

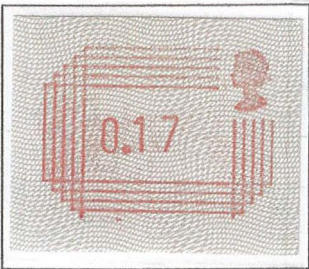
THE EVOLUTION OF BRITISH MACHINE VENDED POSTAGE STAMPS 1984—2014

This exhibit describes the often complicated history of the development of machine-vended postage in the UK. It has evolved from 2004 to 2014 into a very versatile system for the concurrent production of “no value indicated” stamps (NVI), that are always valid regardless of rate changes, and value indicated stamps for virtually every purpose imaginable. The original NVI production of 2008 was adapted in the first few months of 2014 into the sophisticated system through the installation of new NCR machines (or kiosks).

As postal systems become more cost effective, the pressure for use of self-service machines has grown. Such mechanization is producing a reduction in counter staff. In 1984, Frama machines were tried which produced stamps with a value, as desired by the customer, but proved very unpopular in a short trial.

However the introduction of “no value indicated” stamps (NVI) in the UK for 1st and 2nd class mail in 1989 changed the *status quo*. With the introduction of self adhesive status to these stamps in 1993, and to booklet stamps in 2001, it was realized that both these principles could be applied to machine-vended postage. So the idea of machines printing self adhesive NVI stamps for various purposes was adopted and trials began in 2004. The machines used covered many different services and were too complicated for customers So, trials of machines with only frequently used services began. Publically operated machines arrived in 2008,dispensing (1) Post & Go (PAG) stamps, similar in appearance to counter labels, valid for two days only, and (2) regular NVI stamps. They have since evolved into machines of considerable versatility, capable of producing different types of stamps, including pictorials & commemoratives. In 2014 the NCR machines being installed are capable of delivering 1st and 2nd class NVI stamps, but also the new innovation of “Open Value” stamps which have the value & purpose thermoprinted by the kiosk machines. All machine-vended stamps have an office code printed on them, which allows the post office and the individual machine to be identified

EXHIBIT ORDER		
Sheets are 11” x 11” and Frames are 3 x 4 sheets		
1. The Frama Experiment	1.1-1.6	Stamps & usages
2. The 2004 Trials	1.7-1.10	Labels & Covers
3. The 2007—08 Trials	1.11-2.1	Labels & Covers
4. The “Post & Go”-Scheme	2.2-2.11	(1) Time Limited issues
5.The “Post & Go”- Scheme	2.12-4.6	(2) Machin Head issues
6. Pictorial Issues	4.7-8.3	Hytech & Wincor Nixdorf
7. Commemoratives	8.4-8.12	Hytech only
8. Exhibitions & Shows	9.1-9.8	Hytech 2
9. 2nd Class Postage	9.9-10.4	Xmas Pop-up Shops etc
10. The NCR Machines	10.5-10.12	Ultimate in sophistication



1984 FRAMA
THE FIRST TRIAL
(Unsuccessful)

THE RECENT PAST
WINCOR NIXDORF
Pictorials

Xmas Robin with
printing flaws
High Holborn PO



THE PRESENT
HYTECH
PORTABLE
Commemoratives
British Postal Museum
Overprints, no errors

PRESENT & FUTURE
NCR
“Open Value”
15 May 2014
Spring Flowers
Special Delivery: £6.40
Nailsea to Bristol BS6

