

PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

Issue No. 181/182

June/July 2023

**The next-generation in pre-finished
veneered panels from James Latham**

Turn to page 40-41 for the full story



Health & Safety: pp 2 ● News: pp 3-12 ● Exhibitions & Events: pp 13-27

Tools & Tooling: pp 28-29 ● Wood Coatings: pp 30-31 ● Sustainable Development: pp 32-35

Panels & Panel Processing: pp 36-43 ● Design & Innovation: pp 44-50

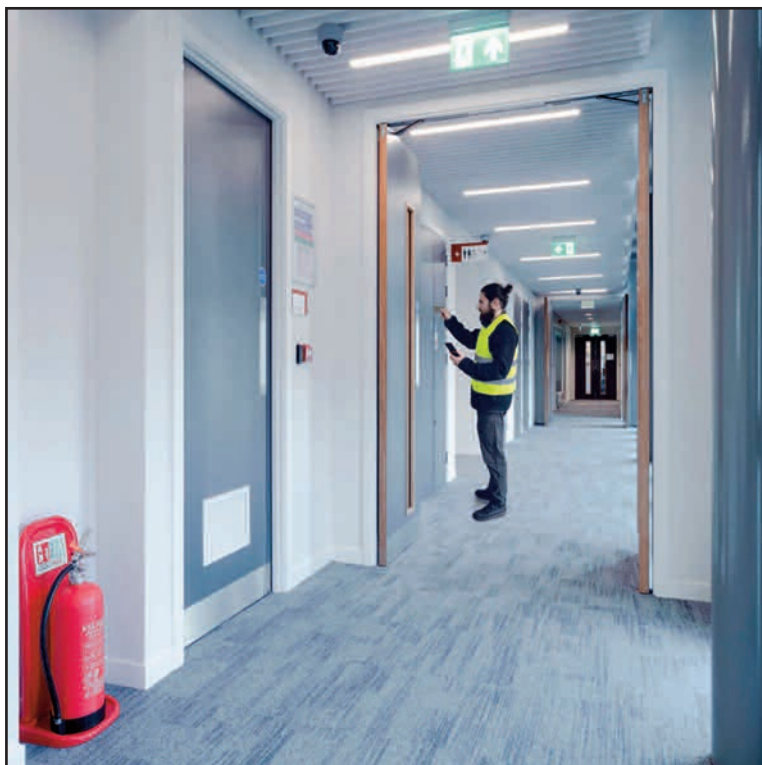
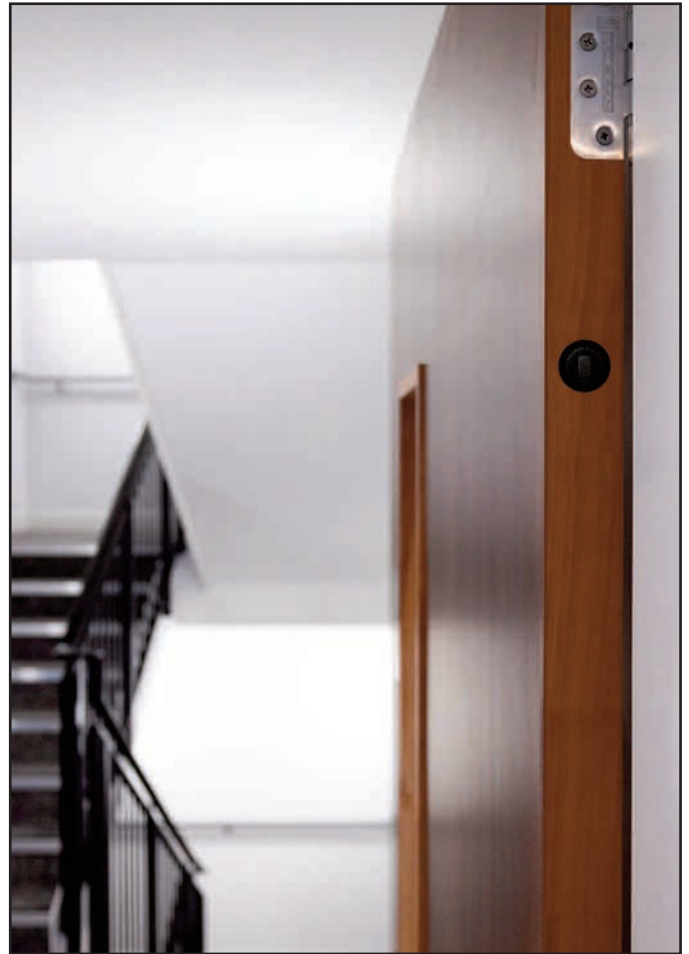
Halspan marks 25th year with new inspection services to extinguish risk and help save lives

HALSPAN, a global leader in fire door safety systems, has introduced new Halspan® Inspection Services to build out its existing range of products and services, helping facility managers and building owners meet today's building safety standards.

A pioneer in quality fire door components, Halspan has paved the way in fire safety for 25 years with its innovative three-layer particle board door blanks and commitment to rigorous, international-standard testing. Today, the Scottish business sells over half a million fire door blanks annually to 65 countries. Halspan's fire safety solutions ensure compliance and peace of mind throughout the supply chain.

The launch of Halspan® Inspection Services comes at a critical time for the sector. In 2021, 147,295 fire-related emergencies and 280 resulting fatalities were recorded by gov.uk. Faulty or outdated fire door systems are a known risk factor for fire-related deaths, providing little to no protection against the spread of hot gases and smoke.

Halspan's new service seeks to minimise this risk. Established in response to the Fire Safety Act 2021 and mounting pressure on building owners to ensure compli-



ance, Halspan® Inspection Services enables organisations and individuals to meet their legal obligation and satisfy the requirements of the so-called 'Golden Thread'.

Delivered by Halspan accredited inspectors, the process assesses whether a builder's fire safety assets are correctly installed and maintained using the Halspan® Tracker, providing corrective measures for any component that does not meet the necessary standard.

Launched in 2022, the Halspan® Tracker uses a smart tag fitted on a fire door to act as a record of its history and quality assurance for inspectors. Halspan-accredited inspectors can review this record in an instant, before completing a comprehensive step-by-step inspection and delivering their assessment.

Simon Kelly, operations manager, inspection services, said: "Halspan® Inspection Services will ensure continued compliance and peace of mind for any responsible person tasked with building fire safety. For building owners and facility managers, this innovative new service gives access to a fire door safety system's complete installation and maintenance record to help keep it safe and minimise risk."

Andrew Wallace, Halspan MD, added: "Over the last 25 years, Halspan has consistently innovated to maximise fire safety compliance and ensure the highest standards throughout the supply chain. Halspan® Inspection Services raises the bar for our industry. Our inspection services are carried out in accordance with the Halspan Inspection Charter and following the Halspan Inspection Protocol, ensuring consistency and accuracy every time."

Halspan ● <https://halspan.com>

Specifying SterlingOSB Zero for super accuracy



A LEADING UK supplier of timber frame and SIP building kits for providers of top end lodge manufacturers and garden room installers is employing SterlingOSB Zero, from the West Fraser range, due to the panel product's outstanding accuracy, performance benefits and all-round sustainability credentials.

Established in 2018, Outerspace Group moved into a new purpose-built facility in 2022, facilitating an initial ten-fold increase in capacity and is now taking its rapid panel and kit supply service offering to new levels of efficiency and sophistication.

At the core of the flexible, flat-pack kits is the use of West Fraser's 11 mm thick SterlingOSB Zero to produce Structurally Insulated Panels, or SIPs, able to meet the full spectrum of build standards for lodges, pods, home offices and house extensions complying with the latest Part L of the Building Regulations.

The founder and CEO of Outerspace Group, Phil Jackson, commented, "We have in the past trialled most brands of OSB on the market and West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero is the only one we have used to date which is a consistent size in terms of length, width, thickness and also of a high enough quality to meet the tolerances of our manufacturing process.

"The moulds in which the SIPs are created by injecting polyurethane

foam require very high tolerances of 1.0 mm or less while we apply significant pressure on the SIP stack. If the boards are not perfectly aligned, when you join the SIPs at the end of the process, you will see a very visible gap on one side, where we are looking for pristine appearance and excellent acoustics as well as airtightness."

The 11 mm SterlingOSB Zero is used to make different thicknesses of SIPs rising from 72 to 97, 122, 147, 172 and 197 mm; which are utilised in delivering Outerspace's vast range of building kits.

Phil Jackson concluded: "We praise SterlingOSB Zero for its 100% accuracy; companies in the leisure industry are increasingly recognising that SIPs offer a far faster and technically superior method of construction where they see less remedial work being needed after delivery due to movement. Also, our company is all about sustainability so West Fraser's offer of a formaldehyde free, FSC product which comes from responsibly managed forests is very definitely appealing.

"We are looking to launch a training academy where client installation teams will come and learn about assembling SIPs."

SterlingOSB Zero is available in a range of sizes and thicknesses up to 22 mm as well as a T&G version ideal for flooring and decking applications. The high performance panel product has also earned BBA approval and meets the requirements of NHBC Technical.

As is always the case, West Fraser's experienced technical team is available to provide assistance with product specification, while downloadable data sheets are available at the company's website

West Fraser ● 01786 812921 ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/>

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GERRY LYNCH

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OFFICE: 91 THE OLD MEADOW, SHREWSBURY, SY2 6AB, UK



World-class glass for The Joinery Network members

REGALEAD is a member of an impressive affiliate company scheme as part of The Joinery Network's extensive support for timber manufacturers. As a global leader in the supply of decorative products for the glass, windows and doors industries, RegaLead is considered a perfect partner. With over 30 years' experience and a vast wealth of industry knowledge, RegaLead has created hundreds of designs for the fenestration market.

RegaLead is the exclusive supplier of decorative glass for the Lignum range of timber entrance doors. With 57 designs in both traditional and

modern designs, and a stunning selection of decorative glass created by RegaLead, Lignum doors can be designed to suit every home. The Lignum door catalogue showcases the vast selection of sizes and designs available, including the classic-inspired glass designs, like the worker bee, which fits beautifully with the Bingen door style. RegaLead has also invested in supplying a huge range of design choices for joiners to offer customers all on short lead times.

The Joinery Network Affiliate Programme brings specialist companies together to offer a range of services for businesses who manufacture and/or install timber windows and doors. It's part of the added value that The Joinery Network brings alongside a fully tested window and door system.

Luke Piper, director of The Joinery Network, says: "There is higher demand from homeowners to use more sustainable products, but they have to perform from an energy efficiency perspective as well. RegaLead gives the Lignum door range a competitive advantage because it offers brilliance in both design and performance."

The UK's architecture demands huge choices from door manufacturers to suit the wide scope of properties.

The Joinery Network offers 57 designs and RegaLead adds to these design options with a comprehensive range of decorative glass, both traditional and contemporary.

The Joinery Network

<https://thejoinerynetwork.co.uk>



Selco arrives in Peterborough

SELCO Builders Warehouse has continued its UK expansion by opening a new branch in Peterborough.

The builders merchant has officially cut the ribbon on its premises on Padholme Road East to take its total number of UK branches to 75.

Howard Luft, Selco's chief executive, is delighted to be extending the Selco offering into a new area of the country. He said: "This is our first branch in Cambridgeshire and the third we have opened across the UK in

the last 12 months. Expanding our branch network allows us to demonstrate how our unique offering is the perfect one-stop shop to more and more tradespeople across the UK. As a genuine multi-channel builders merchant, we want to give tradespeople the chance to get their building materials in the most convenient way possible to them, whether that be through branches or through our fast-growing digital offering. We are here to serve the trade and meet their every need and we are thrilled to

be open in Peterborough."

The official launch of the Peterborough branch saw Selco continue its commitment to supporting the local communities in which it operates by donating £3,000 to good causes.

Little Miracles — which supports children and young adults with additional needs, disabilities and life limiting conditions — was selected as the Selco Community Heroes winner and will receive £1,000. It used the money to help take a group of 800 children, parents and carers to Legoland during the May half-term holiday. Little Miracles was founded in 2010 and has 14 centres across the East of England. It provides on-site activities, training and counselling, as well as offering school outreach and home education sessions. It supported more than 31,000 people in 2022.

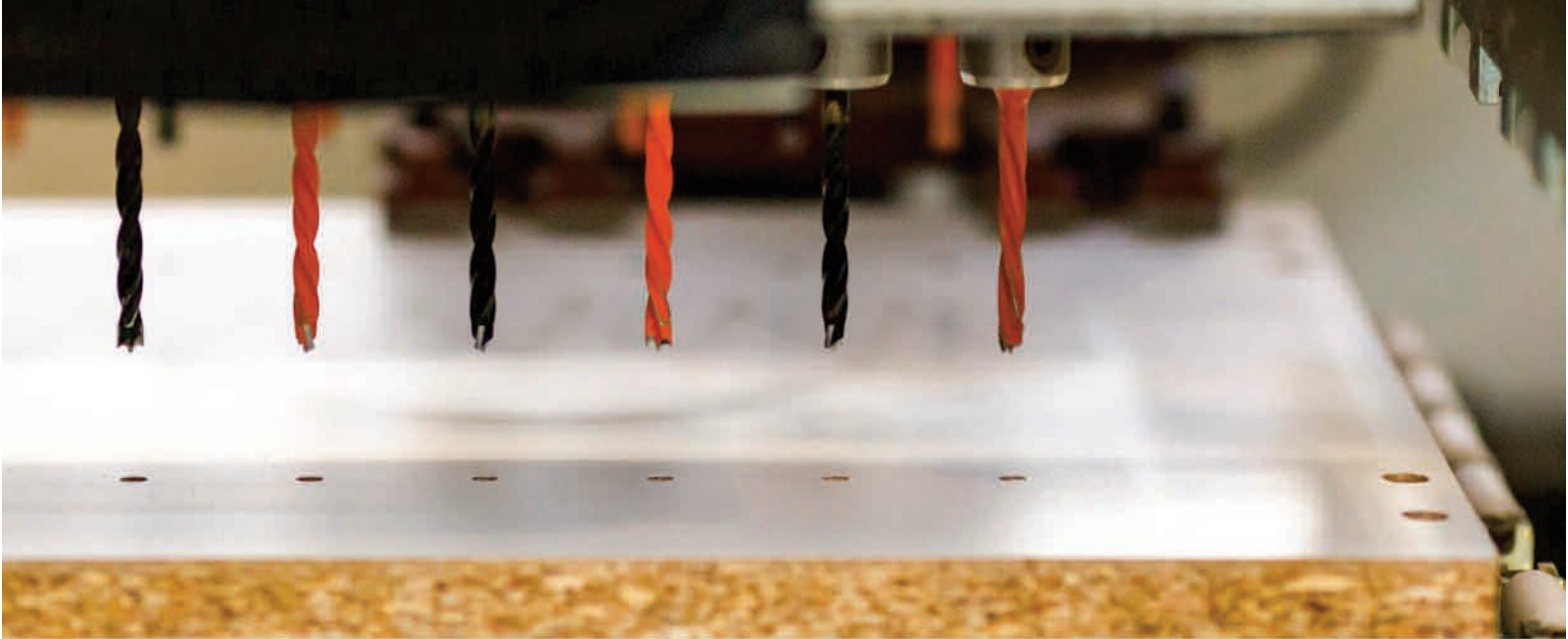
As part of the celebrations to mark the opening of its 75th UK branch, Selco also pledged a further £2,000 to its nominated charity, Cancer Research UK.

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



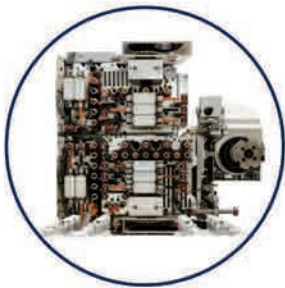
Little Miracles CEO Michelle King (centre) with Selco Peterborough branch manager Chris Barber (far right) and other representatives of Little Miracles and Selco.



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Makita's hottest new product

LEADING tool manufacturer Makita has launched its eagerly anticipated cordless microwave oven. Driven by the company's powerful 40VMax XGT battery, the new MW001GZ is designed for portability, allowing users to enjoy hot, microwaved meals in minutes, whether on site, on the road, or at leisure.



The 8-litre capacity MW001GZ is powered by one or two 40VMax XGT batteries and is designed to utilise the power sequentially for continuous power when it's needed.

With two output settings — 500 W or 350 W, the inner heating area is large enough to fit most microwave containers and provides a continuous heating time of up to 37 minutes (when used with two BL4080F batteries at 500 W output).

To withstand tough conditions such as building sites, this compact and durable microwave has been manufactured with a tempered door glass and is dust and water resistant. The appliance also features large carry handles for easy transportation and is also supplied with a carry strap. A USB port is also built-in for charging devices such as mobile phones.

As part of Makita's XGT battery platform, this exciting product fits in seamlessly with Makita's expanding XGT power tool collection, enabling users to swap batteries between tasks and switch to the microwave when required.

"As a world-first for Makita, we are thrilled to launch this outstanding new cordless appliance," said Kevin Brannigan, Marketing Manager at Makita UK. "The new MW001GZ is the perfect jobsite or leisure companion, affording users with a hot, microwaved meal or drink in minutes without the need for sourcing an AC supply or power generators. Thanks to Makita's powerful XGT battery technology, the microwave delivers great runtimes, so users can heat up food and drinks over a full working day."

Makita ● www.makitauk.com

IronmongeryDirect and ElectricalDirect welcome new financial director

LEADING specialist trade suppliers, IronmongeryDirect and ElectricalDirect have announced the appointment of Marcus Allen as their new Financial Director. With over 20 years' experience in senior finance roles at both regional and Group level, Marcus brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the company.

A qualified accountant who trained with PwC, Marcus Allen has a proven track record of working with local management teams to improve profitably and grow businesses.

He has held senior finance roles across a number of businesses including Navitas, Avnet and Hewlett Packard, and most recently, at Harman. Here, he led the EMEA region through a significant change project before taking on the leadership of the international finance teams of a \$1 bn business that included the JBL brand.

Commenting on his appointment, Marcus said: "I'm excited to be joining IronmongeryDirect and ElectricalDirect at a time when the

company is going from strength to strength. I look forward to working with the team to help drive continued growth and success."

Outside of work, Marcus is a proud father of three grown children and enjoys both football and cooking.

The IronmongeryDirect and ElectricalDirect teams are delighted to welcome Marcus to the company and look forward to working closely with him to achieve their strategic goals.

IronmongeryDirect has been supplying architectural ironmongery to tradespeople for over 50 years and has what is believed to be the UK's widest range with over 18,000 products in stock.

ElectricalDirect has over 12,000 electrical products available, including everything from sockets and wiring to lighting and consumer units.



IronmongeryDirect
www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk

Electrical Direct
www.ElectricalDirect.co.uk

SCM is expanding its range of drilling machines

SCM PRESENTS Morbidelli CX110 and Morbidelli PWX500, expanding its drilling solutions to offer an innovative and highly specialised response to the needs of both craft businesses and the large furniture industry. The two new solutions are to be found at either end of the vast range of Morbidelli drilling machines: the CX110 model is mainly dedicated to companies that, regardless of their size and productivity volumes, desire a compact solution that is versatile, efficient and capable of solving all the critical issues of flexible machining; Morbidelli PWX500, on the other hand, is for large furniture manufacturers and contractors looking for high-speed, connected and integrated drilling solutions without sacrificing the quality of the finishing and precision.

Morbidelli CX110

The Morbidelli CX110 drilling machine offers maximum flexibility in performing any kind of vertical and horizontal drilling in less than 8 m².

The shaped clamp makes machining much easier because it drastically reduces the cases in which it is necessary to reposition the clamp, reducing the cycle times. Another advantage is represented by RO.AX spindles fitted on the drilling heads, with a rotation speed that can reach 8,000 rpm, maintaining a very high finishing quality.

The operator can efficiently and easily manage batch 1 drilling operations while having all the necessary tools always on board and benefitting from the advantages of an automatic six-position tool changer.

The accessibility and ease of loading and handling the pieces is another distinctive plus: the machine is also ideal for those who need to machine lacquered and delicate panels because the new worktable has been designed to avoid any friction.

Drilling is done with extreme precision and the guarantee of always having the correct corresponding piece while the machine is operating, without the risk of slipping or bending. This happens thanks to a four-sensor 3D PROBE decimal probing system and a presser that ensures maximum workpiece stability during machining. This stability is guaranteed irrespective of the repositioning of the clamp and also in the most unusual and elaborate machining: the slide bearings act as a continuous guide, providing considerable help to the operator and reducing possible errors with piece linearity.

This new drilling machine is extremely versatile: available in several configurations, it can also be fitted with a new unit to create "Clamex" joints.

Morbidelli PWX500

The new Morbidelli PWX500 is considered an ideal drilling solution for connected and integrated production and to achieve highly competitive production standards per shift on medium and large batches.

Production ability has increased by 10% compared to market standards. In fact, the drilling machine is able to work intensively over several shifts and is designed to significantly reduce tooling changes and



other operations that cause unproductive time. High productivity is guaranteed even by the automatic repositioning system which is completed in under 45 seconds, including dowelling.

Reliability is another significant advantage: the system has been designed to have fewer moving components compared to standard ones, so fewer risks of damage over time.

This new drilling machine is also synonymous with high efficiency: indeed, it is believed to be the only one on the market to offer up to five rows of spindles on the right and left in order to reach the extremities of the panel to make structural holes according to different production needs. Efficiency and high productivity combine with a considerable machining simplicity thanks to the optimiser software that controls the entire machine's set up, the drilling steps and the integration of production lines consisting of several machines.

The new Morbidelli PWX500 is also extremely adaptable: the panel drilling occurs with a FLEX transport and positioning system that automatically adapts to the piece's specifications, with the possibility of positioning the panel in one or more positions along Y axis.

Effectiveness is another key word: the panel is machined with 10 drilling units rapidly completing any furniture installation diagram thanks to the M-type heads and electro-spindle with tool changer. Lastly, the model can be highly customised: over 450 drilling tools can be fitted, 6+6 separate dowel insertion units, two workstations and different servo system levels.

The best tool position on the heads, depending on the client's production batches, is identified by a powerful and innovative optimiser: Maestro Powerset. This software satisfies a specific demand: facilitating and speeding up the set-up operation of the bits on the machine and providing the plant with flexibility.

New Maestro 3Drill software

As well as the two new machines, SCM has integrated a new drilling software, Maestro 3Drill, to also apply the main advantages of Morbidelli numerically controlled programming software to drilling machines.

Some of the main advantages include the possibility of directly importing three dimensional solids with automatic recognition of the holes to be performed. This speeds up and simplifies the user's programming experience.



SCM Group
Tel 0115 977 0044
scmuk@scmgroup.com
www.scmgroup.com/en_GB/

Lions roar for Wade training session

A GLOUCESTERSHIRE junior football team enjoyed a thrilling finale to their season after winning an exclusive training session from Cheltenham Town head coach Wade Elliott.

Longlevens Lions under 13s claimed the prize in a special competition run by Robins and club partners Selco Builders Warehouse, which has a branch on Festival Park in Cheltenham.

The team, which play in the Seven Valley Youth League under 13 B Division, also won 20 tickets to a League One game at the Completely-Suzuki Stadium and a new kit for the 2023-24 season.

Former Burnley and Bournemouth midfielder Wade attended the training session at the Lions' home pitch of Innsworth Lane Playing Fields.

Wade said: "I had a brilliant night with Longlevens Lions and I only hope that the lad enjoyed it half as much as I did.

"The grassroots game is football at its purest. You have coaches giving up their time to help youngsters and children with huge smiles on their faces playing for the love of it. With the pressure in the professional game, you sometimes forget what football is all about but it was great to go back and get that feeling of playing with your best mates.

"All the players live within a stone's throw of the pitch and I could tell throughout the session that there was a great spirit and friendship amongst the team."

The competition was open to any boys or girls team playing in a recognised league at any age group between under eights and under 15s in or around Cheltenham.

Chris Theyer, manager of Longlevens Lions, said: "We were thrilled to win the prize and the lads have had a wonderful experience from it. A few of them have never

been to a professional match so to have the chance to go and watch Cheltenham was great. To then have Wade, who has played in the Premier League and is now first team coach at our local club, was fantastic.

"He really got involved in the session and gave the team a brilliant insight into life in professional football and some tips about how they could improve as individuals and as a team.

"For me as a coach, it was also great to have the chance to pick Wade's brains and pick up one or two points. It was a fantastic experience all round and we are very grateful to both Selco and Cheltenham Town."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



West Fraser marks safety milestone success with charity donations

WOOD PANEL manufacturer, West Fraser (trading as Norbord), has celebrated three years without a Lost Time Accident (LTA) at its Inverness mill by supporting six local community groups and charities with cash donations. Staff at the site commemorated reaching the milestone in

safety performance in mid-January by giving back to the community and offering £1,000 to a variety of groups who work to support and benefit the local area.

The groups and charities were Highland Hospice, Cash for Kids, mental health support charity Mikeysline, Inverness Marie Curie Nurses, Drummond School and Inverness Food Bank — which all received £1,000 each to help them provide vital support to the Inverness area.

Stuart Hendry, general manager at the West Fraser site in Inverness, said: "The three years without a Lost Time Accident holds up our dedicated commitment to safety and staff wellbeing at West Fraser.

"Not only do we look out for each other on site but staff also wanted to extend this culture to the surrounding local area by supporting these fantastic charities within the community. We are thankful and proud to support these charities in the vital role they play in helping others."

Stuart is pictured here presenting the cheque to Drummond School.

West Fraser ● 01786 812921
<https://uk.westfraser.com/>



Samaritans' move aided by Selco donation

NEWPORT & Gwent Samaritans is set to double its capacity to offer support to distressed people by moving to new premises with the support of a leading builders merchant.

Selco Builders Warehouse, which has two branches in Cardiff, has provided hundreds of pounds worth of materials to help the Newport-based charity relocate from its current central Newport premises on Baker Street to a new home on Waters Lane.

Newport & Gwent Samaritans currently answer around 10,000 calls every year but is confident the move, which at time of writing was expected to be completed by the end of June, will help to significantly increase that number.



Sharon Beckett, a director of the charity, said: "Our current premises allow for a maximum of two people to take calls at any one time and we hope to increase that number to four when we move.

"While we deal with a high number of calls every year, we are unable to answer them as quickly as they come in so it's vital we took this opportunity to increase our capacity. Calls that we take are from distressed people who are often at risk of suicide or self-harm and our well-trained volunteers give over 200 hours a week to listen to these people.

"When we first started working at the new premises to get it into a fit state for us to occupy, it quickly became clear it was going to cost far more than we anticipated and hoped, so Selco's donation has been crucial. They have provided so much, from paint to skirting boards and brushes to rollers to help us deliver the vision for our new home. I get emotional thinking about the support they have provided because it's going to make such a difference to the services we can provide, as well as being a hub which can host meetings and gatherings of local community groups."

Selco's Cardiff branches are based on Parc Ty Glas in Llanishen and on Hadfield Road.

Carine Jessamine, marketing director at Selco, said: "We are delighted to lend our support to the Newport & Gwent Samaritans which does such fantastic work across a large part of Wales. We know that the number of people facing mental health challenges is rising in general and is also high amongst those working in the trade and construction sector. The increased capacity the Samaritans will enjoy in its new location is going to make a huge difference to the vitally important service provided by the charity and we are glad to have played a part in making the move happen."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

West Fraser provides vital support for Cowie community groups

WOOD PANEL manufacturer, West Fraser (trading as Norbord), has donated much-needed funds to two local community groups: the Cowie Rural Action Group (CRAG) and the Cowie United Football Club's girls' team.

The donation of £2,500 was provided to CRAG, a group which runs annual community events for all residents of Cowie to enjoy. The funds will help the group to support events such as cooking and art classes, play days for children and community bingo. The donation will also contribute to the Action team's recent installation of a local defibrillator, a potentially life-saving piece of equipment for residents to use in case of an emergency.

With the £500 donation, Cowie United Football Club was able to support the youth team players by providing new kits (pictured).

Clare Stevenson, treasurer at CRAG and Cowie United Football Club, said: "We're hugely grateful for the team at West Fraser to showcase their generosity to both CRAG and Cowie United FC. With this kind of support, we can further help support the people of our community here in Cowie."

Carol Brown, head of HR at the West Fraser site in Cowie, said: "We are always proud to serve our local community and are glad we could begin our year by supporting these fantastic groups."

West Fraser ● 01786 812921
<http://www.uk.westfraser.com/>



Bedfordshire Neville Special Projects invests in defibrillator for local community

ONE OF Bedfordshire's longest established family-owned group of businesses, Neville Trust, which includes Neville Special Projects and Neville Joinery, has successfully installed and registered its first publicly available automated external defibrillator (AED) at its premises on Marsh Road, Luton.

The AED, which has been registered and mapped by The National Defibrillator Network (The Circuit), making it available for emergency services, is positioned on a street-facing outside wall and is available 24/7 for staff and members of the public.

According to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, if defibrillation can be initiated within three to five minutes of a sudden cardiac arrest, survival rates up to 70 per cent can be achieved. However, only 50 per cent of installed AEDs are registered with The Circuit, meaning 999 call handlers can't efficiently direct bystanders to their nearest defibrillator.

Vicky Trumper, director at Neville Trust, commented: "The British Heart Foundation estimates that only eight per cent of people survive sudden cardiac arrests outside of hospital and, sadly, there weren't any known defibrillators locally available to the staff and visitors at our biggest office in Marsh Road.



"Being so close to a mainline station, local businesses and the park, our offices have a lot of passing footfall. For the safety of our construction staff and the wider community, we really felt this was something that needed addressing, not just by installing an AED, but making sure it was registered within The Circuit.

"The device has been registered at Neville Trust premises on Marsh Road following a £1,750 company investment. It is now fully operational and connected to the East of England Ambulance Service, should anyone need urgent resuscitation. The device is easy to use and contains an illustrated step-by-step guide to aid bystanders assisting a casualty. What's more, we have a number of First Aiders on site most of the time, who are trained in basic life support and CPR should you require help. Finally, it is our intention to additionally train several of our staff specifically on defibrillator use," Vicky added.

Installation of the defibrillator is the latest in a series of local community or charity-led investments from Neville Trust, which follows the announcement of financial support for NOAH Enterprise, Neville's charity of the year.

Neville Joinery
www.nevillejoinery.co.uk

New scheme backs kind-hearted tradespeople

A NEW NATIONAL campaign designed to reward kind-hearted professional tradespeople who have gone above and beyond the call of duty has been launched by one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

Selco Builders Warehouse has created the Extra Mile Awards to recognise those working in the trade who have given extra support to an individual or a wider local community in need.

Members of the public are invited to nominate tradespeople who they believe are deserving of the award on or before July 31 by visiting www.selcobw.com/extramile and providing a short 100-word overview.

Judges will pick three tradespeople to win the Extra Mile Awards, with

each winning £1,000 worth of credit to use at Selco, which has 75 branches across the UK.

The individuals nominating the successful tradespeople will receive £100 worth of shopping vouchers.

Carine Jessamine, marketing director of Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "We serve hundreds of thousands of tradespeople across the country every year and we know many do fantastic work over and above their day job, using their skills to support local individuals and communities who need it the most. We wanted to do something to recognise the incredible efforts and acts of kindness of tradespeople and the Extra Mile Awards do exactly that.

"Over the last few years we have had the coronavirus pandemic and the cost of living crisis which have created incredibly difficult periods for people to get through and many tradespeople have shown their support in numerous ways, including carrying out work on jobs or projects free of charge and giving of their time.

"We are looking for any goodwill gestures by tradespeople which have made a real difference and we know we will receive many outstanding stories which will give our judges real headaches selecting the winners."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 75 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services and a new app — as well as a 'Dial & Deliver' telephone service — to make life as convenient as possible for tradespeople.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com
www.selcobw.com/extramile



Winners of the TRA's first Roofscape Design Awards announced

THE TRUSSED Rafter Association's first Roofscape Design Awards winners have been announced at the TRA Annual General Meeting and Conference at the Kettering Park Hotel. The awards recognise and celebrate the highly technical skills required to design trussed rafter roofs, joists and panels.

The awards were given in three categories, Residential Project of the Year (for newbuild dwellings), Conversion and Refurbishment Project of the Year (for existing housing projects), and Commercial Project of the Year (for all non-domestic projects).

Judges included Nick Boulton, chief executive of the TRA, Liz Male, managing director of Liz Male Consulting, Rob Lockey, former head of training at the NHBC, and Les Fuller, chair of the technical committee of the TRA.

In the Residential Project of the Year, the judges were impressed with the quality of entries. Ultimately, the prize was awarded to DWB Anglia Ltd for the outstanding work on the Stableview and Moldavia project in Tiptree. Crendon Timber Engineering Ltd was highly commended for exceptional new homes in Cheshire, showcasing the company's commitment to innovative and sustainable construction practices.

For the Conversion and Refurbishment Project of the Year, Truss Form (Midlands) Ltd was recognised as the winner for the exemplary work on



Roofscape Design Awards

the Plough Maltings Brewery project in Burton on Trent. The judges were impressed with the winning design which was complex and had unusual shapes which showcases what can be achieved with trussed rafters.

In the Commercial Project of the Year category, the judges had a tough decision to make with several outstanding entries. In the end, Donaldson Timber Engineering was awarded the top spot for exceptional work on the New Care

Home project in Canterbury. Pasquill was highly commended for the Care Home project in Mablethorpe and Minera Roof Trusses Ltd for an innovative contribution to the Laserquest project.

Nick Boulton says: "Trussed rafters are a critical but much under recognised sustainable roofing system. The entries of the Roofscape Design Awards 2023 demonstrated a vast array of innovative designs that deliver effective great looking timber roofing solutions.

"The judges had the difficult task of selecting the winners from a high number of exceptional entries. However after much consideration and deliberation, the winners have been chosen. ... Once again, congratulations to all the winners, and we look forward to seeing your continued success in the industry. The Roofscape Design Awards will be returning in 2024."

Trussed Rafter Association ● www.tra.org.uk

More choice with IronmongeryDirect's new catalogue

LEADING trade supplier IronmongeryDirect has launched its latest catalogue showcasing key highlights from its huge range of over 18,000 products. Also featuring hundreds of new products — it is considered perfect for carpenters and joiners to browse and find a product that is right for the project at hand.

Hampstead

The specialist retailer has continued to expand its own exclusive, premium Hampstead range by adding a new line-up of knurled cabinet knobs and handles. Available in satin nickel, satin brass and matt black, these stunning products feature a striking, trend led texture that is considered ideal for luxurious interiors.

IronmongeryDirect has also added a new collection of cabinet hardware solutions with designs inspired by the zodiac, which is available online. The range includes lined and knurled T-bar cabinet handles, minimalist bow handles, lipped edge handles, and the slimline Scorpio D-bar, all available in a variety of finishes.

Jackloc Inline Handle

IronmongeryDirect — a Jackloc approved retailer — now also stocks the new premium Jackloc Inline Handle, which is ideal for design enthusiasts looking for a sleek and slim window solution. Available in white, black, polished chrome and grey, this multipoint window handle matches the most popular window finishes, and is suitable for use on aluminium, PVCu or timber windows. It also benefits from a compact design, believed to be unique, with 16 mm

height, slim lock and key release cylinder, as well as a 10-year guarantee.

Elfa Storage

IronmongeryDirect also has added new storage solutions to its Elfa range, celebrated for helping to bring order to everyday life, with a range of brackets, drawers, hooks, racks and shelves that can be combined together to give greater flexibility in improving and maximising spaces. Now, customers can purchase components in even more sizes and colours, with new solutions available for utility, shed and garage areas.

Gatemaster

IronmongeryDirect continues to offer robust security solutions for commercial and residential applications with the Gatemaster Locking Long Throw Gate Lock and the Gatemaster Superlock Bolt-On Gate Latch Deadlock with Handle. Manufactured from 304 Stainless Steel, both products have been designed to provide maximum security and durability for gate frames up to 60 mm thick.

Katrina Adamczyk, head of category management & merchandising at IronmongeryDirect, commented: "We are pleased to introduce our latest catalogue as a useful tool for busy tradespeople to browse while on the go. With a huge range in stock, the catalogue showcases our key ranges, as well as some of the latest exciting products that we have introduced to ensure we continue to help our customers meet the different demands of each job."

IronmongeryDirect
www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk/
free-catalogue



H.B. Fuller acquires Beardow Adams

H.B. FULLER Company, believed to be the biggest pure play adhesives company in the world, has acquired Beardow Adams, a UK-based family-owned business that has grown since its establishment in 1976 into a proven multinational industrial adhesive manufacturer, with customers in more than 70 countries.

With manufacturing capabilities across Europe and the U.S., and a

powerful distribution network across the globe, Beardow Adams is recognised for its commitment to quality and service across a variety of industrial applications. The acquisition is expected to accelerate profitable growth in many of H.B. Fuller's core end markets and generate business synergies through production optimisation, an expanded distribution platform, and difference-making innovation.



“Combining the two companies is an exciting move toward H.B. Fuller’s goal of strengthening our leadership position in the markets and regions we serve by expanding our customer base and technology portfolio to address today’s megatrends, such as e-commerce, food safety, and sustainability,” said Jim East, executive vice president, Hygiene, Health, and Consumable Adhesives.

“As we combine our businesses, we will be a stronger force in the adhesives industry.”

Beardow Adams generated approximately €130 million in revenue for the 2022 fiscal year. With a team of 200 employees globally, the company will operate within H.B. Fuller’s existing Hygiene, Health, and Consumable Adhesives business unit.

H.B. Fuller
www.hbfuller.com

Movac Group management buy-out

A MANAGEMENT buy-out at Movac Group Limited has seen existing directors Robert Lang, Craig Matthews and Keith Parvin acquire the company, ahead of a strategic five-year growth plan.

The shareholding group consists of the current leadership team of Robert, Craig and Keith, who will remain in the business, while Mark Smith, managing director, retires from the company after many years of successful leadership.

Robert, Craig and Keith will continue the day-to-day running of the business, which is one of the largest independent coatings suppliers in

the UK, serving the automotive, industrial, and wood industry sectors.

Announcing the changes, Robert Lang outlined the vision for growth: “Firstly, Movac will embed relationships with existing customers, continuing our service and product excellence across all three divisions.

“Looking into the future, Movac will become one of the strongest independently owned distribution companies in the UK by incorporating our core values of innovation, dedication, enthusiasm, loyalty, providing our customers with superior service and being right first time every time. This will be achieved with an extensive product portfolio from our world leading manufacturer supply partners.

“For more than 70 years the Movac brand has been known for its heritage, quality and second-to-none product knowledge, and we continue to develop new innovations to build a sustainable and united business.”

Each of the three directors brings a huge amount of experience, Craig explains “I’ve been at Movac for many years and have overseen the introduction of high-tech coatings and the growth of the industrial division, combine that with Keith’s track record in automotive and retail, with Robert’s experience of driving corporate growth then we have a great foundation for really helping our customers find incredible products that deliver exceptional finishes.”

Keith adds “I’ve worked in automotive, retail and colour science for more than 35 years and Movac has a great track record of working with supply partners to provide quality, sustainable products alongside a really dedicated service team — with my background, I want to continue to focus on the core business but also to explore new market opportunities.”

Movac
www.movac.co.uk



Henkel presents future-ready, sustainable solutions for the furniture industry at Ligna 2023

HENKEL, a leading adhesive manufacturer and innovation driver, showcased its products for the furniture industry at Ligna 2023. With the theme “Get Inspired”, Henkel aimed to excite customers and partners through a comprehensive portfolio of innovative and sustainable adhesives, processes and digital tools. Visitors were invited to explore Henkel’s Customer Experience Area to interact, discover and discuss the latest product solutions and experience Henkel’s digital service offerings.

“We are excited to welcome our customers and partners at Ligna 2023 and inspire them with our innovations for the furniture industry. Henkel stands for superior performance and service offering and we continue to support our customers in improving their processes in terms of cost performance. Going beyond performance, we have strengthened our sustainable adhesives portfolio and digital services offering significantly to ensure our customers stay ahead of the curve,” said Kathrin Hein, global director of furniture and building components at Henkel, speaking before Ligna 2023 took place.

At Ligna, Henkel showcased its expertise in ensuring occupational safety with PUR Micro Emission hotmelts and demonstrated the new generation of high-performing hotmelt adhesives. Henkel’s sales and application experts were available at the booth to discuss and explain these innovations.

With PUR Micro Emission hotmelts, Henkel demonstrated its expertise and know-how gained over many years of leadership in this field. For two decades, Henkel has been offering PUR Micro Emission hotmelts guaranteed to contain less than 0.1% diisocyanate. With this pioneering work Henkel has been helping its customers to optimally prepare for stricter occupational safety standards and to meet upcoming regulatory requirements such as REACH Annex XVII. Henkel’s sales and application technology experts were available to show the next generation of PUR ME products.

Henkel’s new generation of thermoplastic hotmelt adhesives offers maximum performance including exceptional heat resistance. In addition, Henkel demonstrated its dedication to material efficiency and improved sustainability by ensuring that these adhesives require

significantly lower application weight. Customers and partners were invited to discover innovative, resource-saving applications for edge banding, profile wrapping and lamination. Additionally, Henkel provides its customers with cleaning solutions tailored to their specific needs. Visitors could find out more about this holistic service at the booth.

Sustainability and circularity are becoming core topics in the furniture industry. For improving the CO₂ footprint of adhesive products, one effective approach is to formulate adhesives using bio-based or mass balance certified raw materials.

To date, more than 30 Henkel adhesives sites worldwide are ISCC+ certified, which is an important prerequisite. To ensure supply of sustainable raw materials, Henkel is fostering close collaboration along the value chain.

At Ligna, Henkel showcased the latest innovation and developments including the new bio-based PUR Micro Emission hotmelt. Furthermore, visitors could experience an interactive feature — a CO₂ calculator. Henkel experts used it to analyse the customer’s carbon footprint and reveal potential opportunities to reduce their carbon emissions.

“Going beyond top performance, Henkel’s product solutions always offer additional added value and service for the customer. We pay special attention to sustainable processes, such as the efficient use of raw materials and energy. Therefore, we continuously reduce the carbon footprint both in the formulation of our products and when our customers use them in their production,” explained Moritz Ultsch, head of market strategy for furniture & building components at Henkel.

In addition to manufacturing high-quality adhesives, Henkel also supports its customers in achieving the best results through services and application know-how. With its Inspiration Centre in Düsseldorf (ICD), believed to be unique in the industry, Henkel is driving innovation and digital transformation for its customers. Henkel has been investing for its customers to create a place that offers new dimensions of collaboration and digital innovation. An environment that fosters joint problem solving and co-creation. Visitors to Ligna were offered opportunities to visit this innovation hub of over 47,000 m².

The Technology Centre for furniture and building components is part of the ICD. It is designed to simulate state-of-the-art application processes used within the industry. In this laboratory, Henkel helps its customers to identify optimal process parameters and the right adhesive technologies for their needs.

In collaboration with machine manufacturers and partners, Henkel offers digital process optimisation tools that deliver excellent results quickly.

One example for innovative digital tools is the 3D Edge Scanner, presented for the first time at the trade show. It analyses the application pattern of the adhesive and provides guidance for adjustment within the recommended range of application weight — for an optimised and reliable results. Visitors to the trade show were able to learn more about the new digital solution and try it out live at the Henkel booth.

Henkel
www.henkel.com



The Technology Centre for furniture and building components is part of the Henkel ICD. It is designed to simulate state-of-the-art application processes used within the industry.

New Combilift product launch at Ligna



AS LEADING forklift manufacturer Combilift continues its 25 years in business celebrations, May saw the launch of another new model truck, this time at Ligna, the international timber and woodworking show, which ran from 15th-18th May in Hanover.

The new Combi-CB70E is a further addition to Combilift's ever growing range of electric models which offers powerful performance, extensive battery life and unrivalled ergonomics, according to the company. This model, in the vibrant Combi-green livery first seen on the recently launched Combi-CUBE product, boasts the distinction of being what is believed to be the shortest 7 t capacity counterbalance truck on the mar-

ket whilst also benefitting from multidirectional ability, enabling the versatile space saving handling of both long and bulky loads.

Design features incorporated into the high-capacity Combi-CB70E such as its large super-elastic tyres and compact wheelbase make it ideally suited for the operational demands of the timber industry.

With a 7,000 kg/15,500 lb lift capacity, this model benefits from an impressively small footprint as well as exceptional manoeuvrability meaning that it can easily move bulky loads of timber around in confined spaces.

Occupational health and safety requirements mean that the welfare

of the workforce has become ever more important over the years. Drivers of industrial vehicles, who are often required to spend extensive periods in their work stations, quite rightly expect the highest levels of comfort and safety. Combilift's designers have therefore gone to great lengths to ensure that the latest generation of models are kitted out with top quality components that ensure sophisticated ergonomics for a stress-free in-cab environment.

Features in the spacious cab include generous glazing for excellent all-round visibility, the tilting steering column, hydraulic steering and the Grammer MSG65 seat.

What sets the Combi-CB70E apart from other forklifts is its gas strut suspension cab, which uses components such as those found in large scale industrial machinery with cab suspension. Combined with the super-elastic tyres this





guarantees the smoothest of rides over uneven or less than perfect ground conditions such as those typically experienced in lumber yards.

Combilift's newly developed Auto Swivel Seat was also premiered at the Ligna show. This optional feature automatically engages and swivels the seat and armrest 15° to the right or left to accord with the direction of travel selected by the operator — reducing driver strain particularly when travelling in reverse. (Patent Pending Application No. 2305983.5)

The truck also features Combilift's internationally patented and Red Dot awarded independent electric traction which provides all front and rear drive wheels with 100% traction control. This negates the need for differential lock on slippery surfaces and significantly reduces long load momentum twisting when travelling sideways. Each electric drive incorporates parking and regenerative dynamic braking for power efficiency. Roll-out access for major electrical components also simplifies maintenance tasks.

This mix of next-gen performance, extensive battery life and exceptional ergonomics combined with all the advantages of the Combi-CB range, makes this the most powerful compact electric multidirectional forklift to date, according to the company.

Combilift CEO and co-founder, Martin McVicar, said: "The increased capacities that we are offering in our electric range will answer the demand for ever more powerful products which at the same time help companies to achieve their aims for more sustainable operations.

"We chose Ligna as the platform for launching the Combi-CB70E due to its innate suitability for customers in the timber sector, but we are confident that this model will be a popular addition to our portfolio for many other industrial applications."



Combilift
www.combilift.com

Biesse at Ligna: master of materials since 1969

FROM 15 to 19 May 2023 Ligna, the global woodworking technology event, was back and Biesse was present with a new look that expresses the company's evolutionary journey.

"At Ligna we share how our work can unleash the potential of any material through an immersive installation that showcases creativity and technology," says Raphaël Prati, chief marketing & communications officer. "Our customers create products that are increasingly multi-material and Biesse provides access to a vast range of skills through a single company and a single brand." The installation used physical and video elements to stimulate the visitor's imagination and present multi-materiality. On one side, five stations presented the processes that allow the material to be transformed while, on the other, multi-

media elements showed the result of the transformation, emphasising the potential of the processed materials themselves. The itinerary ended with a display featuring four finished products made from the different materials to showcase the theme chosen for this installation at Ligna 2023, the seat.

"Among the novelties, part of the stand is dedicated to previews, concepts and trends and presents an ever-growing selection of glimpses into the future. We want to prime visitors to envision their own factory of tomorrow. Our showcases at Ligna 2023 include an edgeline with the new corporate colours and nomenclature and the Hydrogen Force System (HFS) hydrogen gluing system, a novelty in the field of edgeline, designed with sustainable production in mind, that combines technological innovation and environmental performance," commented Alberto Tuberti, product management director wood.



Turning to the machines and integrated lines available in the catalogue, the focus was on integrated automated solutions: specific machines shown in action were the Rover B FT HD machining centre, served by a robot, and the Rover A machining centre, integrated with Synchro and featuring a new, even more efficient and user-friendly configuration, guaranteeing limitless creativity. The Rover B FT HD nesting machining centre was in operation with the new "Dynamic Vacuum System", which enables more efficient work by reducing electricity consumption and CO₂ emissions. "Ligna is an opportunity to confirm our partnership with Imos, a point of reference in the development and distribution of software for the furniture and woodworking industry. Thanks to a technological partner like Imos, we have raised the technological and digital level of our solutions, offering software specifically created for the design and construction of cabinets," says Ettore Vici, chief regional officer EMEA and APAC.

Biesse S.p.A ● www.biesse.com



Ecogate® Ligna debut “outstanding”

ECOGATE Ltd made its inaugural appearance at last month's long-awaited Ligna exhibition and, by all accounts, the sales and technical team couldn't help but woo visitors from all sectors of the woodworking industry with the latest energy-saving technology for dust and fume extraction.

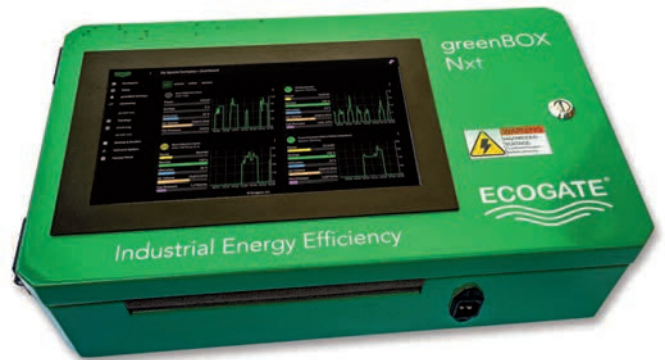
Sales director, Jake Oldfield, admitted that they were “hard-pushed to cope with the level of visitor interest, which was nothing short of outstanding, but I think we did manage to speak with everyone who approached us for information and advice.”

“The Ecogate® system has been around for well over a decade now, and over that time the concept has been well received by the UK market,” says sales manager Ian Rayner, “but electricity price hikes over the last 12 months have really hit home with manufacturers both at home and in Europe. Halving the cost of running your dust extraction system is an opportunity no factory owner wants to ignore, and the fact that the system can often pay for itself within two years, and then continue to reap savings, makes it a no-brainer.”

Here in the UK, Ecogate has a sole distribution agreement with Extractly Ltd and, with interest in the energy-saving technology burgeoning, the company is now actively seeking to establish further dealerships both here and in Europe. “The potential for take up of Ecogate technology in the current economic climate is significant,” says Jake Oldfield, “and the levels of enthusiasm we saw at Ligna — from both manufacturers and possible sales partners — was very encouraging.”

As with so many good ideas the concept is basically very simple, and the theory behind Ecogate's on-demand energy-saving technology is based on age-old laws of physics, but the system's efficiency relies more on today's computer processing power to achieve the energy savings. Realising the reduction in fan speeds is where Ecogate's patented technology comes to the fore — reacting automatically, in real-time, to changes in demand for extraction.

Effectively, a small reduction in extraction fan speed results in a disproportionately large reduction in the amount of electricity consumed



by the fan's motor. In fact, as a rule-of-thumb guide, reducing fan speeds by just 20% will reduce electricity consumption by 50% ... which means energy bills are typically halved.

When all machine stopping and starting is monitored throughout an average working day in a joinery shop or furniture manufacturing facility, the extraction system is typically only required to operate for around 80% of the time; and it's the 20% of 'downtime' that an Ecogate system capitalises on — any time a machine comes online, the dust extraction adjusts automatically to accommodate the new extraction volume requirement. Similarly, when a machine ceases operations, the fan speed is reduced and energy consumption decreases.

Traditional extraction systems operate continuously throughout the working day, with the fan motor running constantly, at full power. With Ecogate installed, fan speed is continuously varied to exactly match extraction demand and optimise energy usage.

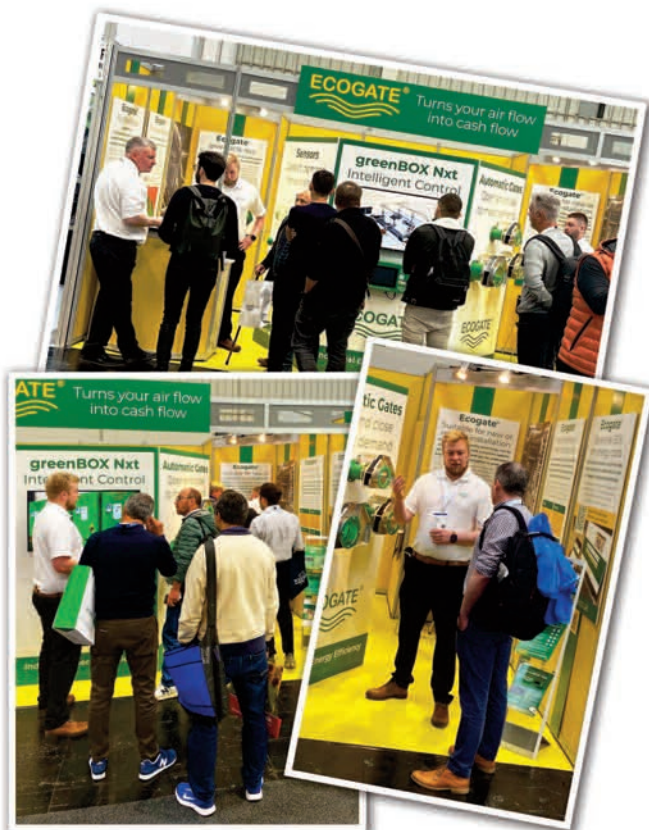
At Ligna, this principle was demonstrated very effectively with an interactive working display which also featured Ecogate's latest development — the new “greenBOX Nxt” controller. Visitors to the stand were invited to mimic the action of a machine starting up by pressing a large ‘gameshow-like’ button. This change in demand for ‘extraction’ was acknowledged by the greenBOX Nxt, which in turn operated one of the display's automatic dampers, which lit up like a Christmas tree to show it was opening! Simultaneously, an extractor fan started-up, and the ‘system’ status could then be monitored on the Nxt's colour touchscreen. Pressing a second button opened another damper and the fan speed increased accordingly. Pressing one of the buttons again then closed a damper, the fan slowed down, and the actual power saving being made was displayed on the screen.

Ecogate's new greenBOX Nxt controller is highly intelligent. As well as controlling the extraction system, real-time performance data shows how much electricity the fan motor is consuming, it checks filter pressure, air volume and air velocity at dampers, branches, as well as across the entire system, and also monitors machine utilisation across the factory. The greenBOX Nxt is able to stop and start the extraction system automatically at both ends of the working day; system performance is checked at start-up and confirmed by text or email, and at the end of the day, greenBOX Nxt will message again to confirm successful system shutdown.

Ecogate's technical director, Will Kenyon, commented: “Since Ecogate was first introduced to the UK back in 2010, the concept and the potential for energy savings have been appreciated across the industry, and many manufacturers have implemented the technology into their factories over those years. For some, however, it was possibly just one more capital investment that had to go on the back burner but now, with the economics of the system making more sense than ever before, this is an investment that could ensure a future for some businesses.”

Ecogate ● Tel 01924 926038

Email sales@ecogate.co.uk ● ecogate.co.uk



SCM new entries attracted considerable interest at Ligna 2023

SCM RECORDED outstanding success at the 2023 edition of the Ligna trade fair. Thousands of customers and business visitors from more than 100 countries crowded into the Group's stand covering more than 3,000 m² of exhibition space and more than 50 technological solutions between Hall 13 and Hall 16 (the latter being Superfici technologies for finishing).

There was an excellent return in terms of orders, negotiations and contacts on a vast range of product types and important opportunities arose in all the international markets, especially, the DACH area, North and Eastern Europe, North and South America and South-East Asia.

SCM presented innovations in all the application fields for secondary

wood processing, both physically at the trade fair as well as digitally and interactively.

As well as the extensive demo programme organised at the SCM Live Show, at the heart of the stand, there was no lack of contributions to Ligna.Recruiting and Ligna.Stage on the new trends for digital transformation and automation, timber construction and surface treatment.

Some of the new entries that elicited the greatest interest included automated and connected solutions developed for highly bespoke, versatile and sustainable production.

The Smart&Human Factory system for the furniture industry presented new flexible cells with robot and integrated with unmanned AMR shuttles: Gabbiani T2 for beam saw, Stefani Cell E for edgebanding, Morbidelli CX220 for drilling as well as a new Cut C 200 right-size-box-making machine for cardboard packaging.

Also being presented for the first time at Hanover was a Smart&Human Factory model for joineries, an integrated cell for flexible and bespoke production from raw material to the finished piece of furniture, enhanced by its integration with an MES software.

There was considerable interest at the fair for the latest integrated offer on software and services presented at the Digital Hub supporting each stage of the process: from planning and programming to after-sales assistance. These include the new functions on the Maestro CNC Nest cutting optimiser, the Maestro Optiwise optimiser for single-blade and angular panel saws, Maestro Power TMS optimiser to manage the tools inside the tool storages on the CNC machining centres and Maestro 3Drill for drilling. Some of the new HMI software presented includes Maestro Active Beam&Saw for CNC machining centres for timber construction. Also attracting attention was the platform for Maestro Connect Digital Services integrated into the "Woodworking made Izy" and the new Service Bundles, SCM service packages created to offer an integrated





solution that helps customer with any requirements, according to the company.

Some of the most popular machines include the new entries for timber construction and prefabricated houses, especially Oikos XS, a CNC machining centre offering operating speed and high configuration levels, dedicated to the production of straight beams, prefabricated walls, trusses, roofs and blockhouses. This new entry further extends SCM's range of high-tech solutions for the sector together with DMC System XL to sand and calibrate X-Lam/CLT panels and the other new entries on show at the Randek stand, an SCM partner specialising in advanced machining systems for prefabricated houses.

Also on show were SCM Surface Technologies products for integrated surface treatment, starting with the new DMC System TC automatic sanding-calibrating machine with laser unit and 'Never ending power' sources, developed to create three-dimensional marking on parquet, wood elements, MDF panels to be ennobled, fibre cement panels and solid surfaces. Solutions capable of satisfying any processing demand for exclusive, sophisticated, fashionable finishing effects, as well as the Superfici new entries on display in Hall 16. They include the new Compact XL sprayer, the UV LED polymerisation system and the Excimatt excimer technology for super matt finishing effects. The CNC machining centres for panels and solid wood presented include Morbidelli M100 with new FlexDrive worktable; Morbidelli X200 with new in-cab labeller for nesting machining; Accord 500 to manufacture doors, windows, stairs and solid wood elements.

The new Olympic 500 was presented for edgebanding to be used by artisan businesses looking for all the advantages of an edgebander in a compact space.

Some of the new entries presented digitally include the Stefani SBX squaring-edgebanding machine for accurate squaring and top-quality machining, and Windorflex, a new automatic cell to produce complete windows and doors. Lastly, an ex-

tensive offer for artisan joinery where the new "Blade Off" safety system and the new Starteck CN K three-axis compact machine are highlighted.

The success of the five-day event was the crowning moment to an exceptional year for SCM and the entire Italian group. As the SCM Group's general manager, Luigi De Vito and the product & markets director for the wood division, Pietro Gheller reminded people at the press conference, the Group's turnover for the year ending 2022 was a record €850 million (+14% on 2021) with orders of around €900 million. The SCM wood division surpassed €600 million, again recording double-figure growth on the previous year and continues to gain global market shares in the woodworking industry: +1.5% from 2018 to 2021 with further advancement expected for 2022 while waiting for the final balance figures for the sector. Ligna closed this latest edition with more than 80,000 visitors. The next edition is scheduled to be held from 26 to 30 May 2025.

SCM Group ● Tel 0115 977 0044
scmuk@scmgroup.com ● www.scmgroup.com/en_GB/



The Weinig Group at LIGNA 2023: Innovations for resource efficiency and value creation

WEINIG group, a leading technology provider for solid wood and panel processing presented itself in Hanover with the brands Weinig and Holz-Her in an exhibition area of 5,000 m². Under the motto *Weinig Offers More*, visitors experienced many of the almost 50 machines and systems live in action at the Weinig Group in Hall 27.

Within its comprehensive range of products for the industry and small businesses, Weinig focuses on innovative technologies in the solid wood sector that offer customers significant benefits enabling them to meet today's challenges. Weinig is responding to the shortage of skilled labour, the rising cost of resources and the need for digitisation with modular, highly efficient solutions that are suitable for any size of business — from small shops to industrial enterprises. "The Solid Wood Division of the Weinig Group now forms a strong team together with the systems specialist H.I.T.. Our customers find competent advice for the entire value chain, from the sawmill to products for constructive woodworking. Whether a craftsman needs a planer like the Cube 3, or a company needs a large-scale system for engineered wood taking up an entire hall, they will all find the right solution in proven quality at Weinig," emphasises Gregor Baumbusch, CEO of the Weinig Group.

And Dr. Georg Hanrath, Chief Technology Officer, points out: "The innovations and developments of the Weinig Group help to optimise the use of resources and include specific technological solutions for machines and complex production systems."

Thanks to efficient material handling, precise automation and resource-saving production technologies, customers can economically produce products of the highest quality and in flexible batch sizes despite the shortage of skilled labour. In addition to two large-scale systems for industrial production of wooden components, a wide range of individual machines with intelligent operating concepts and interfaces to the Weinig software world were on display.

Weinig Digital Solutions:

Smart control and full transparency for production systems or individual machines with Weinig digitisation solutions

The stand provided detailed demonstrations of how companies are using

digital solutions to build secure networked production, because networked machines are more than the sum of their individual components.

Specific apps can be used to measure and improve overall equipment efficiency (OEE), and further relieve the burden on skilled personnel through efficient production control or push notifications. Weinig offers its customers several digital software solutions. viaConnector Edge is the link between machines and software solutions, allowing machines to be interconnected and data to be transferred. The output data can be configured individually according to requirements.

The Weinig Control Suite is Weinig's central system control technology for intelligent production. For the first time at Ligna, Weinig presented how virtual part tracking with the Control Suite can be checked against reality without the need for additional part identification such as a barcode. The wood in the system is identified at the infeed via OptiTrack, a newly developed software with integrated AI technology.

The open, modular software architecture of the Weinig Control Suite enables automated and smart control of small systems up to complete CLT factories.

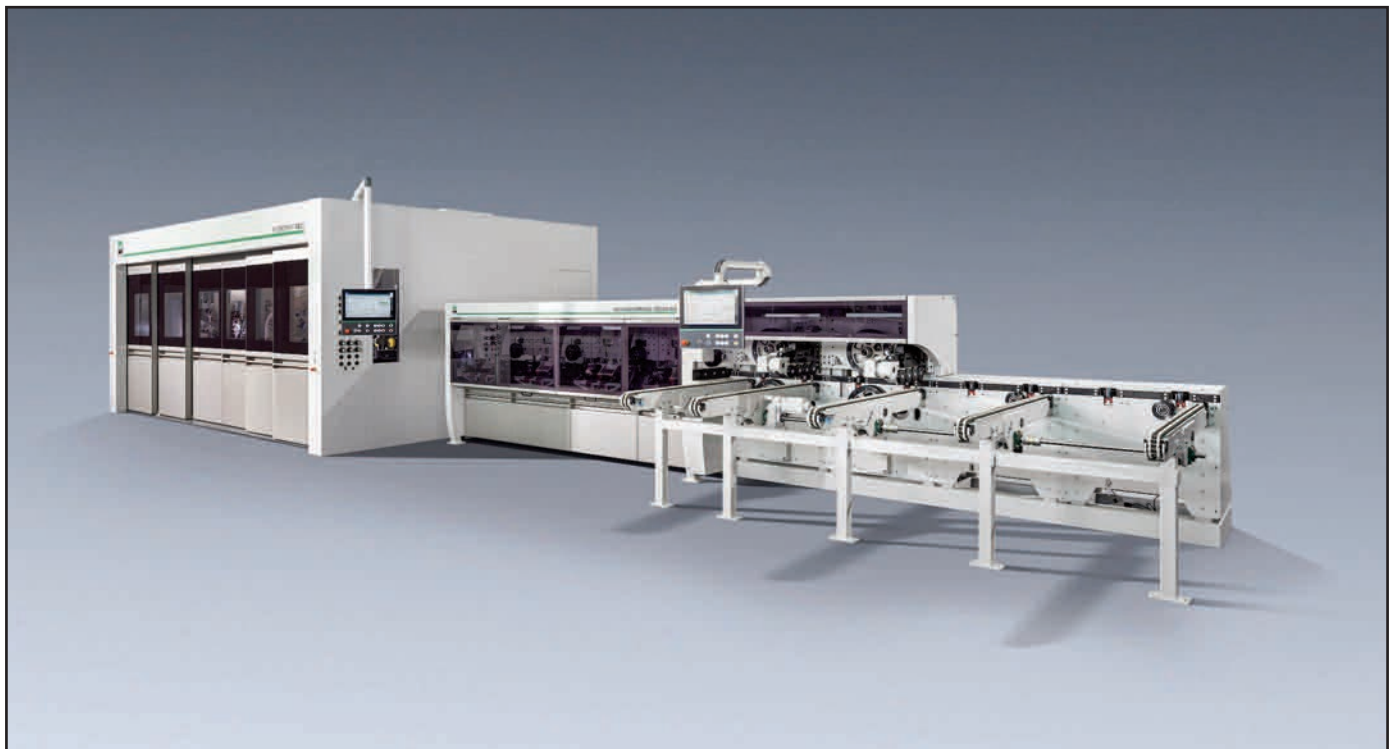
The Weinig App Suite analyzes machine performance transparently and in real time. Customers can access their machines via smartphone, tablet or notebook at any place and at any time. The Weinig viaBox is the "Swiss army knife" of the IoT world: via a touch display, customers can use IoT functions very easily without having expert knowledge. An additional external monitor can be connected, for example to visualize the factory floor.

As always, Weinig wants to have the solutions for the most important challenges of its customers ready for the market in good time and gave a brief insight into the topic of "Innovation Management in the 21st Century" as part of a keynote presentation at the LIGNA.Stage.

Weinig System Solutions:

Systems expertise shown live in action — with global innovations

A large-scale system was shown live in action to demonstrate the complete manufacturing process from raw material to finger-jointed lamellae and solid wood panels.





In the cross-cut finger jointing line, a robot with a vacuum unit loads the system with boards. These are assessed using the CombiScan Sense scanner with AI technology, and the identified defects are cut out by an OptiCut 450 Quantum, believed to be the world's fastest high-speed cross-cut saw. Up to 240 good parts/min are automatically transferred to the HS 200 finger jointing line. The mechanisation for direct feeding of the finger jointing line via the cross-cut saw is patent pending.

In the ProfiPress C 2500 HF gluing press, believed to be a world first in solid wood processing, the wood lamellae are glued to create panels in a continuous process. A fast high-frequency heating system heats the wood, operating continuously and producing cost-efficiently with maximum throughput.

Weinig Systems Solutions (WSS): The process experts

Together with H.I.T., Weinig is a leading supplier of integrated production lines in the solid wood segment, starting with sawmills, through optimising, planing and sorting lines, to complete processing lines for the production of engineered wood, windows and furniture elements. Weinig acquired majority shares in the Allgäu-based mechanical engineering and finger-jointing systems specialist in April and, together with H.I.T., will set up a powerful, agile and highly diversified organization for project business.

The system solution experts accompany customers in the conception, planning and implementation of systems and production lines and enable the best possible solution for individual customer requirements. Efficiency and profitability of the solution are as much in focus as smooth and optimized implementation for the customer.

At Ligna the WSS experts were happy to explain the different value-added processes in personal discussions and describe specific examples.

"Weinig System Solutions ventures beyond the conventional limits of wood processing. We offer our customers a comprehensive solution that enables them to produce high-quality components for constructive woodworking efficiently and cost-effectively," says Gregor Baumbusch, CEO of Michael Weinig AG. "We take pride in supporting our customers every step of the way and helping them achieve their goals," emphasises systems specialist Michael Bock, managing director of Weinig Vertrieb und Service GmbH and Director of Weinig Systems Solutions.

WEINIG LifeTime Services:

"Trust & Value packages" from a single source: Weinig sets new standards with its unique end-to-end service offerings

With a new, modular system (comprising Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum plans), Weinig LifeTime Services offers customer operations sup-

port in the maintenance and servicing of Weinig machines and systems before, during and after purchase and in demanding continuous operation. The plans have terms of up to three years to make service tasks and costs plannable. "Managed service support forms the basis for consistently high availability with high productivity, a predictable and sustainable reduction in operating costs and hence a predictable ROI which ultimately means success for our customers," affirms Andreas Doikas, Head of Weinig LifeTime Services.

In the future, the new "myWEINIG Portal" will allow customers to access booked service offers in a "single sign-on" process. The digital service portfolio is modular in design and aims to provide maximum transparency for the best possible machine availability.

There are several modules to choose from:

- Weinig SmartCase: Triggers information on all service operations and their processing statuses.
- Weinig Genius, a kind of "Google" for all questions and answers about Weinig machines and systems, documents and troubleshooting aids 24/7 is now at your fingertips.
- Weinig ASSETS: Information on machines and systems and their key data are available anywhere and at any time at the touch of a button.
- Weinig Maintenance Manager: Helps establish a maintenance strategy based on cooperation.
- Weinig Online Shop 2.0: with just a few clicks, wear and spare parts can be ordered 24/7 without media gaps.

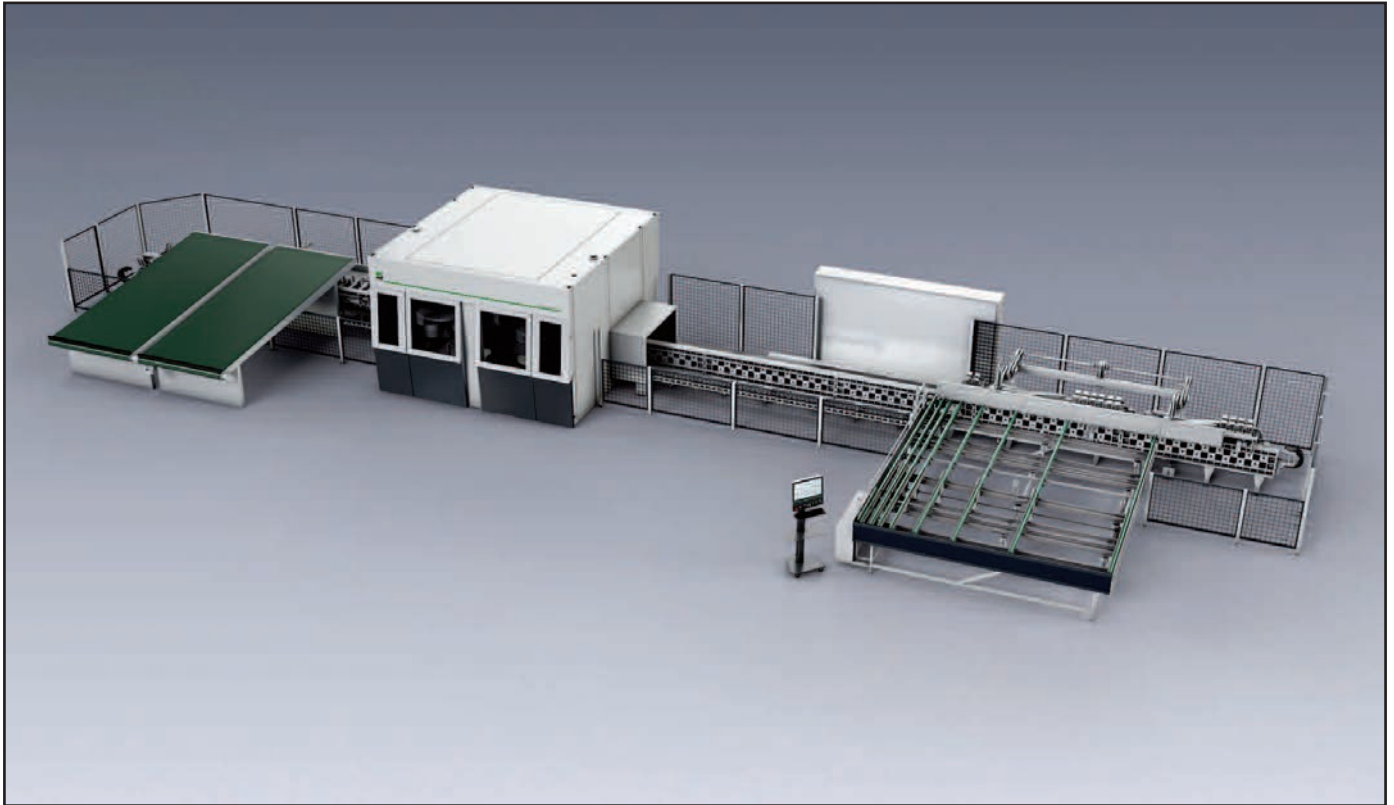
The new Weinig "360" Asset Management

"With continuous production systems, it's better not to leave anything to chance," Andreas Doikas says. Therefore, Weinig offers industrial customers a 100% all-around professional solution that pays off in ROI and OEE benefits.

Operators and manufacturers work together with Weinig as integrator to develop a Total Productive Maintenance concept (TPM) tailored to the customer. Via a central collaboration platform, all participants can centrally access the data and process upcoming tasks. Systematic recommendations for initial stock, an orchestrated maintenance strategy and state-of-the-art remote support solutions as well as the new *Trust & Value* plans round off the concept.

Large-scale system — cross-cut finger jointing line

Every piece of wood is raw material. Weinig offers optimal solutions in order to use this regenerative raw material economically and to realise high production output despite a shortage of skilled labor. Like, for example, the cross-cut finger jointing line with robot feeding, which is built



for tough continuous operation. A robot with a vacuum unit feeds boards into the system.

The boards are evaluated by means of a CombiScan Sense scanner. Artificial intelligence significantly improves results and their repeatability, while reducing setup time. The automatic camera adjustment reduces operator errors, and the user-friendly interface is easy and quick to use while providing more statistics and data than ever before. The developers have also taken a further step towards optimisation with regard to the minimum infeed length: it is now 400 mm, while the maximum infeed length is 6,500 mm. The infeed width ranges from 35 to 310 mm, and the infeed thickness from 15 to 120 mm. The CombiScan Sense can achieve a maximum operating speed of up to 430 m/min.

Defects are cut out by what is believed to be the world's fastest high-speed cross-cut saw, the OptiCut 450 Quantum.

This cross-cut saw in the top performance range is designed for 24/7 use, making it a true marathon runner. As its name suggests, the OptiCut 450 Quantum achieves an amazing feed speed of up to 450 m/min. It processes wood lengths from 1,500 to 2,000 mm, widths from 40 to 200 mm and thicknesses from 18 to 75 mm. Its conveyor belt is equipped with Variospeed, which means that the gap between two boards becomes smaller, resulting in up to 20% higher performance. The dynamic overhead feed with permanent contact to the wood enables both high acceleration and fast deceleration. The length measurement, which is independent of the feed speed, ensures exact lengths without slippage. The VarioStroke saw stroke — adjustable to the optimum cutting height in eight levels — also contributes to the very short cutting times. To ensure that waste parts do not impair speed, a blow-out device ensures cleanliness. It handles cross sections up to 150 by 50 mm.

The good parts are automatically transferred to the downstream HS 200 finger jointing line at a rate of up to 240 parts/min.

The mechanisation for direct feeding of the finger jointing line via the cross-cut saw is patent pending.

The key component of the finger-jointing line is the HS 200, a high-speed system for horizontal finger joints, which the developers at Weinig have enhanced in a number of points. For example, it is now possible to monitor the system in real time around the clock via the Weinig App Suite. This also includes having an overview of the condition of process-relevant wear parts to avoid unnecessary downtime in the first place.

A scanner — referred to as GlueEye Vision at Weinig — ensures optimal glue application, and for maximum wood savings, the HS 200 measures each individual workpiece. The smallest wood infeed length is 110 mm,

and the maximum is 900 mm. From this, the HS 200 makes boards and strips with lengths ranging from 3,000 to 6,100 mm, and with widths from 37 to 152 mm. The thickness of the wood can span from 20 to 50 mm. With the reference cross-section of 30 by 90 mm, the milling machine achieves an output of up to 200 parts/min. The press manages 12 cycles/min. Infeed and outfeed mechanization is carried out according to the individual needs of the customer.

Large-scale system — gluing press

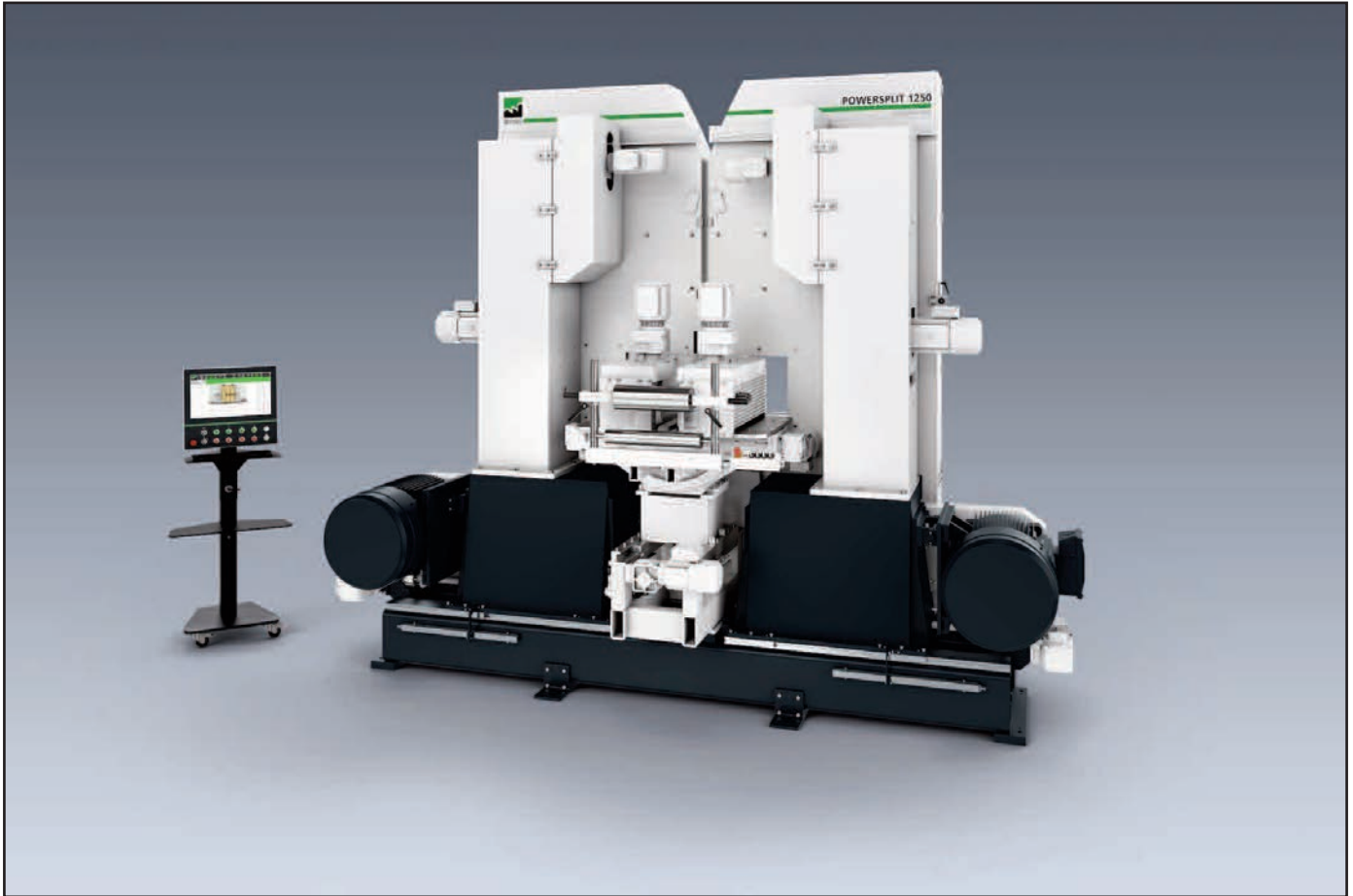
The ProfiPress C 2500 HF — believed to be a world first in solid wood processing. The ProfiPress C 2500 HF high-performance gluing press features non-contact glue application that can be adjusted precisely to the wood thickness, which increases gluing quality and reduces consumption. Maximum production output is ensured by the stacking unit with alignment station, which enables a capacity of up to 100 lamellae/min. A strong hold-down system at the infeed is responsible for optimal alignment, resulting in only minimal misalignment with exceptionally good surfaces that require very little finishing. Due to the high-frequency heating system in the pressing bed, the glue joints harden quickly without heating up the wood. The result is tension-free glued panels with very high joint quality. For optimum wood utilisation, the ProfiPress C 2500 HF is optionally available with a double cross-cut saw including a lifting unit for cutting the continuously glued panel.

Conturex Vario L Performance — the high-end solution for industrial production

CNC profiling center for higher performance with unchanged space requirements. The Conturex Vario L is one of the world's most powerful CNC machining centres in window manufacturing. For Ligna, Weinig has given the Conturex Vario L a facelift with a performance package. The machine can now process increased double part lengths with the same footprint, which is made possible by enhancements to the PowerGrip motion tables. The new multi-part sequence allows two parts to be clamped on one table, reducing non-productive time. The scope of delivery includes the Sinumerik One, the latest generation of control technology from Siemens.

Thanks to its sturdy portal design, the Conturex Vario L can be equipped with heavy units. Cast iron tracks ensure a high level of dynamism. Basically, this CNC profiling center is designed for complete machining of heavy solid wood applications.

The Conturex Vario L offers a variety of equipment variations that allow it to be perfectly matched to individual applications. For example, you



can use a universal spindle for the production of complex window profiles, a 5-axis head for absolute flexibility in furniture production, and multiple spindle drilling heads (MBK) for greater performance in hardware machining.

Thanks to the 30 kW main spindle, production is much faster now: due to its high power, profiles can be made in just one processing step. The air-cooled main spindles are virtually maintenance-free and thus guarantee high machine availability.

The Conturex Vario L has a separate infeed and outfeed area. Loading and unloading takes place in a continuous flow principle without any loss of time. The ergonomic design also ensures that the workpieces can always be positioned and removed at the optimal height. Even in the standard version, the Conturex Vario L works fully automatically. Depending on configuration, the output and degree of automation can even be increased so that the operator only has to spend about 20% of their time with the machine. This means that production can be carried out in off-peak times as well as during extended shifts.

An open interface to all common industry software solutions combined with WEINIG CAM provides the optimal programming platform for customer-specific applications. Even parametric special parts, conservatory constructions, solid wood doors and special window shapes can be programmed in no time at all through the simple use of macros.

Subsequent simulation of the processes with WEINIG SIM allows the parts to be tested and optimized in advance. This maximises operating and production reliability to the highest possible degree.

The new Hydromat 4400 — maximum output

The high-performance machine for planing and profiling at up to 400 m/min with maximum output. The Hydromat 4400 combines all the requirements for a high-speed machine: massive design, powerful infeed unit and excellent performance potential. Stability and flexibility in outstanding combination guarantee perfect cost-efficiency with high productivity.

The Hydromat 4400 can convert a stack of timber into high-quality workpieces without compromising on performance. The Highspeed series is claimed to be in the top performance league in terms of design and processing. And that means: planing and profiling at feed speeds of up to 400 m/min with excellent surface quality, no less.

Weinig high-speed planing also stands for efficient production, be it in large batches or production to order. In addition, customers benefit from safety based on strict quality standards, high ease of use and what is claimed to be an unrivalled level of reliability.

The Hydromat 4400 offers a working width of 60 to 300 mm and a working height of 19 to 120 mm. The unit is operated via a 21.5" display with Weinig Machine Control. The CNC-controlled adjustments reduce setup time to a minimum, and the tools can be conveniently changed using a crane, hoist and HydroLock outboard bearing. Large feed rollers, table rollers and pressure rollers ensure that the workpieces are guided securely and smoothly. Weinig did not show the Hydromat 4400 in a live demonstration in Hanover, but it was on display in conjunction with the High Performance Feeder, which is also designed for feed speeds of 400 m/min.

PowerSplit 1250 — band resaw for highest performance

The flexible saw for maximum performance and resource efficiency. 150 m/min feed speed, minimum kerf, perfect quality, short setup times and smooth throughfeed are an unbeatable combination. The power package guarantees reliable and powerful production with maximum safety for the operator. The PowerSplit 1250 band resaw is equipped with a 55 kW motor as standard, but 45 and 75 kW motors are also available as options. Accordingly, feed rates of up to 80, 120 or even 150 m/s are possible, and the maximum cutting height is 300 mm. The SINGLE version is equipped with a fixed sawing unit on the right, while the TWIN version has two adjustable sawing units. The PowerSplit 1250 is built for maximum performance; for example, the band saw blade can reach speeds of up to 70 m/s — that's 252 k/hr! In order for the saw to reach this speed, the developers have treated it to a spraying device. It spreads anti-stick agent on the saw blade to prevent resin or dirt from sticking. Intuitive SplitControl operation on a 21.5" display ensures maximum convenience.

At Ligna in Hanover, Weinig exhibited a PowerSplit 1250 as a stand-alone application and demonstrate separation and center cuts with different cross-sections and wood types.

Weinig Group ● www.weinig.com

Weinig UK ● Tel 01235 557600

Email sales@weinig.co.uk ● www.weinig.co.uk

Altendorf Group celebrates the Power of Partnership at Ligna 2023



THE ALTENDORF Group, known for customer focus and fostering strong long-term partnerships, presented an extensive range of high-quality products and services at Ligna 2023. The trade show appearance was evidence of the company's belief that collaboration and shared knowledge will lead companies to a successful future together.

At Ligna 2023, the Altendorf Group showcased its advances in workplace safety, product development and customer service. This new era of corporate performance underlines the importance of *Power of*

Partnership in creating successful and lasting business relationships.

Vit Kafka, CSO of the Altendorf Group, looks back on a successful trade show: "A lot has happened in the Altendorf Group since the last Ligna in 2019. At this year's Ligna, we were able to present ourselves, the "new Altendorf Group", to a global audience and received very positive feedback — even in the context of a market environment that remains challenging".

The Altendorf Group presented numerous product highlights that attracted the attention of the visitors:

- HAND GUARD, the world's first and only certified, AI- and camera-based safety assistance system for sliding table saws
- The new "next" series of Hebrock edgebanders
- The well-known F 45 sliding table saws in a variety of configurations
- The new F 35 sliding table saw
- The myALTENDORFGROUP Service App

The Altendorf Group would like to express its sincere thanks to all customers, partners and visitors who contributed to the successful presentation at LIGNA 2023.

The company will remain committed to delivering outstanding products and services and maintaining strong partnerships to ensure a successful future.

Altendorf Group
www.altendorfgroup.com/en/



Combilift premieres new product at LogiMAT

AS COMBILIFT celebrates 25 years of innovation, the company plans to ensure that 2023 will be a year to remember, by launching multiple products across various exhibitions on a global scale!

To kick off, the newest product — the COMBi-CUBE — was launched at the LogiMAT International Intralogistics show in Stuttgart.

This new electric model incorporates a host of technological and design features that not only enhance handling procedures but also offer a high level of driver comfort.

Immediately noticeable is the new vibrant colour — this bold fresh Combi-green shade will contribute to improved safety as the trucks will be easily visible in their operational environment. Aside from optics however, a focus is on a number of ergonomic features.

The driver's position in the centre of the cab offers generous room and excellent all-round visibility. The angle of the telescopic steering column can be adjusted and the Grammer MSG65 seat, combined with hydraulic cabin mounts guarantees a comfortable ride. An adjustable arm rest is mounted to the seat suspension which incorporates a multi-function joystick and an LCD colour touch screen.

Combilift's dynamic 360 steering, believed to be unique, that enables seamless directional change while on the move can be integrated into the Combi-CUBE as an optional extra, making it what is believed to be the most manoeuvrable counterbalance forklift on the market.

Further notable features are the large rear wheel and rubber tyres on all three wheels. This means that this model is not restricted to super flat floors and is eminently suitable for working indoors and out, ensuring that semi-rough terrain is no impediment to reliable operation. And for quicker battery changeover during heavy shifts, two new easy-change roll-out batteries are provided (Overall Design Copyright 015019216-0001).

Combilift CEO and co-founder Martin McVicar said: "Our engineers and R&D department have been tirelessly preparing for a year of new launches, and the Combi-CUBE is proof of our continued commitment to provide the best and most innovative handling solutions for our worldwide customers."

Combilift ● www.combilift.com



The Leitz Symposium: inspiring enthusiasm

AN EXCITING look at current trends and innovative processing methods — at this year's Leitz Symposium in Oberkochen, the focus was on topics relating to modern timber construction. Renowned speakers from industry and science presented new trends and processing methods to over 120 guests, some of which are already changing, simplifying and above all improving the world of tomorrow. For years, the Leitz Symposium has developed to become an important information forum and industry get-together for experts from industry and trade.

Strategic timber resource management, circular timber construction and roots — even a brief glance at the programme showed how creative, modern and sometimes also provocative the event was. Wood as a renewable construction material is becoming increasingly important and has developed into an innovative and highly attractive material. Now it is important to use the opportunities of modern timber construction and to draw more attention to it. A total of eight speakers presented possible solutions, current projects, development trends, machine concepts as well as tools and machining strategies at the Leitz Symposium.

Prof. Katja Frühwald-König from the Ostwestfalen-Lippe University of Applied Sciences was the first to speak. It is quite clear for her that wood is the building material of the future. But not the way it is currently used. According to Prof. Frühwald-König, timber construction must become more material-efficient. For wood as a raw material is not infinite. Due to climate change, it is necessary to reforest the domestic forests. Research on particularly climate-resistant wood species has therefore gained enormous importance.

Christian Straubinger from Taglieber Holzbau went in a similar direction with his slightly provocative presentation title "Species-appropriate human husbandry". For the experienced engineer, the use of wood is essential for environmental protection. For, in contrast to the climate killer cement, wood is not a disposable product. It actively contributes to the thermal insulation and energy efficiency of a building. This makes building materials such as foams unnecessary. According to Christian Straubinger, the enveloping surface of buildings plays a decisive role in people's well-being. In wooden buildings, people have a different sense of temperature and a more emotional connection to the building — in other words, a much more "species-appropriate" life.

The entrepreneur Markus Derix gave an introduction to circular timber construction. This is a circular economy in which certain building elements made of wood are given a second life. These are not thrown away after use, but are converted for further uses within existing or new buildings. This is not only a revolution in timber construction, but is also extremely resource-friendly. Prof. Dr. Jürgen Graf from the Technical University of Kaiserslautern was the next speaker providing a possible answer as to how the construction and dismantling of these building elements can be carried out smoothly. According to him, a simple connection technology between the components is elementary for a circularly effective construction method. In the research with his team, Jürgen Graf relies on a reversible connection with so-called cone adapters made of pressed synthetic resin wood. The symposium host also had a hand in this project. Leitz has developed a special cutter for the millimetre-precise cone milling, which shortens the machining process by a factor of ten compared to conventional routers.

Prof. Dr. Christina Jeschke from Biberach University of Applied Sci-

ences explained what the buildings of the future might look like from the outside, whether built with wood, cork, plaster, fibre cement, metal or glass. Using numerous examples, the professor presented everything that is possible in façade design in modern timber construction and which materials can be used. For her, a change in thinking is already necessary in the training of young architects and designers so that sustainability aspects such as circularly effective materials management are directly taken into account. However, she also pointed out that the weathering of wood can be a challenge in construction and therefore it must be planned for that the wood will change visually over time.

Luciano Tagliaferri from the Italian machine manufacturer SCM and Andreas Kisselbach, head of the R&D department at Leitz and moderator of the symposium, then introduced the technical basics of modern timber construction. The aim is to eliminate the need for reworking the individual building elements on the construction sites. This is made possible, for example, by modern machine concepts for six-sided machining of the components and building elements. Leitz supplies the specialised matching tools. There is now much more to sawing, cutting and drilling in timber construction than there was a few years ago. For example, it is about complex five-axis machining, high-precision drilling in a short time and modern cutting strategies. These are all challenges for which the company from Oberkochen, Leitz, develops innovative solutions year after year.

At the end of the symposium, Oliver Fried from Rubner Holzbau caused quite a stir. He mentally transported the guests to Hamburg and presented the so-called "Roots" — Germany's tallest wooden high-rise building, which is currently still under construction. Twenty storeys will later be distributed over a height of 72 metres. The completion of this architectural masterpiece in Hamburg's Hafen City is planned for 2024 and will serve as a flagship project for modern timber construction in the future.

Jürgen Köppel, spokesman of the management board, was enthusiastic at the end of the symposium. For him it is clear that wood is the building material of the future, which has already begun today. Thus, modern timber construction and its sustainability aspects are without alternative. However, designers and architects must learn to think terms of wood as early as the training stage.

Enthusiastic guests, enthusiastic speakers and a topic that no one will be able to avoid in the future. The Leitz symposium showed: whether it's saving CO₂, creating a positive living experience, or reusing resources, making a difference not only requires long-term goals, it also requires timely action.

Leitz Tooling ● www.leitz.org/en-gb/



Timber Development UK launches 'Timber Typologies' at Footprint+

TIMBER Development UK (TDUK) — the UK's trade association for the timber supply chain — has launched a new guide to understanding options for timber construction.

Aimed at developers, investors and policy makers, *Timber Typologies* outlines the variety of build options and methodologies available for low carbon timber construction and details the sort of building types each method is suitable or appropriate for.

Written with Waugh Thistleton Architects, one of the leading 'timber first' architects' practices in the UK, the book is intended as a primer or beginners guide to the variety of timber solutions available. It will help decision makers understand the options open to them and make the right choices to deliver the best outcomes.

David Hopkins, chief executive at Timber Development UK, said: "Timber is vital when it comes to decarbonising construction. However, if it is going to realise its full potential, we can no longer talk in simple generic terms about this material. We need to be specific about the systems and approaches available and the benefits and risks each of these can bring. We can't make progress if clients, architects and policy makers are talking at cross purposes about what they mean when they talk about building in timber."

Alastair Ogle, associate at Waugh Thistleton Architects, and one of the lead authors of the book, said: "We still see enormous amounts of misinformation and misunderstanding when it comes to timber. Clients, local authorities and even insurers don't seem to understand that all of these things they refer to as "timber" are in fact a wide range of completely different build systems with very different properties. We're committed to helping design and enable a low-carbon building revolution, but that will

only come when we increase understanding across the market. We hope this will in turn increase confidence in permitting, designing, insuring and constructing the low-carbon timber buildings of the future."

Timber Typologies is the first in a trio of books aimed at increasing the understanding of options among the decision makers. It will be accompanied by *Timber Policy* — a guide to the variety of ways countries and city authorities are encouraging timber construction around the world, and *Timber LCA*, examining comparisons of lifecycle analysis between buildings constructed of different materials.

You can download *Timber Typologies* for free from the Timber Development UK website.

Timber Development UK

<https://timberdevelopment.uk/resources/timber-typologies/>



W Exhibition relaunched as Materials & Finishes Show

THE UK'S flagship trade show for the furniture manufacturing and joinery industries, formerly W Exhibition, has relaunched as Materials & Finishes Show.

Materials & Finishes Show, which will run at the NEC from 19-22 May 2024, is the reimagined concept developed by Montgomery Group. The event will continue to provide a platform for manufacturers, processors and installers of timber, components and supporting services, alongside complementary materials such as stone.

Speaking about the relaunch and the enhanced proposition the Materials & Finishes Show will deliver for the furniture manufacturing and joinery industries, event director, David Todd (pictured) comments, "It gives me great pleasure to announce the launch of Materials & Finishes Show, which aims to build on the success of the W Exhibition. Since the show's conception in 1974 it has passed from being a woodworking machinery exhibition to cover the full range of technology and materials for industrial woodworking. We aim to take this further providing a more valuable, time and resource effective solution for both our exhibitors and visitors from a more diverse community.

"We've conducted an extensive market research exercise and worked closely with our stakeholders which has concluded that there is still a huge appetite, and indeed need, for a platform for the industry, specifically across the UK and Ireland.

"A lot has changed since the last edition of W Exhibition in 2018 and we have adapted the show's proposition to reflect



the evolving needs of the market both now, and in line with our anticipations for the future. Wood and stone are two of the most widely used natural materials in construction in design, often used together in various ways. Whilst wood and timber will remain a core focus for Materials & Finishes Show, it was a natural progression for us to incorporate stone and broaden the delivery for our community.

"This more holistic view of the industry paves the way for other products such as stone kitchen countertops and natural stone flooring. The show will deliver a true end-to-end proposition for our visitors."

All areas of the material journey, from the initial stages of raw processing through to finishing and component supply for completed products, will be represented at Materials & Finishes Show. Visitors will have the opportunity to see running machinery together with components, materials, technology and services for the manufacturing and processing phases of materials, alongside the latest products and developments for finishes.

David concludes, "As an organisation, Montgomery Group is fully committed to protecting and building on the legacy of W Exhibition and the communities we serve. It's our responsibility to preserve the long-term success of our platform for the sector, which is why we have been through this extensive period of consultation to reimagine and develop the show to meet the changing needs of the market, culminating in the relaunch with Materials & Finishes Show."

Materials & Finishes Show

www.materialsandfinishesshow.com

Leitz Tool Management cuts productivity drop-off

LEITZ is working with manufacturers to significantly improve their productivity through its Tool Information Management (TIM) system.

The TIM system is designed to maintain optimum machine and tooling performance by monitoring the tool lifecycle, ensuring that a regular sharpening, cleaning, and servicing schedule is carried out at the correct timings to avoid any drops in productivity.

The tooling system is directly monitored at Leitz to track changes and fluctuations in production to predict and assess when your tooling requires maintenance or replacement. For larger operations, Leitz can also use RFID tags to track the location and usage of tools.

"We are well aware of the issues that machine downtime can have on our customer's businesses," said Simon Liddell, managing director at Leitz Tooling. "If tooling systems aren't managed effectively, it can have a huge knock-on effect, significantly reducing productivity and product quality, not to mention damage to the expensive machines and their parts. Leitz TIM customers are well positioned to avoid downtime can help to keep tooling cost-effective. When paired with our new E-shop for consumables, it gives manufacturers more support with end-to-end management of their tooling inventory. Interested companies can set up a meeting with our team, where we will assess your manufacturing processes, and identify a package that is most suitable for your needs and budget. After onboarding, clients will gain access to our systems that monitor their tooling."

You can learn more about Leitz and its Tool Information Management systems at their website.

Leitz Tooling
www.leitz.org/en-gb/



A handy little tool from Makita

MAKITA has added a handheld blower to its expanding LXT cordless collection. The versatile 18 V DAS180 LXT brushless blower is the latest product from the power tool manufacturer that is also capable of inflating and deflating, simply by changing the nozzle tip.

The new 18 V DAS180 LXT blower is powered by a brushless motor with variable speed control. Suitable for a wide range of applications, from cleaning off workbenches, machinery, and cleaning blocked filters, through to inflating inner tubes and play pools, this handy tool makes a useful companion to any kit bag.

The body is designed with an ergonomic rubberised grip and weighs only 1.7 kg, making this tool easy to operate with one hand. Despite its compact size, the unit is extremely powerful and offers a maximum sealed suction of 10.3 kPa. Its four-stage air volume settings deliver a blowing force of up to 2.8 N with a maximum 200 m/s air velocity and air volume of 1.1 m³/min.

Other features include a one-touch, tool-less nozzle attachment to quickly adjust the tool for each application. The variable speed trigger comfortably controls the blowing force and can be locked in the 'on' position for extended use. A tether feature offers a safe hanging point to secure the tool in overhead applications.

With the launch, Makita has also added a number of compatible nozzle accessories to offer a wealth of uses for blowing, inflation and deflation applications. This includes a flexible nozzle set with a ø6.0 x 800 hose which is considered ideal for blowing out debris in narrow spaces where the machine cannot fit.

On the latest launch, Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita UK, said: "This useful tool will make a super work companion, where users can quickly switch between tasks simply by changing the nozzle.

"Powered by our innovative lithium-ion battery technology the new DAS180 is compatible with almost 300 products within our ever expanding 18 V and 36 V LXT platform."

Makita ● www.makitauk.com



Leitz's new e-commerce platform proves to be a success with customers

LEITZ UK, a leading tooling solutions company, has met with resoundingly positive feedback from its trade customers since the launch of its e-shop in February. The online store has streamlined the ordering process and transformed the customer experience — evidenced by its 4.7 Trustpilot rating and more than 30 5-star reviews.

The online store currently features over 400 of Leitz's most popular tools, across six product categories — including its most popular consumables such as the ThermoGrip collect chuck, with more items being added daily.

In addition to the wide range of products available, customers now also have the added convenience of the service being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Simon Liddel, managing director for Leitz UK, said: "Our focus is to provide exceptional customer service and a comprehensive range of products; our new online service supports this by ensuring supplies are available to order any time customers need them, as all items are held on a separate stock, and are sent via courier on a next day service, minimising down-time."

"Our e-shop features a product finder to make it easier for customers to locate the correct parts and for larger businesses, support with the new option to deliver to multiple addresses, assisting the management of tooling needs for multi-site manufacturers."

Registered account holders benefit from additional e-shop features to help support their stock management. These customers have instant access to price visibility and can take advantage of Leitz's express checkout option by saving their favourite products to their profile. Repeat ordering has been made easier with customers now able to save order lists or upload previous invoices to help manage prior order and quotes.

Leitz Tooling

https://shop.leitz.org/en_gb/




PRECISION MEETS INNOVATION
THE NEW VLASER 370 BY VOLLMER





VLLaser 370
Tool Sharpening Machine

With the new VLaser 370, VOLLMER have extended the range of solutions for your tool manufacturing operation. In addition to the VOLLMER portfolio of grinding and erosion machines, VOLLMER now has a further technology for machining ultra-hard materials such as PCD, CVD-D and MCD. Highest flexibility, best quality and surface finish. New solutions combined with reliable precision: Simply VOLLMER.

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Sikkens Wood Coatings celebrates a new look and an expanded product portfolio

SIKKENS Wood Coatings, part of AkzoNobel, is celebrating 2023 in style with a refreshed image and an expanded portfolio of interior wood coatings.

The brand, which was founded in 1792, is being given a more modern, dynamic look, in tune with today's wood coatings market, while its portfolio of wood coatings solutions is expanding to include interior products, in addition to its well-established exterior assortment. As a result, Sikkens Wood Coatings will be able to offer a one-stop-shop solution to distributor partners and end customers alike, with a fit for purpose portfolio to satisfy most industrial wood coatings requirements.

These changes will be rolled out across Europe, Africa and the Middle East throughout 2023. "This exciting new strategy represents a significant step forward for Sikkens Wood Coatings," said Chris Bradford, marketing director, industrial coatings, AkzoNobel. "By bringing interior coatings into the Sikkens Wood Coatings portfolio, we are building on the existing strengths of the trusted brand, while at the same time giving it a fresher, dynamic appeal and positioning it for continued growth in the years ahead."

"This investment marks a significant and momentous occasion in our brand's history. We look forward

to launching the products and refreshed brand to our customers and continue to provide strong support moving forward," said Alan Hall, regional commercial director, wood coatings, EMEA, AkzoNobel.

The interior assortment includes products from the AkzoNobel Wood Coatings range of interior products, rebranded as Sikkens Wood Coatings for customers sourcing their products from distributors, so customers may already be familiar with some of the product names in the range, making the transition easy.

"Our customers can now find the wood coatings solutions they need — both exterior and interior — all in one place under the trusted Sikkens Wood Coatings brand. To complete the package, we've also launched an exciting, refreshed website, distributor portal, brand videos, a comprehensive catalogue featuring the full interior category and many other tools, all carrying our sharp, revived brand look and feel. These items have been carefully created to help our customers in their day-to-day business and add value. We look forward to continuing to support them as we embark on the next phase of the Sikkens Wood Coatings journey," said Sarah Skinner, regional product marketing manager, wood coatings EMEA, AkzoNobel.

AkzoNobel
www.akzonobel.com



Protect and colour outdoor cladding, window frames & doors with new Liberon Superior Protection Woodstain



BETTER WEATHER means that now is the perfect time to turn your attention to your home's exterior woodwork. Time spent now properly protecting it means it will be shielded from the summer sunshine that can damage it, and the worst that autumn and winter can throw at it, saving you repair time and money in the long run. You need to make sure external woodwork is water resistant so that it won't rot. Applying a decent woodstain is the effective way of creating a barrier, which protects the wood from water and the sun. If you have a certain colour tone in mind for your external woodwork, then woodstain is ideal for achieving it.

It's a good idea to go with a long established, trusted brand with the experience to offer only reliable products you can trust. And make sure you select a woodstain with good longevity.

Check out the new 'Superior Protection Woodstain' from Liberon, the woodcare experts. Ideal for outdoor cladding, window frames or doors, Liberon's Superior Protection Woodstain has an eight year guarantee for outstanding protection: that's the kind of staying power you need.

With a quick-drying satin finish that enhances exterior timber, the new woodstain is smooth and simple to apply. Whilst being water repellent, it nevertheless has a formulation that makes it micro-porous once dry, which allows wood to breathe. After just three hours the first coat is dry so that you can get on with applying a second coat, which is all that is needed.

With a non-drip formulation, it's suitable for most woods, hard and soft, new or old, and can be applied over most existing woodstains. Its formulation makes it flexible with wood movement. This great quality woodstain is water-repellent and has UV filters, making it ideal for outdoor woods that are exposed to bad weather conditions or lots of sun.

Liberon
www.liberon.co.uk



Nature-inspired learning centre with environmentally friendly Kebony wood cladding



A STUNNING new educational hub has recently been completed at the LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome, using sustainably sourced Kebony wood cladding for a striking, nature-inspired and eco-friendly façade.

Located in the heart of the Paroli district, the project was recently completed following a successful collaboration between architecture firms Alvisi Kirimoto and Studio Gemma, and completes the university spaces, provided a new learning centre designed in harmony with its natural surroundings.

Developed across two levels with a total area of 1,500 m², the project has been constructed from scratch following the demolition of a former warehouse. The new centre sits in a picturesque and accessible spot to the South of the University campus, close to a small wood, parkland and the campus' main square. The building's architecture takes inspiration from this surrounding greenery: custom-built in a style evocative of a classical treehouse, the structure blends into the landscape and creates a welcoming, homely space for students.

Kebony wood cladding has been used to complete the exterior façade, providing rustic, natural character to the second-floor siding that seamlessly integrates the structure into the surrounding treetops. Developed in Norway and locally supplied by Italian-based distribution partner ICOL, Kebony's patented dual-modification process permanently transforms sustainably sourced softwoods, such as pine, into Kebony wood which offers durable qualities matching, and in some cases exceeding, tropical hardwoods, whilst remaining naturally beautiful.

Kebony offers architects an environmentally friendly solution for the construction of new community projects around the world, safeguarding against the dual issue of deforestation and rising carbon emissions caused through continued dependence on traditional construction materials. Kebony is also weather resistant and requires little to no maintenance, creating a long lasting and aesthetically beautiful learning structure to be enjoyed by generations of students to come.

Inside the building, the interiors have been carefully designed to guarantee versatility and host a variety of educational activities, as well as cultural, artistic, and social events, from conferences and gala evenings to film screenings. The ground floor houses the entrance, a classroom and service areas, while the upper floor contains a multipurpose amphitheatre and two more classrooms. The facility has been designed to support both face-to-face teaching and remote learning, equipped with sophisticated audio-visual conferencing systems integrated into the architecture.

Resembling a large telescope watching over the square below, the project will become the new focal point of life on the university campus. The building's sustainable design principles and use of natural materials has earned it prestigious LEED Platinum Certification.

Massimo Alvisi, architect and co-founder of Alvisi Kirimoto, comments: "The building is a wooden box raised off the ground in dialogue with nature. Diaphanous and silent, it allows the light to enter, mitigated by the trees and the slats. At night, expertly lit, it seems suspended in the dark like a lantern with a candle inside. Surrounded by greenery and with its permeable and transparent skin characterised by the use of sustainable Kebony wood cladding, the building seems to dissolve into the landscape, evoking the classic tree house, from which it takes not only its outline, but also the welcoming and almost "homely" dimension of the spaces, custom-designed for the students."

Nina Landbø, international sales manager for Kebony, adds: "For over 25 years, Kebony's mission has been to educate people around the world on the benefits of using sustainable construction methods, and to help the world reduce CO₂ emissions by producing an environmentally friendly, durable and beautiful product for use in global construction. We are therefore pleased to see Kebony chosen as the cladding for this new education centre, and hope that this nature-inspired learning environment will inspire further ideas to solve the climate crisis."

Image: © Marco Cappelletti

Kebony ● www.kebony.com

Circular construction requires effort every step of the way

THE CONSTRUCTION industry cannot minimise its way out of the climate crisis. There is a need for buildings with a low carbon footprint — and for healthy, durable materials which can create value in new cycles.

Troldtekt A/S has interviewed frontrunners of the circular economy for an online feature. The company points to data and more respectful consumption of resources as some of the keys to more balanced construction.

It will take more than just efficiency enhancements and process optimisation for us to achieve our goal of sustainable building. This is the message from the well-known Dutch architect Thomas Rau, who established RAU Architects, and in 2013 was named Architect of the Year in the Netherlands. The transformation he is calling for fundamentally changes our role as humans on Planet Earth.

“The biggest misconception is that we think we have to build buildings. In future, buildings will be a product of a logistics process,” he says. “In the same way, raw materials will not be raw materials either, but nature’s works of art or limited editions, and in future we will need to regard buildings as repositories of such ‘limited editions,’” he says.

The interview with Thomas Rau is part of a new online feature from Troldtekt A/S, which produces acoustic wall and ceiling solutions. In the feature, leading players in architecture and property development share their views on the path to circular construction. It is a path that requires effort at every stage of the life cycle of buildings — from the production of materials, through the construction process, the operational phase and right up until the recycling or reutilisation of materials.

In the feature, Martha Lewis, head of materials at leading architectural firm Henning Larsen, points to the vital importance of healthy materials and comprehensive data.

“Data increase the value of building materials in the circular economy. Information about the building materials is entered in material passports, so we know, for example, how many times an acoustic panel has been painted — and with what. The information from the material passports is transferred to a building passport that keeps track of any new materials that come into the building, and what happens to the materials which are already there,” she explains, adding that the material manufacturers



have an important role to play in this respect: “It’s very valuable that a company like Troldtekt has EPDs for most of their products. In fact, it’s crucial, because in the building industry we need to know more about the climate impact from the production of building materials, and the EPDs provide this information,” says Martha Lewis.

In early 2023, at the Circular Build Forum, the Danish construction industry’s new material passport was presented. The material passport declares important information about construction products — for example, have chemicals or anything else been used in production that may be of relevance when assessing whether a product can form part of a circular economy in new buildings.

The new online feature describes how Troldtekt works with a range of sustainability initiatives in the production of acoustic panels — and environmental product declarations (EPDs) are a key tool here.

The environmental impact of raw materials, transport, production, use, disposal and the potential for recycling are reflected in the life cycle analysis on which the EPDs are based. Accordingly, the EPDs are a useful tool for consultants and clients when gathering the assessing documentation about building materials.

“Transparency and thoroughness have been keywords for us in working with our EPDs. Among other things, we have chosen to have separate EPDs for our various products rather than just working with average values,” says Vibeke Pedersen, head of engineering department at Troldtekt A/S.

In an interview with the cement manufacturer Aalborg Portland’s CEO Michael Lundgaard Thomsen, the feature also looks behind the scenes at the development of the new FUTURECEM™ cement type, which has a 30% lower carbon footprint than conventional cement. Since early 2022, it has been possible to choose Troldtekt acoustic panels based on FUTURECEM — and the panels have carbon footprints that are 26 and 38% lower than those of Troldtekt based on grey and white cement, respectively, measured throughout the entire life cycle of the acoustic panels.

Troldtekt A/S

www.troldtekt.com/news-press/press/2023/cirkulaert-byggeri-kraever-indsatser-i-alle-led/



Certified tropical timber: more than just wood

AS THE WEATHER warms up, we all want to enjoy the outdoors. With the sun shining, there's only one thing we can think of: enjoying our gardens and terraces! But how can we take care of the planet while enjoying our lovely outdoor spaces? By choosing certified tropical timber! Certified tropical timber has natural characteristics that allow it to withstand the weather and sun without the need for any further finishing.

Recognised as tools for economic, social and cultural development, the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and PEFC-PAFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification — Pan-African Forest Certification) forestry ecolabels provide a clearer picture of tropical wood consumption. Choosing the right wood to decorate your outdoor space is not easy, but these labels are a good reference tool.

With this in mind, the International Tropical Timber Technical Association (ATIBT) aims to help consumers become more aware of sustainable management certification through the Fair&Precious programme. This initiative is committed to the respect of flora and fauna, as well as to an economic and social development model that respects local populations.

Fair&Precious aims to encourage consumers to choose FSC and PEFC/PAFC certified tropical timber for their outdoor decor.

Consumers are increasingly at-



tracted to environmentally friendly products and certified tropical timber is one such product. Tropical timber has a unique, natural durability, without the need for any treatment agents. Tropical wood's hardness, resistance and stability in a humid environment give it excellent structural qualities. Its colour, texture, graining and consistency also give it a remarkable aesthetic appeal.

The timber decking market has grown steadily since 2015, reaching global sales total of 16 million m² in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in home improvements have contributed to an acceleration of this growth between 2019 and 2021, with an increase of 34%. Professionals forecast continued growth of more than 10% per year, which could bring sales up to 25 million m² by 2025.

Choosing certified tropical timber is an investment in the future, sustainable living and environmental responsibility.

When buying tropical timber, consumers can send out a strong message against illegal logging and untransparent distribution channels. To do so, it is necessary to ensure that the wood is sourced from responsible companies, certified by independent monitoring bodies and whose supply chains can be accurately traced.

Such is the case of the ATIBT's Fair&Precious programme, which is committed to sustainable forest management, the preservation of biodiversity, and the promotion of local jobs and social initiatives in the wood processing industry. Supporting these companies is a contribution to the preservation of tropical forests and to the well-being of their inhabitants.

Fair&Precious
www.atibt.org
www.fair-and-precious.org



Selco takes steps to further offset carbon emissions

SELCO Builders Warehouse has continued its commitment to protecting the environment by launching the third phase of its ambitious tree planting project.

The leading builders merchant has planted 45,000 trees at Wooplaw Farm in Jedburgh on the Scottish Borders to create its latest 'Selco Forest'. It means, over the last two years, Selco has planted more than 300,000 trees including on a second site in Jedburgh and in Llandrindod Wells in Wales.

The latest planting has been made on land totalling 24 hectares and will offset more than 3,200 tonnes of carbon during the trees' lifecycle. The tree-planting scheme sits alongside a wide range of policies to help Selco reduce its carbon footprint, including introducing alternative fuel vehicles into its transport fleet, a comprehensive recycling strategy, the installation of LED lighting and a new gas management system across the network.

Carine Jessamine, Selco's marketing director and head of sustainability, said: "We are committed to continuing our investment in the future by playing our part in protecting our people, the environment and the planet.

"We have already begun delivering on our long-term vision to use alternative fuel vehicles across the entire Selco business and implementing a wider programme of many operational changes.

"As we continue to bring those policies to fruition, we have made the decision to offset our carbon emissions in the short term through the planting of trees and we are delighted to have now planted 300,000 trees across three locations."

The trees planted on the new Jedburgh site include Sitka spruce, Douglas fir and Norway spruce.

Selco has joined forces with the landowner and key timber supplier BSW Timber, together with BSW Timber's subsidiary companies Tilhill and CarbonStore, on the project.

Carine added: "We are delighted with the new site. Not only will the forest help us reduce our carbon footprint but it will also enhance the surrounding landscape, with native species creating biodiversity value."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



SterlingOSB Zero strikes the right pitch

A FIRM of joinery specialists operating across London and the Home Counties, which undertakes the most challenging joinery and timber frame constructions, has been making extensive use of West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero boards including for a development of stick-built homes on a site in south Essex.

Essex Pitch UK Ltd was set up 15 years ago by a group of highly skilled carpenters and joiners to offer clients expertise in executing structural carpentry, loft conversions and other complex roof work including mansards, dormers and hip to gable conversions. In addition to targeting the highest build standards, Essex Pitch also prioritises high levels of sustainability in all its work which is one of the reasons it chooses to employ SterlingOSB Zero wherever a high-performance sheathing board is required.

A director of the company commented: "We choose to use SterlingOSB Zero because it is net carbon negative and more cost-effective than the alternatives. It is also a heavier, stronger material than other OSB boards. The boards are versatile as well as being available in larger sizes when we require them, and we definitely intend using SterlingOSB Zero and other products from the West Fraser range in the future."

On a project at Stock, near Chelmsford, Essex Pitch's craftsmen carried out the in-situ construction of new houses. A total of 150 standard size sheets have been supplied by Brentwood Timber Supplies and have been used as the sheathing to the

exterior studs which form the load-carrying building envelope. Essex Pitch has also purchased quantities of CaberDek from another West Fraser stockist, PGR Timber Supplies, for all of the flooring.

As part of a comprehensive, net carbon negative product range, SterlingOSB Zero T&G presents specifiers with precision-engineered tongue and groove boards which are typically specified for pitched or flat roof decking and timber frame construction, as well as for flooring and other applications.

Also from an environmental viewpoint, the 'Zero' in the name means no formaldehyde is added during its manufacture, which is a first in the UK — encouraging its specification on improved health and safety grounds.

Available in thicknesses of 18 and 22 mm, the 2,400 mm length boards come in widths of 625 mm and 1,200 mm. They are strong enough to meet most load-bearing applications, are BBA approved and recognised by NHBC Technical. SterlingOSB Zero T&G also bears the coveted UKTFA Q-mark, a quality certification which provides a benchmark for manufacturers, and offers confidence to designers and end-users across the UK.

West Fraser ● 01786 812921
<https://uk.westfraser.com/>
<https://uk.westfraser.com/housebuilders/>

Essex Pitch UK Ltd
info@essexpitch.co.uk
www.essexpitch.co.uk



Choosing the right conveyor belt for wood based panels processing



WOOD BASED panels are an important starting material for the building, packaging, furniture and flooring industries globally. Their processing involves turning chipping wood and recycled materials into high-quality final products. To achieve that, manufacturers need efficient conveyor belts. Here, Damian Marczak, industry segment manager and Mario Buchs, global application engineer at conveyor belt specialist Habasit, explain how to choose the right conveyor belts for each stage of wood panel processing.

While fabric belts are the preferred choice for wood based panels processing, the type, material and strength of the belts can influence the process efficiency and the final quality of the panel.

Chip preparation

The first step in processing wood panels is preparing the chips. Once the logs and recycled materials have been unloaded from trucks and scanned for unwanted materials like stone, metal, steel and sand particles, the chipper process begins. For this application, manufacturers use power

transmission belts, which transmit power from the motor to the blade to cut the chips uniformly. Belts made from polyamide are the most suitable due to their high resistance to overloads as they absorb shock loads.

Bunker

After the chips are prepared, they are transported to the chip storage area, or the bunker. This process divides the chips into high quality material used for producing panels and rejected chips that will be used elsewhere. The most suitable belts for this application are fabric belts covered by either polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU). Due to the slow and straightforward selection of chips, these conveyor belts can last for several years, without the need for repeated maintenance.

Forming

The selected high-quality wood fibres are sent to the forming and pre-pressing stages, where they are shaped into panels. The forming belts used here are one of the longest inside the plant, up to 220 metres long and over three metres wide. These are designed to run

over live nosebars with high loads and long conveying distances. Their special design, specific material types, resistance to certain chemicals and ability to handle various environmental conditions enable manufacturers to produce all types of panels, including very thin ones at varying speeds.

The most popular belt for manufacturers is the TPU-covered fabric belt, due to its high chemical resistance and ability to cope with harsh processing requirements. However, TPU belts are made using chemically processed adhesives that release harmful emissions. At Habasit, the company already has belts in its portfolio that use bio-based glues, which will help manufacturers increase their plant's sustainability.

Prepressing

The raw panel-shaped matt is then compressed before being thermally processed. Pre-pressing uses a minimum of two belts arranged on top of each other. The belts need to be extremely wear resistant and capable of sustaining a high level of pressure and force, which is why belt manufacturers use aramid as a traction layer. The

innovative belts from Habasit use a crosslink polyurethane material, believed to be unique, which increases the abrasion resistivity of belts.

Deaeration

While the panels are compressed, this step includes removing the air from the wood fibres and creating uniform and homogenous surfaces. This stage requires wire mesh belts to allow the air to be removed from the panels. The most common type is the polyester wire mesh belt, whose weaving pattern allows for high and controlled air flow rates.

Lastly, the panels are processed and transferred to the pre-heater and the main press.

To ensure the end products meet quality standards, manufacturers need to use the most suitable belts and materials. At Habasit, the company provides end-to-end belting solutions for wood based panels processing, designed with the customer's needs in mind and meeting the highest industry standards.

Habasit
www.habasit.com

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Brett Martin launches Foamalux Light Bio

BRETT Martin, one of Europe's leading plastic sheet manufacturers, is proud to introduce to the market, the latest in a long line of sustainable, plastic sheet products.

Foamalux Light Bio is a low carbon, high quality substrate made with 25% bio-attributed PVC derived from sustainably sourced wood-based residue. This process, alongside 100% renewable energy powered production, reduces carbon emissions in the finished sheet by 20% and provides a fantastic solution to brands who are serious about meeting sustainability objectives — while maintaining the exceptional quality the Foamalux range is known for.

International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC) standards are adhered to throughout the supply chain, utilising the mass balance approach, guaranteeing that every step meets traceability criteria and minimises any possible negative environmental impacts.

Easy to router and easy to print on, Foamalux Light Bio is ideally suited to a range of fabrication applications. From shop fitting, to exhibition stands, and even the creation of pet and animal enclosures, it provides what is considered an ideal choice for brands looking for the very best quality, while also keeping sustainability front of mind and reducing environmental impact.

As part of its sustainability strategy, Brett Martin measures and aims to reduce the impact of business operations, and in 2022, Planet Mark



certification was achieved based on the commitment to continuous improvement in sustainability by measuring and reducing its carbon footprint.

Brett Martin's dedication to achieving net zero emissions is evident through renewable energy infrastructure. With a 2.3 MWp wind turbine towering at 99.5 m on-site, and a 6.42 MWp solar farm nearby, Brett Martin can quietly generate green energy, resulting in savings of over 900 tonnes of carbon emissions annually.

Speaking on the launch of this new product and the growth of

the low carbon range, sales director Ian Noble commented, "I'm absolutely thrilled to be bringing Foamalux Light Bio to the market. With a 20% reduction in carbon emissions this product showcases Brett Martin's continued investment and commitment in providing high-quality, low carbon, sustainably manufactured, semi-finished plastic substrates. Made with 25% bio-circular attributed PVC, Foamalux Light Bio provides a bright white, smooth printing surface as a perfect solution to sustainability conscious printers, routers and fabricators. Foamalux Light Bio harnesses the exact same qualities as traditional Foamalux Light but with a 20% lower carbon footprint."

As carbon footprint becomes a more prevalent deciding factor for brands, Brett Martin's approach ensures that a low carbon, practical and versatile product can be delivered, without compromising on quality.

Brett Martin ● www.brettmartin.com

Robust SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus ideal for screening and walkways

STERLINGOSB Zero PrimedPlus, from timber panel specialist West Fraser, is a sturdy board which is ideal for the construction of screening and walkways, either for privacy or to fulfil health & safety requirements; it's able to withstand the inclement British weather too.

As with all West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero products, no extra formaldehyde is used during the manufacturing process, so it is safe to specify in hospitals, schools and other public realms. Furthermore, its ultra-smooth surface means the boards can be adorned with graphics so can be used to offer directional information as well as branding, promotional material and artwork.

David Connacher, marketing manager for West Fraser, said: "The new version of our SterlingOSB Zero is primed and ready to go, so can be set up very quickly for planned or emergency walkways, screens and other installations — in town centres, shopping malls, or around railways stations or other locations. PrimedPlus, as part of our OSB range, is therefore the first UK-manufactured OSB with zero-added formaldehyde, delivering health as well as numerous other technical benefits."

Primed in the factory, in either a neutral white or grey paint, the edges of the OSB3 boards are treated with a sealant to protect against water ingress while the UV resistant putty layer applied offers even further weather protection as well as enhancing the ultra-smooth finish. Being knot and void free due to the rigorous manufacturing process means they will cut cleanly while being easy to fix and durable.

The boards are supplied in packs of 50 to cover a total area of approximately 150 m², with each measuring 1,220 mm wide by 2,440 mm long and at 18 mm thickness. SterlingOSB Zero PrimedPlus is CE-marked and complies with the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and BBA Agreement requirements while being manufactured in the UK enhances security of supply and sustainability.

West Fraser ● 01786 812921 ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/>

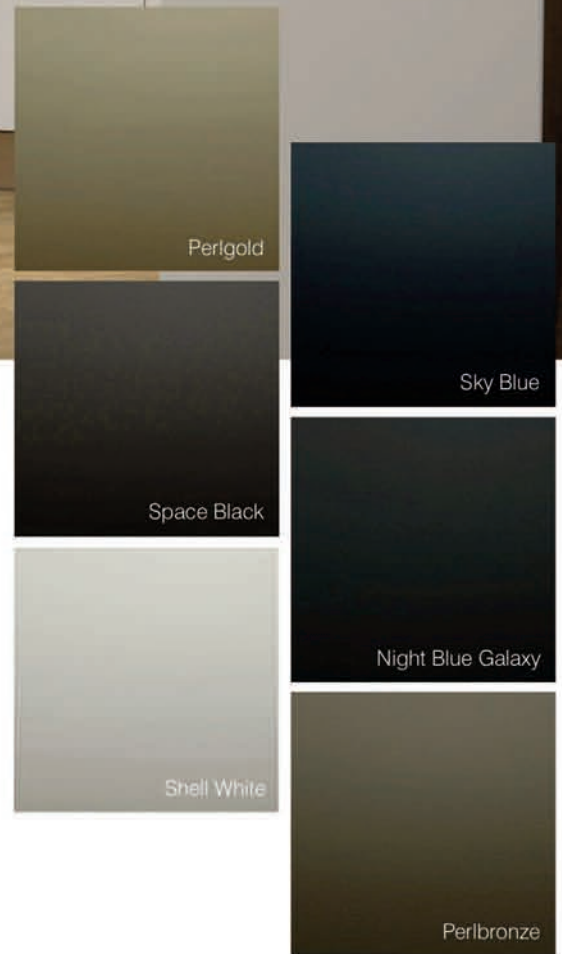




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The next-generation in pre-finished veneered panels from James Latham

JAMES LATHAM, one of the UK's leading independent materials distributors, has introduced **Shinnoki 4.0**, Decospan's new range of premium, pre-finished real wood veneered panels.

Exclusive to the distributor in the UK and Ireland, this new Shinnoki collection combines cool and contemporary timber decors with an almost unmatched degree of strength and resistance.

Showcasing the kind of beauty only real wood can bring, Shinnoki 4.0 comprises 18 different styles, within six distinctive collections, to suit almost any taste. This starts with the subtle, lighter-coloured 'Washed Stone' and 'Pure Natural' through to the darker-hued 'Sultry Browns' and 'Luscious Blacks'.

Manufactured with a real wood veneer, bonded to a 100% sustainable MDF core, Shinnoki's pre-finished boards are manufactured with the highest levels of care, craftsmanship, and attention to detail.

With the authentic look and feel of full bodied timber, every Shinnoki panel is treated with Decospan's signature six-layer varnishing technique, meaning they are scratch-proof and water-resistant, able to withstand the demands





of busy interior environments. The addition of a subtle, super matt coating and a deep brushing also makes the material soft to the touch whilst enhancing the texture of each grain.

The full range includes matching panels, veneers, and edge banding, ensuring complete consistency. Not only that, they're made using Decospan's proprietary MixMatch technology to create a uniform surface, with a linear grain effect, using only the choicest cuts of veneer to never compromise on quality. Suitable for a wide variety of consumer and commercial applications, now including horizontal use, it can be specified for walls and ceilings as well as furniture, from kitchen cabinetry to standalone pieces.

Crucially, from a fabrication point of view, Shinnoki offers that real timber look and feel, with the added benefit of lighter weight, greater consistency, and easier machining. It's taking ready-to-use veneered panels to the next level, with a product that truly combines luxury and functionality.

The fact that every panel already comes brushed, stained, and lacquered means it requires no additional finishing. This alone offers the potential for buyers to achieve significant savings and efficiencies, whether on a large-scale residential development or on a busy furniture production line. No longer is hand treatment the only way to achieve the perfect finish on wood panels.

Even better, it's incredibly easy to install, and low-maintenance, simply cleaned with a dry or damp cloth, providing further reassurance to homeowners, facility managers, and cleaning contractors alike of Shinnoki's quality and durability.

Finally, each panel comes with a guarantee that all the timber used in production has come

from responsibly managed, FSC®-certified forests. Furthermore, Shinnoki is only produced using wind and solar energy, guaranteeing a carbon-neutral material from cradle to gate.

Panels are 2,790 x 1,240 x 19 mm, composed of two layers of veneer and an MDF core, available exclusively from James Latham in the UK and Ireland in packs of 25 sheets..

James Latham ● www.lathamtimber.co.uk
www.lathamtimber.co.uk/products/veneered/shinnoki



New public swimming pool at a German holiday resort makes waves in eco-inspired leisure

A HOLIDAY resort on the outskirts of Hanover, Germany, has recently completed the renovation of a new 745 m² swimming pool, making use of sustainably sourced Kebony wood to provide decking around the pool. Designed by local architects Lohaus Carl Köhlmos, the high-quality installation at Freibard Berenbostel Garbsen is the result of seven years of development and has been successfully delivered in time to welcome guests for the summer season.

The six-lane outdoor swimming pool is the central feature of the public leisure centre, bordered by 11,000 m² of verdant green landscaping. With an awareness of the local environment and increasing evidence of the recreational benefits of connecting people to nature, the delivery of the project has been guided by the principles of healthy, eco-inspired architecture, both in the aesthetic design and selection of sustainable construction materials.

Kebony Clear wood was used for the poolside flooring and sunbathing areas, with the 200 m² of new decking punctuated by a series of ornamental flower beds produced to create the architect's vision of an oasis of calm. Continuing the eco-friendly design, 29 new trees were planted around the swimming pool to emphasise the connection with the surrounding natural landscape. Grass and shrubbery were also added to the perimeter of the site to create a welcoming, inspiring communal space.

Producing the most sustainable and long-lasting building timber to reduce global dependence on deforested tropical hardwoods and help reduce global CO₂ emissions, Kebony wood is dually modified, creating an environmentally friendly, durable, and beautiful building material. Developed in Norway, the patented Kebony® technology involves heating sustainably sourced softwoods, such as pine, with furfuryl alcohol. The resultant timber product is dimensionally stable, absorbs less moisture



than untreated wood, and therefore retains its shape and dimensions over a longer period of time, whilst contributing to a reduced carbon footprint.

In addition to its reinforced durable qualities, Kebony wood is also weather resistant and requires little to no maintenance following installation, bypassing the need for extended periods of pool closure for the constant treatment of the decking. The absence of artificial resins or splinters in the new Kebony decking will provide the assurance of safe leisure for the many families and children that will enjoy the space. Further custom-built features to enhance the sustainable credentials of the new leisure facility include the fitting of steel walls around the swimming pools to reflect the sun and warm the water through natural methods. During the colder periods, the heating of the swimming pool will be supplemented with energy stored from solar collectors positioned around the resort.

Robert Hey, operations manager of Freibard Berenbostel Garbsen, commented: "We are proud to have completed renovation of the most modern and beautiful pool in the area — the application of Kebony wood has represented a quantum leap in terms of technology and we look forward to the enjoyment of this leisure facility for many years to come."

Lars Arndt, country manager for Kebony, adds: "We are thrilled that Kebony Clear has been used so successfully in the outdoor pool of the Berenbostel bathing park. Kebony not only offers outstanding properties such as durability, but is also an environmentally friendly alternative to tropical wood. We are proud to be part of this extraordinary project and hope that it will serve as an inspiring example of the use of wood in outdoor pool construction."

Kebony ● www.kebony.com

Sustainable Accoya® saves historic Welsh station

INTERNATIONAL Timber and Peter Cox Ltd recently joined forces to restore a 155-year-old signal box in Wales, utilising sustainable Accoya® to ensure longevity and maintain the structure's historic charm.

Found in Anglesey, the Valley Station signal box dates back to 1867 and was in desperate need of restoration following decades of decay. Faulty drainage had led to wet rot taking hold of the timber, making it likely that the structure would not have survived if refurbishments had not taken place.

The signal box is a historic landmark in the area and was given Grade II status by the Welsh Government in 1998. It was originally built as one of 15 new huts along the Chester and Holyhead Railway and has stood the test of time for over 155 years. Peter Cox Ltd was commissioned to assess how the structure could be saved and called on the expertise of the local International Timber team.

Keen to utilise a high-performance solution, the surveyors selected Accoya as the timber of choice to replace the historic, internal structure timber frames. The product could be cut to the specific needs of the build, while providing huge sustainability and durability qualities that will benefit the structure for years to come.

The International Timber team took precise measurements to calculate the volume of timber required, replacing individual sections of the damaged wood rather than complete removal. The structure has also maintained its signature look throughout the entire build. Peter Cox Ltd added stainless steel splice plates to the adjoining half-lap joint timber to strengthen and maintain the building's structure.

The customer benefitted from a dependable supply chain, with all timber supplied to the precise specification and on time, ensuring the project ran to schedule.



Additionally, Western Red Cedar was supplied, which was used to pattern cladding in the build. All timber was treated with fungicidal fluid to help prevent the growth of wet rot fungus in the future and so preserve the structure for generations.

With the timber supplied, Peter Cox Ltd got to work, removing and replacing internal structural timber frames in the signal box structure. Work was completed without any disruption to the railways. The signal box is now restored to its former self, with sustainable Accoya ready to face the elements.

Paul Martin from International Timber said: "It was a pleasure to be involved in such a rewarding project, especially when it is helping to preserve a great piece of Welsh history. This is an excellent example of the potential of our sustainable Accoya timber, which will help this signal box continue to stand the test of time. This collaboration has also seen us supply timber for several other similar projects throughout the North Wales area."

International Timber
www.internationaltimber.com

Hollaway Studio transforms Vicarage Farm

FOR ITS DESIGN for Vicarage Farm, an early Victorian building in the middle of nine acres in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Hollaway Studio was tasked with the challenge of creating a substantial extension that was both timeless and sympathetic to the original vicarage, while being of a scale and design dramatic enough to sit within this grand context. The resultant design has now been shortlisted for the RIBA 2023 South East Awards.

Approached down a long tree lined drive, Vicarage Farm is believed to be unique as it sits in the middle of its plot surrounded by fields. As the name suggests it was formerly a farm, with the farm house, which dates from the 1830s, comprising formal brick walls, a slate roof, generous white sash windows with views across the landscape, and original canopied porch, fireplaces and box shutters. It has had little disruption over time other than a failing single storey 1990s annexe extension and conservatory which Hollaway Studio removed and replaced with their double height wraparound design.

Hollaway Studio's contemporary extension subtly announces itself on arrival to the property from the driveway. A floating roof sits behind the primary brick façade on one side with the crittall style orangery resting



beneath. A significant two storey rear extension folds around the main house, encompassing new living, dining and utility spaces; a swimming pool; carport and garage; and a master-suite on the first floor. The new extension connects with the original building so that it is all joined. While Hollaway Studio's addition appears big it resembles a 'reverse tardis' as the interior does not feel so cavernous and remains in keeping with the original building. While the gross internal area (GIA) of the existing house measures 187 m², Hollaway Studio's first floor and pool extension comes in at 273 m² with the GIA of the garage and carport adding an addition 80 m².

The expanse of light absorbing façade, with its rough deep timber cladding, envelopes the crisp polished concrete interior. Flashes of scaffold board internal wall cladding, T&G ceilings and a plywood kitchen add to the richness of textures on display internally.

The glass walls of the new extension disappear away from the corners, allowing for seamless uninterrupted movement from inside to outside. A large rooflight separates the new from the old, allowing each architectural style to co-exist harmoniously alongside each other and offering a moment of drama in considering Vicarage Farm in its new totality.

Upstairs, the master bedroom is approached past a lightwell connecting all the way up through the building and sharing light with the hallway. The master-suite builds on lessons from the old, with timber shutters to the windows and deep reveals which frame views to strategic locations

within the garden and wider landscape.

The new facilitates the old. The kitchen noticeably sits within the old structure but willingly opens itself to the new dining and living spaces allowing the uses to blend together. The large external terraces resolve the geometry of the low box hedges and formal gardens, inviting them to interact and spill over the new stark concrete finishes. In painting the extension matt black it mirrors the original barns, some of which date from the medieval era on the site, further bringing together old and new.

Vicarage Farm marks another example of Hollaway Studio's dedication in bringing together the contemporary with the traditional to co-exist in both a complementary and elevating aesthetic.

Hollaway Studio
www.hollawaystudio.co.uk

IronmongeryDirect's Hampstead range

LEADING specialist trade supplier IronmongeryDirect has added over 160 new cabinet furniture products and a number of new door handles to its exclusive Hampstead collection, offering quality at the right price to fit any project big or small.

Designed with high standard materials, the premium Hampstead range offers sophisticated styles and trending finishes that make it easy to achieve a complementary luxe aesthetic from room to room. Plus all products are backed with a 25-year guarantee to ensure long term peace of mind.

Hampstead Eva Door Handle

The Eva lever handle on rose features a striking, trend led texture that is considered perfect for luxurious interiors. Available in satin brass, antique brass and matt black, the Eva handle combines design with quality.

Hampstead Pisces Knurled T-Bar Cabinet Pull Handle & Knob

Featuring a distinct, knurled texture, this new range is available in various finishes, such as satin nickel, satin brass and matt black.

Hampstead Ivy Lever Door Handle

This sleek door handle will suit a wide range of interiors. Combining clas-



Ivy

Eva



sic design with quality and elegance, it is available in anthracite grey, matt black, satin nickel, satin brass and antique brass.

Hampstead Sagittarius Lipped Edge Pull Handle

For an ultra-modern aesthetic for use on drawers and cabinet doors, this product is considered ideal. With a subtle tapered edge and available in matt black, satin brass and satin nickel, this contemporary design is not only attractive but also practical. The small lip allows for enhanced grip, and the durable aluminium will stand the test of time.

Scott Copeland, category manager at IronmongeryDirect, said: "Our Hampstead range offers top-tier hardware you can't get anywhere else, and we are delighted to expand this collection to offer our customers even more choice. These products cover the design spectrum, so there is something to suit every upmarket project — whether it be commercial buildings or a luxury home. It's all part of our trusted to deliver promise and with flexible delivery options, free returns, and quality guarantees, we aim to make the buying process as easy and trouble free as possible."

IronmongeryDirect

www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk/brands/hampstead

Solving challenges with the aid of West Fraser's CaberDek and SterlingOSB Zero

WHEN MARTIN Goodfellow, director of Decent Goodfellow Architects, set out to convert a cowshed on his father's Dorset farm into a home, the project wasn't without its challenges. As well as being the project's architect, Martin also undertook most of the building work himself.

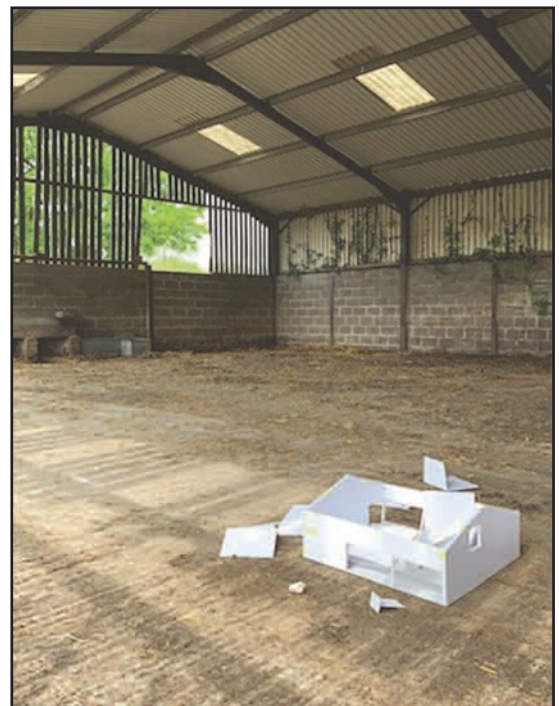
The 1980s-built industrial-style shed comprised a steel frame with a basic concrete floor, half-height concrete block and half-timber board walls topped with a corrugated tin roof. The conversion of the cowshed into a home is permitted under Class Q building regulations; but the project needed to be within the external dimensions of the original building.

Intent on taking advantage of the views of a nearby Iron Age fort and the stunning rural landscape, the positioning of the windows was important to Martin, especially as Class Q prevents any permanent add-ons to the existing structure. The original block and timber walls were removed and voids in the existing steel frame filled in with a timber framework. The addition of West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero boards strengthened the structure and provided a backing for the insulation and a breather membrane. "My structural engineer told me to use OSB as the regulations require the existing structure to be retained without doing any substantial work to it," explains Martin. "SterlingOSB Zero was the most cost-effective solution and it was readily available."

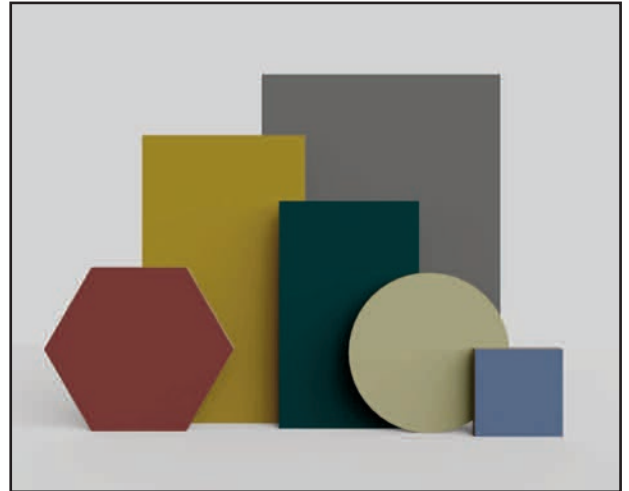
A further restriction of Class Q regulations specifies that insulation cannot be added to the top of the roof. "Usually, you'd put OSB on top of the purlins. Instead, I had to line the underside of the purlins with SterlingOSB Zero and fit the rigid insulation and an inner skin of plasterboard", said Martin.

Martin added a first floor to accommodate a master bedroom. A deck of West Fraser's CaberDek was laid on exposed joists. "I used CaberDek because it fits easily together, is cost effective and the small sheets were easy to manage for a solo-working self-builder like myself".

West Fraser ● 01786 812921 ● <https://uk.westfraser.com/>
<https://uk.westfraser.com/resources/architect-support/>



Unleashing the power of colour: Decorative Panels introduces new Serica designs



DECORATIVE Panels Lamination has introduced to its already extensive dp-specialist range, a brand-new Serica colour — **Alby Blue!** A colour which brings energy, freshness, and a breath of crispness to the collection. The use of this colour, especially in combination with white is a recipe for a modern, fresh, and soothing interior. **Alby Blue** is a colour associated with peacefulness and security. This beautiful blue has a confident elegance which is being increasingly chosen for interiors.

Serica is a market leading 3rd generation super-matt PVC surface with all the latest technologies: silky touch, anti-scratch, anti-fingerprint, super-matt, and thermal healing.

This super-matt PVC surface is extremely robust, and Serica is designed to cover all types of furnishings in homes, offices, and retail environments. It is an excellent choice for exhibition contractors and specialised projects.

The foil is laminated to both sides of the board, which is not currently available on many other super-matt boards in the market.

The on-trend, contemporary colour palette incorporates solid colour right through to the core, so there are no unsightly joint lines. Encompassing both anti-scratch and thermal healing technology, this super-matt, low-light reflectivity material is also anti-fingerprint and in the case of micro-scratches, Serica can be easily repaired by simply using an iron or hair dryer to renovate the surface. Serica's stunning and silky finish gives the surface a real wow effect both to the touch and to the eye.

Serica is an exceedingly popular super-matt PVC surface, and the new Alby Blue colour is in high demand this year. To diversify and



enrich their Serica offer, dp-lamination have introduced five more Serica colours to the development collection: Caramel, Sage Green, Rusty Red, Monument Grey, and Deep Ocean.

These colours are a pleasant change from the greys and beiges that dominated our living spaces in previous years. These vivid colours are perfect for creating an atmosphere conducive to rest or work, they can stimulate action or bring calmness. New Serica colours will shape the character of our interiors. Lighter shades will optically enlarge the interior, while darker ones can create an extravagant effect.

If you want to enliven the interior and emphasize its unique character, or you need an environment where you can comfortably relax after a long day of work, with the right arrangement using these beautiful Serica colours you can achieve either of these goals.

Serica films are surfaces that are versatile in commercial and residential environments and offer excellent options for design variety, performance, and durability. All the new colours complement each other and work well together with the existing Serica collection. Compared to other similar materials, Serica is claimed to set new standards for the sector, with its giant leap forward in ultra matt technology. The Serica surface collection from dp-lamination is available in 28 solid colours that allow for creative combinations.



dp-lamination offers a wide collection of Serica colours for 2D application, primarily used in flat lamination and profile wrapping and are typically used with matching edgbanding to finish the laminated panel.

Two-dimensional laminates have superior water, chemical and scratch resistance and are often chosen for demanding applications where these performance qualities are needed — that is why Serica is considered an excellent choice.

Innovation in design is always at the forefront of Decorative Panels' mind with continual development in the latest surface textures and finishes. These latest colour additions to the Serica collection, which can be found in the dp-specialist range, reflect the latest trends in modern design.

Browse surface solutions, get inspired, learn about trends, and more on Decorative Panels new and improved website.

Book a visit to the dp-group Marketing Suite where these and many more products are on permanent display and keep looking out for more

development from dp, innovative designs are coming out all the time. For any sample from the Decorative Panels collection, please contact Decorative Panels Lamination

Decorative Panels ● Tel 01484 658341
www.decorativepanels.co.uk

Daval furnishes hybrid dressing room & home office space

DAVAL, an award-winning designer and manufacturer of British-made quality fitted furniture, is proud to present its texture-rich furniture collection Langham, seen here in Smoked Oak warm wood finish combined with Langham Beige Silk, a soft linen effect with naturally fibrous surface texture.

Designed by family-run fitted furniture specialists, George Barnett, the Langham furniture collection by Daval has been transformed into a custom dressing room and home office for leading interior designer, Deborah Goody, at her Shenfield home in South Essex.

James Bodsworth, design director at Daval, says, "We love seeing local businesses supporting each other and buying British so we are over the moon to see such a creative use of space in Deborah's home as part of her renovations in her 1950s semi-detached property.

"Our design philosophy centres on the fact that every home is a personal and individual place which is why our bespoke furniture collections are designed to be versatile and extremely lifestyle-friendly from inception. As more and more professional couples are embracing the new opportunities that remote working presents, bringing extra value to the master bedroom with dressing room and home office solutions is gaining traction in 2023-4.



"In fact, we are finding that this desire for a more flexible and sustainable lifestyle goes hand in hand with an appreciation of furniture from renewable sources which is made-to-measure and made in Britain."

Deborah wanted to transform the space above her garage from two small rooms into one long space, complete with a half-vaulted ceiling when a new roof was installed.

She explains, "The obvious use of this space was for our dressing room, but we also needed to combine the practicality of having a home office. It really has turned out to be my dressing room of dreams! I was even able to find a special place to house my wedding shoes."

The design brief was all about celebrating and enabling creativity — both in terms of Deborah's business and her passion for fashion — so the classic wood effect of Smoked Oak with a must-have linen-effect finish in Beige Silk was the ideal combination for a deluxe, neutral space.

In addition, the dressing room/home office is fully on board with this year's trend for sophisticated, tailored furniture solutions which optimise indulgence and self-care.

The floor-to-ceiling cabinetry comprises wardrobes, deep drawers, and an overhead cupboard so Deborah and her husband can store clothes, luggage and business essentials quickly and easily.

Simon Bodsworth, managing director at Daval, says, "Attention to detail is everything — especially in a dual-purpose room — which is why our storage personalisation options are limitless and range from premium leather drawer inserts for watches, drawer dividers for ties and scarves and smoked glass display shelves to highlight keepsakes and wedding photos. The desk area is designed with extra deep drawers so Deborah can keep her paperwork and projects in order and have enough space to work on her laptop as and when required."

Inspired by the plush style and timeless charm of the iconic Langham hotel, Langham fitted cabinetry delivers the ultimate in bedroom and home office luxury for the discerning homeowner, according to Daval Furniture.

Daval Furniture
Tel 01484 848500
www.daval-furniture.co.uk

James Latham introduces FERRO

RESPONDING to UK/Ireland specifier calls for high performance door components, James Latham introduces FERRO, a premium range of highly durable and weather resistant external door blanks from leading brand Moralt.

Comprising some of the most robust external blanks currently available on the market, FERRO blanks are made from top-quality natural and engineered timbers, with either paintable plywood, exterior MDF or decorative veneered plywood faces.

What sets the FERRO blanks apart from others on the market is that each one contains two thermally isolated solid steel stabilising bars in its core, helping to prevent bowing and warping.

Such is the degree of anti-bowing and warping strength achieved through the incorporation of the steel stabilisers every

FERRO blank comes with a 10-year anti-bowing guarantee. Going even further, Moralt is committed to replace any FERRO door, free of charge, which warps more than 4 mm over this period, including fitting costs.

That's not all. The FERRO range is CE-certified and has been developed to meet contemporary specification requirements, particularly in line with evolving UK and Ireland regulations around energy efficiency and fire safety.

Starting with the standard Klassikplus, specifiers can choose from a wider range of enhanced blanks with increased thermal performance, sound-proofing and fire resistant properties; or a combination of all these augmentations.

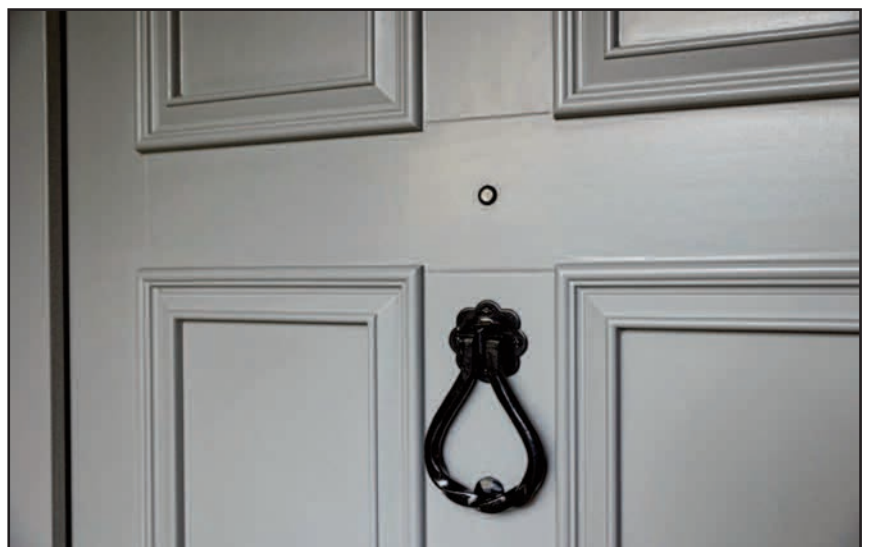
Considered perfect for any application, whether on or off site, commercial or residential, the FERRO range delivers on every level. It can be used to manufacture doors which are strong and robust and deliver maximum interior comfort through optimum airtightness, with a customisable finish for unrivalled visual appeal. This guarantees long-term value on every level. Even better, all blanks in the range meet the UK's newly introduced sustainability requirements for residential properties, ensuring developers and asset owners remain compliant with regulations.

Commenting on the introduction of FERRO in the UK and Ireland, James Latham's Group Door Manager, Steve Williams, says, "FERRO is one of the most exciting architectural products currently available in the UK and Irish market, the perfect balance of style and substance. Its steel stabiliser gives it unrivalled durability, particularly from a structural and security perspective, giving residents and asset owners extra peace-of-mind the external doors

on their properties will provide extra protection from the elements and intruders. Furthermore, developers will feel reassured that the thermal performance of the FERRO range will help them meet the revised Part L requirements, which become compulsory in June 2023. Once again, Moralt has responded to its audience's requirements with a product that goes above and beyond to meet almost any specification."

Lathams ● www.lathamtimber.co.uk

www.lathamtimber.co.uk/products/door-blanks/brands/moralt



SterlingOSB Zero's shear strength leads to selection for WikiHouse switch

A PROGRAMME of testing being carried out by one of the country's leading research universities is expected to verify the team's early findings around the WikiHouse offsite building system — indicating that West Fraser's SterlingOSB Zero panels offer superior performance benefits for the production of their large format blocks, beams and other components. The material's compressive and shear strength have proved key to the successful outcomes.

WikiHouse has been developed to provide an economic and sustainable means of constructing low-rise housing and other accommodation which is straightforward to manufacture and erect. A switch from imported plywood to UK-produced SterlingOSB Zero, which uses only renewable energy and has no added formaldehyde, is seen as increasing the successful housebuilding system's environmental credentials.

Originally prototyped in 2011, WikiHouse is a zero-carbon building system, maintained in the UK by Open System Lab, and offers a comprehensive selection of key components which can be shared as code and produced in small local workshops, rather than a large factory. Crucially, the WikiHouse blocks are produced to an accuracy of 0.1 mm and can be

rapidly assembled by a small site team, requiring none of the traditional trade skills.

WikiHouse's engineering lead, Gabriele Granello, explains: "The main idea of the system is that we are proposing these blocks — fabricated for beams, columns and other elements — that, when you join them, characterise the structural system of your house. Up until now, we have been working with plywood but there is no UK-produced plywood, so the question for us was, could we switch and still span six or seven metres as we are now?"

"We suspect it can be as the way the system works is that it relies much more on the comprehensive and shear strength of the material, rather than its tensile strength. We have done analytical modelling for the SterlingOSB Zero and because it is made up of myriad of non-directional strands, instead of alternately orientated plies, at a microscopic level, there is no single shear plane along which the OSB will fail. We have already carried out some preliminary testing of the joints in isolation, where the OSB actually performed better than plywood, so now we are engaging with Imperial College in London for one of their final year Masters students to conduct a programme of full-scale experiments."

The work at Imperial College's laboratories is expected to continue for three months, with London-based Hub Workshop, being the supply chain partner responsible for the supplying the actual WikiBlocks.

The founder of Hub Workshop, Drew Munden, added: "As a specialist sub-contractor in CNC machining, we serve various client sectors including garden rooms, bespoke furniture and architectural structures, and are one of half a dozen fabricators for the WikiHouse system in the UK. Buying from merchants, the SterlingOSB Zero is half the price of spruce plywood and its machines perfectly well. For the WikiHouse Blocks, we are using a variety of tooling including various drills, an 'engraving router' and a compression cutters router which leaves a very clean-cut face on the 18 mm OSB."

Mel Esquerre at Open System Labs, commented: "We already have a single-storey structure using SterlingOSB Zero — a cabin, that has been completed by a private client to use as a rental property — but our road map for the system very much involves the housing associations and other affordable housing providers, to scale up the operations, and SterlingOSB Zero will very much be part of those conversations."

Available in thicknesses of 18 and 22 mm, the 2,400 mm length boards come in widths of 590 and 1,200 mm, while being manufactured using UK grown timber and with Zero added formaldehyde, SterlingOSB Zero has outstanding environmental credentials. Both the 18 and 22 mm thick panels are strong enough to meet most load-bearing applications, are BBA Approved and recognised under the NHBC Technical Standard for housing applications. SterlingOSB Zero T&G also bears the coveted UKTFA Q-mark, a quality certification which provides a benchmark for manufacturers, and offers confidence to designers and end-users across the UK.

West Fraser ● 01786 812921
<https://uk.westfraser.com/>

