

# PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

*Issue No. 161/162*

*October/November 2021*

## Launch of Combilift's new XLE model



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# Covers wins double at trade awards

**COVERS TIMBER & Builders Merchants has won two awards at the TTJ Awards 2021.**

Organised by the Timber Trades Journal (TTJ), the annual TTJ Awards is one of the industry's leading awards events recognising service excellence and product quality across the timber sector.

Covers, which has 14 depots across the south of England, was announced as the winner of Timber Merchant of the Year — an award that was voted for by customers and suppliers based on their product and service offerings — and the Smart Manufacturing Award, which was judged by the awards panel.

Neil Woods, Timber Director of Covers, said: "We are absolutely thrilled to bring home two awards especially when we were up against such very strong competition. It's testament to our amazing staff and all the hard work they do ensuring our products are of the finest quality and that our service is always delivered with a smile. I would like to thank them for their outstanding achievement and all our customers and suppliers who voted for us to win."

**Covers Timber and Builders Merchants ● [www.coversmerchants.co.uk](http://www.coversmerchants.co.uk)**



# AAG appoints new UK-based managing director for EMEA

**AAG, A LEADING GLOBAL SUPPLIER of tailored CNC routing and cutting solutions, has announced the appointment of Chris Arend as managing director of its XYZ Router, WARDJet Waterjet and CNC-Shop.com operations in Europe, the Middle East and Asia (EMEA). The appointment marks an important phase in AAG's continuing global influence, product innovation and market diversification.**

According to AAG's senior vice-president of sales and marketing, Doug LoFranco, "Chris brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the group, based on the contribution he made to the business success of SCM and more recently Biesse."

Chris will be based at AAG's UK and Ireland machine assembly and distribution centre in Telford, Shropshire.

He will lead the EMEA team and oversee the continued success of the group's XYZ, WARDJet and CNCShop.com power brands. In welcoming this new challenge, Chris commented: "With my previous experience and familiarity with industries similar to those served by AAG, I hope to enlarge the group's already considerable customer base."

**AAG ● Tel 01952 291600 ● <https://aagcnc.com/>**



● **Chris Arend, appointed managing director for AAG for EMEA.**

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### Pawprint Publishing Ltd

121 Warren Drive  
Hornchurch  
Essex RM12 4QU

Tel 07913 783510

email

[info@pawprintuk.co.uk](mailto:info@pawprintuk.co.uk)  
[www.pawprintuk.co.uk](http://www.pawprintuk.co.uk)

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# How the timber industries can help solve the housing crisis

**RECOGNISING that the UK must build more homes, quicker, while reducing carbon emissions, the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for the Timber Industries has launched with a new report that aims to provide solutions to the UK's housing and climate crises.**

The report, titled 'How the timber industries can help solve the housing crisis', calls on the Government to support the use of wood in construction through policy and procurement, as well as introducing legislation to regulate embodied carbon — starting with mandatory, standardised carbon measurement on all government projects.

Launched on September 16 at the inaugural meeting for the APPG, the report makes a series of key recommendations devised to help the Government reach its target of building 300,000 more homes per year, while also significantly boosting the trajectory towards net zero carbon. Crucially, the recommendations call for a new focus on whole life carbon emissions within the Building Regulations and the introduction of thresholds for embodied carbon within construction.

The report urges the Government to give preference to low carbon materials and building solutions for all government projects, pointing to the economic benefits that scaling up the timber and forestry industries would bring. Calls are also made in the report for a more joined-up approach to working with the timber industry to develop an industrial strategy that can align with government policy.

Finally, the report highlights that while the Government has — quite rightly — made building safety a top priority in the

wake of the Grenfell fire, the regulations around combustibility materials have not always reflected the realities of safe construction using timber. A fundamental differentiation must be made between cladding and structural elements, and the report points towards an evidence-based approach to safety regulations.

David Warburton, MP for Somerton & Frome, and chair of the APPG, commented: "We are at a vital junction, where the imperative to build more homes is converging with the urgent need to reduce carbon across all of our markets. Now is the time to put forward policies that will enable us to build a more productive and low-carbon housing sector. By levelling-up the existing timber and forestry supply chain, and making greater use of modern methods of construction, we can deliver more quality homes — and we can do this sustainably and at pace."

Over the next Parliamentary session, the APPG for the Timber Industries will undertake a programme of activity to enable the timber industries to work with Parliamentarians to raise awareness of the vital contribution that the industries make to the UK economy and UK trade. It will also focus on the importance of the timber industries achieving net zero 2050 and the opportunities which exist to support sustainable timber construction in the UK. For more information and to download the report, please visit the Confederation of Timber Industries website.

**Confederation of Timber Industries ● <https://cti-timber.org>**

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David Warburton, MP for Somerton & Frome, and chair of the APPG.

## HOW THE TIMBER INDUSTRIES CAN HELP SOLVE THE HOUSING CRISIS

A report for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Timber Industries

SEPTEMBER 2021

THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP  
appg Timber Industries

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# Makita continues to provide the power

AS PART of its new October product releases, leading power tool manufacturer, Makita UK has revealed a number of new 40VMax cordless machines that have been added to its exciting XGT range. The new high-powered products provide a one-battery solution to handle the most demanding jobs and environments.

## 40VMax LS004G XGT mitre saw

Driven by a 40VMax brushless motor, this XGT 260 mm slide compound mitre saw provides a no load speed of up to 3,600 rpm for high power cutting that is comparable to corded machines.

The rail-forward design allows users to maximise workspace as the machine can be positioned next to a wall and its single sliding system enables smooth operation to produce superior cuts. Its 48° bevel range and 60° mitre range are easily adjusted with quick lock and release, making it simple to achieve the cut required.

This impressive tool is also packed with safety features including Auto-Start Wireless System technology (AWS), enabling the machine to connect to compatible dust extractors via Bluetooth. When applied, the dust extractor is powered on and off



while the saw is in use. An LED light improves task visibility, and for greater safety, an electric brake stops the blade in seconds.

## 80VMax URO12GZ04 XGT brush cutter

Delivering up to 6,400 rpm and a maximum power output at 2.0 kW,

the powerful 80VMax (40Vx2) XGT brushless brush cutter provides users with performance similar to a 40 cc class engine grass trimmer, making this machine ideal for heavy duty applications.

Users can adjust speed according to the task with three-stage

control, and thanks to Makita's innovative automatic torque drive technology (ADT), which adapts the cutting speed according to the load conditions, users can trust that the machine is always working at its optimum.

The URO12GZ04 also features active feedback sensing technology (AFT) that shuts down the tool if the rotation speed suddenly slows, protecting the user against kickback. And the useful reverse switch removes any material that gets stuck in the blade, reducing user downtime.

On the announcement, Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita UK, said: "Our XGT platform was designed to provide professionals with even more power to meet high demand applications with ease. All of our XGT solutions are engineered with built-in programming, that provides digital communication between the battery and the tool, so that both work together for optimum performance and sustained power.

"We are pleased to expand the XGT range with our latest 40VMax and 80VMax equipment and tools, so that professionals can fully experience a truly cordless job site."

**Makita**

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

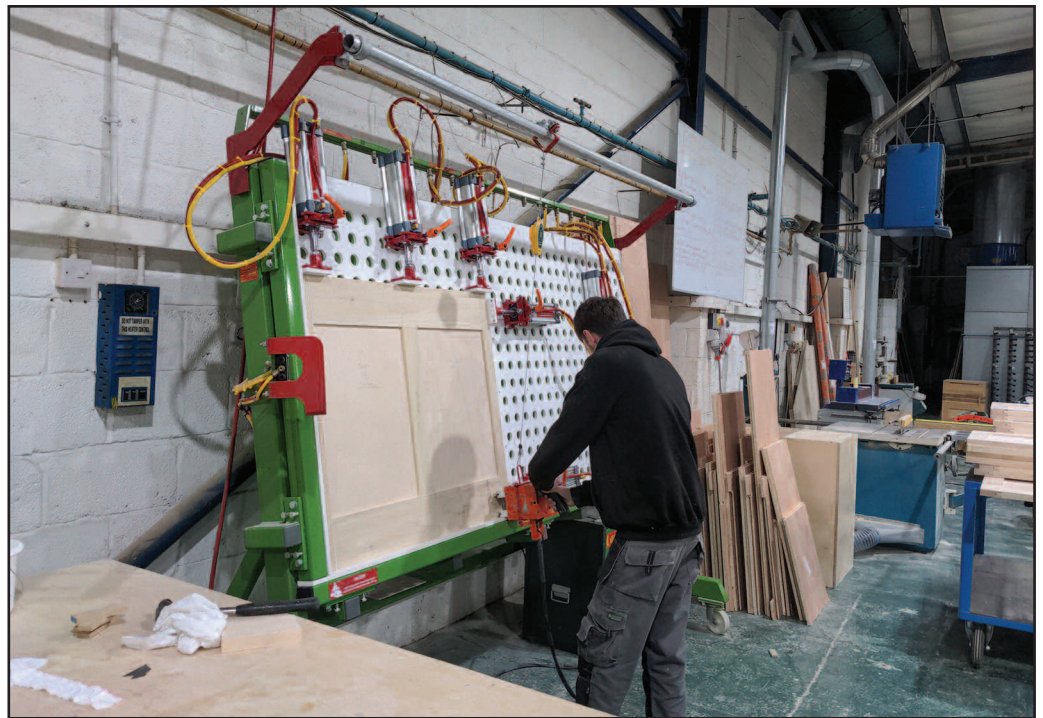


# "It is a simple bit of kit that works well"

FOUNDED IN 2004, Higham Furniture features a talented team of designers and furniture makers, specialising in kitchens. The company has grown organically since inception and has recently moved its workshop to larger premises in Denmead, Hampshire. As Higham Furniture carries out both the design and manufacturing element itself, it is able to offer a high degree of personalisation, quality and service to its customers in the South East of England.

During the first lockdown in April/May 2020, director Tim Higham responded to the need to increase productivity while respecting the need for social distancing by those staff not on furlough by purchasing a refurbished matrix table and Woodwelder from Lamont. He is so pleased with it that he has already ordered a larger model, due to be delivered shortly.

Speaking to *PW&SS*, Tim said: "I have a tendency to be careful with how I invest in the business: I am after value for money. For the original table, I wanted a refurbished cheap-as-I-could-dip-your-toe-in-the-market table in order to give it a try: the table was so good and so effective at what it was doing that I have decided to replace it with a double-header which is twice as



big. Alan [Lamont] will take the old one back, not because it is wrong (it isn't), but because I don't need two: I just want a table that will have twice the area."

The first table and the Woodwelder were purchased as Higham Furniture sought to increase productivity in unprecedented times. "I just felt it was a good time to experiment. We had heard good things about matrix tables and

Woodwelders. There were not many on the market, but once I started talking to Alan mainly by email I found him to be helpful, and felt like I was in a safe pair of hands. He is a good communicator and has a good level of knowledge."

Tim continued, "We make kitchens, and we primarily use the matrix table and Woodwelder for putting together the doors. We tend to make panelled painted

Shaker kitchens: there are lots of different types and lots of different door styles, but we are known for our traditional styles. The table adapts well to the different sizes of the doors and the original table takes 90% of the work: the bigger table will be able to take 99% of the work. We will also be able to load on one end while zapping at the other."

Tim was keen to stress that the smaller table, which has already paid for itself, was exactly what he had asked for from Alan Lamont at the time: "It worked so well we wanted the larger machine! It speeds up production. Previously, we would have glued up doors and put them in sash clamps and leave them to dry for a day, or overnight: now in less than a day we can get a whole kitchen door made and through to the next stage. The process is less labour intensive and is also faster than it was before. It is a simple bit of kit that works well."

Asked if he would recommend Alan Lamont, Tim replied, "Yes, I would: I have already recommended him to my mate, Nick Anderson of Guild Anderson, who took delivery of his machine last year.

"Alan is great and the machine is great."

**Lamont**

**Tel 01461 40017**

**Email [alanlamont2@gmail.com](mailto:alanlamont2@gmail.com)**

**[www.clampingmachines.co.uk](http://www.clampingmachines.co.uk)**



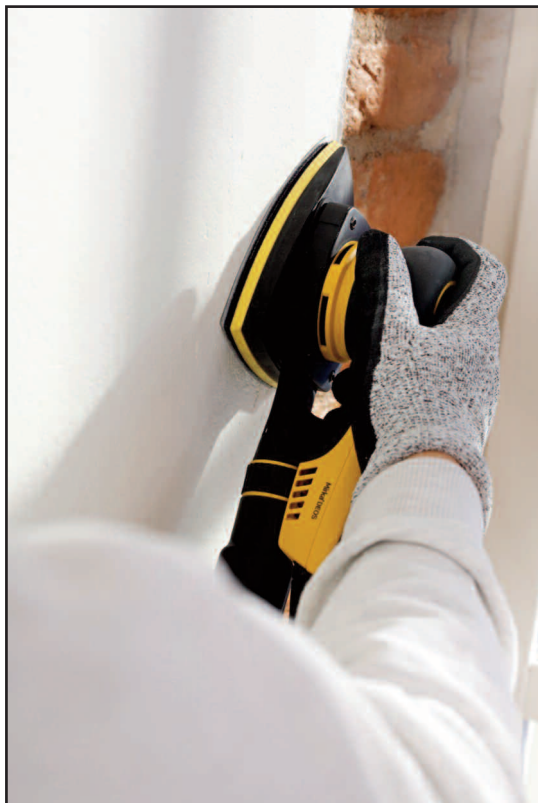
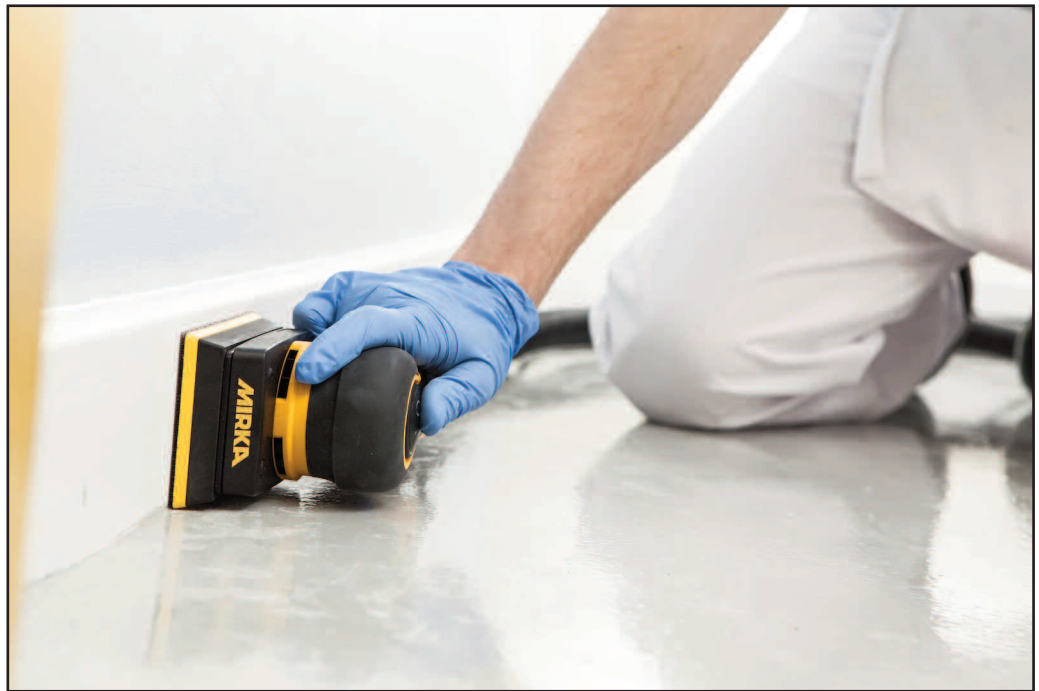
# Mirka® LEROS-S is a smooth operator at 2021 Painting and Decorating Show

**FOCUSING on speed, light-weight and efficiency, Mirka UK is showcasing its innovative Mirka® LEROS-S 950CV (Leros-Short) at the P&D Show this year on stands 67 & 83, designed for a variety of applications where time is of the essence.**

The show takes place at the Coventry Building Society Arena (formerly Ricoh Arena), Coventry, 23rd & 24th November 2021.

The new LEROS-S combines the best-in-class features of the original LEROS, including a sanding head with 180° flexibility and a 5 mm random orbital movement, in a more compact design that makes sanding in confined spaces easier, more efficient and dust-free.

Its lightweight ergonomic design ensures it is balanced, no matter the angle at which it is used, and its two dedicated grip



points provide the user with full control of the tool, which leads to less strain on the body and back. In addition, it weighs in at less than 3.2 g, so the operator can sand for longer periods without fatigue. The sander's brushless motor technology also ensures a constant speed with no loss in efficiency under heavy pressure and load.

When combined with Mirka's dust-free net abrasives and suitable dust extraction, the LEROS-S provides virtually dust-free sanding. It has dual suction points for dust removal, so the work environment is cleaner and healthier for both the customer and user. In addition, maintenance of the tool is minimised as there are no carbon brushes to be changed.

Chris Proffit, Mirka UK's business sector manager for construction and decoration, says, "We want to ensure that our customers have access to a wide range of versatile tools, which are suitable for multiple applications as well as the job at hand. The new LEROS-S is the next step on the road to achieving this goal. Its compact design will enable users to reach those enclosed spaces more easily that other tools cannot access, and we look forward to hearing how it has made their job easier, more efficient and less stressful on their body."

Also making their return to the P&D Show this year are the Mirka® DEOS Delta and Mirka® DEOS. The sanders have been designed and developed from the ground-up for use across multiple applications to meet the constantly evolving needs of the end user, providing a consistent smooth finish that is the hallmark of Mirka's tools.

The DEOS Delta has an ergonomic and innovative iron shape design allowing the user to access hard to reach areas easily and efficiently, while reducing the stress on arms and hands. It delivers a flawless smooth finish from corner to corner. Additionally, when the DEOS Delta is combined with Mirka's net abrasives and a dust extraction unit, it provides a consistent scratch pattern and a dust-free work environment to work in.

The DEOS 353 CV 81 x 133 mm is suitable for stripping old paint and lacquer. Its revolutionary design has been developed to get closer to the surface, easily accessing hard to reach areas and delivering a flawless smooth finish more rapidly than other sanders, according to the company.

**Mirka (UK) Ltd**  
**Tel 01908 866100**  
[www.mirka.com/uk/uk/](http://www.mirka.com/uk/uk/)



# Beachley Furniture Company: using Cabinet

**BEACHLEY Furniture Company, Inc, is living proof that, even in an increasingly 'disposable' world, pride in craftsmanship can still be passed down through generations of woodworkers and appreciated by new generations of customers.**

"The core values of the company go all the way back to 1887, and we are truly in the business of relationship building," says co-owner David Beachley, the great-great-grandson of one of the company's co-founders. "We take good care of our customers, and we treat everybody the way we want to be treated. That's our competitive edge and why we've been in business for 130 years."

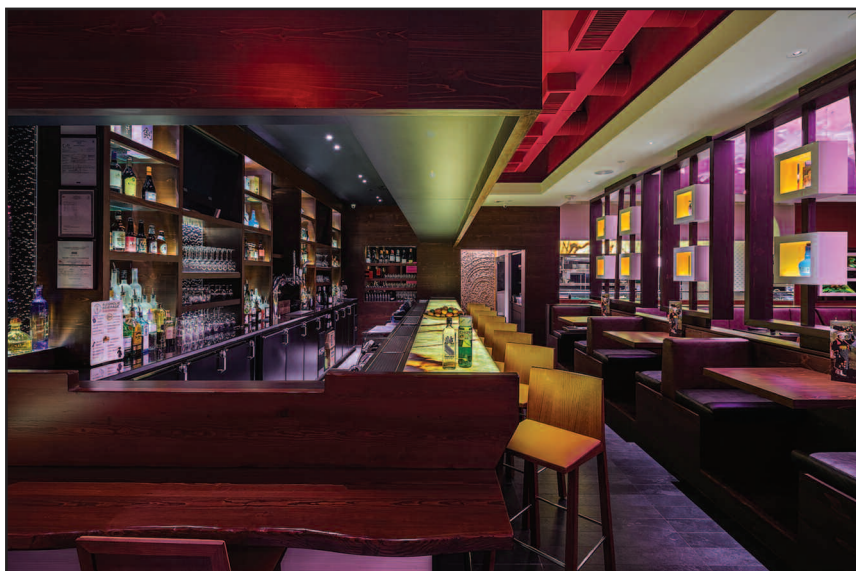
Based in Hagerstown, Maryland, USA, the Beachley Furniture Company initially produced only mattresses and chaise lounges, but has expanded in the intervening 131 years to offer diverse options in custom furniture and millwork.

The recession of 2008 galvanised Beachley into switching gears, from residential to more commercial work, as its staff dropped from 60-plus to just 14. The company began specialising in high-end upholstery for small customers, such as designers who worked from small shops and out of their homes. Today, the business is up to a staff of about 80.

"From there, we got into the custom business, and that tends to do well — even when the economy isn't," Beachley says. "What was initially there to get us through a tough time is now a core business."

In 2017, Beachley acquired the Cabinet Vision design-to-manufacturing solution to increase its efficiency in producing its custom, complex projects. "Custom, high-end products are much more complicated, and so of course production started to get more complicated," Beachley says. "Our people did a great job, but we wanted to try to be more efficient because business kept increasing and we were having trouble getting it out."

VP of Millwork Operations Tim Whittington was hired not only for Millwork Operations but specifically to implement Cabinet Vision and oversee CNC production at Beachley. As he had worked with Cabinet Vision for 15



years at another place of business, Mr Whittington is well versed in the capabilities of the software.

"The custom work is where Cabinet Vision really comes into play, because of things like cutting radii," Mr Whittington says. "I can get everything figured out in Cabinet Vision and get the parts cut on the CNC. Even if it's elliptical, radius work, I can make Cabinet Vision do anything I need it to by thinking outside of the box. If I can draw it in Cabinet Vision, I can get it to go across the machine."

With a laundry list of notable customers, including New York University, New York City Ballet, Princeton University, and many others, Mr Whittington is tasked with maintaining the kind of quality that attracts big names while making the company more efficient than ever.

"We're not bringing the quality of things down, we're just changing the production time," Mr Whittington says. "We make a beautiful product, and that's a dying art — but we can maintain the same quality while our commercial work is going 100 miles per hour. Beachley has been into residential furniture for years,



# Vision to maintain top-notch craftsmanship

so the biggest thing is changing that mentality of furniture to commercial."

To push production into high gear, Mr Whittington uses Cabinet Vision's automation tools and takes advantage of the system's flexibility, which allows customers to create manufacturing shortcuts to ensure parts are being made exactly as the company wants them to be.

These customisable automation tools are called User Created Standards (UCS), which allow users to create special cutting instructions that are automatically implemented under certain conditions. For instance, a UCS may be applied when a certain material or type of hardware will be used for the finished product. The sky's the limit in terms of creating UCSs, which are generated using simple if/then statements in a basic programming language. For a business that has found a niche in custom production, being able to eliminate time-consuming programming tasks while consistently turning out high-quality final products is vital. Mr Whittington says that, thus far, he has implemented up to 33 UCSs, all of which have cut down on programming time.

The shop also saves time with the solution's true-shape nesting, an automatic nesting engine that delivers optimal material yield. Due to Cabinet Vision's flexibility, automatically-generated nests can be edited by the user, which ensures that programmers retain control while reaping the benefits of automation. "We've gotten a huge saving on materials using Cabinet Vision, so our yield has certainly improved," says Mr Whittington.

Plans to implement additional automation at Beachley include the creation of a library of project types, including banquettes assemblies. Cabinet Vision allows users to save both processes and project libraries, which can be reused, or edited and reused, again and again. "I want to start making a library of banquettes and associating parts together," Mr Whittington says. "I'll be able to pull them right from library, adjust them to the size needed and then go from there. With Cabinet Vision, you can associate all the parts to a particular banquette, like you would with a typical cabinet in cabinet. Once those are made, I can easily pull them into whatever job I need."

While transitioning to any new production processes can be chal-

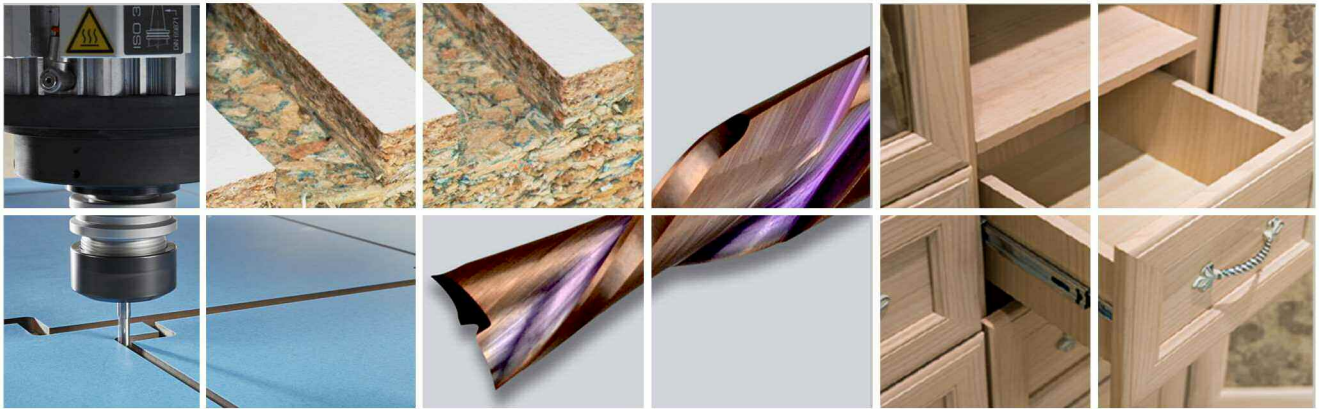


lenging, Mr Whittington says that reactions from long-time staff at Beachley — many of whom have been with the company for more than 30 years — have been positive. "We went from cutting things by hand to running things across the CNC out of Cabinet Vision, and when I showed them what could be done they were in awe," Mr Whittington says.

Mr Whittington notes that he has consistently found help and a supportive user community in the Cabinet Vision customer forum, and that the Cabinet Vision team delivers unparalleled service. "That's the neat thing about Cabinet Vision: their support system is top-notch and I've never had a problem with it in all the years I've used the software."

At Beachley, the overarching goal is to continue to deliver the goods and services that has kept the company thriving for more than a century. "When a customer entrusts us with a big project, our job is to make them look great," Beachley says. "They come back to us because they know we're reliable."

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# Automated assembly programming accelerates workflows from planning to production

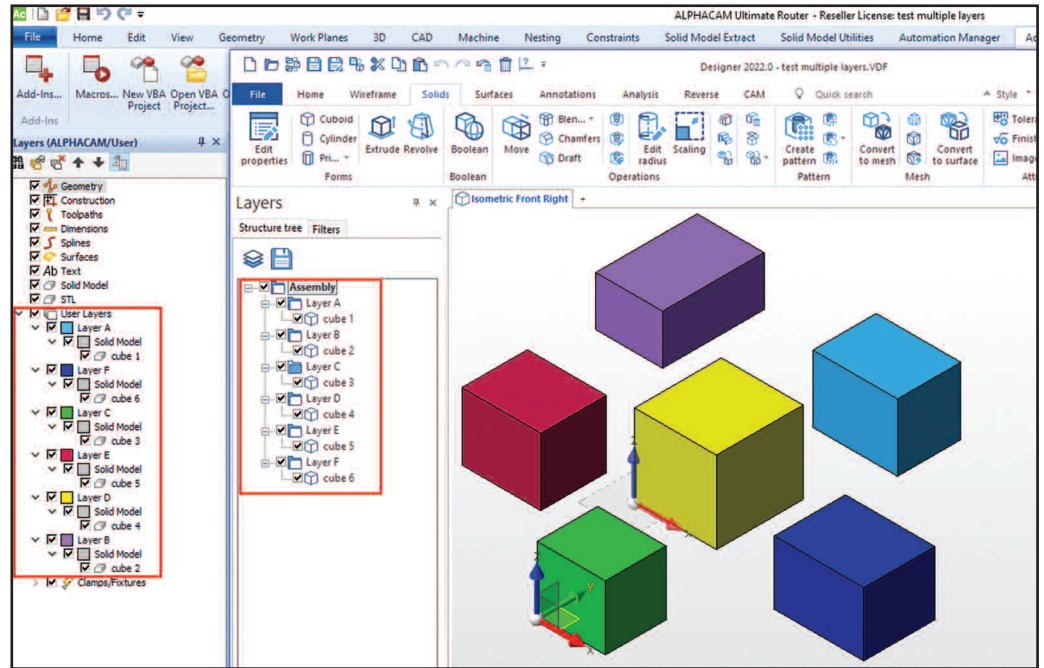
**NEW computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) technology released by Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence division fast-tracks the preparation of cabinet and furniture assemblies for production by automatically processing designs to shorten programs and streamline programming tasks.**

The ability to automatically process computer-aided design (CAD) assemblies increases competitiveness by reducing the time required to generate quotations and transition from planning to production.

Working with multiple CAD files to manufacture assemblies can be tedious and time consuming when each part must be prepared for production separately. Splitting multi-body solid models, such as designs for cabinet and furniture assemblies, into several part files for the application of the toolpath requires a significant investment in programming time.

The latest version of Hexagon's Alphacam software helps to significantly reduce the time required to quote and process jobs by breaking multi-body solid models into individual components and batch processing assemblies.

Part features, such as faces and holes, are automatically identified and parts automatically nested according to material types and



thicknesses. Further automation is used to generate the G-code required to cut parts using computer-numerical control (CNC) machinery, as well as the reports needed to communicate job details to machine operators.

"Automating as many repetitive, time-consuming, error-prone and tedious tasks as possible helps make every step of the production process faster," said technical product manager, Justin Beamish.

"The greater your ability to quickly put solid models to work,

the less time employees spend extracting usable job information from design files. Using data more efficiently means that woodworkers can spend less time in the planning phase while devoting valuable time to other tasks."

Working with solid models is further simplified in the new release, as programmers typically spend time extracting features from solid models to create geometries so that the software can generate toolpaths.

Enabling users to apply tool-

paths directly to solids without first creating geometries eliminates a step from the programming process and expedites the transition to production.

The software also enables users to define clamps directly from assemblies or multiple solid models. Developed to help users better visualise the entire production process, new graphical tools allow the direct editing of clamps and fixtures.

Material thicknesses are also now automatically considered when programming jobs that employ pop-up clamps, providing greater support for material stabilisation and quality control.

Nesting functions have also been improved to provide support for nesting activities performed using vertical saw blades. During nesting operations with large disk blades, only a small portion of the blade is used at the full depth of material.

The software now accounts for the size and shape of the blade so that it does not damage other parts while cutting. While this capability is applicable to production with any material type, it is especially useful for manufacturing stone countertops, shower basins and backsplashes.

**Alphacam**  
**Tel 0118 922 6677**  
<https://www.alphacam.com/latest-release>



# SCM presents "Stefani X"

SCM's new industrial edgelanding machine has been designed to offer top-quality machining on any kind of panel and material to fully meet the needs of a connected, integrated digital factory



## **YET ANOTHER high-tech new entry from SCM to satisfy the latest trends in furniture and design in terms of flexible and 4.0 production.**

The new "Stefani X" industrial edgelanding machine has everything it takes to win over the market. Each detail has been designed to offer an extremely innovative solution and in line with the industry's more complex demands: from the machine's structure to the digital and electronic control systems; from the machining units with power assisted movement to the latest gluing devices, for an even faster, more efficient glue change.

The result is a highly configurable, customised edgelanding machine, designed to reliably work several shifts and capable of providing top-quality machining, both in the stand-alone version and in integrated cells or lines.

One other important advantage is its ability to achieve maximum quality standards easily and without interruption, even on the most delicate, state-of-the-art materials, thanks to SCM's new electronic touch systems.

Furthermore, in an attempt to meet the increasingly more widespread demands for flexible, connected and integrated production, "Stefani X" offers an exclusive digital control system that means it can operate in perfect synergy with other technologies and IT systems as well as management MES used in the factory.

### **The end of compromised productivity**

SCM's new industrial edgelanding machine can machine panels at a speed of up to 30 m/min during several shifts per day. All this, thanks to the top-of-the-range units and a new, highly rigid mechanical structure. It also has new dynamic units custom-designed to further increase performance and include additional high-end functions if requested.

### **Highly flexible even when changing the glue**

Another significant new feature of "Stefani X" is the gluing unit which, thanks to the unique "glue switch" solution, allows for a just in time change of colour and glue type,

thus achieving even more flexible, efficient production. The "secret" lies in the fact that there are simultaneously two glue tanks which, during machining, can be interchanged using the type and colour of glue requested by the work program. The glue tank can also be replaced or maintenance work carried out on it without having to stop the edgelanding machine.

### **Top quality even on the most delicate edges**

The new 'Stefani X' offers top-quality gluing no matter what type of edge there is. Indeed, the intensity of the first pressure roller can be automatically adjusted by the edgelanding machine's control system. Furthermore, the edge can be replaced without any distance limit between the panels thanks to the new automatic edge device with two and six rolls and with a roller change system that allows for a reduced interspacing of 350 mm.

### **New range of high-end electronic units**

The new "Stefani X" electronic units are designed to meet two objectives

that are key to the market: ease of use even for more complex machinings on delicate, trending materials, thanks to an automatic, flexible setup, as well as repeatability, quality and accurate production processes, thanks to the electronic touch.

"This new edgelanding machine is a further advancement to accompany and support furniture and design businesses in optimising their production processes together with the technological innovation and know-how acquired by SCM in the edgelanding sector over a period of seventy years," highlights SCM's edgelanding business manager, Fabio Cernoia. "The new 'Stefani X' is proof that an edgelanding machine needs to be much more than a machine. In fact, it needs to be an all-round technological project that is highly configurable and versatile, where it is the quantitative and qualitative composition of the units that make a difference to the panel machining process."

**SCM Group**

**Tel 0115 977 0044**

**Email [scmuk@scmgroup.com](mailto:scmuk@scmgroup.com)**

**[www.scmgroup.com/en\\_GB](http://www.scmgroup.com/en_GB)**



# Ecogate endorses Extractly with new distribution deal

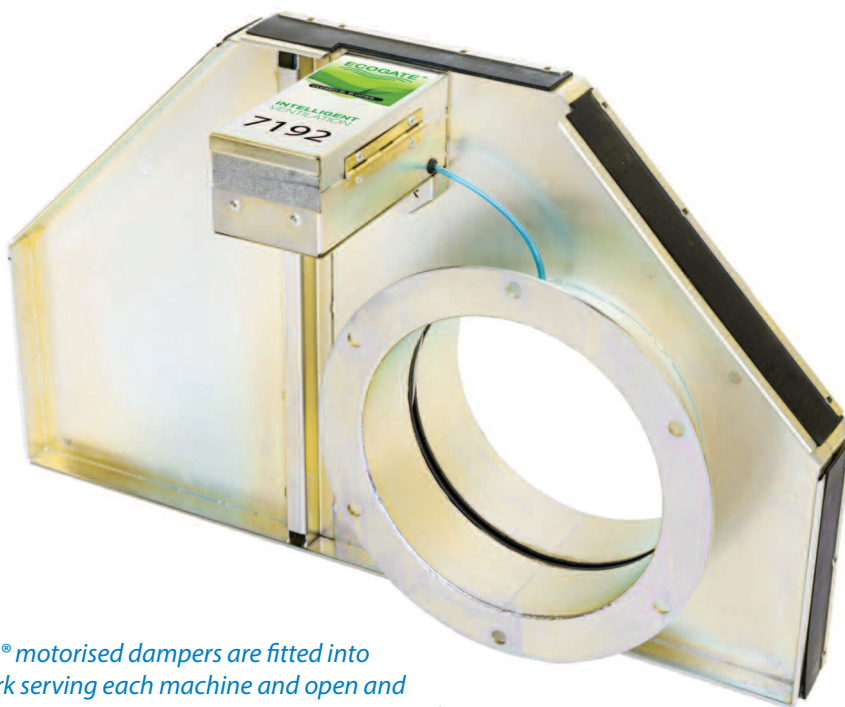
**THE RISE** and rise of Extractly Ltd appears to continue unabated as the California-based technology manufacturer, Ecogate, Inc., confirms the company's appointment as sole UK distributors for the Ecogate® range of energy-saving extraction control products.

First introduced over here by Dust Control Systems (DCS), back in 2010, Ecogate technology has had a major impact on the UK wood-working industry, with a multitude of joinery and furniture manufacturing companies now benefiting significantly from the huge reductions in power consumption the system can deliver — typically returning savings of between 50% and 75% on dust extraction costs with an average return on investment of just two years for the majority of installations.

Extractly's technical director, William Kenyon, who has been involved with Ecogate from day one, is keen to stress that Extractly will continue to offer service and technical support for all UK customers with existing installations, and that any current warranty agreements will be unaffected by the changes.



*Ecogate® greenBOX 12, greenBOX NXT and greenBOX MASTER control units sit at the heart of the extraction system.*



*Ecogate® motorised dampers are fitted into ductwork serving each machine and open and close automatically as equipment comes on or off-line.*

“Our focus is on customer satisfaction and long-lasting customer relationships,” says Mr Kenyon, “and our aim is to ensure our customers’ extraction systems are operating to their full potential, at lowest cost; allowing factory owners to concentrate on the business of manufacturing.”

Ales Litomisky, co-founder, president and chief engineer at Ecogate, Inc., commented: “We’re delighted to be renewing our relationship with the team at Extractly, and I’m personally looking forward to following this next stage of Ecogate’s development in the UK. William and the entire Extractly team have demonstrated a keen understanding of Ecogate® technology and are proven to be very customer oriented.

“The successful application of Ecogate® technology and controls has been proven worldwide, across multiple industries, to improve the

efficiency of dust and fume extraction systems. Installations of the patented system not only generate direct savings in electricity usage, but also benefit the working environment for employees, help improve business performance and, ultimately, make a contribution to the health of our planet."

Before Ales, along with uncle Petr Litomisky, patented Ecogate® energy-saving extraction control technology, manufacturers' dust and fume extraction systems had basically worked on the same principle for decades – install a fan that's powerful enough to extract all the air, from all the places in the factory where dust or fumes are being produced, all day, every day. The difference with Ecogate® technology installed on a dust producing production line is that the system is custom-programmed to extract only when individual

machines are running, and to extract only the minimum volumes required to transfer dust-laden air from each machine to the filter unit for collection.

Potential financial gains are ruled by the laws of physics, but just a 20% reduction in fan speed will reduce power consumption by 50% and in many factories, where it is estimated that less than half of the machines are in use at any one time, even bigger savings can be achieved. Extractly Ltd offers a free site-survey to ascertain the possible savings that Ecogate® technology could make but, as a general rule, electricity costs will be at least halved and, whether you have just one machine or a whole factory-full — the Ecogate® greenBOX MASTER SRL® can control up to four extraction fans and as many as 180 workstations — the same principles apply.

"The technology is just as effective when retrofitted to an existing extraction system as it is on a new installation," says Will Kenyon. "The automated, motorised dampers are simply fitted into the ductwork serving each machine, and sensors report when machines come on or off-line. Ecogate® control technology continuously adjusts fan speed accordingly, and the system also ensures sufficient airflow volumes to maintain minimum air transport velocity so dust and chippings don't settle in the ductwork and reduce LEV control effectiveness."

With 'real-time' intelligent control providing exact extraction volume requirement, only when and where it's needed, extraction systems with Ecogate® technology installed use around one-third of the power consumed by conventional extraction systems. In addition to

saving on electricity bills, every other part of the system performs more effectively and efficiently: reduced fan speeds mean less wear and tear on bearings, motors and filter media, and factory noise levels are noticeably reduced.

The fully-automated, intelligent system provides accurate analytical data to keep operators fully informed of the system's efficiency, and the lower energy consumption will also contribute to a reduction in a company's carbon footprint. In addition, the 'spare' extraction capability made available by reducing the fan speed gives business owners a margin for production line expansions without the need to invest in more powerful fans and larger filters.

**Extractly Limited**  
**Tel 01924 520462**  
**Email [info@extractly.co.uk](mailto:info@extractly.co.uk)**  
**[www.extractly.co.uk](http://www.extractly.co.uk)**

*Ecogate® Power MASTER™ variable speed drive units adjust fan speed.*



# Substantial cost savings with Ecogate® greenBOX NXT

**NEWLY-appointed Ecogate® distributor, Extractly Ltd, has recently installed a complete extraction system, including state-of-the-art Ecogate® greenBOX NXT technology, for Thwaite Holme Kitchens & Bedrooms Ltd.**

Located near the village of Dalston, just a few miles south-west of Carlisle, the name Thwaite Holme has been synonymous with the design, manufacture and installation of quality fitted kitchens and bedrooms for over 40 years. The company was established in 1972 by father, Bob Postlethwaite, and now remains a family-run business headed by middle son Ian. The company specialises in high-end, luxury kitchen and bedroom furniture; designing and manufacturing quality, bespoke fitted furniture to suit individual tastes and styles. "Every piece of furniture we make in our workshop is unique and personal to each of our customers," says Ian. "We have a highly skilled team, with years of experience in cabinetry and bespoke furniture, and we pride ourselves on the quality of the work we produce."

Working in traditional hardwoods such as oak, walnut, maple and ash, the craftsmanship and attention to detail is obvious in every piece of Thwaite Holme furniture. Details of this nature are not produced on high-speed CNC machines, but crafted on a vast range of individual machines — in fact just about one machine for each year of the company's existence, and a new extension to the premises, more than doubling the available space, has enabled the factory layout to be re-organised to optimise workflow.

"I'd come across an article about Extractly in one of the joinery magazines," Ian explains, "and, knowing we'd need to make changes to our extraction system when the building work was completed, I had it pinned up on our noticeboard for weeks as a reminder to get them in to give us a price for getting the ductwork re-configured to suit the new layout."

Extractly director, Jake Oldfield, takes up the story: "We were obviously pleased to get the enquiry from Ian," says Jake, "but as soon as he showed me into the newly extended factory it was immediately obvious that the task was going to involve much more than an update of the ductwork arrangement."



*The compact NFSZ3000 2HJLR modular filter unit, designed to handle large volumes of air with heavy material contamination, is fitted with patented antistatic polyester SUPERBAG filter bags which are cleaned automatically by a 1.1 kW reverse air regeneration fan.*



*Thwaite Holme's factory houses a vast array of equipment and a total of 28 'Smart' motorised dampers are controlled by the Ecogate greenBOX NXT.*

After a brief inspection of the factory, the filter unit, the armoury of dust-producing equipment, and a candid discussion with Ian, Jake carried out a comprehensive evaluation of the extraction requirements, including a full energy-saving survey. "It was a bit of a wake-up call," says Ian, "but I guess I already knew that our existing system was coming to the end of its useful life. However, I was pleasantly surprised when I received the proposal from Extractly; especially the calculations showing the savings we could expect to make by including Ecogate® technology in the new system."

With around 40 machines requiring extraction, and yet only a small number of them ever in use at any given time, the potential savings were substantial. The laws of physics 'rule of thumb' is that electricity consumption is halved if fan speed is reduced by just 20% and, with the energy survey having determined that a 35% reduction could be achieved with Ecogate® technology controlling the new system, the predicted savings were substantial. For Thwaite Holme, the lower fan speeds achievable with an Ecogate® system will save over 66,000 kilowatt hours a year, saving thousands of pounds every year on electricity costs — which, with the current economic uncertainty in the energy supply market, is welcome news for Ian Postlethwaite.

Although the technology controlling the system is sophisticated, the principle is a simple one: Ecogate's smart motorised dampers are fitted into the extraction ductwork; machines are fitted with sensors that detect when they come on or off-line; and the Ecogate® greenBOX controls the opening and closing of the dampers. At the same time, the greenBOX controls a variable speed drive which, in real time, automatically adjusts the fan to run at the optimum speed required to extract only from machines that are in use, and to maintain minimum airflow velocity in the ductwork.



*With the versatile Ecogate® greenBOX NXT, the extraction system can be monitored and controlled from anywhere in the world via any internet-connected device.*

Extractly's installation team fitted Nordfab QF® ductwork throughout the factory, connecting equipment to the main ductwork via four separate branches. A 37 kW direct drive Combifab fan provides the capacity to extract over 20,000 m<sup>3</sup> of air an hour, delivering sawdust, shavings and wood chips to be filtered through the externally-sited Nederman NFSZ3000 2HJLR filter unit.

From here, collected waste is discharged pressure-free, via a Nederman rotary valve, and then by way of an enclosed mini-conveyor unit to feed the company's existing briquetter unit. Clean, filtered warm air is returned to keep the factory warm through the colder months, or expelled to atmosphere when not required.

The filter unit is fully ATEX-approved and, in the unlikely event of an explosion in the unit, a Nederman non-return safety valve, situated in the main ductwork between the filter and factory, prevents the effects of a pressure wave and flames travelling through the ductwork and into the factory.

At the heart of the system is the Ecogate greenBOX NXT which, as well as monitoring individual machines, is also capable of monitoring activity on each of the four ductwork branches and, as technical director William Kenyon explained: "If any branch has no machines in operation, the NXT controller can automatically shut down that branch entirely, negating the need to maintain minimum airflow, and so further increasing the potential energy savings."

"I've been really impressed with the level of service Extractly have provided," says Ian Postlethwaite. "From Jake's initial visit through to final commissioning of the new installation, communication at each step of the process has been excellent and, with the way energy costs are rising at the moment, it's been the perfect time to have invested in Ecogate's latest technology."

**Extractly Limited** ● Tel 01924 520462  
**Email** [info@extractly.co.uk](mailto:info@extractly.co.uk)  
**www.extractly.co.uk**



*Every piece of a Thwaite Holme kitchen is individually-designed and manufactured for a discerning clientele.*

# Escalating energy prices lead more business owners to investigate wood waste heaters

**THE REPORTED UK energy crisis and escalating energy costs mean there's never been a better time for businesses to investigate alternative, more cost-effective options. With the ongoing effects of last year's pandemic and more uncertainty ahead, business owners are looking for ways to future-proof their businesses by monitoring operational outgoings in order to try to reduce any areas of heavy expenditure. For manufacturing businesses that generate wood waste, one cost-effective alternative is to invest in a wood waste heater. Converting waste wood into energy could save a business thousands of pounds on heating and waste disposal bills each year, by burning the wood waste to create heating, rather than paying to have the waste taken away.**

UK manufacturer, Wood Waste Technology, offers a range of wood waste heaters to suit all sizes of businesses. Easy to use and install, the heaters can save companies money on waste management solutions such as hiring skips, whilst also helping keep premises warm. And some companies can receive payback on their investment in less than 12 months.

Wood Waste Technology's heaters can deal with all kinds of wood, from MDF and pallets to hardwoods and sawdust. The units are also incredibly environmentally friendly and are compliant with the Clean Air Act. Combustion rather than incineration makes for a much greener alternative to waste management, and hugely reduces the carbon footprint.

For over 19 years, Wood Waste Technology has helped businesses save money on heating and waste disposal costs. All its durable and dependable wood waste heaters are manufactured at Wood Waste Technology's headquarters in Staffordshire. As well as offering site survey, design, manufacture, installation and on-going maintenance for new units, the company also services all types of wood waste heaters and supplies genuine spares.

In addition, Wood Waste Technology is the UK's official distributor for Gross Apparatebau GmbH, a German manufacturer of dependable, precision engineered shredders and briquetters. The company is also a distributor for Putzmaus boiler tube cleaning systems — a powerful but gentle routine maintenance solution that is quick and easy to use, and helps to increase boiler efficiency and lower operating costs.

**Wood Waste Technology ● Tel 01785 250400**  
[www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk](http://www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk) ● [www.grossuk.co.uk](http://www.grossuk.co.uk) ● [www.putzmaus.co.uk](http://www.putzmaus.co.uk)



## NEWS

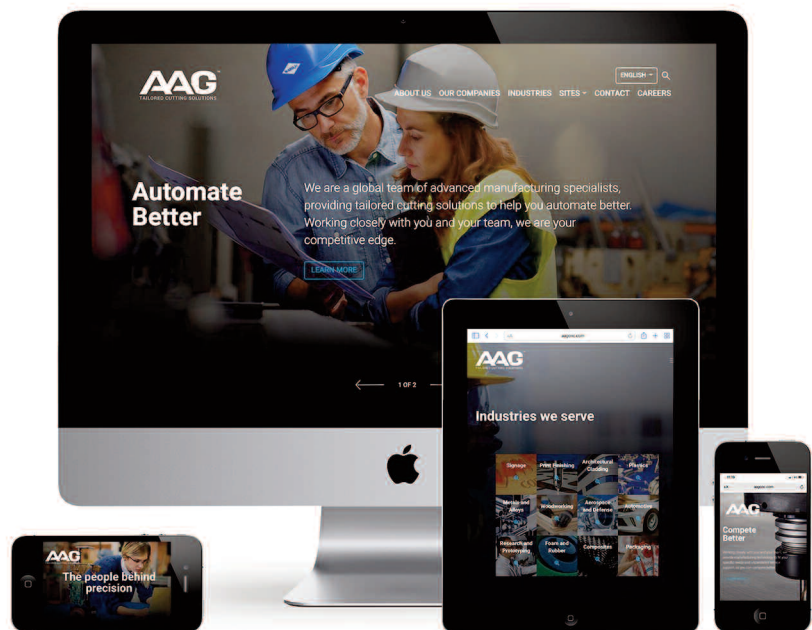
# AAG launches new and upgraded website

**AAG, a leading global manufacturer and distributor of industrial-class CNC machining solutions, has launched a new and radically upgraded website. Visitors to aagcnc.com will now have easier and faster access to comprehensive information about AAG's XYZ, WARDJet and CNC-Shop.com power brands and the full range of tailored CNC routing/cutting and print finishing, waterjet cutting and essential spare parts, accessories and consumables available respectively via these brands.**

In addition to enabling companies to increase automation in the workplace and consequent business growth, competitiveness and profitability, aagcnc.com will open up a host of new opportunities. These will not only fuel further expansion within the industries in which these companies specialise but also and significantly open up new opportunities for engagement with other industries due to AAG's internal strategy of greater market diversification.

Innovative new features of the website include information on the specific industries in which CNC machines supplied by AAG have become a preferred choice and a section entitled 'Featured Work' which highlights major projects undertaken by AAG customers and in which XYZ and WARD-Jet machines have been pivotal to their successful completion. A history of AAG, from inception to the present day, which includes the origins and evolution of the XYZ, WARDJet and CNCShop.com brands and details of AAG global locations serve as a fitting conclusion to the new aagcnc.com website.

**AAG**  
**Tel 01952 291600**  
<https://aagcnc.com/>





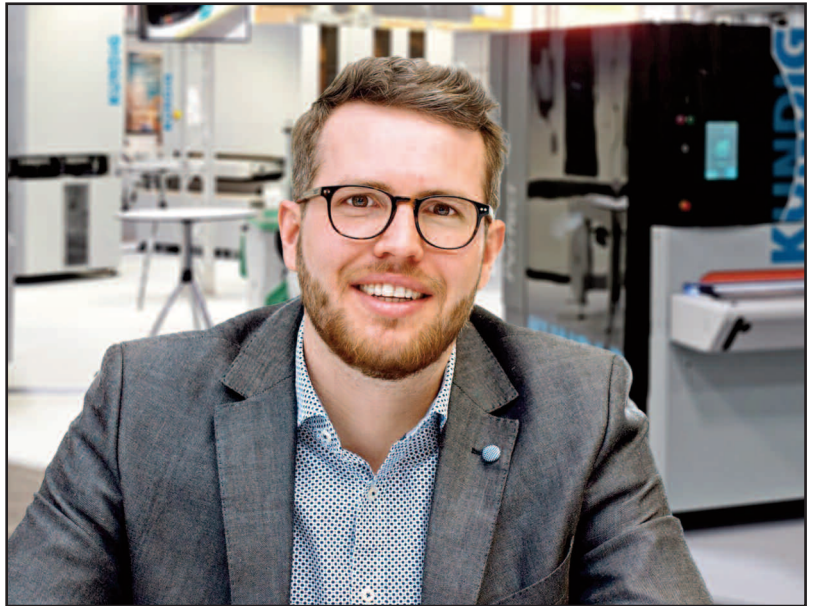
# Basic model Kündig Master gets off to a good start on the market

**THE NEW Kündig Master had a very successful launch across Europe with the UK being one of the markets where it attracted a particularly high level of attention.**

The idea of a basic model that is as cost-efficient as possible had been discussed and developed for years. But Kündig did not want to rush the project because the requirements were high, explains Lukas Kündig, CEO of the Swiss sanding machine manufacturer.

"It may sound a bit cliché, but we don't make any compromises when it comes to our core qualities, ie highest possible sanding quality, generations of durability and ease of operation — and relocating production to the East was out of the question. So other ways had to be found in order to make this model exactly what people expect," says Lukas.

"On the one hand, the Master is strictly based on serial production, on the other hand, the focus of the equipment is on the details that are essential for the production of perfect surfaces. And the features are surprisingly extensive: The sanding units are a combination of calibration roller and electronically controlled sanding pad that has been



CEO Lukas Kündig is pleased with the successful market launch of the Master.



tried and tested thousands of times. Workpiece detection is only 35 mm wide — over the entire 1,350 mm working width.

"In terms of robustness and durability, the Master is in no way inferior to the other model ranges. Like all Kündig sanding machines, it features head movement. This means that, compared to models with conventional table movement, the machine can be loaded with higher workpiece weights, it maintains its precision more reliably and you have the advantages of a constant pass line.

"In contrast to the higher model ranges, the operating unit is the previous generation model.

"Nevertheless, settings are made within seconds and the control is always quick and intuitive, as is typical for Kündig."

**Kündig Ltd**  
**Tel 0845 833 0565**  
**Email [sales@kundig.co.uk](mailto:sales@kundig.co.uk)**  
**[www.kundig.co.uk](http://www.kundig.co.uk)**

# KUNDIG

# Fast, dust free sanding of all surfaces with Mirka

**MIRKA (UK) Ltd recently welcomed the trade press to its Milton Keynes offices and training centre to demonstrate the advantages of its range of hand held sanders on a wide range of surfaces, and to introduce the range of cobot (collaborative robot) sanders.**

Mirka has a long history of manufacturing sanders for wood, wood-based panels and solid surfaces, as well as products intended for painters and decorators and the automotive industry. Mirka's sales figures for the

past two years have been good, despite the pandemic, as people spend money on home improvements that may otherwise have gone on foreign holidays, for example. Particularly popular in all sectors have been sales of masking tape, while the range of paint pots originally created for the automotive industry have also gone down well with joinery companies with their own spraying and finishing shops.

New partnerships have been developed in the past year, maintaining Mirka's desire to develop products that suit modern day production machinery and substrates: for example, collaborations with leading machinery manufacturer SCM, coatings and surfaces producer Osmo and various solid surface substrate manufacturers such as DuPont (CDUK) & Hanex UK.

After a short presentation on the latest ranges, the journalists visited the training centre where they had the opportunity to try their hand at sanding a sheet of Corian and dry wall, after the technique had been demonstrated by business sector manager (Wood), Chris Brook (pictured bottom left) and business sector manager (Construction & Decoration), Chris Proffit (pictured below) respectively. The tools compared and contrasted were the DEROS and LEROS-S (pictured left) when sanding the Corian, and the LEROS-S and LEROS when sanding the dry wall.

Safety glasses were provided;





the air was kept dust-free through the use of the highly efficient dust extractors attached to each sanding head.

The Corian sanding demonstrations involved the use of four grits, working from coarse to fine. National sales manager (Industrial), Peter Sartain, timed the work done, which demonstrated that LEROS-S could sand the workpiece in half the time of the DEROS: this reflected the larger sanding disc used with the LEROS-S. However, the DEROS is smaller

and hence lighter, and can be operated with one hand where the LEROS-S requires two.

The dry wall sanding demonstration highlighted the flexibility and tiltability of the LEROS and LEROS-S which, we were told, reduces muscle strain. The LEROS has longer reach, ideal for ceilings, whilst the LEROS-S allows the operator to work in tight spaces.

The DEROS sander family which features a range of circular sanding heads (77/125/150 mm) has also led to the development of a



variety of shapes: in particular the rectangular DEOS and the "iron shaped" DEOS Delta, the latter being particularly useful when sanding for example stair spindles.

Highlighted by the team at Mirka was the new range of cobot sanding heads, or collaborative robots (pictured above). These programmable devices are designed to work alongside and to assist an operator, who can be setting up the next workpiece while the first

is being sanded, for example. They are engineered to carry out intensive, high workload sanding, where precision and minimum maintenance are critical.

To find out more about the Mirka range, or to visit the training centre, please contact the company using the details below.

**Mirka (UK) Ltd**  
**Tel 01908 866100**  
**Email [enquiries.uk@mirka.com](mailto:enquiries.uk@mirka.com)**  
**[www.mirka.com/uk/uk/](http://www.mirka.com/uk/uk/)**



# Launch of Combilift's new XLE model

**IRISH MATERIALS** handling specialist, **Combilift**, has officially launched its latest product, the **Combi-XLE**, as a further addition to its impressive range of electric models.

In line with the growing demand for electric powered equipment, this multidirectional forklift with up to five ton lift capacity, combines emission-free operation with powerful performance for a wide range of industries and applications.

The original engine powered XL C-Series model was developed to address the requirements of tough working environments such as those in the timber, concrete and steel sectors. The new Combi-XLE incorporates the same key design features as its earlier counterpart such as high ground clearance, large cushioned front and rear tyres and a spacious cab, allowing smooth operation on semi rough terrain whilst offering a high level of driver comfort.

With sustainability ever higher on the agenda, Combilift further helps its customers achieve their environmental goals with its versatile "three forklifts in one" models, which work inside and out, reducing fleet size and thereby their carbon footprint. A hallmark of all Combilift products is the ability to increase storage capacity without expanding the size of a facility, resulting in lower energy usage and associated costs such



as heating, lighting and maintenance, which is of significant benefit to the environment and the workforce. Noise pollution and carbon emissions, which can impact on the health and well-being of people as well as wildlife, is also no longer an issue thanks to electric power. Drivers, employees and visitors on site appreciate the quiet operation, as do neighbouring residents and businesses, particularly in urban areas.

The Combi-XLE incorporates up-to-the-minute technology such as the patented all-wheel traction that reduces tyre wear, load swing and enhances braking.

Also included is a newly developed, patented Eco-Steer System which provides a smaller turning radius and improved user experience. Since Electric powered trucks do not have traditional combustion engines, or hydraulic transmissions, there is no longer any need to check and top up engine fluids/lubricants, resulting in longer intervals between services, ultimately saving costs. The use of toughened, eco-friendly water-based paint also dramatically reduces the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) during build.

"The technology we have incor-

porated into the Combi-XLE means that its performance is equally on a par with diesel or LPG powered forklifts when it comes to handling very bulky and heavy loads, whilst of course offering a greener operation," said Combilift CEO and co-founder, Martin McVicar. "We made our first electric C-Series over 18 years ago, and now over 60% of the trucks we manufacture are electric, with availability in almost all models across our range. As more and more of our customers are opting for electric power it is obvious that they are as committed to sustainability and a circular economy as we are."

At Combilift's own manufacturing facility, features such as daylighting technology — LED lights with individual PIR sensors, solar panel energy and rainwater harvesting are all aimed at conserving natural resources and decreasing energy consumption. A total of 92% of all components used in the truck assembly are 100% recyclable and the company is also on track to save over 473 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> by using carbon neutral wood chip instead of gas for heating within the factory.

Roger Bullivant Ltd, part of the Soletanche Freyssinet Group, manufactures precast concrete elements for installation in engineered foundation systems. Production director, Dave Clement, says: "At our South Derbyshire precast factory, we use five multi-directional Combi-XLE trucks to





transport product from the factory to storage and then to load-out for distribution nationwide.

"As we had already been using Combi units for years, the product decision was straightforward, and from a driver perspective, the operation remains essentially unchanged.

"The reasons to move to electric were twofold: to eliminate exhaust particulates in the factory and as part of our Group environmental plan to minimise our carbon footprint. So, an improvement to the environment in more ways than one."

**CombiLift**

<https://combilift.com/xle>

<https://combilift.com/sustainability>



# James Latham and Combilift — 20 years of partnership

**WITH A HISTORY** stretching over 260 years, James Latham is one of the UK's largest independent distributors of timber, panels and decorative surfaces, and operates 12 branches throughout the UK and Ireland.

When it comes to materials handling and warehousing — a crucial aspect of any business to get right — it is now 20 years since Lathams ordered its first three C4000 multidirectional forklifts from the Irish specialist manufacturer, Combilift, for its Hemel Hempstead site, starting a partnership that continues to this day.

Around 70 C4000 models are now in operation across all Latham branches, and according to Combilift's Tommy Cadden over 165 trucks have been supplied in all, which have a typical lifespan of seven years. "When we first started



working with James Latham they were considering two electric four-way reach trucks for indoor operation and two counterbalance trucks for outside use only at Hemel," he said.

Company director, Piers F. Latham, says: "We had nearly decided to go with this option, but were ideally looking for a new concept that would maximise the footprint in our depots. The combination of Combilifts and racking enabled us to go to an impressive height of 8 m in narrow aisles, and the indoor/outdoor ability meant we needed fewer trucks whilst achieving optimum versatility."

Continuous growth has led to an expansion of many of the company's depots and therefore the ongoing need for space-saving materials handling. The Yate branch is one of a number of new facilities designed with 9 m high racking to make the most of every inch of space. With a footprint of 53,000 ft<sup>2</sup> it has a current storage capacity of 7,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

The ten Combilifts work constantly, offloading deliveries, putting products into racking and reloading for despatch. With their 4 t base capacity and lifting capability of 2 t to 9.4 m, they handle loads which can be up to 4.5 m long. They work in guided aisles of 2,520 mm and in some free roaming aisles set aside for the storage of 3 m x 2 m jumbo boards. For these larger loads, four trucks have been fitted with telescopic forks which measure 2,050 mm when extended. These can lift 1,900 kg at 1,035 load centre to 7.8 m.

Yate is the first branch to introduce electric Combilifts into its fleet following the initial LPG trucks, and all replacement models will be electric wherever possible. Depot director Andrew Jones said: "There are numerous advantages to electric power, one of which is the quiet operation. This is appreciated by our neighbours, as we operate a 24/5 shift pattern to maximise delivery capacity."

Customer feedback has always played an important role in Combilift's product development, and this was the case when the first trucks were planned for Hemel. Piers Latham adds: "Combilift worked with us to find customised solutions for our exact requirements, and this, together with the level of after sales service, has been key to the long and ongoing partnership."

**Combilift** ● [www.combilift.com](http://www.combilift.com)

**James Latham** ● <https://www.lathamtimber.co.uk>



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# A mindful eco build from Blue Sky Property Services and West Fraser

**TIMBER FRAME specialist, Blue Sky Property Services, of Norfolk, is always mindful of the environmental impact of its building and renovating projects. This is certainly true of the conversion of an old engineering unit into a luxury two double bedroom eco holiday rental being built in the Norfolk countryside.**

The property, owned and managed by Emma and Neil Punched, will be finished to the exacting

standards of their other Eco Barn and Hay Barn holiday lets.

"We always specify West Fraser products as they are easy to use and are produced with the environment in mind. We used CaberShieldPlus on the first floor as we didn't need to worry about leaving it exposed while we were building. The non-slip textured finish is not only safe; as the waterproof coating is permanent, it means there's no plastic to throw away!" said

James Carter, director of Blue Sky Property Services.

CaberShieldPlus is specially designed to withstand exposure to wet conditions. It has protection on both sides, not just the exposed upper surface. The top surface features a permanent non-slip coating that not only prevents damage to the board but also ensures a safe working platform. The underside is protected with the smooth coating that not

only protects against damage but also makes the board easy to slide into position. For added durability, the coating applied to CaberShieldPlus is not designed to be peeled off after completion but is bonded permanently on both sides of the panel and waterproof. BBA-approved for up to 60 days' continuous exposure to the elements when used with CaberFix D4 adhesive, the board lets builders carry on building even with the roof off.

"We also used SterlingOSB Zero on this project as we really like the product's environmental credentials," said James. "The use of recycled wood flakes makes this an ideal board for our eco build."

**Blue Sky Property Services**  
[www.blueskypropertyservices.co.uk](http://www.blueskypropertyservices.co.uk)

**Mill Farm Eco Barn**  
<https://www.millfarm-ecobarn.co.uk/>

**West Fraser**  
 Tel 01786 812921  
<https://UK.westfraser.com>



## Getting career ready with West Fraser

**WEST FRASER, formerly known as Norbord, is always keen to help young people with a positive start in the world of work as one young student found out when he joined the company for a four-week internship.**

"We joined the Career Ready network a couple of years ago as we wanted to help support the organisation in its efforts to let young people experience a real working environment. I was really pleased to be chosen to mentor this year's student, Michael McFarlane," said West Fraser's market intelligence director, Theresa-Marie McConnachie.

Career Ready is a charity whose aim is to provide school-age students with work experience and a good initial CV. Students are prepared for an internship by undertaking a registration process of form and log-book completion, participation in masterclasses and an interview with the employer.

West Fraser was also given a list of requirements and set up a full programme before Michael joined. "We were determined that

Covid was not going to prevent Michael from getting a real feel for the company and what it's like to work in a large international operation. We devised a full four-week schedule for him so he experienced all departments and aspects of the company, albeit remotely!" said Theresa-Marie.

Michael, a 17 year old high school student, with his sights set on a career in bio-medical engineering, was a little daunted when, first thing on a Monday morning, he was taking part in a Zoom call with five people he had never met before! "The people at West Fraser are all so friendly and welcoming so I really didn't have anything to worry about," said Michael. "Earlier this year I didn't think the placement would go ahead so I was really pleased when it did, and I really appreciate the time and effort everyone at West Fraser put in to making it happen; especially Theresa-Marie and Frances Reekie," he said.

"I had been accustomed to remote learning during the pandemic but the 90-plus Zoom calls

I've taken part in since joining the team has been an experience. It has given me the chance to speak to so many interesting people, not just in the UK but also in Belgium, Denmark and Sweden, and learn what they do and how each part of the operation works. I had no idea that so much goes in to producing a panel of wooden building material!"

The end of the internship was marked by a presentation from Michael on what he has taken away from his time at West Fraser. "I have learnt the importance of good timekeeping, the benefit of teamwork and I feel I've improved my listening skills. I'm quite a sociable person but this internship has given me the opportunity to meet five or six new people every day and I've learnt to listen and interact with them on a deep level. That is something that I will take with me that will benefit my studies and future jobs. I also now have a LinkedIn account and I've had help with my CV too," said Michael.

Clearly Michael has been enjoying his time at West Fraser and he



has certainly made a lasting impression. "As a result of Michael's outstanding behaviour, we were pleased to award him a grant to pursue engineering. The West Fraser grant initiative is designed to help bring more talent into the industry and help young, deserving people pursue their dreams," commented West Fraser HR director, Hazel Smith.

**Career Ready**  
<https://careerready.org.uk/>

**West Fraser**  
 Tel 01786 812921  
<https://UK.westfraser.com>



# West Fraser: reducing carbon emissions

**WEST FRASER** (formerly known as Norbord), believed to be the UK's No. 1 producer of engineered wood panels, is committed to playing a big part in reducing carbon emissions in all its manufacturing processes.

Being carbon neutral just wasn't enough for the company: carbon negative was the goal. Today, West Fraser has been independently audited and verified so that all the portfolios of engineered wood panels have been certified as being net carbon negative. This means that the company locks up more CO<sub>2</sub> in the boards than it emits in making them.

"We are committed to helping UK construction drive down carbon emissions; while also helping our customers comply with net zero targets," explains Andrew Francis, sales director, West Fraser.

West Fraser is a diversified wood products company with more than 60 facilities in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Europe. From responsibly sourced and sustainably managed forest resources, West Fraser produces lumber, engineered wood (OSB, LVL, MDF, plywood, particleboard), and other products including pulp, newsprint, wood chips and renewable energy. West Fraser's products are used in construction, repair and remodelling, industrial applications, papers, tissue and box materials. The company's four European sites and three product ranges sequester a total of 1.1 million tonnes of carbon annually, the company told PW&S.

**West Fraser** ● Tel 01786 812921 ● <https://UK.westfraser.com>



## Kevin Sulca's Ventanilla House wins the 7th Annual SterlingOSB Zero/RIBA J competition

**NOW IN its seventh year, the hugely popular RIBA J/Norbord Europe (now part of West Fraser) competition is designed to encourage architects to push the creative boundaries when considering the use of SterlingOSB Zero. The competition, where the winners enjoy cash prizes, industry acknowledgement and much coverage in media channels, has seen some incredibly innovative creations in its time; each year poses a different challenge which is designed to reflect real-life topics in the architectural world.**

The 2021 challenge, named "Off Grid 2030", saw RIBA J asking entrants to design a family home of no more than 200 m<sup>2</sup> GIA that adheres to RIBA's 2030 Climate Challenge principles. SterlingOSB Zero was to form the mainstay of the material's palette, and designs had to look at the board's capabilities, limitations and intrinsic properties. The home

could accommodate either single or extended families in urban or rural contexts while attempting to meet the demands of the 2030 Climate Challenge, such as minimal operational energy use and water

consumption, non-reliance on fossil fuels, limited waste, and offset residual carbon emissions.

The 2021 winner is Kevin Sulca's Ventanilla House — a modular solution to the unique challenges of

living in Lima, Peru — only narrowly beating Rob Hilton of Hilton Barnfield Architects' Naturehaus to the top spot. Mr Sulca's design was praised for its compactness, scalability and polemical stance against the poor living conditions of Ventanilla's inhabitants, given the district's humidity, precarious housing and lack of green space.

David Connacher, marketing manager of Norbord Europe, praised the way that "it fit the brief in terms of different generations comfortably living in the same house", while RIBA Journal's deputy editor, Jan-Carlos Kucharek, described it as a "simple but tangible, robust proposal". In particular, its provision of housing to people across the social spectrum was commendable.

**West Fraser**  
Tel 01786 812921  
<https://UK.westfraser.com>  
<https://www.ribaj.com/off-grid-2030>



# Covers sponsoring local sports teams

**THE BOGNOR REGIS depot of Covers Timber & Builders Merchants will be sponsoring local football team Pagham FC for the 2021/22 season.**

As part of the sponsorship deal, Covers' logo will be displayed on the main ground entrance and on the home and away dug outs.

Marc Hilton, chairman/club secretary of Pagham FC, stated: "We are thrilled that Covers will be sponsoring Pagham FC for the upcoming season. We have an excellent team who have been training

hard and securing brilliant results, including winning on penalties during the FA Vase second qualifying round. With the help of Covers, we hope to continue to build on our successes."

Sean Clarke, regional director of Covers, added: "We are proud to be sponsoring Pagham FC and supporting them during the 2021/22 season. We wish them the best of luck for their forthcoming matches."

● **COVERS TIMBER & Builders Merchants will be continuing its**



*The Bognor Regis depot of Covers Timber & Builders Merchants will be sponsoring local football team Pagham FC for the 2021/22 season.*



*Covers Timber & Builders Merchants will be continuing its long running sponsorship of rugby club, Worthing RFC.*

**long running sponsorship of rugby club, Worthing RFC.**

As part of the sponsorship agreement, Covers' logo will be displayed on perimeter signage around the club's ground, in the match day programme and across its social media feeds.

Sean Clarke, regional director of Covers, said: "We are delighted to be continuing with our sponsorship of Worthing RFC. It is an excellent club and we have supported them for many years.

We wish them every success for the coming season."

Barry Hall, chairman of finance and commercial manager of Worthing RFC, added: "We really appreciate Covers continuing with the sponsorship of our club. We have had many successes over the years and hope that with Covers' support we will go on to achieve even greater accomplishments."

**Covers Timber and Builders Merchants**

[www.coversmerchants.co.uk](http://www.coversmerchants.co.uk)

# Selco hits the fundraising peak

**MORE THAN 20 colleagues from Selco Builders Warehouse have taken on the mammoth Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge — raising more than £12,000 in the process.**

Colleagues from across the leading builders merchant braved the daunting challenge which is completed over 24 miles with an ascent of more than 1,500 m and over 12 hours. Selco's official charity partner, Global's Make Some Noise — which supports small charities helping disadvantaged people and communities across the UK — will be the beneficiaries of the fundraising.

HR development manager, Simon Ball, who helped arrange the fundraising event, said: "It was a very tough challenge, made all the more difficult by the fact that we took part in the event on a sweltering day.

"There were 22 of us and everyone enjoyed it and got a lot out of the experience. To raise more than £12,000 is a very special feeling and there was a real sense of

pride amongst the group. The most pleasing parts of the day were to raise a great amount of money for such a worthwhile charity as Global's Make Some Noise and to see colleagues from all over the business take part. It was a very inclusive event with people from different stores and different job roles coming together, which was fantastic to see."



The challenge saw the Selco group take on the peaks of Ingleborough, Pen-y-ghent and Wharfedale, which are all part of the Pennine range and circle the head of the valley of the River Ribbles in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 70 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible. As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services.

**Selco**  
[www.selcobw.com](http://www.selcobw.com)

# Hitting the bullseye

**TRADESPeOPLE were looking to hit the target in the name of charity when a leading builders merchant ran a special darts challenge recently.**

Selco Builders Warehouse, official partners of the Professional Darts Corporation, gave their customers and colleagues at all 70 branches the chance to shine on the oche in a special darts charity week.

For an entry fee of £2 — which was all donated to Selco's nominated charity, Global's Make Some Noise — people got the chance to record their highest possible score with six darts.

Prizes ranged from Selco darts shirts and boards, while the highest score in each branch was entered into a special prize draw for

the chance to win one of six pairs of tickets for the World Championship at Alexandra Palace in London in December.

The competition ran from September 13 to 19.

Carine Jessamine, marketing director at Selco Builders Warehouse, said, before the event: "Our partnership with the PDC has really captured the imagination of our customers and colleagues over the last couple of years.

"Our in-branch activity has been restricted over the last 18 months due to the pandemic but we are excited to run this charity week which we are sure will generate plenty of interest, competitiveness and banter amongst customers and colleagues.

"Most importantly, it's the



chance for us to play our part in raising money for Global's Make Some Noise which does fantastic work with some of the most vulnerable sections of society across the UK. We are looking forward to an excellent week of fundraising and darts action in our branches."

Global's Make Some Noise supports small and local charities work-

ing to address the greatest needs of communities across the UK.

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 70 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible.

**Selco**  
[www.selcobw.com](http://www.selcobw.com)

# Covers raising funds for hospices

**COVERS TIMBER & Builders Merchants has donated £30,000 to hospice charities, following the return of its hugely successful fundraising initiative *Help for Hospices*. The money will be divided between twelve charities.**

The charities that have benefited include Demelza Hospice in Sittingbourne, Kent; Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham, Surrey; St Barnabas House in Worthing, West Sussex; Martlets Hospice in Brighton, East Sussex; St Wilfrid's Hospice in Bosham, West Sussex; St Catherine's Hospice in Crawley, West Sussex; St Peter & St James Hospice & Continuing Care Centre in Lewes, East Sussex; The Rowans Hospice in Waterlooville, Hampshire, Mountbatten Hospice in Southampton, Hampshire; Hospice in the Weald in Tunbridge Wells, Kent; and children's hospices, Naomi House and Jackspace in Winchester, Hampshire; and Chestnut Tree House in Arundel, West Sussex.

In addition to Covers donating £5 for each registered customer that made a purchase during the event, staff at Covers' 14 depots, along with volunteers from the hospices, came together to host a Best of British themed 'builders bake off' and bake sale. All proceeds raised from the bake sale went towards the final fundraising amount.

Covers' Help for Hospices has been running since 2015 and the company has now given more than £185,000 to the hospices it supports.

Rupert Green, chairman of Covers, said: "We were thrilled to see the return of our Help for Hospices campaign after it was cancelled last year. Donating to hospices in the communities we operate in is extremely important to us and the principal way we show our support for the vital work they do for patients and their loved ones.

"Thank you to everyone who joined us during the week and helped us to raise funds. We hope



the money will make a real difference to the hospices and the people they care for."

● **AN employee from Covers OTBS in Bexleyheath has completed a 50 km challenge for charity in memory of her partner.**

Zoe Elms, a sales representative at the Orpington timber and builders' merchants, embarked on the Thames Path Challenge alongside her mum, Liz Elms. The pair were raising money for Heart of Kent Hospice, which cared for Zoe's partner, Craig Petch, in his final days before he sadly passed away from cancer.

Despite some difficult moments, Zoe and Liz finished the challenge ahead of their goal finish time, completing the 50 km route in an impressive nine hours and 25 minutes.

Zoe said: "A huge thank you to everyone who has shown their support and for their kind words, messages and donations.

"We have raised a massive £1,030 on JustGiving and, due to Covers' generous funding match, we have increased that total to £2,030 for The Heart of Kent Hospice."

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