The printers are controlled by CoLOS<sup>®</sup> software (part of the Systech Packaging Intelligence Suite<sup>™</sup>), which manages the complexity of all the variations. "Instead of manually inputting the text, now the operator just scans the barcode on the production order and the correct information is automatically sent to the printer," states Enrique. "This is very important for us because coding errors can result in having to scrap a whole reel of cable, which is very costly. The system is also incredibly flexible—it's easy to change any part of the code."

Cables RCT has been using Markem-Imaje inkjet technology for 13 years and benefits from a contract that allows them to replace printers with the latest generation every five years. "We upgraded three this year. As the new machines are even more reliable than before, very little maintenance is required. And if we do have any technical problems, the support service is extremely reactive." A winning partnership for a company that prizes reliability and results.

At its Zaragoza production site, Cables RCT has a smart coding solution consisting of ten Markem-Imaje 9450 E/EC inkjet printers specially designed for cable marking and is using MI's innovative silver ink which provides high-contrast results on most colors. The printing process is automated with CoLOS software, minimizing errors and maximizing uptime.

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◀ Automated message design and data management with CoLOS software

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[www.markem-imaje.com](http://www.markem-imaje.com)



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