

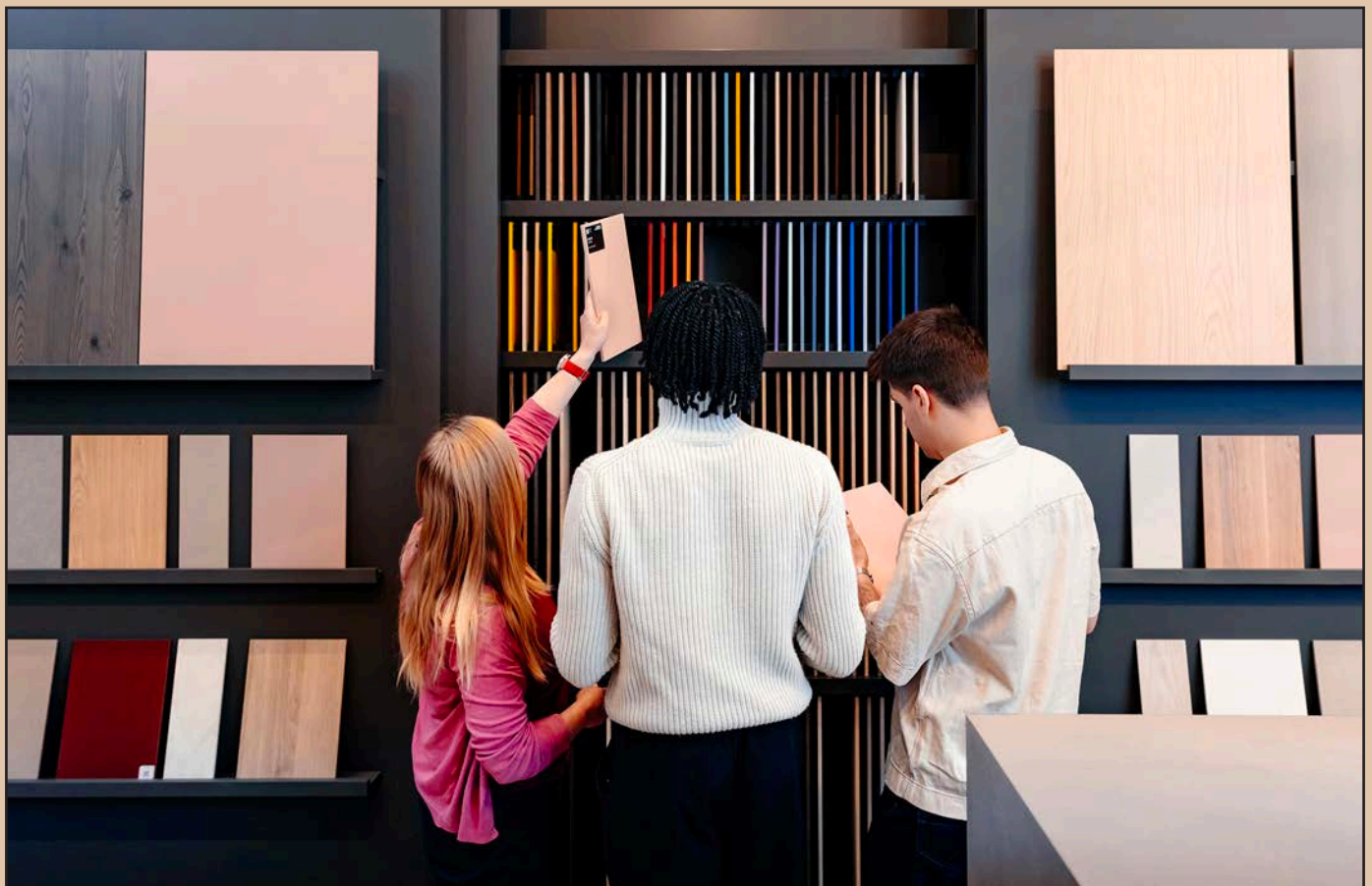
PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

Issue No. 207/208

August/September 2025

EGGER and partners CLEAF and BLUM launch London showroom

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Award winner working with CaberMDF

TWICE NAMED Kitchen Fitter of the Year by *On The Tools* magazine, T&N Developments has established a strong reputation for the quality of its workmanship, including fabricating bespoke pieces of furniture for its clients on site; most recently tapping into a trend advocated by *Location's* Kirstie Allsopp, by installing fitted bench seating as a highly practical feature in clients' kitchen and dining areas. And in common with many larger furniture manufacturers across the UK, the Essex based company is making full use of the technical benefits of West Fraser's CaberMDF boards.

Tom Easter's career in the building industry began as a groundworker and continued for a couple of years carrying out maintenance work for the major banks and then progressed into high end carpentry — until he and his wife Nikita, a skilled tiler, decided to set up their own kitchen fitting company ten years ago. T&N Developments covers most of north Essex, including towns like Colchester and Chelmsford along with the surrounding villages.

Tom comments: "Our work is almost all for individual domestic customers, where we typically work in two or three rooms downstairs — though it can extend into the lounge or bedrooms and en-suites. Aside from the two kitchen fitter of the year awards I've had from *On the Tools* trade magazine, we were also shortlisted for *KBB's* 'Installation Business of the Year' award, so we're getting noticed. I have now built half a dozen benches — getting some of them covered by an upholsterer — with a lot of the sales coming from our social media posts @tn_kitchens, while I get the CaberMDF Pro from Travis Perkins as our local stockist. Working off the long edge of the board as square, I have never had any issues with the dimensional accuracy. The quality of the boards is always good, and they're smooth so we can be confident that when the painters come in, they will be able to get a really good finish. I'd like to do a lot more in the future."

West Fraser's comprehensive five-strong CaberMDF range allows the perfect matching of panel to application. For general purpose use, CaberMDF Trade is a versatile, lightweight board, which is ideal where weight is a factor. CaberMDF Trade MR offers the same benefits but with the added advantage of moisture resistance for wet or humid environments. Where there is a need for premium quality and detailed working, CaberMDF Pro provides an incredibly consistent density, ensuring cutting and routing need minimal finishing. CaberMDF Pro MR, as chosen by Tom at T&N, offers the further benefit of moisture resistance.

The ultimate product in the range is CaberMDF Industrial which is moisture resistant and designed specifically for the production of high-grade furniture and fittings. It is ideal for deep routing and its consistent close-grained texture ensures clean edges and surfaces that will take advanced finishing techniques. Beyond the advantages and practicalities of using CaberMDF, the materials and processes used to manufacture the product offer the reassurance of being sustainable. West Fraser's range of board products is available in a wide selection of sizes to minimise waste. All timber used is responsibly sourced and FSC certified, with the panels being manufactured in the UK from locally grown timber and are net carbon negative. Additionally, all of West Fraser's UK mills have obtained the coveted ISO 14001 environmental accreditation.

Samples of all West Fraser construction panels can be ordered on the website (below).

All West Fraser panel products produced in the UK are net carbon negative and manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation. Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC® certified (C012533) and created from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation.

West Fraser ● 01786 812921 ● uk.westfraser.com



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Biesse Rover A FT 1224, No: 10000102279 Construction Year 2016. *** Full spec machine but without the drilling bank *** 16 Position Rotary Tool Changer. With Sawblade. Auto Oiling System. With Vacuum Pump. Without tool holders & tools which are available at extra cost. Light Safety Barrier. Full documentation with the machine.

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or email: gerry.lynch@talk21.com

Dorset skills workshops given tools boost

A COMMUNITY interest company in Dorset that gives young people and women the chance to learn DIY skills has received a donation of toolkits from a leading builders merchant.

From North End Farm in Christchurch runs inclusive workshops to give people the opportunity to learn practical, hands-on skills in a supportive environment. The new project has been backed by Selco Build-

ders Warehouse's Poole store, which has donated 10 multipurpose toolkits, packed with screwdrivers, hammers, saws, pliers and knives.

Lou Brown, co-founder and creative director of North End Farm, said: "We're thrilled to receive this fantastic donation from Selco — it will make a tremendous difference. We are a female-led not-for-profit organisation on a mission to smash stereotypes and spark confidence. This new project will be a place where total beginners can dive into DIY, traditional crafts and essential life skills in a fun, non-judgmental zone. The workshops are open to all and everyone is welcome but we're particularly focused on women and care leavers — because everyone deserves the tools to thrive."

The workshops are led by experts with lived experience, creating a supportive space for collaboration and growth. Courses include tiling, essential tools and what they do, power tools and their uses, car maintenance, bike maintenance and beginner carpentry. Women who are receiving benefits are able to claim free places on the courses.

Jon Harris, branch general manager at Selco Poole on Fleets Corner Business Park, said: "We're thrilled to be able to support From North End Farm. The team has put in a tremendous amount of work to get the community interest company up and running. These courses will really increase confidence and allow people to develop skills in a supportive environment. Though Selco is here to serve the trade, we are still fully supportive of people being given access to hands-on, DIY skills so they have the confidence of tackling jobs around the home."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Jon Harris, branch manager of Selco, Chris Dunn, deputy manager of Selco with Sharon Russell & Barbara Czoch of the community interest company at North End Farm.

West Fraser celebrates 40 years of the 'Cloud Factory' in Inverness

WEST FRASER is celebrating four decades of producing SterlingOSB board products; now the SterlingOSB Zero portfolio.

The Inverness plant employs 140 workers and is believed to have been the first facility in Europe to manufacture OSB, a panel product used in a wide range of applications, including construction materials, furniture, packaging, and art installations.

To mark the anniversary of the site, the team hosted a family day event; the staff were also celebrating the recent Safety Star achievement which recognises commitment to employee safety.

The factory was established in 1985, following the closure of several paper mills and the near collapse of the UK forest products industry during the 1970s and early 1980s.

In a move to support the struggling industry, and with support from the Highlands and Islands Development Agency (HIDA) and the Forestry Commission, a consortium of local and institutional investors launched a new company, Highland Forest Products in November 1983, with the Inverness site opening two years later.

Four decades of development later, the site has evolved into today's West Fraser facility which, when combined with the Genk site in Belgium, forms what is believed to be the largest OSB production operation in Europe. The Inverness plant is also the first OSB plant in Europe to

receive the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) accreditation, recognising its commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Steve McTaggart, HSEQ manager from West Fraser at Inverness, said: "West Fraser Inverness is proud to have been part of the community for 40 years and we look forward to many more."

The West Fraser facility has benefited from sustained investment over the past 40 years, including a £95m expansion back in 2018 to install a new manufacturing line and increase production capacity, which was officially opened by then-First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

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



MKM opens 135th branch in Wolverhampton, creating 19 jobs

MKM Building Supplies (MKM), a UK independent builders' merchant, opened its 135th branch in Wolverhampton on Monday 7th July 2025. MKM Wolverhampton created 19 new jobs and delivers expert advice, strong stock levels, and friendly, no-nonsense service to the city's trade community.

Located on Neachells Lane (WV11 3QQ), the branch is designed to be a one-stop shop for anyone working on a project — whether a builder, plumber, or someone tackling a bit of home improvement. Stocked with everything from bricks, timber and plumbing essentials to landscaping and kitchen products, MKM Wolverhampton offers free next-day delivery and a warm welcome from a team that knows the trade inside out.

Led by branch directors David Wint, Dave Horton, and Dan Mansell — who together bring over 100 years of industry experience — all three were born and bred in Wolverhampton and are passionate about creating a builders' merchant that truly understands what the local community needs.

As with every MKM branch, MKM Wolverhampton is committed to supporting the local community, with Ward 9 at Birmingham Children's Hospital set as their chosen charity. Further local sponsorships and community partnerships will follow.

As David Wint said: "We're proud of where we're from and want to give something back — whether that's time, materials, or sponsorship to help local kids get stuck into sport. We've chosen to support Ward 9 at Birmingham Children's Hospital, a cause close to a few of our team, and we're kicking things off with a £500 donation and a launch raffle to raise even more."

MKM Wolverhampton will offer a comprehensive range of building materials, with specialisations in plumbing and heating, kitchens and bathrooms, and landscaping. The branch includes a modern kitchen and bathroom showroom showcasing the latest designs and finishes, along with an inspiring landscaping display



to help bring customers' outdoor projects to life.

The branch also features MKM's first Ocean Air Renewables area — a dedicated space to support customers with sustainable heating and energy solutions.

MKM Wolverhampton introduces the company's first-ever 'Fast Lane' drive-thru warehouse. With two vehicle entrances, the Fast Lane is designed to speed up service, reduce waiting times and cut out unnecessary manual handling. MKM team members will load vehicles directly, improving safety on site, reducing congestion, and delivering a quick, professional and smooth experience — all designed with tradespeople in mind.

Dan Mansell explained: "We've worked in this trade a long time — helping customers, loading wagons, sorting stock — and we know what works. MKM gives us the freedom to bring that proper, personal service back. We're about no faff — just decent stock, knowledgeable people, and quick turnarounds."

Inside, the branch boasts a large, well-stocked shop, featuring top brands including Scruffs workwear, Ox Tools, power tools

and site essentials — ensuring customers can pick up everything they need in one place.

Dan added: "This city's full of grafters — builders, plumbers, people doing up their homes. We're here to make their lives easier. Whether it's sorting materials, setting up trade accounts or just putting the kettle on, we'll always go that bit further."

Inside the branch, customers will find a specialist plumbing team, knowledgeable kitchen and bathroom experts, and a team that has collectively worked in the building trade for over 150 years. The showroom includes a dedicated trade bathroom display, and whether you're looking for advice on a new heating pack or matching up a tricky brick sample, the team is there to help.

Dave Horton said: "We're not tied down by corporate restrictions — we make all our decisions locally, so we can respond quickly and keep things flexible. That's what sets MKM apart."

The new branch includes a 5,000 sq ft covered warehouse and carries trusted brands like Worcester Bosch, Wienerberger, Makita, Roca, Symphony Kitchens, and Ocean Air Renewables. With

an extensive fleet, including three HGV crane wagons and a transit van, with free local delivery as standard, same-day deliveries are possible too.

For the community's trade customers, MKM Wolverhampton will offer dedicated account management, discounts on bulk orders, priority delivery slots, and plenty of good brews — plus free sausage baps or sausage rolls every Wednesday and Friday for spending customers. There's even a dartboard next to the power tools display, so you might hit a 180 while you wait for your order.

David Wint summed it up: "We've built this branch with Wolverhampton in mind from day one. Local faces, the knowledge to help you get the job done, and the stock you need. No messing about. We're here to make life easier for every customer who comes in. Plenty of merchants talk about branches of the future and evolution like it's something novel, but we're always evolving, always improving. Every new branch is another chance to be better. That's just how we do things at MKM."

MKM Building Supplies
<https://mkm.com/branches/wolverhampton>

Used pallet market faces price uplift

THE NATIONAL Association of Pallet Distributors (NAPD) is advising supply chains that rising costs of raw materials and other inputs are placing increasing pressure on the used pallet market.

The organisation, which represents the UK pallet repair and reconditioning industry, says June PMI data for the UK market shows timber, pallet timber, reused timber, pallet logs, and other components are all up in price.

The monthly report also points to continued upheaval in the market caused by port and other shipping disruption, customs delays, materials shortages, and the impact of impending trade tariffs.



In the previous two months, both the Timber Packaging & Pallet Confederation (TIMCON) and the European Federation of Wooden Pallet and Packaging Manufacturers (FEFPEB) have also both highlighted independent measures showing significant upwards movement.

Paul Tait, NAPD chairman, said: "The latest UK market confirms what our members have been telling us; that the market for reconditioned pallets is now facing many of the same pressures affecting production of new. This includes rising inflation in the price of timber and for labour and logistics."

Saleh Hijazi, press officer for NAPD, said: "In April, FEFPEB pointed to the rising price of sawn timber across parts of Europe, despite flat demand.

"The organisation's pallet timber price index — which collates measures in Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK — showed all countries apart from Italy tracked upwards during the first quarter of the year.

"The following month, TIMCON highlighted increasing prices, with the UK's AFRY index rising 0.6% for the first quarter of 2025, and Germany's HPE index for pallet timber up 7.1% between January and April — all of which is impacting on the businesses in the repair and reconditioning sector, too."

Reused pallets remain a sustainable and cost effective choice and NAPD is advising supply chain to contact their supplier to discuss these pressures.

NAPD is the UK association for companies that repair pallets for reuse to a high standard. Its members work by a code of conduct and provide additional supply chain services to customers.

NAPD ● www.napd.co.uk

Trade suppliers taking advantage of innovative Selco opportunity

SELCO Builders Warehouse has launched a new initiative offering its trade suppliers enhanced access to promote their products to a huge audience of trade professionals — with many already enjoying a significant spike in sales.

The leading builders merchant is providing its hundreds of suppliers with the platform to enjoy additional promotional and advertising opportunities through Selco Trade Media.

Opportunities are available across Selco's store network, through its digital and social media platforms and via other assets such as its vehicle fleet.

More than 20 suppliers have already partnered with Selco, with one hand tool supplier already seeing a 300% surge in units sold within Selco.

David Lennon, commercial director of Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "We are delighted to

have kicked off Selco Trade Media and see this as a huge opportunity to offer a new and unmissable feature to our loyal and valued suppliers.

"We communicate with a massive trade audience of hundreds of thousands in multiple ways

every day of the week, whether that's through customers coming through the doors of our stores or through digital platforms such as email or social media. Our suppliers now have the unique chance to amplify their key messages to a targeted and engaged

customer base through a range of opportunities, and it's great to see a good number of suppliers already taking advantage.

"We look forward to working with many of our other valued suppliers over the weeks and months to come on this exciting project."

Amongst the suppliers to be already promoting products through the Selco Trade Media platform are West Fraser — a leading manufacturer of carbon negative engineered wood-based panel products — ToughBuilt, which supplies a range of hand tools and accessories, and leading silicone, sealants, adhesives and foams supplier Siroflex.

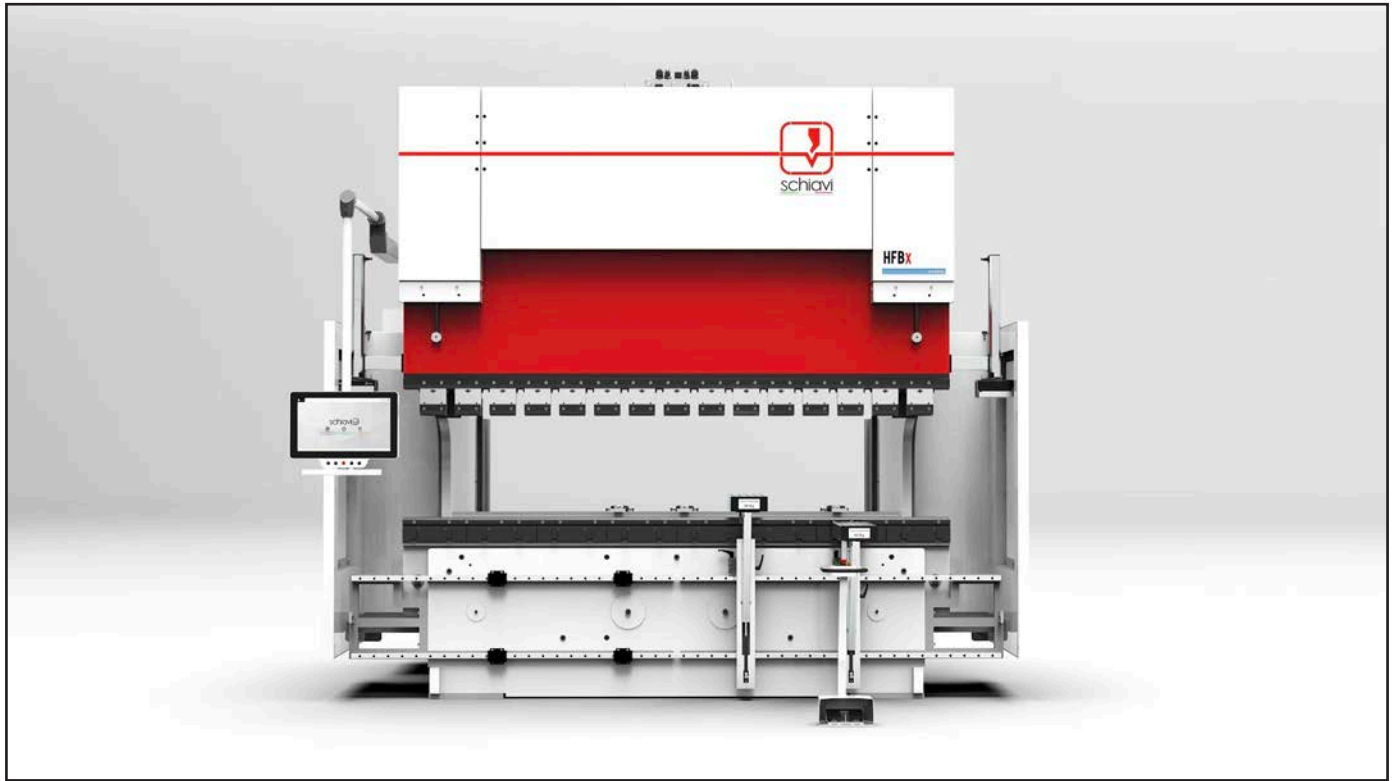
Any supplier interested in finding out more about the Selco Trade Media options should contact a Selco product category manager.

Selco
www.selcobw.com



Daniel Andrew (left) and Dom West (right) from West Fraser with Lee Taylor and David Lennon from Selco Builders Warehouse.

Daltons Wadkin expands CNC portfolio after becoming UK supplier for Schiavi press brakes



DALTONS WADKIN, a leading UK multi-material machine solution supplier, has announced a new partnership with leading Italian manufacturer Schiavi, becoming the exclusive UK and Ireland distributor for its advanced press brake range.

The move marks a significant milestone in Daltons Wadkin's continued expansion into CNC metalworking technologies. It also complements the company's growing success in fibre laser installations and signals the company's intent to position itself as a full-service provider for sheet metal processing from cut to bend to finish.

Under the agreement, Daltons Wadkin will offer four models from Schiavi's portfolio: the BSTs, HFBs, HFBx, and LineAr, all of which can be fully automated with either an automatic tool loading system or as part of a robotic cell.

These machines are known for their high precision, energy efficiency, and intelligent automation, designed to meet the

evolving needs of modern manufacturers.

The partnership follows an extensive research and selection process, including a site visit to Schiavi's manufacturing facility in Bergamo, Italy. Daltons Wadkin identified Schiavi as the ideal partner based on the company's technical expertise, product versatility, and strong after-sales support infrastructure.

Alex Dalton, managing director at Daltons Wadkin, said: "Adding Schiavi press brakes to our product portfolio is a natural next step in expanding our multi-material solutions offering.

"We've worked hard to identify a European manufacturer that delivers on build quality and innovation and who aligns with our service values and technical expectations. Schiavi ticks every box. Whether it's part of a full laser-to-bend workflow or a standalone need, this new partnership strengthens our ability to support UK manufacturers at every stage of production."

The Schiavi partnership follows the announcement in 2022 that Daltons Wadkin had become the sole UK distributor of Kimla's cutting edge CNC Routers and fibre laser cutters.

Daltons Wadkin's fibre laser specialist, Adrian Wright, hired to further grow the fibre laser sales across the UK and Ireland at the beginning of 2025, added: "A natural key addition to support our fibre lasers was press brakes, especially when talking to a wider range of customers. Typically, for every CNC laser or CNC Punch Press machine being used or sold, there will be a press brake for folding or bending parts.

"It was vitally important to have a brand which offers unique machine design, clever technology, and vertically integrated components that could complement the Daltons Wadkin ethos at the same time as providing customers the best solution. Schiavi offers exactly that.

"The most common and important key feature I wanted

as part of exploring the market for the right machine was to do with the crowing, and how it was controlled.

"Coming from a production based background, I know just how important it is to bend parts accurately and consistently, and how frustrating it can be for operators using press brakes day-to-day. The Schiavi's Crowning Free System and Composite Lower Beam uses technology that is simple in construction, but clever in design, and guarantees the accuracy and repeatability."

With nearly 125 years of experience and a reputation for customer-first service, Daltons Wadkin continues to invest in next generation technology to support its growing customer base across wood, metal, and composite sectors. The addition of Schiavi strengthens the company's position as a trusted partner for intelligent manufacturing solutions across the UK and Ireland.

Daltons Wadkin
www.daltonswadkin.com

Housing Bank unlocks finance — MEDITE SMARTPLY highlights next steps for delivery

THE UK Government has announced a new £16bn National Housing Bank to help unlock over 500,000 new homes and speed up progress on complex or stalled sites. It's a move that has been welcomed by construction leaders and that marks a major step forward for housing delivery in line with the goal of building 1.5 million homes.

As the sector prepares to scale up, timber systems manufacturer MEDITE SMARTPLY is highlighting two factors that will be key to successful implementation: maintaining momentum on workforce development, and ensuring clarity around evolving building standards.



A recent survey conducted by MEDITE SMARTPLY and the Structural Timber Association found:

- 73% of respondents report skilled labour shortages, with concerns around apprenticeships, training, and long-term workforce viability.
- 29% of the industry cites labour as their biggest challenge in the market, closely followed by 26% citing building regulations, certifications and specifications.

There is a strong sense of frustration about regulatory ambiguity and feeling that standards are overlooking SMEs.

Roly Ward, head of business development at MEDITE SMARTPLY, comments: "We can't build low-carbon homes at scale with a workforce that's shrinking and ageing by the year. The reality is that many young people don't see construction, and especially timber, as a modern, forward-facing career. That has to change. We need to invest not just in products, but in avenues of bringing fresh skills into the sector, from colleges and apprenticeships to upskilling experienced trades. If we don't tackle this now, the gap between ambition and delivery will only widen.

"One of the most telling insights from the survey is that 39% of respondents are already building above regulations. Yet, they feel overlooked by the Future Homes Standard. That disconnect says a lot about how the standard is being communicated and applied. If FHS is going to work as a driver of low-carbon housing, it needs to bring SMEs with it, not leave them guessing."

With offsite and timber-based construction expected to play a growing role in housing delivery, MEDITE SMARTPLY is calling on the sector to build on the announcement with coordinated investment in skills and clearer support for SMEs navigating new regulatory expectations.

MEDITE SMARTPLY ● mdfosb.com/en/products/medite-mr

UK field trial shows benefits of treating timber

INTERIM results of the largest independent assessment of British treated softwood ever carried out in the UK demonstrate that treated wood for ground contact applications such as fencing can be relied on to provide a long service life.

The 10-year UK field trial of hundreds of wooden fence posts and test stakes was commissioned by the Wood Protection Association (WPA) and carried out by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) at two test sites: at BRE Garston, Watford, and Birnie Wood, Elgin, in the north of Scotland. It shows a substantial improvement in durability and resistance to decay when compared to untreated timber products.

The majority of the untreated wood posts at the sites have now completely failed due to fungal decay, with data suggesting an average service life of less than five years. The study also notably shows that posts made from larch are failing faster than any other species.

"These results clearly show that

untreated wood of any kind is not fit for purpose for ground contact applications," said WPA Director Neil Ryan. "Only wood that has been correctly treated gives the performance required to ensure long-term success.

"The study also dispels the myth that larch is durable and can be used in this way without a preservative treatment."

After 10 years, the preservative-treated posts in the trial are performing well, particularly incised spruce. Some opening of incisions and elevated moisture content has been noted, but without deterioration of the wood.

Across all species and treatment types in the trial, there have been only isolated failures of treated posts. "This is not entirely unexpected after 10 years. These are clearly outliers on the bell curve of preservative performance, with others in the same species and preservative group rated zero — meaning they still have no visible decay present at all," said Ryan.

WPA chairman Steve Young

said: "This landmark independent study demonstrates clearly that preservative treated wood works outdoors. It confirms that correctly treated wood is the only reliable choice for ground contact applications. At a time when businesses' sustainability obligations are increasing, correct treatment allows them to use wood — the only endlessly renewable construction material — for the maximum possible time."

The WPA set up the field trial in 2015 in partnership with BRE

and a group of industry sponsors, with the goal of helping develop industry standards, including BS 8417 and the WPA Code of Practice, to support WPA Benchmark quality approval schemes for treated wood, and to build market confidence in preservative treated British softwood species.

After the completion of the initial 10-year term, the project has been extended for a further five years.

Wood Protection Association
www.thewpa.org.uk



Furniture and joinery manufacturers help Made Smarter hit milestone 400th technology project

FURNITURE and joinery manufacturers have helped Made Smarter North West reach a major milestone — funding its 400th technology adoption project.

The milestone was achieved after four more companies secured support to invest in digital tools and systems: Creative Joinery + Design in Brampton, specialists in bespoke commercial furniture and interior play areas; Parkdale Joinery (trading as English and Wood), based in Preston, producers of high-end kitchens and architectural joinery; H. Miller Bros in Liverpool, manufacturers of hardwood kitchens; and Doorstore (Wirral) Limited in Birkenhead, specialists in UPVC, composite, and wooden doors.

Over the last seven years, manufacturers have accessed £7.4 million in matched funding from the government-backed, industry-led programme. This has unlocked £26 million of investment in technologies ranging from sensors and robotics to 3D printing and artificial intelligence.

These investments are forecast to generate more than 1,850 new jobs and upskill 3,300 existing roles, while delivering a £276 million boost to the regional economy over the next three years.

Commenting on the milestone, Donna Edwards, programme director of Made Smarter, said: "Reaching our 400th funded technology project is a proud milestone for Made Smarter and a powerful demonstration of what manufacturers in the North West can achieve with the right support.

"Over the last seven years, we've seen hundreds of SMEs take confident steps towards digitalisation, boosting productivity, creating jobs, and laying the groundwork for long-term growth.

"What excites me most is that this is just the beginning. With every new project, we're building a stronger, smarter manufacturing base — better equipped to meet the challenges of tomorrow and lead the way in innovation, resilience, and sustainability."

Creative Joinery + Design was awarded a £16,000 grant towards a £32,000 investment in a large-format 3D printer — a move



Left to right: Hugh Miller and Howard Miller of H. Miller Bros.

that marks the next step in the company's digital transformation journey.

Peter and Christopher Johnson, co-owners of Creative Joinery, said: "Made Smarter's guidance was instrumental in helping us identify the right technology to invest in. We've always prided ourselves on innovation and creativity, but introducing large-format 3D printing has taken that to a new level.

"This technology unlocks new design possibilities, halves the time it takes to produce certain components, and reduces the labour required by up to 75%. We can now offer more complex, custom solutions at a lower cost, with less waste, and in a way that supports our ambition to reach net zero by 2035.

"The impact on our business is huge. It increases our production capacity, gives us the confidence to explore new markets and offer rapid prototyping services, and will support the creation of new jobs while upskilling our existing team.

"It's a transformational step — one that puts us at the forefront of our industry and strengthens our reputation as forward-thinking manufacturers."

Parkdale Joinery, trading as English and Wood, secured a grant of £20,000 towards a project to invest £45,000 for an AES Sirius 950M CNC Drilling and routing machine, and design software package.

Joel Parkinson, managing director, said: "We've built our reputation on crafting beautiful, bespoke products by hand. But as demand has grown, we recognised the need to evolve. With support from Made Smarter, we've been able to invest in a CNC drilling and routing machine and advanced design software, bringing a digital element into our process for the first time.

"This technology hasn't replaced our craftsmanship — it has enhanced it. The new system speeds up the dull, repetitive elements of production, such as manufacturing carcasses and sheet material processing, while allowing us to preserve the hands-on approach and design flexibility our clients value in our frontages and finishes.

"It means we can now produce the same work in a third of the time, increasing capacity and throughput with a greater degree of accuracy without compromising on quality. It's a big step for-

ward that will help us grow the business, create new jobs, and upskill our current team."

H. Miller Bros accessed a grant of £19,000 towards a project to invest £39,000 into a Dynamics CDS 1530 nesting CNC router and Cabinet Vision's parametric CadCam.

Howard Miller, director, said: "Taking part in Made Smarter introduced us to a raft of ideas that completely transformed our business. We've adopted LEAN principles, upgraded software, introduced new admin and sales systems, invested in up to date machinery and streamlined our products. We've at least halved the time it takes to complete each project. We've still got the same staff, but everyone is significantly more productive.

"The value from Made Smarter was in the detailed, bespoke advice for our business and in giving us the confidence to make big investments."

As well as grant funding, Made Smarter offers SME manufacturers a range of support, including digital transformation workshops, impartial technology advice, leadership and skills training, and a digital internship programme.

Made Smarter
www.madesmarter.uk

New CEO of NMBS from August 2025

A NEW chief executive officer has been appointed at NMBS, the leading buying society for independent merchants, which specialises in the timber sector. Kevin Williams joined NMBS on 1 August 2025. He brings more than 30 years' experience in building materials and construction distribution, having progressed through a variety of leadership roles at Travis Perkins and most recently as managing director at Headlam PLC.

He succeeded Chris Hayward, who became CEO of NMBS in 2022, following more than 20 years as managing director and more than 47 years' service in total at NMBS. Chris Hayward will officially step away from NMBS early next year, allowing a smooth transition process through the rest of 2025.

Kevin Williams says: "Obviously, I've known of NMBS and its reputation for many years. NMBS is an incredible organisation, both providing security and stability in an often-fluctuating market and driving innovative new thinking in the builders' merchants sector on digitalisation, efficiency, good employment practices, apprenticeships and ESG best practice. Given the recent commitments in the Government's Spending Review and green shoots of recovery now starting to appear across the construction sector, I'm honoured and excited to be joining NMBS at a pivotal time for future growth. I am really looking forward to refreshing and building new connections and relationships across the whole NMBS membership, while enjoying a full handover process from Chris and working alongside the great team at NMBS to continue its positive impact and commercial success."



Kevin Williams.

Jeremy Miller, non-executive chairman at NMBS, commented: "Kevin was a standout choice for the CEO role in an extraordinarily strong pool of candidates, with broad operational, commercial and leadership expertise across many different parts of the merchanting sector. The board is delighted to be welcoming Kevin into NMBS, and from August we will begin a seamless transition for NMBS employees, suppliers and members."

Kevin Williams began his career as a management trainee at Travis Perkins in 1994, moving through branch management and regional leadership roles, and later held senior operational and commercial roles across the plumbing and heating division, Plumbing Trade Supplies, City Plumbing Supplies and Group Spares.

In 2022, Kevin joined Headlam PLC as managing director to create and lead a new nationwide branch-based flooring trade counter business. Drawing on his many years of merchanting experience, he successfully introduced a strong culture of customer-first thinking into the flooring sector, establishing a national network of 85 branches and building a differentiated value proposition focused on service and repeat business.

NMBS is believed to be the largest buying society in the UK for independent merchants, with an annual turnover of £2.2bn. It offers its members exclusive discounts and rebates from more than 500 suppliers, while giving suppliers access to over 1,350 merchants across more than 5,000 branches.

NMBS ● www.nmbs.co.uk

New MD at The Pallet LOOP: Andy Williamson

THE PALLET LOOP, the circular economy pallet provider for the UK construction sector, today announced the promotion of Andy Williamson to managing director. Mr Williamson previously served as commercial director at The Pallet LOOP (part of BSW Group).

Andy joined The Pallet LOOP in February 2024. After six months as a non-executive director he was appointed director of business development with a remit to encourage more material manufacturers to use The Pallet LOOP's reusable, green pallets — before becoming commercial director in November 2024.



Andy Williamson.

Prior to joining The Pallet LOOP, Andy served as commercial director at SIG PLC and held senior leadership roles, including group managing director of IKO Group and board-level positions in a range of construction trade associations.

Commenting on his appointment, Andy said: "I am incredibly excited to step into the managing director role at such a pivotal time for The Pallet LOOP. After twelve months in operational mode, and with four material manufacturers now on board, this next phase will see us deepen partnerships across the industry and scale our innovative reuse model to ensure the collection of green LOOP pallets becomes the norm."

Paul Lewis, founder and CEO of The Pallet LOOP, said: "Andy's knowledge of the construction industry and his commercial acumen will help lead The Pallet LOOP into its next chapter. Over the last five years, the team has worked exceptionally hard to bring LOOP to market and demonstrate the environmental and financial value of our approach. The focus now is on driving widespread adoption across UK construction and maximising pallet returns to close the loop on avoidable timber waste, at every stage of the building materials supply chain."

The Pallet LOOP is now moving building materials for British Gypsum, Isover, Wienerberger and Superglass. The business operates a PayBack model on its pallets that rewards registered returners — typically principal contractors, builders' merchants, and large housebuilding companies — with up to £4 for every green LOOP pallet collected. Pallets are returned to collection hubs nationwide, before being checked and put back into the supply chain. The process then starts again.

The Pallet LOOP ● www.thepalletloop.com

Abode appoints marketing manager, Peter Woodward

ABODE, an award-winning designer of market leading kitchen sinks and taps, boiling water taps, bathroom taps, showering, and newly extended bathroom solutions is thrilled to announce the appointment of Peter Woodward as its new marketing manager.

Marking a significant step in the company's strategic investment in talent and brand development, this staff appointment follows the promotion of Leanne Stansfield, who recently accepted the newly created role of digital and marketing director at Abode, to further strengthen the company's communication strategies and senior leadership team.

Peter joined the company in July 2025, and with an impressive track record in the KBB sector following previous marketing roles at Jacuzzi UK, JT Ellis, and Harrison Bathrooms, he is well known for executing impactful campaigns and strategic marketing initiatives throughout his career. Bringing a range of marketing insights and expertise to support the company's ambitious growth plans moving forward, Peter will oversee the marketing team while driving the connection between the brand and its customers.

Peter says, "I'm looking forward to joining the marketing team at Abode at this exciting time, with ambitious plans in place. The brand has a fantastic reputation for quality and innovation. I'm excited to lead and

implement marketing strategies that will enhance Abode's market presence and build brand awareness, ensuring our products remain at the forefront of consumer choice."

The latest organisational changes reflect the company's desire to build on its success in delivering innovative, design-led kitchen and bathroom products. Leanne Stansfield says, "I'm extremely pleased to welcome Peter to our growing marketing team. He brings exceptional knowledge and expertise from the KBB industry and other sectors. His appointment reflects our commitment to building a dynamic and diverse marketing function capable of driving meaningful growth. I am confident that Peter will make a positive and immediate impact within our business."

Abode ● 01226 283434

info@abodedesigns.co.uk ● www.abodedesigns.co.uk



Pupils' school buddy bench dream made a reality

CHILDREN at a Nottingham primary school have taken steps to ensure none of their fellow pupils ever feel alone by building a 'Buddy Bench' — with the help of one of the UK's leading builders merchants.

Wellbeing ambassadors at Claremont Primary School, based on Claremont Road, approached their teachers with a request to put in the new friendship facility on the playground used by children in years three to six.

Selco Builders Warehouse, which has a store on Radford Road in Nottingham, then answered the request of the school and Councillor Shuguftah Quddoos for support by providing the materials to allow the children's vision to become reality.

Keri Bilson, chair of the Parent Teacher Association at the school, said: "One of our core values is to collaborate as a family by working, playing and having fun with each other and this gesture by the children is extremely heart-warming.

"The idea behind it is that, on the odd occasion that a child doesn't have anyone to play with or feels upset, they can sit on the buddy bench and help from the other children will soon be available. The wellbeing ambassadors are largely made up of children in years five and six and the idea of a buddy bench has entirely come from them which is fantastic.

"The only involvement they have had from adults was to try and secure the materials and we are extremely grateful to Selco for helping the children achieve their aim.

"We look forward to the buddy bench being an important part of the school for many years to come."

As part of the support, Selco provided a range of materials including concrete blocks, fence posts, topsoil and cement.

Adam Newbold, deputy manager of Selco Nottingham, said: "When we received the letter from the pupils at Claremont School, it really touched the hearts of all our team.

"To see children as young as eight and nine coming up with such an innovative idea and making it reality is fantastic and we were thrilled to supply the materials for the buddy bench. Hopefully the bench will become the location where lots of school friendships are formed."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Industrial laser processing for wood, paper, textiles and more



TROTEC'S SpeedMarker 1600 CO₂ X-axis is a powerful solution for precisely and efficiently processing organic materials, making it ideal for manufacturers in the wood, paper, and textile industries.

This system is designed for processing large workpieces and combines high speed with consistently excellent quality, making it ideal for small- to large-scale production.

The integrated CO₂ laser precisely processes a wide range of organic materials, including wood, paper, textiles, and plastics. The X-axis provides a maximum processing area of 1,138 x 450 mm and is supported by an integrated flat nozzle for extraction to ensure clean cutting and engraving results.

Technical features: CO₂ laser: Ideal for organic materials such as wood, paper, textiles. Process-

ing area: 1,138 x 450 mm — for large-format workpieces. Laser power: Adaptable to production requirements.

SpeedMark software: Intuitive operation, no training required. Data connection: Integration into ERP and e-commerce systems. Automation: Seamless integration into existing processes.

The SpeedMarker 1600 CO₂ X-axis is part of Trotec's Customized Solutions and is precisely

tailored to customers' production requirements.

The Trotec Galvo Competence Center supports customers throughout the process, from planning and design to training and commissioning, ensuring seamless integration into existing processes.

Trotec
www.troteclaser.com



Wokingham eco project receives toolkits boost from Selco

AN ENVIRONMENTALLY friendly project in Wokingham that teaches young people DIY skills by making bird boxes from scrap wood has received a donation of toolkits from a leading builders merchant.

The Eco Skills Learning Centre in Arborfield has received a boost with the donation of 10 multi-purpose toolkits from Selco Builders Warehouse's Reading store on the Portman Trading Estate.

The tool bags are packed with essential trade tools to help the charity with its projects like a hammer, pliers, screwdrivers, measuring tape and more.

The centre welcomes young people to make bird boxes and bug hotels using unwanted wood donated by local residents and businesses.

Dr Bilber Bachra, of The Eco Skills Learning Centre, said the project aims to teach visitors new skills while improving the environment. She said: "We're very grateful to Selco for their generous donation. All of the tools will be put to use immediately as we teach young people some practical skills, including how to use a hammer and screwdriver."

"We launched in 2024, initially working in our back gardens and moved to the Eco Skills Learning Centre in February this year.



The toolkits are presented to The Eco Skills Learning Centre.

"We have so far made 755 bird boxes for blue tits and 100 bug hotels. We are working with Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust to see what other habitats we could make in the future."

"The Wildlife Trust has identified that swifts and hedgehogs are on the endangered list, so we have now expanded our range of habitats to include include boxes

for hedgehogs and swifts. Looking to the future we plan to build boxes for owls and bats."

"The young people work in pairs and spend about two-and-a-half hours to make a bird box each, which they take home to put up. The whole cycle is very environmentally friendly and ensures the wood isn't being burned or sent to landfill."

The project is run by around 15 volunteers, who also deliver workshops at community events and school fetes.

The group meets on Wednesdays and is always looking for volunteers and donations of wood.

Selco Reading branch manager Tony Webb said: "We're delighted to support The Eco Skills Learning Centre and this excellent project."

"Various surveys have shown that many young people lack basic DIY skills. Workshops like this can make a huge difference and give people confidence for the rest of their lives."

"Being part of our local community is important to us and this is another example of how we get involved with good causes."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 74 UK stores 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 an app — as well as a 'Dial & Deliver' telephone service — to make life as convenient as possible for tradespeople.

Selco

www.selcobw.com



Garden room grows at Little Miracles

A PETERBOROUGH-BASED charity which supports families of children with additional needs, disabilities and life-limiting conditions is providing further opportunities for its youngsters to enjoy the great outdoors — thanks to the support of a leading builders merchant.

Over the last year, Little Miracles supported around 50,000 people with inclusive activities, family support, counselling, training and respite from its 22 locations across the east of England.

Its Peterborough head office, based at The Spinney on Hartwell Way, has a garden room where children who find it more difficult to regulate their emotions or adapt to a busy environment can play.

Little Miracles staff had a vision to add an outdoor area to the garden room — and that has become possible thanks to a donation of materials from the Peterborough branch of Selco Builders Warehouse, with the work carried out by Silva Build.

Louise Evans, head of income generation at Little Miracles, said: "We are thrilled and hugely grateful to Selco for the donation it made and for Silva Build for doing such a fantastic job.

"We rely virtually entirely on voluntary donations so when companies with a local presence, such as Selco, come forward with a donation to help us carry out work which is vitally important for the quality of service we can offer our children and families, it makes the world of difference.

"The garden room is a safe space for a number of the children we support so to be able to add an outdoor area to that is just fantastic.

"The children are already getting so much out of it, looking after plants and creating a mud kitchen there.

"Our setting is based in protected woodland and is a bright and colourful environment and Selco and Silva Build have worked to ensure the area is in keeping with the rest of the facility — it really is wonderful."

Little Miracles was set up by Michelle King, who remains CEO today,

in 2012 after her child Oliver was born with complex health needs and she struggled to secure support during the early years of his life.

At the time of writing, the team was preparing for the summer holidays where children were offered a range of activities including a trip to the beach, as well as events such as animal experience days and a visit from the circus happening at The Spinney.

Selco donated a range of materials for the project, including fence posts and panels, post mix and gate furniture.

Pollyanna Edwards, deputy manager of Selco Peterborough which can be found on Padholme Road East, said: "Many of our colleagues and customers in the store are well aware of Little Miracles and the fantastic work it does.

"As soon as we were approached about supporting with developing an outdoor extension to the garden room, we had no hesitation in providing materials.

"The work Little Miracles does is incredible and we hope the outdoor space provides many hours of happiness for the children and the families who benefit from the charity's work."

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Selco
www.selcobw.com



Michelle King of Little Miracles (left) with Pollyanna Edwards, deputy manager of Selco Peterborough.

Premier Forest Products announces pick-a-pack service for upholstery & frame maker sector



LEADING UK timber supplier, Premier Forest Products, has announced a new pick-a-pack service to support its product offering for the upholstery and frame maker sector.

Premier's Upholstery and Furniture Components package provides all the products that an up-

holsterer or frame maker would need through its pick-a-pack feature, giving customers total control and convenience.

This new service offer allows each customer to mix and match different quantities and types of products on to a single delivery, meaning customers can order the

exact quantity of product needed for their project, fulfilling their needs and producing less product waste.

The Upholstery and Furniture range includes products such as "Premier Grade" PAR Birch which has been specifically graded to provide consistency and reliability

in performance. The upholstery packages are designed to cater for diverse furniture production projects, with Premier Forest's national facilities ensuring complete quality control and production flexibility, to meet both large and small orders.

Pick-a-pack sites are located in Premier Forest's Newport, Creeksea (Essex) and Doncaster sites, with delivery available nationwide, providing a versatile and flexible service.

Nigel McKillop, commercial director at Premier Forest Products, said: "With our unique pick-a-pack service, manufacturers can know they are able to access all the products they need, in the quantity they need, all under one roof."

"We are committed to providing a versatile and flexible service, supported with a wide variety of products on a single delivery."

Premier Forest Products is a vertically integrated timber operation engaged in the importation, processing, machining, engineering and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from its multiple sites in the UK.

Premier Forest Products
<https://premierforest.co.uk>



Cyclists move through the gears for Selco charity push

A DOZEN cyclists from Selco Builders Warehouse displayed their pedal power by completing a charity bike ride to raise more than £8,000.

Store managers from across the builders merchant's North London stores took on the 'Ride the Region' challenge. The near 60-mile journey started at Hanger Lane as part of the Selco store's 20th anniversary celebration. The group — which was backed by a support team — then cycled 55 miles over two days, largely along the Grand Union Canal, to reach their final destination of Selco's Milton Keynes store. More than £8,000 has so far been raised from the challenge for Selco's nominated charity, Cancer Research UK.

Ashley Watts, manager of Selco Kingsbury and who was one of the event organisers said: "It was a warm couple of days which made it quite tough cycling along some rough terrain but it was a great experience. We had a mixed ability of cyclists but everyone stuck together and we got through the

two days without any punctures, injuries or any other incidents. To be able to join a group of colleagues, and in many cases friends, and to complete a challenge such as this was a fantastic feeling and there was a real sense of accomplishment. We are thrilled to have raised the amount of money we have for Cancer Research UK. It's a charity

which is very close to the hearts of a lot of people who took part and the planning is already underway for the next charity event."

Selco has been supporting Cancer Research UK for the last three years and has now raised well over £500,000, which is used to help the charity's studies into the prevention and treatment of cancer

through the work of over 4,000 doctors, nurses and scientists.

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 74 UK stores are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

Selco
www.selcobw.com



AWARDS

Premier Forest Products shortlisted for four prestigious industry awards

LEADING UK timber supplier, Premier Forest Products, is celebrating after being shortlisted in four categories in the 2025 Timber Trades Journal (TTJ) Awards.

Premier Forest has been shortlisted in the Panels Trader of the Year, Softwood Trader of the Year, Hardwood Trader of the Year and Timber Garden Product Supplier of the Year categories at the annual TTJ Awards, which have been running since 1997. There are voted for and judged categories, with the voted categories recognising service excellence and product quality across the timber industry. Voting is open to customers throughout the supply chain and they can vote for up to two companies per category. All four of Premier Forest's nominations are in voted for categories. The industry leading awards will be held at the Hilton London Bankside on Friday 19 September.

Terry Edgell, Co-founder & CEO of Premier Forest Products said, "We're so proud to have been shortlisted for four major categories at this year's TTJ Awards. These are the only industry awards voted for by customers, so to be nominated in four categories means a lot to us as a business. It shows that the emphasis we place on customer satisfaction is being recognised and the team's hard work and dedication is paying off. We can't wait to celebrate as a team at the event."

Premier Forest Products is engaged in the importation, processing, merchandising and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from multiple sites across the UK.

Premier Forest Products ● <https://premierforest.co.uk>



Combilift receives its 3rd Red Dot win with its new seven tonne electric multidirectional counterbalance forklift

IRISH-BASED manufacturer Combilift, a global leader in multi-directional and customised handling solutions, has been awarded the prestigious Red Dot Award for Product Design 2025 for its Combi-CB70E, high-capacity, electric powered multidirectional forklift, developed to meet the needs of heavy-duty, long-load handling in more sustainable ways.

The Red Dot Award, one of the most internationally renowned design competitions, recognises excellence in design quality and innovation, and is no stranger to Combilift's exceptional vision to shaping the future of the Commercial Vehicles Industry. This award completes a hat trick for Combilift who previously won a Red Dot for the Combi-WR and 'Best of the Best' for the Combi-CB4. Combilift's Combi-CB70E impressed the international jury with its new ergonomic design, environmental credentials, and ability to enhance operator comfort and productivity in demanding industrial settings.

Martin McVicar, CEO and Co-founder of Combilift, commented: "We are delighted to re-



Left to right: Martin McVicar, Combilift CEO and co-founder, and Mark Whyte, lead engineer.

ceive our third Red Dot Award this year for the Combi-CB70E. Our design and engineering teams have been striving to provide solutions that are not only functional and safe but also reflect excellence in industrial design. Our customers

increasingly demand electric alternatives that don't compromise on performance, and the CB70E is exactly that."

The multidirectional Combi-CB70E is a seven tonne capacity electric counterbalance forklift,

specifically designed for handling long and bulky loads in confined or challenging spaces. Equipped with Combilift's patented Independent Traction Control System and large elastic rubber tyres, it provides all-terrain capability while maintaining zero-emission operation. The spacious gas strut suspension cab and floor to ceiling glazing offers enhanced visibility and comfort, while the Auto Swivel Seat — which automatically swivels 15 degrees to the left or right, depending on the direction of travel — ensures optimal ergonomics and comfort for operators, even during extended shifts.

This Red Dot recognition comes in an exceptional 11 months of success for Combilift, which has also received multiple international accolades for its products and leadership, including Product of the Year and Ergonomics Award at the UKMHA Archies Awards, as well as Design Team of the Year and Industry Leader awards from the UK's Engineering & Manufacturing Awards.

Combilift
combilift.com/combi-cb70e/



Innovation, integration and industry insight take centre stage at AXYZ & WARDJet's UK CNC Manufacturing Expo

XYZ WARDJet has once again demonstrated its leadership in CNC technology and automation with a successful two-day UK CNC Manufacturing Expo held at its headquarters in Telford on 16 and 17 July 2025. With over 200 sign-ups and a strong physical turnout, the event proved to be a powerful platform for unveiling cutting-edge innovations, showcasing live demonstrations and deepening relationships with customers, prospects and industry partners.

A Celebration of CNC Innovation

At the heart of this year's expo was a showcase of intelligent, production ready technologies that address the modern demands of manufacturing. Attendees had the opportunity to experience first-hand the latest in AXYZ and WARDJet's evolving portfolio of CNC routers, waterjet systems and automation enhancements.

Live demonstrations ran throughout both days, with a focus on reducing manual labour, increasing production speeds and improving safety. The energy in the demo space was palpable as engineers, fabricators and shop owners saw innovations brought to life in real time.

Introducing the Future: Material Handling and Automation

One of the show's standout attractions was the debut of AXYZ WARDJet's new Automatic Material Transfer (AMT) system—a robotic solution

for lifting, loading and aligning sheet materials with ease. What sets AMT apart is its fully automated operation, decoupled from the CNC machine itself. Attendees saw how dual AMT units can work in tandem, managing sheets of up to 6 metres long with precision.

Supporting features like vacuum flexibility, tandem operation and guided alignment showed how AMT dramatically improves workflow by eliminating traditional bottlenecks in material handling. For many visitors, this innovation sparked serious conversations about shop floor automation and ROI.

High-Speed, High-Accuracy Cutting Solutions

Alongside material handling tech, the spotlight was also firmly on new CNC cutting capabilities. The Swivel HP Oscillating Knife impressed with its 12,000 CPM speed and ability to cut dynamic shapes with accuracy across a variety of materials.

Meanwhile, the hands-free Auto Sheet Loader and Unloader system showed how production can be streamlined further with minimal human intervention. Together, these systems presented a unified vision of faster throughput with safer, smarter processes.

Enhanced Safety Systems for Modern Manufacturing

With automation comes the need for robust safety solutions and AXYZ





WARDJet delivered. New laser scanners and AI-powered camera systems were showcased, offering real-time monitoring, adaptive safety zones and intelligent threat detection. These safety innovations help operators manage multi-machine environments more efficiently, while remaining compliant with evolving safety standards.

The ability to demonstrate all these systems operating together within a live, production-style setup gave visitors confidence in their readiness for real-world application.

Hands-On Experiences Drive Business Results

A major highlight of the expo was the personal, hands-on experience. Attendees not only watched but also engaged directly with WXYZ and WARDJet's CNC systems from routers and waterjets to automation tools. The option to bring their own materials and run live tests was particularly well received. For manufacturers working with wood, plastic, metal and composites, the results were eye-opening.

The show also opened the door to private post-event demonstrations. For those unable to attend or interested in further exploration, WXYZ WARDJet extended invitations to return to the Telford HQ in the following weeks. Visitors can book tailored demos with their own production files and materials to explore how CNC automation can fit their unique challenges.

The Launch of the New Woodworker Series

In addition to automation and software, the UK Expo marked the official introduction of the next-generation Woodworker CNC router. Designed for cabinetry, furniture making and high-volume wood processing, the machine features:

- Hands-free loading/unloading
- 9-position drill bank
- Rotary and rack tool changers
- Roller hold down systems
- Auto label printing

This combination enables unmatched throughput and consistency, especially in multi-shift environments, according to the company. Several woodworking company owners on site expressed immediate interest in upgrading their production lines based on what they saw.

Serving Diverse Industries with Tailored Solutions

Throughout the event, WXYZ and WARDJet made clear their commitment to custom-engineered solutions for sectors including sign making, metalworking, aerospace and composite machining. Live demonstrations and technical consultations helped customers identify how technologies like waterjet cold-cutting or hybrid router-knife platforms could streamline their operations.

From bespoke applications in medical devices and aerospace parts to custom signage and architectural cladding, attendees left with actionable ideas on how to improve precision, reduce labour costs and accelerate turnaround.

Strong Attendance, Stronger Impact

With over 200 registrations and a high level of on-site engagement, the 2025 UK CNC Manufacturing Expo was one of WXYZ WARDJet's most impactful customer events to date. The combination of live demos, real time material testing and meaningful face-to-face interactions created lasting value for all involved.

As the machines remain on-site at the Telford HQ for a limited post-show window, WXYZ WARDJet encourages those who couldn't attend to take advantage of this rare opportunity to experience the full line-up in action.

Looking Ahead

WXYZ WARDJet continues to push the boundaries of CNC manufacturing by integrating innovation with hands-on support. The success of the UK CNC Manufacturing Expo underlines growing demand for smarter, safer and more scalable production tools. With new technologies like AMT, intelligent safety systems and advanced CNC routing solutions, the future of manufacturing is here and WXYZ WARDJet is leading the way.

To book a private demonstration or to learn more, contact the company using the details below.

WXYZ WARDJet ● 01952 291600 ● enquiries@axyz.com
www.axyz.com ● www.wardjet.com

EGGER and partners CLEAF and BLUM launch London showroom

EGGER LONDON brings together three family owned companies — EGGER, CLEAF and BLUM — at One Dallington Street in Clerkenwell, London's globally leading design community.

Opening its showroom doors for the first time at the internationally renowned Clerkenwell Design Week in May, EGGER LONDON welcomed over 1,200 visits to experience its remarkable interior design transformation, network with peers and meet the three brands behind the concept. Since then, it continues to welcome designer guests from around the world to create, collaborate and specify in the open space.

EGGER LONDON offers an eclectic experience for its designer guests. Its light, bright and flowing interior comprises of design space for guests to work and collaborate on projects, digital space to access supporting tools and brand information, private space for meetings and workshops, and welcoming hospitality space for relaxed networking.

Every part of its interior is created with the designer in mind, with real life product application merging form with function throughout. It is packed with

large format samples, supporting resources, and on-hand expertise from its team.

The highly anticipated showroom is a stand-out space. Set inside the iconic One Dallington Street, a striking example of late 20th Century open and fluid architecture, it is flooded with natural light through its double height, glass-blocked façade. Inside, visitors are greeted by its spacious open atrium, centred by a statement, bespoke feature pendant that tells the story of EGGER's history of celebrating wood. Moving inside, the space is a designers' playground packed with creative stimulation — from textures and colours to conversations and curated events.

The showroom is founded by EGGER, a leading, global manufacturer of wood-based materials for interior design and construction. With its unique sole supplier offer for designers, specifiers, architects and fabricators, EGGER supplies a range of decorative materials for interior furniture, surfaces and wall panelling, decorative interior flooring and structural flooring, suitable for commercial and domestic projects. Priding itself on its strong



environmental ethos and sustainable product portfolio, EGGER operates environmentally conscious manufacturing processes at 22 facilities worldwide.

At EGGER LONDON, EGGER showcases over 300 finishes for furniture and flooring in a life-size sample library, and some of its most innovative materials in real applications across fitted furniture, working tables, networking spaces and design installations.

Adding to the breadth of inspiring surface finishes, designers are invited to explore CLEAF, an

Italian company producing innovative surfaces for furniture and interiors.

Renowned for striking texture development and exceptionally tactile finishes, CLEAF exclusively manufactures a considered selection of surfacing solutions at production sites in Brianza, and sees its material installed worldwide by interior architects and furniture designers, building inspiring spaces for living and working. Visitors can explore over 150 CLEAF finishes in the space.

BLUM brings movement and fluidity to the space. A global-leading manufacturer of innovative lift, hinge, pull out and pocket systems for furniture and interiors, the brand specialises in motion technologies while advocating responsible growth and preservation for future generations. BLUM is a pioneering business, focussed on solution-led product development, and renowned for its catalogue of innovative fittings and mechanisms designed to make furniture move, rather than be moved, for a better quality of living and working.

Under one roof the three partners provide an integrated interior design solution covering a wide range of decors, fittings and flooring, alongside heavy-weight product expertise, giving its designer guests the tools they need to specify bravely, with confidence, and without compromise.

EGGER LONDON
londonshowroom@egger.com
www.egger.com



Leeds College of Building named one of first 'Technical Excellence Colleges'

LEEDS College of Building (LCB) has been named one of the first ever 'construction technical excellence colleges' (CTEC) and will receive a share of £100 million in Government funding to tackle construction skills shortages.

Only 10 colleges across England have been given the status for the 2025 to 2026 academic year, with LCB selected to represent Yorkshire & the Humber region. Ministers say the CTECs will train 40,000 people by 2029 in high-demand trades such as bricklaying, carpentry, roofing and electrical work.

Technical excellence colleges are a new Government designation for FE colleges that will receive extra funding to deliver training in sectors where there are shortages. Each will receive a share of £80 million in capital and £20 million in revenue over the next four years.

This first wave covers construction and comes on top of £625 million announced for the sector in March to cover 60,000 training places through foundation apprenticeships, skills bootcamps and other funded construction courses.

The Government hopes these initiatives will plug skills shortages in the construction industry and "backs the British working class" by reducing the sector's re-



Leeds College of Building carpentry student.

liance on overseas workers. The announcement confirms a CTEC in each region of England.

Leeds College of Building will now act as a "hub" in its region and partner with "spoke" local training providers and employers to expand courses to more learners and improve training standards.

LCB is the UK's only specialist Further Education college dedicated to the Construction and Built Environment sector. The col-

lege works with over 800 employer partners, including NG Bailey, BAM Nuttall, Morgan Sindall, and JN Bentley.

Leeds College of Building CEO and Principal, Nikki Davis, currently represents the further education sector on the Construction Skills Mission Board, recently launched by the Construction Leadership Council. Nikki said: "We are thrilled to be appointed as one of the first ever CTECs in the country, reflecting our reputation as one of the nation's leading construction training providers. We look forward to collaborating with other colleges and independent training providers to benefit even more learners and meet the skills needs across our region through cutting-edge specialist curricula and high-quality teaching practices.

"Our established relationships have been crucial in achieving this status, and our thanks go to the many employers, organisations, and individuals who endorsed LCB. These exceptional partnerships will be vital in expanding opportunities to address sector skills shortages — including green skills, digitisation, and Modern Methods of Construction (MMC)."

Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, added: "This recognition is a huge vote of confidence in our region's strengths, talent and ambition.

"By training the skilled workers we need for transformational projects like constructing tramlines and building new affordable homes, the Leeds College of Building puts our region at the epicentre of the nation's rebuilding effort, creating good jobs and putting more money in people's pockets.

"It's fantastic to see the college being recognised by the government for the key role it will play in delivering the national growth mission and building a stronger, brighter Britain."

Colleges had to bid for the status earlier this year. The Department for Education (DfE) said it received 51 applications in total.

Other winning colleges are Derby College Group, West Suffolk College, New City College, City of Sunderland College, Wigan and Leigh College, North Kent College, Exeter College, The Bedford College Group, and Dudley College of Technology.

Leeds College of Building
www.lcb.ac.uk



Leeds College of Building electrical student.

The 'impossible mallet' challenge with Liberon

WHEN NEWARK College wanted to set its woodworking students a challenge that some might want to call 'mission impossible', wood-care expert Liberon was happy to step in and help. Coinciding with its recent Industry Week and Careers Fair Expo, the college challenged students to produce an 'impossible mallet' and finish it using Liberon products.

Making an impossible mallet is a great skills test for woodworkers because, once completed, it baffles observers as to how it has been constructed. Consisting of just two pieces of solid wood — the head and the handle — an impossible mallet incorporates dovetail joints, which ensure that head and handle cannot be separated, once fixed into position. No glue was used during the making of the mallet.

Eleven students took part in the challenge, using hardwoods to make the mallet. Beech was selected for the hammer head and either Ash or Elm for handles. Once completed, the students could select a Liberon product with which to finish it from a range donated for the challenge by the company. These included Superior Danish

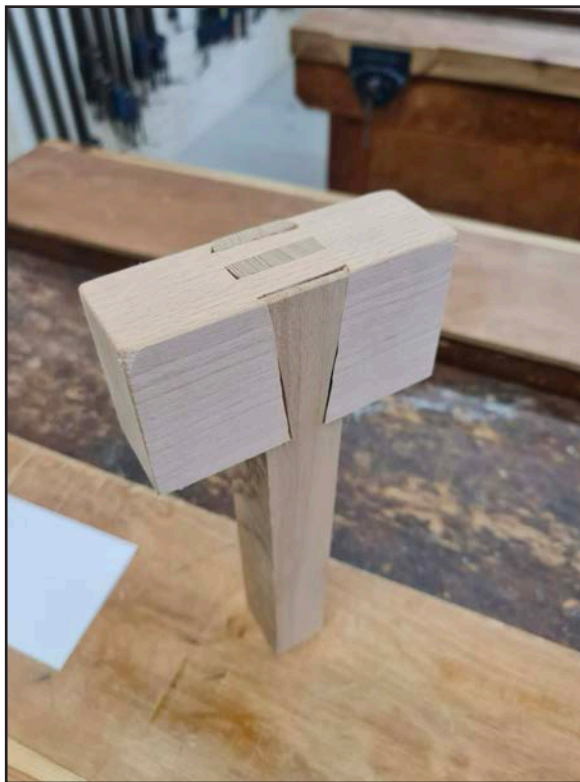
Oil, Finishing Oil, Pure Tung Oil, Shellac Filler Sticks and Palette Wood Dye.

Course Leader, Richard Preece, says: "This challenge was great for testing the students' marking out and cutting out skills and their precision when creating what we would call the trick joint. It really is a 'get it right first time' situation, which calls for attention to detail. The students produced some excellent work using plans that the college had pre-produced. In addition, working with hardwoods was a departure for them, which was a good thing. The challenge also looked at the students' wood finishing techniques using Liberon's products."

Richard Bradley, UK head of marketing at Liberon, says: "I must admit I'd never heard of an impossible mallet before! With a secret trick joint, it sounds like quite a challenge, so congratulations to the winner and runner up for doing such a great job."

The entries were judged by staff at Newark College, and the winner and runner up each won a bundle of Liberon products.

Liberon
www.liberon.co.uk



PANELS & PANEL PROCESSING

Timber frame erectors raising the pace with CaberDek

THE TWO business partners behind an ambitious new timber frame erection service view Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) and advanced building products such as West Fraser's weather protected flooring system, CaberDek, as offering the way ahead for the house-building industry. In fact, they believe that correctly designed and specified timber frame solutions will help meet Government targets, while also achieving wider environmental goals.

Wiltshire based Wiltstone Framing was set up just two years ago by Aaron Wiltshire and Lewis Epplestone, who realised they had gained sufficient experience to strike out on their own and to see if they could win more work by establishing their own team to drive down completion times, while maintaining and even improving standards of quality.

Now the company is earning the confidence of major timber frame manufacturers and their end clients, Wiltstone is taking on larger projects, and planning to steadily step up its output.

Aaron recounted: "I have been working in timber frame construction for eight years now, including a three-year apprenticeship, and we decided to start our own company in 2023 having already been trusted to run a number of sites where we were building houses for some of the big players such as Taylor Lane, Pinewood and Frame UK homes.

"We intend to carry on growing organically, training our own people, rather than getting too big too quickly which is where there's a danger of letting quality dip. We've ensured that our staff have got their tickets as supervisors and 'slingers' for crane work. Normally, we do everything from the sole plate up to a felt-and-battened weathertight roof.



"For Taylor Lane, rather than installing prefabricated cassettes, we assemble the upper floor joists and install the CaberDek panels, before it is lifted off by the crane and a birdcage scaffold is erected and the walls go up.

"CaberDek works really well in creating a weatherproof deck, though we always finish well within the 60 days the product is guaranteed for — normally it is two to three weeks before we are peeling off the protective film to leave a clean, sound surface.

We use the D4 adhesive to ensure there's no creaks, while the lips and tongues are so strong, it's a really good product to lay, while you don't get creep on the joints."

Then referring to West Fraser's renowned SterlingOSB Zero, Aaron added: "Some of the manufacturers we work for, such as Donaldsons, fix the 18 mm OSB over the top of their factory-made cassettes before they're delivered, and we install the CaberDek once the roof goes on, but we also use it for jobs such as around the dormer roofs to support the leadwork in the valleys.

"It's a fast pace and we have a site coming up in Chippenham where the target is to erect 24 homes over a three-month period. Looking ahead, we are building some strong relationships and now have a total team of 12 erectors, carpenters and experienced labourers plus two apprentices we have taken on to train up fully ourselves — being able to cover an area from Somerset up to Oxfordshire and over to the M25. Basically, the business can tackle work anywhere two to three hours from Melksham."

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

James Latham unveils new digital showcase of a groundbreaking material

JAMES Latham, the UK's leading independent distributor of timber, panels and decorative surfaces, proudly announces the launch of James Latham's Explore Accoya, an innovative new digital platform that redefines how specifiers, architects, designers and contractors engage with one of the world's most advanced, high performance timbers.

Building on the success of its Digital Showroom and Cladding Visualiser, Explore Accoya celebrates this wonder-material like never before; in true James Latham style.

Representing a milestone in both organisations' long-running partnership, this immersive experience presents a unique opportunity to discover Accoya and get under the skin of the range, from each and every angle.

Explore like never before

Developed in close collaboration with leading creative agency, Cyon, visitors to the site are immediately drawn into a world of near-unlimited design potential. From the very start this incredible material, which achieves its superior stability and durability from a unique acetylation process, takes centre stage.

A seamless and incredibly user-friendly interface encourages leisurely exploration, yet this is no ordinary product showcase. Whilst the stunning 3D visualiser certainly catches the eye, the platform also acts as an in-depth information hub, containing a mix of video and written advice,

covering topics such as machining and finishing, technical detail, data sheets and certificates, fixing guides, warranties, stock profiles and more, all in one convenient place.

Nowhere else will you find such a visually stunning deep-dive into Accoya, that also empowers and inspires through high levels of interactivity, according to the company.

Immerse yourself in Accoya

On entering Explore Accoya, users will have everything they need at their fingertips, including up-to-date technical information, sustainability credentials, and advice on applications.

It also highlights how James

Latham provides that extra layer of service to make the specification and purchasing process seamless, from unrivalled levels of stock and rapid sample delivery to in-house experts who can advise on the best ways to get the most from Accoya — no matter how ambitious the project.

While there are plenty of inspirational case studies available, which showcase the wider variety of creative and functional uses of Accoya, what really sets this digital tool apart is the powerful visualiser that's been built in.

Imagine that!

The site empowers users to imagine how Accoya might work in both residential and commercial settings, with two specially developed 360° visualisations that contextualise a variety of different applications.

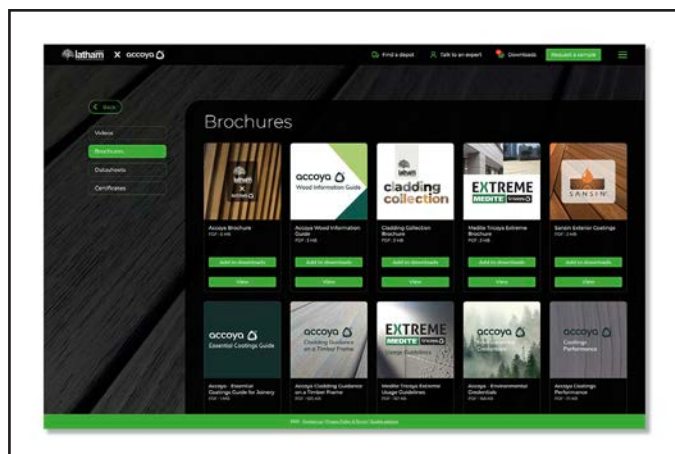
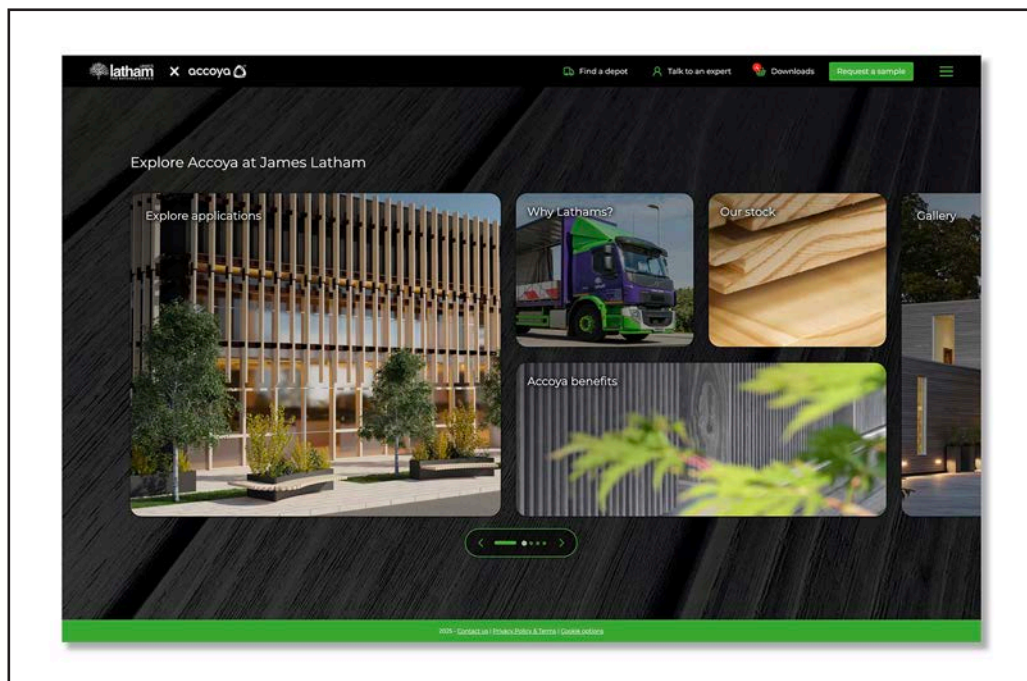
Whether cladding for a contemporary home or external meeting pods in a modern office's outdoor area, specific touch points embedded on each simulation can be clicked to reveal full product information right through to a sample request. It adds another level of intuitiveness to the customer journey.

Commenting on the new site, Laura Keily, head of marketing at Accoya says, "It's great to have this

new platform for James Latham and Accoya. It offers a seamless user experience that truly brings the benefits of Accoya to life. As a comprehensive one-stop shop, it serves architects, specifiers, manufacturers alike, making it easier than ever to explore, and source Accoya wood. Designed with user experience at its core, the platform centralises everything customers need into a single, streamlined destination perfectly suited to the demands of today's busy lives."

Stuart Devoil, group head of marketing at James Latham adds, "This new tool will bring Accoya to a brand new audience and remind existing end-users why they chose the material in the first place. There's so much to explore and I think that visitors will be truly astounded by how many high-demanding and unusual applications Accoya can be used for. Explore Accoya brings the material to life in full 360° and, I hope, it will encourage users to really embrace all the incredible properties this wonder material offers." He continues "but it's not just about the visuals. We really wanted to provide a one-stop-shop for all information relating to Accoya. I think it's just as good technically as it is visually."

James Latham
www.lathamtimber.co.uk



Arbor Forest Products rebrands MDF range to Arbor Edge following major sanding investment

ARBOR Forest Products — one of the UK's leading independent timber importers, processors and distributors — has unveiled its newly rebranded **Arbor Edge** MDF mouldings range, backed by a significant investment in production technology and part of a wider programme of upgrades across its North Lincolnshire site.

A key driver behind the rebrand is the company's multi-million pound investment, making Arbor Forest Products what is believed to be the only UK manufacturer to integrate this level of sanding technology between coats. The result is a flawless finish, improved efficiency, and a market-leading product that sets new standards in quality, according to the company.

Gwyn Tuxford, head of manufacturing at Arbor Edge, said:



"We've always been focused on producing the best possible MDF product, and this latest investment takes us to the next level. The introduction of precision sanding equipment not only enhances the final finish but also improves workflow and safety across the plant. It's about delivering consistency and premium quality at every stage."

The investment in Arbor Edge is just one part of a wider £3.5 million investment in the site in 2025, which also includes a new low-pressure treatment tank, baling line, and expanded storage facilities — demonstrating Arbor's commitment to long-term growth and continuous improvement. Sustainability remains a key focus, with waste wood from across the site fuelling an on-site biomass plant, which supplies the heat used to dry paint on the MDF lines — an energy-efficient, environmentally responsible solution that reduces waste and lowers emissions.

Marie Ennals, marketing manager, added: "The Arbor Edge brand was created to reflect the attention to detail and high quality finish we're known for. The rebrand also gives us the opportunity to showcase the benefits that truly set our MDF apart — such as moisture-resistant, high-density boards, double priming to save time on site, low VOC emissions, and custom-made profiling."

Available with a 36-hour delivery lead time, all Arbor Edge products are manufactured to ISO 9001 standards with full traceability.

Alongside its product development, Arbor Forest Products continues to innovate in how its materials are delivered. The company's 'Warehouse on Wheels' service transforms traditional timber distribution by loading a wide range of products — MDF, timber, decking and more — onto dedicated articulated trailers that function as mobile warehouses.

Rather than relying on central depots or third-party hauliers, these trailers visit customer sites regularly, allowing merchants to replenish stock quickly and flexibly — reducing lead times, improving availability, and eliminating the need to overstock. This customer-first delivery model continues to be a key differentiator for Arbor in the UK market.

Arbor Forest Products

www.arborforestproducts.co.uk/products/arbor_edge_mdf_mouldings

Nature Inspired Paper Foils



dp-decor is the **original** and trusted paper foil range from Decorative Panels Lamination - developed as a cost-effective yet visually stunning alternative to real wood veneers.

The collection features an extensive selection of **woodgrain**, **unicolour**, and **fantasy designs**, developed in partnership with leading global print houses.

www.decorativepanels.co.uk



'One Element' garden showcases creative circular design with MEDITE TRIMAX

MEDITE TRIMAX's commitment to sustainable building was in the spotlight once again at this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, where the high performance, low maintenance timber cladding formed a central feature of the RHS-sponsored 'One Element' garden.

The garden, designed and built by Nadine Charlton (Home Spring Gardens) and Michael Lote (MJL Garden Design), challenges visitors to rethink water in the domestic garden and demonstrates how reclaimed materials and innovative technologies can help shape a more resourceful future for domestic gardens.

At the heart of the installation is a closed-loop water system. Grey water from a household shower is channelled into the bath, then directed up through a planted green roof for initial fil-



tration. From there, water passes through further filtration and is finally distributed via underground irrigation pipes directly to the soil — ensuring only clean, filtered water nourishes the planting. The approach spotlights how simple, scalable solutions can support both sustainability and horticultural success.

True to its ethos, 'One Element' relies almost exclusively on reclaimed, waste or by-product materials. The only new addition is MEDITE TRIMAX, chosen for its class-leading durability, weather resistance and ease of installation. Even this product echoes the theme of reuse — it comes fresh from its debut at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The cladding was carefully dismantled and reused for Hampton Court, underlining both its durability and its suitability for circular design in practice.

Manufactured using acetylated wood fibre sourced from sustainably managed, FSC-certified forests, MEDITE TRIMAX is a robust external cladding solution with a 50-year guarantee for above-ground use. It's available in primed or fully finished options, making it a versatile and hassle-free choice for demanding exterior projects.

"We are delighted to see MEDITE TRIMAX back on show at Hampton Court, having already proven its worth at Chelsea," said John Harrup, head of marketing at MEDITE TRIMAX. "Its advanced engineering means not only longevity and low maintenance, but real potential for re-use across multiple projects. We're proud to support garden designers who share our commitment to sustainability, creativity, and practical innovation."

'One Element' stands as a practical showcase of how reclaimed materials and smart products can support a more sustainable approach to landscape design. With forward-thinking designers and durable, sustainable products like MEDITE TRIMAX, the future of landscape design is brighter — and greener — than ever.

MEDITE TRIMAX
meditetrimax.com

MEDITE SMARTPLY
mdfosb.com

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Paged RockPly® from James Latham



JAMES LATHAM, one of the UK & Ireland's leading independent distributors of timber, panels and decorative surfaces, has announced it has become the territories' first stockist of Paged RockPly (RockPly).

RockPly is an industry first: a revolutionary highly-reinforced plywood from Paged, combining premium hardwood ply with a rock fibre composite, creating a panel with increased rigidity and up to 100% higher bending strength than standard alternatives.

Also possessing far greater load bearing capabilities, 30 mm RockPly is able to withstand twice the bending strength of 30 mm non-reinforced, birch plywood before it buckles and splits.

That's not all, for extra durability, the product's surface is also coated with a wear-resistant, weather resistant and slip-resistant finish.

These superior performance attributes make RockPly ideal for freight haulage applications, where plywood is typically used for the flooring and lining of lorry trailers.

The benefits are quickly registered in this setting, as using Paged RockPly results in significant weight reduction of up to 40% of a typical HGV floor by enabling a lower thickness profile.

Even better, thinner profiles can be specified and installed without compromising on resistance force or structural integrity. This offers many further advantages, including the ability to transport greater loads with fewer journeys, not only delivering cost efficiencies for logistics teams, but carbon savings too.

Putting this in context, a fleet of 100 trailers using RockPly generates savings of 154 tonnes of CO₂; equivalent to the annual CO₂ absorption of around 6,000 trees.

RockPly also meets the highest health and safety standards, certified to Bfl-s1 fire reaction class for construction flooring applications.

Andrew Laverick at James Latham adds, "Paged RockPly is a real game-changer for the freight and logistics sector. In an era of razor-thin margins, its slender profile enables incremental gains without compromising structural integrity. It's a revolution in reducing trailer weight, cutting fuel consumption, and lowering CO₂ emissions, contributing significant added value. RockPly is an all-round performer; its use in heavy transport enhances efficiency, reduces environmental impact and increases payload capacity."

Marek Paszynski, country manager in UK and Ireland at Paged comments, "James Latham's extensive knowledge of engineered timber panels accelerates the implementation of this revolutionary product in the Transport Industry."

"As a distributor, James Latham understands the daily challenges faced by logistics teams; from maintaining lorries and ensuring they're in immaculate condition, to optimising load capacity and reducing transport costs and industry drive to reduce carbon footprint. We're excited to be collaborating with the team to enhance user experiences across the transport industry."

Paged Rockply is available in thickness 10 mm to 30 mm and in two standard sizes, (1250 x 2500 and 1500 x 2500) with other sizes available on request. Stock available nationwide across all 12 depots.

James Latham
www.lathamtimber.co.uk



200 newly built homes feature innovative timber panels for air and vapour control

CITU, a purpose-driven developer, used SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT and SMARTPLY SURE STEP DB to construct 200 homes built to Passivhaus principles in Leeds. The highly engineered OSB panels from MEDITE SMARTPLY, a market-leading manufacturer of sustainable timber construction panels, allowed the houses to achieve airtightness levels of 0.6 Air Changes per Hour (ACH), the best scores in Citu's history. These prefabricated kits replaced the previously used vapour-control (VC) foil, offering airtightness, greater durability, easier installation and detailing, as well as consistent quality.

Citu is committed to tackling climate change by creating exemplary places that prioritise people and the planet. Taking responsibility for every stage of the process, from land acquisition to design and fit-out, the company ensures that all materials used align with its sustainability goals.

As a part of this commitment, Citu has chosen to incorporate MEDITE SMARTPLY products, which provide a value contribution to creating energy-efficient developments.

Citu opted for SMARTPLY panels that are suited to modern methods of construction, maintaining their integrity after transportation to the construction site



and during installation. The two products outperformed competitive solutions, offering superior airtightness properties, unparalleled machinability and ease of use.

SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT, the world's only certified airtight OSB, played a role in this project. It is ideal for structural inner sheathing in timber frame wall and ceiling assemblies in low-energy buildings. Combining structural

strength (OSB/3) with integrated vapour control and an air barrier, it removes the need for separate VC membranes. This streamlined the installation process while ensuring consistent vapour resistance across the panel's surface. Additionally, SMARTPLY AIRTIGHT is easy to cut and fix, further speeding up the process. The rigid panel design reduces susceptibility to damage compared to flexible membranes.

Manufactured from FSC certified timber with no added formaldehyde, it contributes to healthier indoor environments and aligns with sustainable building objectives.

SMARTPLY SURE STEP DB, a durable tongue-and-groove OSB/3 panel, provided an effective solution for floor decking. Independently tested and certified airtight by the Passivhaus-Institut in Germany, this panel not only ensures airtightness but also offers safer working surfaces thanks to its low slip risk.

The use of SMARTPLY panels enabled Citu to achieve consistently low airtightness levels, ensuring minimal air leakage and reducing energy loss from heating or cooling systems.

"We are excited to offer a better way of achieving airtightness and vapour control for the construction industry, especially at a time when the sector is facing numerous challenges. It's not just about meeting the standards but also about addressing the clear need for more efficient solutions, making installation easier and getting houses completed faster," said Tim Price, commercial sales manager at MEDITE SMARTPLY.

MEDITE SMARTPLY
mdfosb.com



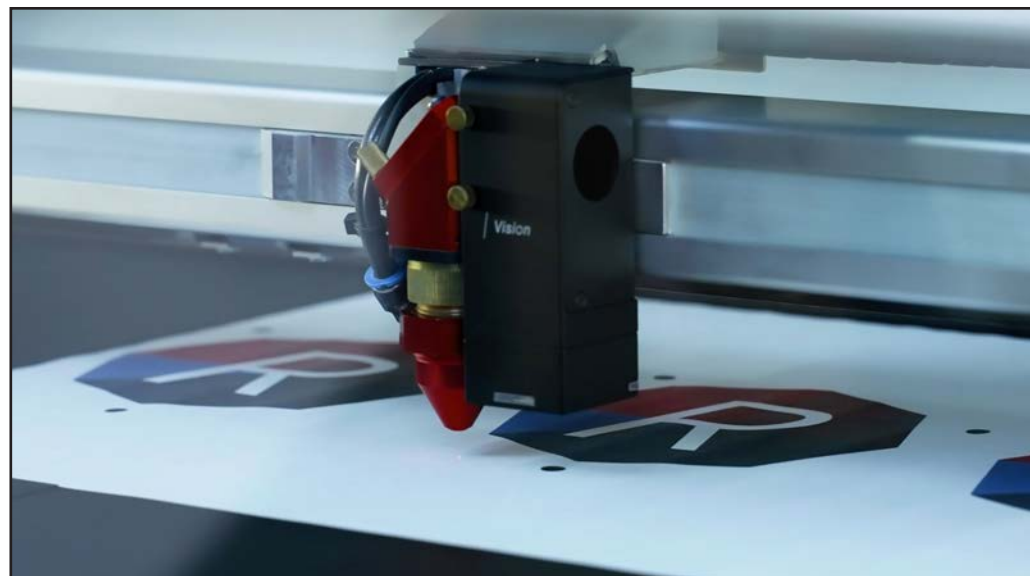
Seamless laser cutting of UV-printed acrylic and wood

TROTEC LASER, a global leader in laser technology, highlights the advanced capabilities of the **Print & Cut** process for laser cutting printed acrylic and wood — an increasingly in demand technique for producing precise, high-impact visual applications in industries such as signage, displays, architecture, and product design. By integrating high-precision laser cutting with modern UV printing, Trotec enables businesses to create intricate, polished final products with exceptional accuracy and visual impact.

Print & Cut involves first printing a design onto rigid materials like acrylic or wood, followed by laser cutting the printed item based on exact contours. Using registration marks placed alongside the printed design, Trotec's Vision Print & Cut camera system detects alignment points before the cutting process begins. This ensures that the laser cuts are perfectly matched to the printed layout — even for highly detailed or complex shapes.

This approach minimizes manual effort and reduces material waste, offering a clean, efficient solution for producing consistent, professional-quality results.

Printed Acrylic: Extruded acrylic is preferred for applications re-



quiring high dimensional accuracy while cast acrylic is well suited for visual merchandising, trade fair construction, and shop fitting. For materials over 5 mm in thickness, an acrylic slat cutting table is recommended to prevent back reflections and preserve edge quality.

Printed Wood: Common materials include MDF, plywood, and veneer, with thicknesses up to 15 mm depending on the application. A high-performance exhaust system and air assist are essential for achieving clean, burn-free edges. Honeycomb tables are

typically used for optimal support and precision.

All suitable acrylic and wood materials are available through the Trotec online shop. With predefined material parameters integrated into the Ruby® laser software, users can skip time consuming test runs and achieve optimal results instantly. This seamless integration makes Trotec's materials and laser machines the ideal pairing for efficient Print & Cut workflows.

Trotec's Speedy Series laser systems offer a reliable, cost-effective solution for Print & Cut workflow,

enabling users to cut even the most detailed geometries with high speed and minimal waste.

Whether producing signage, models, prototypes, or retail graphics, the Speedy Series delivers efficiency and professional results across a wide range of materials. In addition, Trotec provides comprehensive technical guidelines on file preparation, camera calibration and material settings for Print & Cut applications on their website, helping users achieve the best possible results.

Trotec

www.troteclaser.com/en-gb/



How Konic Doors crafts high-performance entranceways using MEDITE TRICOYA EXTREME

SINCE ITS FOUNDING in 1997, Crafted by Kells — the brand behind Konic Doors — has built a reputation for precision joinery, heritage informed design, and materials that perform under pressure. From sash windows and casement systems to its flagship timber doors, the company's bespoke joinery offering serves a demanding market of homeowners, architects and developers working on premium residential properties throughout Ireland and the UK.

At the heart of its success lies an ongoing commitment to materials innovation and a decade-long partnership with MEDITE SMARTPLY.

Konic Doors was among the earliest adopters of MEDITE TRICOYA EXTREME (MTX), an advanced wood panel renowned for its durability, moisture resistance and stability. The company was involved in some of the first-ever R&D trials at MEDITE's Clonmel plant, helping pioneer the development of acetylated wood panels for exterior applications.

"We've used MTX since its inception," says Declan Grimes, director at Konic Doors. "In fact, the world's first Tricoya shopfront was one of ours. We manufactured it in 2011, and, to this day, it is still looking perfect."

Elevating exterior joinery

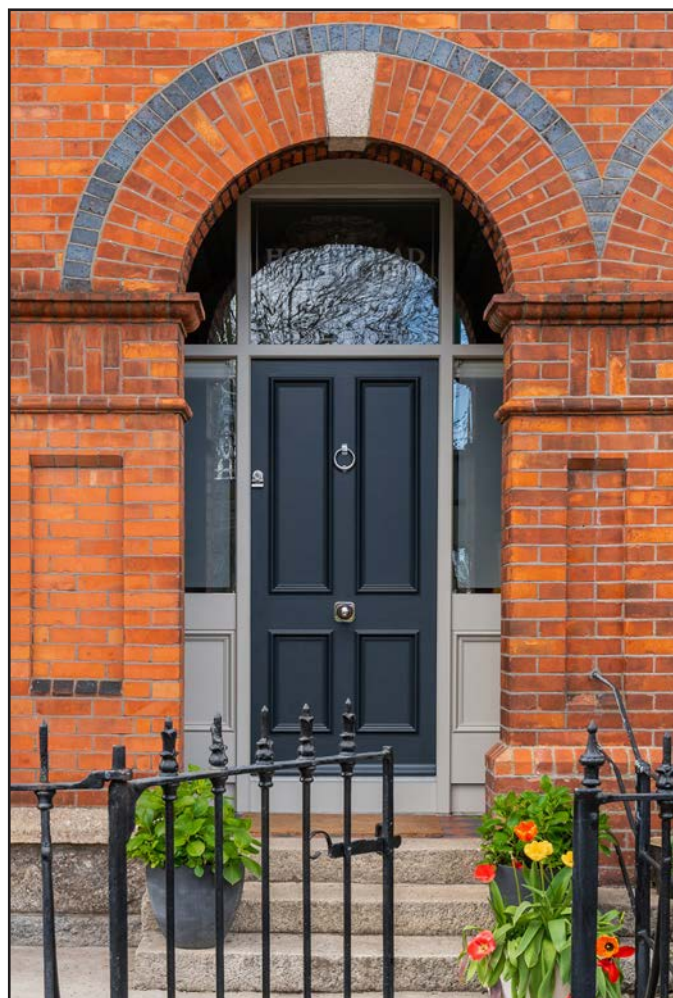
Konic Doors uses MTX across its external joinery range, particularly in high-performance entrance doors where raised and fielded panels, decorative mouldings and bespoke profiles are essential.

Designed to withstand the rigours of the Irish climate, where rain and variable temperatures can quickly take a toll, the MTX panel has proven itself an ideal substitute for marine ply or traditional hardwood. Its dimensional stability ensures components retain their shape and finish long term, while its inherent moisture resistance means doors don't warp, swell or degrade over time.

"It gives us incredible peace of mind," adds Matthew Grimes, co-director. "With MTX, we get durability, workability and a beautifully clean paint finish. That's critical when you're delivering a premium product."

MTX offers more than just performance, particularly as the market becomes increasingly environmentally conscious. Manufactured from FSC certified timber with no added formaldehyde, the panel is engineered through a patented acetylation process that gives it a 50-year above-ground service life and resistance to rot — all without the environmental impact of chemically treated materials.

This aligns with Konic's broader commitment to responsible manu-



facturing and providing customers with products that exceed expectations. Declan adds: "Customers are expecting products that deliver more than just good aesthetics. They're looking for long-term value, energy performance and sustainability. MTX helps us tick all those boxes."

By embedding MTX into its core offering, Konic Doors has been able to deliver on its promise of bespoke craftsmanship backed by materials that won't let clients down. Whether it's an elegant Georgian entranceway or a contemporary front door with concealed hardware and acoustic glazing, MTX has helped Konic combine timeless design with 21st-century performance.

"At this stage, it's not a material we just use — it's one we rely on," says Matthew. "When you're in the business of building things to last, that matters."

About Konic Doors & Crafted by Kells

Founded by P&M Grimes & Sons, Kells has been producing high quality timber windows and doors for over 25 years. Its Konic Doors brand specialises in energy-efficient, high-spec entranceways designed for the Irish and British markets. With a team of 28 based in County Meath, the company combines traditional joinery with state-of-the-art machinery to deliver custom-made joinery solutions tailored to each project.

Kells Windows

www.kellswindows.com

Konic Doors

www.konicdoors.com

MEDITE TRICOYA EXTREME

<https://mdfosb.com/en/products/medite-tricoya-extreme>



PWIDF opens specialist architectural ironmongery branch in Cardiff

PREMIER FOREST PRODUCTS has launched a new architectural ironmongery branch for its PWIDF business, within the Mon Timber Cardiff location.

PWIDF is a specialist designer and manufacturer of fully compliant fire door solutions, and a comprehensive supplier of architectural hardware, with full membership of the Guild of Architectural Ironmongers (GAI). Known locally and nationally for its craftsmanship, PWIDF has extensive experience and expertise in the sector, offering confidence and peace-of-mind for customers when choosing a safety-critical door solution for their building projects.

PWIDF will lead the new concession, offering customers dedicated, in-store ironmongery expertise. The company will be able to support customers in finding the correct product for their project in store via a solutions based design service.

Paul White, PWIDF Brand Director said: "Our customers were the driving force behind this expansion. They wanted the convenience of accessing our specialist services from a location in Cardiff, so we're thrilled to launch our new architectural ironmongery branch at Mon Timber Cardiff. This location is a perfect complement to our PWIDF base in Newport, and being situated in the industrial hub on Hadfield Road means our customers can easily access our services right where they need them."

Products include access control systems, door automation, anti-ligature/anti-barricade ironmongery solutions, hinges, locks, door closers, levers and pull handles, in various finishes and styles.

Premier Forest Products is a vertically integrated timber operation engaged in the importation, processing, machining, engineering and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from multiple sites in the UK.

PWIDF ● <https://premierforest.co.uk/pwidf-fire-door-specialists/>



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Premium softwood equine bedding

ARBOR FOREST PRODUCTS, a leading independent timber importer and processor, has launched Wood & Slumber — investing over £2 million in cutting-edge baling and packaging technology to create a premium brand softwood small flake equine bedding. The bedding, which is produced from sustainably sourced pine and spruce timber, is processed in Arbor's state-of-the-art sawmill operations located within their 90-acre site in New Holland, Lincolnshire.

Wood & Slumber offers a superior softwood small flake shaving made entirely from sterile, kiln dried, 100% sustainable wood, a by-product of Arbor's core timber processing operations. Wood & Slumber is available exclusively through stockists nationwide, helping to support local retailers and specialist equine outlets.

Phil Yell, operations director at Arbor Forest Products said: "At Arbor, we're committed to making the very best use of every part of the timber we process. Wood & Slumber is a natural extension of that ethos — turning what was once processed and packed by others into a valuable premium product carrying Arbor's own branding.

"We've invested in the technology and the processing infrastructure to produce a top-of-the-range product, and we're proud to offer an equine bedding solution that's clean, consistent, and completely sustainable. It reflects everything we stand for as an innovative business — quality, integrity, and a drive to continue to improve the quality and reduce waste across everything we do."

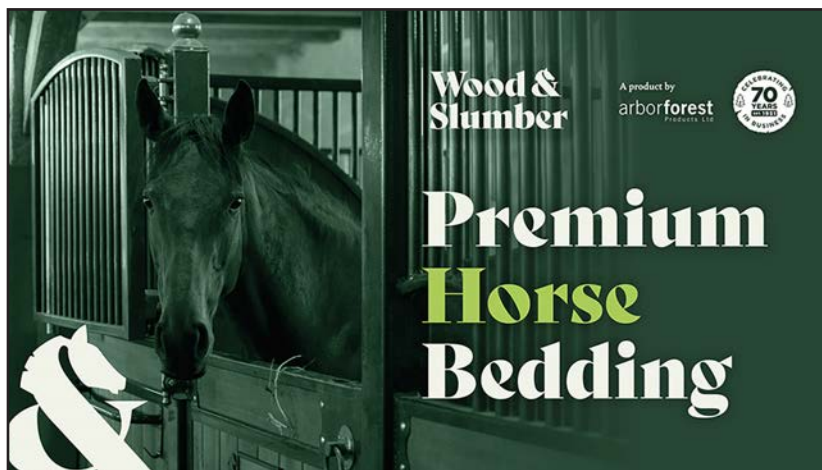
The £2 million of investment in cutting-edge baling and packaging technology from Willems only goes to underline Arbor's zero-waste philosophy. The product is processed on-site using the latest sieving and dust extraction systems to ensure a consistently high quality

ty dust-extracted product. It also meets all the latest and stringent hygiene, safety and environmental standards.

Arbor is currently working toward a BETA / NOPS accreditation further demonstrating to the equine industry Arbor's commitment to excellence through its quality protocols, sourcing provenance and traceability.

The launch represents a strategic step for Arbor to move closer to the end customer, generating demand directly through equine markets and supporting the growth of retail distribution via country stores nationwide. Arbor currently produces upward of 15,000 tonnes of wood shavings each year: the equivalent of around 750,000 bales. Wood & Slumber represents a multi-million-pound increase in value to Arbor of this valuable by-product.

Arbor Forest Products ● www.arborforestproducts.co.uk



SAVE ENERGY REDUCE COSTS



In many manufacturing facilities, extraction fans operate continuously, at full power, throughout the working day.

Even when some machines are not in use, and often during factory breaks, the powerful, energy-consuming fans continue to run at full speed – wasting valuable energy... and money!

With ECOGATE, the extraction system responds in real-time to variations in machine use. When a production machine is switched on, the greenBOX Controller opens a motorised damper to provide extraction for that particular machine.

With ECOGATE technology installed, an extraction fan will consume the minimum power required to provide optimum extraction – reducing electricity bills by 68% on average.



sales@ecogate.co.uk 01924 926038

www.ecogate.co.uk

Selco's natural gas trucks sponsored by West Fraser in joint eco-initiative

WEST FRASER is promoting its carbon negative message via eight sponsored natural gas powered 'eco trucks', operating from Selco's Minworth Delivery Hub which covers Birmingham and surrounding areas. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles emit up to 25% less carbon dioxide (CO₂) and release fewer harmful pollutants into the air than traditionally powered vehicles; the collaboration highlights the connection between Selco's sustainability goals and West Fraser's Carbon Negative panels that promote sustainability from "tree to truck".

Daniel Andrew, senior account manager at West Fraser, explains, "West Fraser is proud to collaborate with our valued partner, Selco, and sponsor these new environmentally friendlier trucks. We are highlighting the commitment both our businesses have to decrease the impact we have on our environment, by promoting our net carbon negative wood panels and transporting these on eco trucks.

"This type of partnership is detailed in West Fraser's 2024 Sustainability Report, *Building Together: People and Partnerships*. The report details our collaborative approach and measures West Fraser's sustainability performance across a variety of environmental, social and governance goals and disclosed targets, and shows West Fraser's path towards achieving our goal of being a sustainability leader."

Lee Taylor, category manager at Selco, elaborates, "At Selco

Builders Warehouse, we are firmly focused on continuing to develop a long-term and sustainable business model. We are focused on the effects our operations are having on the environment, and we've already made important strides forward, from fitting LED lighting across our entire estate, to beginning an overhaul of our transport system.

"We have a responsibility, not only to the environment and the local communities in which we operate, but also to manufacturers, suppliers, and hauliers.

"The Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) blueprint for what we can achieve over the next decade includes the creation of three UK "Selco forests" which have seen more than 300,000 trees planted which, during their lifecycle, will help to offset some of the carbon generated by customer deliveries. In addition, we recognise the importance of supplying renewable and sustainable building materials and products.

"This is where West Fraser comes in and we are delighted that they are reinforcing our message by sponsoring our CNG trucks.

"We have started an engagement programme with key suppliers to identify the sustainable products which already feature in our product ranges and identify new opportunities. Specific marketing materials are created to engage both customers and colleagues with these products."

West Fraser ● 01786 812 921

<https://uk.westfraser.com/>



Barratt Redrow rolls out The Pallet LOOP nationwide

THE PALLET LOOP is proud to announce that Barratt Redrow, believed to be the UK's largest housebuilder, is rolling out LOOP's pallet collection service across all of its sites nationwide. The move, which builds on Barratt Redrow's historical pallet reuse efforts, comes as the number of green LOOP pallets entering the building materials supply chain increases week on week and has surpassed one million pallets issued to date.

By the end of June 2025, The Pallet LOOP (part of BSW Group) estimates that Barratt Redrow will have used its service to return in excess of 400,000 pallets (green and white) for reuse during the preceding twelve-month period across all its sites nationwide — preventing them from entering the waste chain.

Every year, Barratt Redrow accepts delivery of hundreds of thousands of pallets carrying core building materials. The business has always tried to dispose of pallets in a responsible way. Historically, any large plasterboard pallets received from British Gypsum were returned via the plaster manufacturer's old pallet return service — which has now been superseded by The Pallet LOOP. Other pallets, deemed suitable for reuse, were typically collected by Scott Pallets' recovery service (LOOP's collection partner).

Now, all pallets delivered to Barratt Redrow sites (white and green), which are suitable for reuse, will be sent back to The Pallet LOOP — with all of the company's housebuilding sites already set up and actively using the service.

John Adams, group procurement director at Barratt Redrow, said: "In a short space of time, some of our biggest building materials suppliers have moved to using The Pallet LOOP's circular economy pallets. This is great news for our business and for other housebuilding companies nationwide. The Pallet LOOP solves multiple issues for our business — providing a standardised range of strong, reusable pallets, and consolidating pallet returns via one easy-to-use system. This is helping us reduce waste and cut carbon, while also enhancing efficiencies across our operations."

Andy Williamson, commercial director at The Pallet LOOP, said: "We are grateful to the team at Barratt Redrow for fully embracing our pallet collection service. As the number of LOOP pallets issued to date surpasses the one million mark, we're encouraging other housebuilding companies to consider how our business can benefit their operations. Our collection service is simple to use and offers significant environmental and financial advantages — helping housebuilders lower costs and make a positive impact on their sustainability targets. As we strive to help the construction sector become more circular and resource efficient, and as activity in the housebuilding sector ramps up, we look forward to working with companies nationwide to help solve the problem posed by pallet waste."

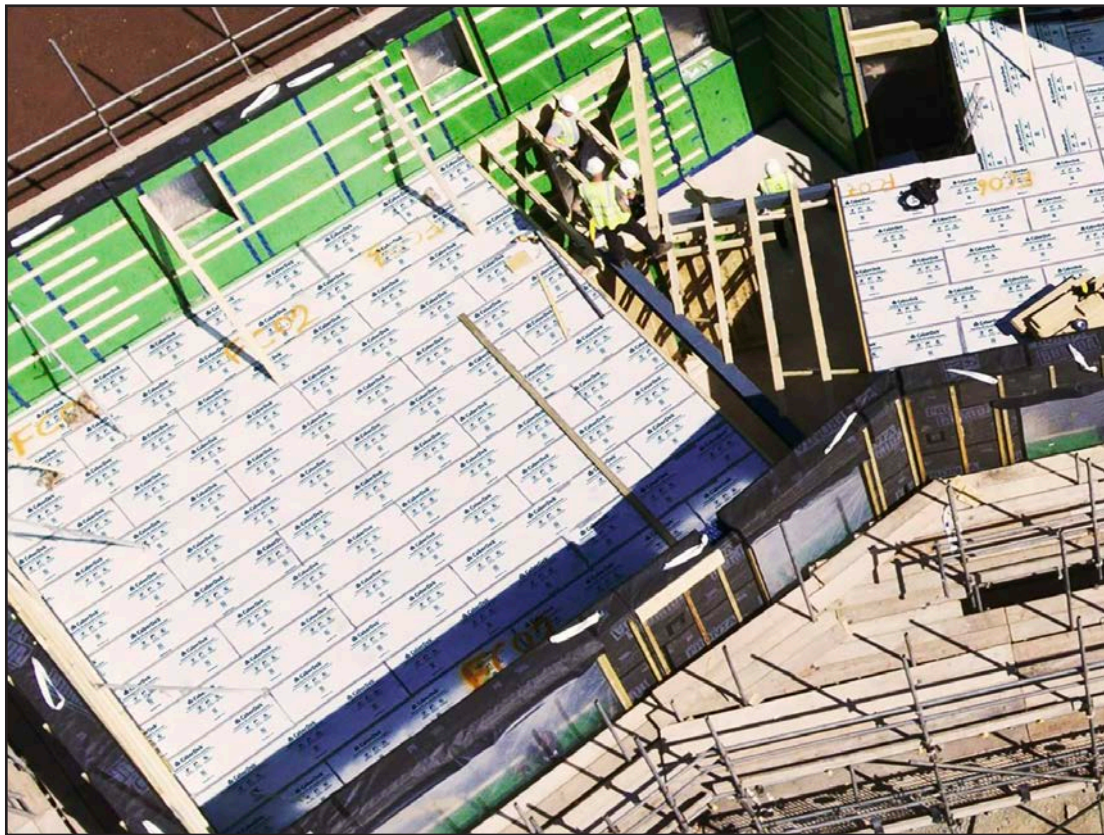
For every green LOOP pallet returned for reuse, The Pallet LOOP will provide to the returning company a financial PayBack of up to £4 per pallet. Building material manufacturers now using The Pallet LOOP to transport materials include British Gypsum, Isover, Superglass and Wienerberger.

To sign up for The Pallet LOOP collection service email: setmeup@thepalletloop.com or call 0800 024 6130. Once registered, collections can be booked by emailing: collections@thepalletloop.com.

The Pallet LOOP
www.thepalletloop.com



West Fraser panels match environmental goals of PassivHaus specialist



A GLOUCESTERSHIRE-BASED supplier of highly sustainable, PassivHaus standard timber frame buildings has been making extensive use of high performance panel products from the range of West Fraser since it was established almost a decade ago; while it continues to grow a reputation for delivering on client ambitions, whatever the technical challenge or location.

Passiframe operates from premises on the Lydney Harbour Estate in the Forest of Dean, mainly delivering bespoke residential properties ranging in size from off-grid cabins to large, detached homes, but also undertakes projects such as community centres and smaller commercial premises. The unifying theme, however, is creating very low energy structures which also attain excellent environmental standards. Ambitions with which West Fraser's CaberDek and SterlingOSB Zero are fully in step.

Scott Adams, director of Passiframe, explained: "We panelise offsite and generally fill the 300 mm thick panels with Warmcel insulation in the factory. We have employed the CaberDek panels for flooring from very early on and then also started buying SterlingOSB Zero which we fix on the inside face of the exterior walls for airtightness.

"We are aiming for a figure of 0.4, but actually average 0.2 by taping all the joints and applying an external membrane. Then we offer a wide selection of external finishes, including stone or timber cladding.

"We are currently nearing completion on a five-bedroom 200-square metre property which is typical of the homes we build where CaberDek is secured across the Posi-joists using the manufacturer's CaberFix D4 adhesive and self-tapping screws, creating a working platform which can withstand wet weather quite easily during the two to three days it normally takes to install — and then the peel-clean finish can be simply stripped off when the following trades like plasterers have finished."

While SterlingOSB Zero's burgeoning popularity can be attributed to an array of technical benefits, in these days of heightened environmental awareness and the push to achieve Net Zero, SterlingOSB Zero can

also assist the construction industry to cut carbon emissions. The board is primarily manufactured from a natural product which in itself locks in CO₂ from the atmosphere, with the myriad of mainly softwood strands sourced as sawmill residues and co-products in the form of peeled chips, along with a small percentage of round wood. The traditional alternative, plywood, requires the peeling of much larger tree trunks which take longer to grow.

After leaving the factory gates, because it is precision-made, there is less waste on building sites or in MMC fabrication, and the associated costs of disposal to landfill are significantly mitigated.

Contractors also report lower waste in handling because SterlingOSB Zero is more resilient to damage than rival products and is much easier to align when used for tasks like sheathing or laying floors.

The accuracy of manufacture is especially good for producing SIPs panels, with no need to "size" boards in the factory or suffer misalignment during installation.

Summing up, Scott reflected on how the West Fraser products complement Passiframe's ethos on sustainability: "The OSB3 is really good quality, offering structural stability as well as dimensional accuracy — all helping achieve the comfort standard of PassivHaus, which includes noise reduction.

"The feedback we get from clients often includes their reporting enjoying the peace and tranquillity of living in one of our homes. Furthermore, FSC chain of custody helps clients fulfil their ambition on being kind to the environment."

All West Fraser panel products produced in the UK are net carbon negative and manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation. Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC® certified (C012533) and created from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation.

West Fraser ● 01786 812921

<https://uk.westfraser.com/>

UK must embrace timber construction to meet climate and housing goals, say industry leaders

SUSTAINABLE developers, architects, engineers and construction experts are calling on the Government to super-charge its housing goals by backing timber in construction — fully recognising it as a scalable, low-carbon solution, already supported by millions in private investment and with the existing capacity to build more today.

With the Government having set forth an ambitious plan to boost affordable housing, unlock land, store carbon, and streamline planning, Timber Development UK (TDUK) believes now is the time to connect these schemes to the Timber in Construction Roadmap, and fully embrace the use of timber in construction.

"Timber is already reshaping the UK built environment as a supply chain able to deliver on our housing and climate targets in construction, but we are yet to fully unlock this opportunity," said David Hopkins, chief executive, Timber Development UK. "Right now, timber systems are used in only around 10% of new builds in England, as compared to 85% in Scotland.

"The science is established — timber homes are much lower carbon than their masonry equivalents, offsite timber construction is much more efficient and resilient to the skills gap, and the timber approach is safe, cost-competitive, and sustainable while driving in-



vestment back into forest growth and development. The construction industry is increasingly embracing the use of timber systems — with more than 30% of the major house builders now owning a timber frame factory — but we can achieve so much more. The positive messaging and enthusiasm at the conference shows we are at a real inflection point for the use of timber in the UK."

Award winning SME developers such as Human Nature (behind the eco-regeneration of the Phoenix industrial site in Lewes),

Citu (developers of Leeds' Climate Innovation District), and Green-core Homes (builders of zero-carbon Springfield Meadows in Oxfordshire) highlighted timber as a transformative tool in their work to create more impactful places for people and planet by embracing timber.

Meanwhile the community focused 'Multiple Storey, Maximum Timber (MultiMax)' system developed by WeCanMake and Waugh Thistleton Architects, and the approach of Agile Homes seeks to revolutionise the use of infill and

otherwise commercially unviable sites to kick off a new wave of low-carbon affordable housing throughout our cities.

Other sessions at the conference included an embrace of the retrofit opportunities and "upward extension" work being done to bring more 'timber on top' solutions to market, in an Optopen panel discussion led by Whitby Wood, manufacturing innovation with Deeside Timberframe, along with the policy levers Government can use to get the UK building more today.

"Increasing the use of timber in construction is a triple win for Government and industry — acting as a form of carbon capture and storage, helping to grow our forests, and creating better homes for people and planet. We are pleased to see a growing movement pushing for the use of timber in construction — we know there is so much potential we can achieve today," said David.

"If we are to take on the housing and climate crises, it is more important now than ever that we see a widespread embrace and ramp-up these timber solutions — with policy makers, insurers, developers, and everyone who wishes to build a better future for themselves and their children."

Timber Development UK
timberdevelopment.uk



With Ecogate®, the future is greener than ever ...

DESPITE the slight reductions seen in more recent times, energy pricing is considerably inflated when compared to levels prior to the pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine and, unsurprisingly, clearly remains high on the agenda for all UK businesses; often palpably so in the woodworking sector.

Operating high-speed drilling, cutting, planing and sanding machinery, as well as running equally high-powered fans to provide effective and continuous dust extraction, furniture and joinery manufacturers are often faced with eye-wateringly high electricity bills.

Jake Oldfield, however, a founding director of Extractly Ltd — one of the UK's leading dust and fume extraction installers, and Master UK Distributor and Installer of the Ecogate® energy-saving system — maintains that Ecogate's 'extraction-on-demand' technology has helped many companies in our industry survive this unwelcome assault on overheads by significantly reducing the cost of running



To check out the new Ecogate® Savings Calculator visit ecogate.co.uk or simply scan the QR code.

the powerful fans that remove harmful dust and woodwaste from our factories.

"Many companies that have

invested in Ecogate® technology have recouped their capital outlay in under 2 years and, with energy bills typically slashed by

at least 50%, those savings just continue to accumulate month in, month out; providing options for further future investment in new technology and machinery."

Reducing energy usage by such a significant margin can be a great boost for a company's efforts towards net zero emissions targets but, with Extractly's finance partner, Shire Leasing, woodworking businesses can now benefit from Ecogate® energy saving technology without having to make the full upfront capital expenditure.

"The cost can now be spread over a period of up to 5 years," Mr Oldfield explains, "with fixed monthly payments beginning only after the system has been installed, commissioned, and up and running."

To get a customised estimate of the potential savings Ecogate® technology could deliver for your business, just scan the QR code above to make use of Ecogate's new 'Savings Calculator'.

Ecogate® technology has been making headlines in the UK for the past 15 years, but has been proven worldwide to significantly reduce energy usage for process industries. Extractly



Investing in Ecogate® energy-saving extraction can support a company's endeavours to achieve net zero targets and, using Green Asset Finance, with fixed monthly payments, could help you go green more affordably.



Ecogate's PowerMASTER variable speed drive unit adjusts fan speed to exactly match the current demand for extraction and displays real-time energy savings.

claims that cost savings in excess of 50% are "easily achievable" and, for the woodworking industry, reported data for dust and fume extraction shows that savings are averaging around 68%. With Ecogate® installed, extraction fans no longer need to run at full speed, all day, every day. Since woodworking machines are constantly stopping and starting throughout the working day for loading and unloading operations, and program and tool changes, for example, as well as at operator break times, a typical extraction installation is only actually required to operate at around 80% of its nominal maximum capacity. So, when extraction demand and fan speed is controlled with Ecogate®, that moderate 20% reduction in usage results in a huge 50% reduction in power consumption — that's half price electricity!

Ecogate® equipment can be fitted into any new or existing extraction system, and the installation process can be undertaken with only minimal interruption to production schedules. Ecogate's automatic dampers are connected into the ductwork serving each individual machine, and sensors attached to each machine signal the Ecogate® "greenBOX" controller to open and close the dampers as machines come on or off-line. Simultaneously, the greenBOX instructs the PowerMASTER variable speed drive unit to adjust the speed of the extraction fan to exactly match the current demand for extraction.

An Ecogate® system can constantly monitor machine usage and recorded data then accessed from any location via any internet-connected device. The system can be configured to run cleaning programs to suit production schedules, and can even start up and shut down automatically — and, if required, send an email to confirm the operation. The technology also ensures that minimum

transport speeds are maintained through the system, to avoid any build of waste in the ductwork and, with the reduced fan speeds, noise is also reduced significantly; creating a workplace that is generally a much quieter, cleaner and more comfortable environment.

With Extractly and Shire Leasing's Green Asset Finance* plans, it seems there's never been a better time to invest in this innovative technology ... save energy, reduce costs, protect your cashflow, achieve sustainability goals, and now, through Shire Leasing's partnership with Play It Green, a tree will be planted for every new installation they fund ... simple, immediate action to make a difference to our environment.

* Actual energy savings will vary depending on your specific circumstances and cannot be guaranteed. Savings examples are for illustrative purposes only and do not form part of your finance agreement. Finance available for non-regulated business use customers only. Subject to status, eligibility, and credit criteria. Finance repayments are required in full, regardless of any savings achieved.

Please seek independent advice if you are unsure about your options.

Extractly Limited ● Tel: 01924 520462

Email: info@extractly.co.uk ● www.extractly.co.uk



Whether it's a new installation, or an existing extraction system, an Ecogate® automatic damper is simply connected into the ductwork serving each individual machine.

West Fraser in the vanguard for responsible forestry management

AS ONE of the world's largest producers of timber panel products, and a pacesetter in leading the industry towards FSC certification, West Fraser views all official accreditations for its operations as foundation blocks underpinning its long-term strategy on environmental management. Consequently, the company has established a far wider architecture for sustainability goals and associated procedures which now drive all its procurement work.

In harmony with this, West Fraser is making very good progress towards complying with the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) while the group's UK operations are also ahead of schedule on the journey towards Net Zero. Crucially, its systems and procedures have been significantly strengthened in recent years with the compliance team conducting regular reviews of progress. As part of these continuing efforts, group compliance manager, Julie Turner, plays a key part in overseeing all West Fraser's procurement activities, being responsible for ensuring that due diligence is carried on throughout the purchasing process.

It is a role which sees her liaising with West Fraser's customers as well as its supply chain and meeting with other members of the procurement team ahead of contracts being placed. Monitoring is not only meticulous, but was enhanced last year by the introduction of a new supplier portal which provides dashboards and can trigger alerts in regard of anything which might represent a risk. Julie explains, "I spend a large proportion of my time each day sharing and demonstrating our processes for our customers, who nowadays are consistently seeking to ensure they are buying legal timber from a responsible source. This is now as important as commercial decisions."

This need for robust analysis and constant vigilance has been highlighted by organisations like EarthSight, whose "Blood-stained Birch" video showed how, since the start of the Ukraine war, more than €1 billion of Russian plywood has been wrongly given FSC accreditation by China and sold in the EU.

Julie continues: "While FSC is a valuable subscription certification which covers all our production in the UK, we go much further. Every single consignment coming into our plants is assessed. Amongst the situations, we are absolutely trying to rule out is any illegal trade — such as the import of timber from say Russia, via a third country — or the purchasing of any endangered species. Early engagement and collaboration have been crucial. We look at geo-location data, satellite assessments, and imagery which are aspects FSC doesn't embrace. Primarily, this is to do with the EUDR regulations which is a major project I am currently working on and we are far more advanced on it than any of our competitors.

"As part of the project, last year we created a supplier portal which went live in September (2024) and all the companies we buy from must log on to input the relevant data on each consignment. In addition to their commercial information, suppliers have to provide the relevant 'forest floor' information, which encompasses the polygon on geo-location as well as species, harvesting dates — and this is sent to satellite providers who generate a report telling us, for instance, if there are any natural resources under risk. Site audits even encompass aspects such as the efficiency of the machinery used for felling, the fire suppression systems that are in place and the use of solar panels to power welfare units rather than running generators out in the forest. In fact, all the harvesting operations are covered by ISO 14000 and ISO 45000; the occupational Health & Safety standard."

The emphasis on due diligence not only covers the supply of forest thinnings and the smaller sections from felled 30+ year old trees, often by West Fraser's own harvesting teams, but also the sourcing of the waste wood like pallets and timber from demolition, which makes up 68% of its particleboard product.

Julie summed up saying: "West Fraser is very proud of the due diligence systems we have in place. We have taken them to a whole new level. Importantly, although I am part of the wood procurement team, I have no commercial role within the company. We go the extra mile on sustainability and have a very strong commitment to legislation. Before our launch last year, almost nobody knew what a polygon was in terms of the forest map at a digital scale. Now 100% of the UK suppliers we deal with are signed up to it."

All West Fraser panel products produced in the UK are net carbon negative and manufactured in mills that have obtained the coveted environmental ISO 14001 accreditation. Responsibly sourced, the panels are FSC® certified (C012533) and created from locally grown timber, cutting embodied carbon from transportation.

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



Photograph courtesy of Unsplash.

Neolith expands its portfolio with five exclusive new models

NEOLITH, a global leader in sintered stone surfaces, introduces two new design proposals featuring five new models that enhance its product lineup.

The first one consists of four exclusive models for countertops, ideal for both kitchens and bathrooms, offering high-value aesthetic and functional solutions: Neolith Taj Mahal, Neolith Crème, Neolith Azure, and Neolith Mamba. These new surfaces, available in 12 mm thickness and a Silk finish, seamlessly blend sophisticated aesthetics with top-tier technical performance.

Neolith Taj Mahal captures the noble essence of the most exquisite quartzite. With its enveloping beige tones and fine ochre veins, this model radiates serenity and elegance, making it an ideal choice for those seeking a warm, balanced, and luminous atmosphere. Its smooth texture highlights the richness of the design, adding visual depth and enhancing its natural look.

Neolith Crème celebrates the beauty of simplicity. Its uniform tone, inspired by the purest sandstones, conveys a timeless, organic, and understated aesthetic. The



Neolith Mamba

neutral base with earthy undertones helps create intimate, inviting spaces, while its even surface enhances the sense of harmony and sophistication.

Neolith Azure stands out for its fresh, mineral elegance. Its light base with subtle blueish-grey un-

dertones serve as a sophisticated canvas where golden veins and warm glimmers add dynamism and luminosity. The delicate digital texture running across its surface enhances the natural movement of the design, providing a refined and contemporary feel.

Finally, Neolith Mamba evokes the mysterious elegance of Port Laurent marble, reinterpreted with a deep, clean, and nuanced dark background that delivers powerful visual impact.

Its subdued tones create a sophisticated atmosphere with a bold personality, perfect for spaces seeking a distinctive statement. The surface, with its silky touch and subtle matte effect, reinforces its exclusive character, turning any countertop into a style declaration.

Neolith Lux combines aesthetics, functionality, and an unparalleled soft touch.

This model, the brightest white in the entire Neolith collection, stands out for its uniform, pure tone achieved through an exquisite, polished finish, enhanced by the exceptional quality standards that define Neolith.

With these new proposals, Neolith continues to expand its portfolio with solutions that combine innovation, style, and versatility, meeting the needs of interior designers and architects seeking unique materials to create exceptional spaces.



Neolith Azure

Neolith
www.neolith.com

BSW Timber introduces new timber products to the UK market



Decorative Micro CLT Panels

BSW TIMBER, a leading UK timber manufacturer and a member of BSW Group, has recently released a host of new products to the UK market. As what is believed to be the UK's largest integrated forestry and timber business, BSW Group is dedicated to delivering innovative, sustainable and convenient products for customers across the merchant and DIY sectors.

Decorative Micro CLT Panels

A partnership between BSW Timber and binderholz (BSW Group's parent company), this line of decorative micro CLT (cross laminated timber) is believed to be a first for the UK market. This innovative solution provides more options for builders and DIYers alike, showcasing the versatility and quality of timber as a construction material.

This new product is a three layer solid wood spruce panel with tongue and groove connections on all four edges. It provides a highly decorative finish for a multitude of high-quality interior construction and DIY projects. The new multi-layered panels have a

planed, finished surface, which is easy to stain or paint, and come ready to fix, using hidden fixings for an aesthetic finish. These lightweight panels are brand new to the UK market and are hugely flexible, versatile, and perfect for projects such as garden rooms, home offices and gyms, loft and garage conversions, storage cupboards, ceiling panels, and as feature and partition walls.

Screening Battens

Expanding BSW's already vast range of fencing components, these eased edge screening battens are designed to help customers enhance outdoor spaces with a contemporary, clean-lined aesthetic.

Perfect for creating garden zones, privacy screens, or decorative fencing, these battens are ideal for both residential and commercial landscaping projects. Each batten is planed and pressure-treated, with rounded corners, ensuring a splinter-free smooth finish and long-lasting durability.

Timber screening battens are suitable for vertical or horizontal

installation and can be stained or painted to complement any garden design. They provide flexibility for homeowners, landscapers, and designers looking to build stylish, practical screening solutions with natural timber appeal.

Combining versatility, quality, and ease of installation — these new screening battens offer a smart, sustainable solution for modern outdoor living.

UC4 Decorative Pine Range

These two newly launched UC4 products — planed, eased edge pine posts and pine sleepers — are designed specifically for high-end outdoor projects to meet the evolving needs of landscapers, builders, and design-conscious homeowners.

Manufactured from kiln-dried pine, both products are planed all round with eased corners to deliver a clean, refined finish that's ideal for visible applications. Whether you're building a bespoke pergola, framing a garden room, or constructing stylish raised beds and borders, this range offers both visual appeal and long-term performance.

The decorative pine posts are available in 2,400, 3,000 and 3,600 mm lengths, with a section size of 100 x 100 mm, making them perfect for structural garden features such as pergolas, trellis systems, and outdoor frames.

The decorative pine sleepers, measuring 195 x 75 mm, come in 2,400 mm lengths and are ideally suited to landscaping applications like edging, retaining walls, steps, and raised planting areas.

Both products are high pressure treated to UC4 specification, offering enhanced protection against rot and insect attack. This makes them especially suitable for ground contact and external use, with long-term durability and minimal maintenance required. Their eased edges also allow for safer handling and a more polished aesthetic once installed.

Available to order as single packs and compatible with existing delivery formats, these new products bring versatility, strength, and sophistication to any outdoor design.

Hotties XL Heat Logs

Part of BSW Group's ongoing



Screening Battens.

commitment to a sustainable supply chain, Hotties XL heat logs are created from co-products of sawn timber production. Designed to deliver maximum heat output with longer burn times,

these extra large heat logs are ideal for stoves and log burners in colder months or pizza ovens and chimineas in warmer months.

Each log is densely compacted for high energy efficiency and low

ash residue, reducing clean-up and maximising performance. Sold in convenient pack sizes of five, Hotties XL are perfect for everyday use, and with quarter pallet, half pallet and full pallet options available, are also ideal for those looking to stock up for the season.

Whether you're heating your home, a workshop, or an outdoor space, these new logs are a reliable, high-quality choice for anyone seeking warmth, convenience, and sustainability.

Robin Millard, head of UK

sales at BSW Timber, said: "Across the BSW Group, we have always been laser-focused on providing innovative, sustainable and convenient timber products. We're delighted to be sharing these new options for consumers, expanding industry norms and expectations of what is available for the construction and landscaping sectors. We look forward to seeing these exciting new products used in a range of projects across the country."

BSW Timber

www.bsw.co.uk/products



Hotties XL Heat Logs.

A home for one's phone from Plæy

BRITISH furniture brand Plæy has announced the launch of its latest lifestyle accessory: Phone Home, a family-friendly mobile phone holder with a difference.

Developed with the support of long-time distribution partner, James Latham, and pioneering material brand, Valchromat, this unique product offers much more than just a convenient place to store a mobile device.

The Phone Home has been conceived not just with Britain's professional community in mind, but also the nation's youth. Plæy founder Matt Kelly sees this solution both as a remedy to the relentless pace of modern life and a way to reduce the increasing digital dependence amongst younger generations.

Ingenious in its simplicity, it gently nudges the user towards a more mindful way to live, enabling them to switch off from the incessancy of the 24/7 news cycle and constant communication.

According to Plæy's founder and principal designer, Matt Kelly, "As a parent, I understand the trials and tribulations of maintaining a child's balance between analogue real-life connections and digital learning. Whilst Phone Home isn't going to cure your phone addiction, it will hopefully help and make you think. Rather than just reaching out to grab your phone from your pocket, table, or usual resting place, it provides an extra step that's out of arm's reach. I'd like to think this pause will be enough for most people, from pre-teens to OAPs, to break the cycle."

Valchromat gets great reception

The Phone Home is made from Valchromat, a premium MDF produced by Valbopan using wood from sustainably managed forests and industrial waste, giving new life to materials that would otherwise be discarded.

With colour that saturates the entire material, there is no need for paint or laminate.

Its impressive collection of 12 full-body colours, all supplied by James Latham, which range from inky blank, off white and muted grey to vivid blue, verdant green and vibrant red, made it a particularly attractive choice for this project.

Firing the imagination of Matt and his team through the sheer number of contrasting combinations they could potentially create, it was well-suited to achieving the project's aesthetic objectives.

Commenting on using Valchromat, Matt continues, "Tech storage solutions tend to stay within the boundaries of grey and black, which means they're not necessarily the most aesthetically pleasing option to have in a home that appreciates colour. Functional and fun is the sweet spot we have aimed for, and it's something Valchromat delivers in spades."

Stuart Devoil, head of marketing at James Latham, adds, "Plæy have gained recognition over the past seven years for small runs of well designed and characterful pieces, with Valchromat as one of the main materials. Matt's designs are often Mondrianesque in their appearance. Lots of squares, oblongs and other rectilinear forms, all with crisp, straight edges and filled with colour. The Phone Home is a great example of this. I can't think of a more perfect product to use than Valchromat."

As Matt concludes, "I want to thank Valbopan, Investwood Portugal (manufacturers of Valchromat) and James Latham for their support throughout the conceptual development and creation of the Phone Home. We wouldn't have been able to achieve such amazing results without their close and constructive collaboration. We look forward to continuing to work together and develop further innovative products, which really showcase Valchromat's versatility."

Phone Home

www.plaey.co.uk/shop

James Latham

www.lathamtimber.co.uk/products/panels/mdf/valchromat

