

PANEL, WOOD & *Solid Surface*

Issue No. 173/174

October/November 2022

Wood Waste Control extraction system gets royal attention

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The then HRH Prince of Wales met community maker space co-ordinator Jack Lindsey at a visit to Newquay Community Orchard.

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SCM Autostore: the spare parts warehouse that revolutionises the logic behind customer care

SCM PRESENTS Autostore, the new automatic warehouse for spare parts operational since January 2022 and established in the area of the former Fonderia as part of renovation and upgrading work at the industrial plant in Rimini.

A futuristic project as is clear from the figures: 30,000 items handled in a structure covering 900 m² for a height of 5.5 m, over 13 storage levels and with 24,000 modular boxes capable of holding up to 30 kg of pieces each.

The new system allows considerable gains to be made in terms of space occupied, if we consider that the traditional warehouse next door, for larger sized spare parts, contains 4,000 in an area that is more or less the same size.

Above all, it means SCM can provide a more efficient, better-quality service by speeding up by 75 per cent the pick-up operations and reducing dispatch times by 30 per cent. Every day, around 300 shipments are handled containing thousands of components with a maximum lead time of 48 hours from the time the order is placed. All this is possible thanks to 19 robots powered by two 12-volt rechargeable batteries capable of picking up one piece every 45 seconds, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The other important advantage is achieving maximum energy efficiency and a long duration over time, with an energy consumption lower than 0.1 kWh per robot.

"We wanted to take another step forward by choosing the best that logistics management has to offer, a technology that, to date, had not yet been applied to the management of spare parts in the sector for wood technologies," says Luca Maggiani, Service & Parts business development manager at SCM. "Autostore is a system offering typical e-commerce performance, that not only brings spare parts to the operator, but works with top-quality performance and speed. From here, the partnership with Swisslog to devise a solution that fully satisfied our needs."

"Handing over the right spare part in the shortest time possible: this is the technological challenge that drove SCM to put its trust in such an advanced system," adds Alessandra Benedetti, customer care manager at SCM. "This clearly shows how this Group continues to invest to offer valuable services even after a sale. The customer remains at the heart of each of our decisions."

There is improved value even for SCM operators because even if Autostore makes use of 19 robots for the picking operations, the number of resources employed in the Service&Parts team has remained unaltered. "The operators are the same as before, but now they perform handling and control duties that are undoubtedly less tiring or repeti-



tive," adds Mr Maggiani. "We also apply the principles of Smart&Human technological solutions to the spare parts sector that we offer to customers, placing the coordination of each process in the hands of the operator. According to our 'Go digital, stay human' project, it is the people who make the real difference, even in customer services. Indeed, we encourage the re-skilling of our team, promoting all those activities that AI cannot reach."

Suppliers deliver to the reception area where each piece is scanned, recorded, weighed and measured, so that the operator can choose the most suitable box in which to place it. At that point, it is Autostore that indicates in which box the piece needs to be placed, using a ray of light. After additional checks, the box is loaded into the warehouse. The robots only deal with loading and returning the boxes to the operator, but work continuously to optimise the organisation of spaces, arranging the various boxes in the best positions according to the frequency of use of the parts contained therein, determined by precise algorithms. The operator can intervene at any time by questioning the system to establish the exact location of each piece.

Another important advantage is the possibility to store up to 200 orders in a continually updated and stocked database. This makes it simpler to handle all the data surrounding the activity, track each individual element delivered and perform advanced analysis that can be useful for the future, even in terms of prognostic maintenance.

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Timber industry and merchant collaboration is key to West Fraser's success

SANJIT Dosanjh (pictured), West Fraser's (trading as Norbord) national sales manager for the UK & Ireland, examines the relationship between merchants and the timber industry.

"The relationship between the timber industry and the merchant sector has never been stronger. Through effective communication and understanding, we have navigated a turbulent market that, since the start of the pandemic in 2020, has seen supply chain issues and fluctuating prices. This is all at a time when wood is embraced as the low carbon option in building toward a sustainable future.

"Production of OSB (oriented strand board) has been ramped up to fill the gap in the market left by import restrictions on products. In turn, merchants are helping their customers switch to the most appropriate, often locally sourced, sheet materials.

"It is vital that accurate information reaches right through the supply chain. Within the timber industry, there is considerable expertise, so we work closely with our merchant customers and talk to their end users, including housebuilders, to explain what is happening and why. Pricing is a key topic. We watch the markets closely to understand the influencing factors and ensure merchants can make the margins they need, at a price point that is viable for their customers. It is a juggling game with many issues to consider — bark beetle damage, raw material issues, energy prices and chemical costs.

"As the building industry faces rising labour costs and skills shortages, innovation in wood products is increasingly essential. Collaboration with merchants and the customer base is helping manufacturers better understand where new products are needed and enables them to be brought to market.

"For the merchant, it is ultimately about having the right products in stock. As an industry, we can suggest to merchants what they order because we see where the trends are going. We are also able to train their staff so that they ask the right questions of their customers. For example, a customer may be buying an MDF sheet but, if it is to be used in a bathroom, they may need a moisture-resistant product instead of a standard product. It is these little things that help customers and build the merchant's reputation.

"Over the past 12-14 months, we have been doing a lot of training online. We are now increasingly asked by our merchants to train people who have come into the business and want to have the knowledge to sell timber products effectively. We are also aware of merchants with timber specialists and timber specialist branches that help them maximise sales and increase margins. Although price is still a significant factor, we are seeing more and more people wanting to buy sustainable products. For the timber industry sustainability is key, and we are here to help merchants achieve their goals on their carbon zero journey. Equally importantly, we have to enable them to pass the sustainability message on to their customers: the housebuilders and tradespeople.

"Two-way communication between the industry and merchants is essential, be it in sales, marketing, training, or any other aspect of the business. We are happy to have conversations with our merchant customers to help them close timber sales. It is about using data, thinking outside the box and being more consultative."

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



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Makita pushes performance even further with its new BL4080F 40VMax 8.0AH XGT battery

MAKITA has launched its largest capacity battery to date with an impressive 288 watt-hours of energy.

The 8.0 Ah BL4080F offers the longest runtime for its XGT products, meaning less downtime and improved productivity. Especially useful when used on higher drain XGT machines, this new battery pushes performance even harder.

The 40VMax XGT BL4080F 8.0 Ah battery has been designed to be both robust and highly intelligent. Equipped with 20 cells, it has a higher power output that enables Makita's XGT tools to be pushed even harder and perform heavy duty, continuous operation over extended periods.

Thanks to its heavy-duty and durable outer and cell casing, this product has a significantly improved impact resistance. The BL4080F is also IPX4 rated with a water and dust-resistant triple layer structure and an enhanced terminal structure to handle any job site condition.

The battery has been designed with Makita's digital communica-

tion function between the tool, battery and charger to optimise the charging process, reduce charge times and protect the battery from damage. This real-time digital communication actively monitors heat, overload, and over-discharge as well as delivering up to 2x longer sustained power during demanding applications.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: "We are very excited to be releasing this product as our largest capacity battery to date. Offering the longest runtime for our XGT products, this product will considerably improve productivity on site, as users won't need to down tools to recharge batteries as often. Furthermore, despite its capacity, the battery can be charged in just over an hour — at approximately 76 minutes when using the DC40RA charger, which makes it stand out in the market."

"It truly is a gamechanger, and we cannot wait for people to test it for themselves."

Makita
www.makita.com



Selco gives staff £2.5 m boost for cost of living crisis

SELCO Builders Warehouse has unveiled a £2.5 m boost to its staff to help them deal with the ongoing cost of living crisis.

The leading builders merchant, which has 73 branches across the UK, will give 96 per cent of its 3,000-strong workforce a payment of £750 spread over five months.

The scheme will run from November until March, with £150 payments per individual each month, and has been implemented as a direct response to rising energy bills and general inflation.

Howard Luft, chief executive of Selco Builders Warehouse (pictured),

said: "We are living through an unprecedented cost of living crisis and it's placing pressure on household budgets, from energy to food and fuel to mortgages, up and down the country."

"We wanted to do what we could to provide additional support to colleagues who, day-in and day-out, give outstanding commitment, dedication and service to the ongoing growth and success of Selco."

"Everyone in the business, apart from the most senior figures in management, will benefit from these payments which are structured in such a way that they can have a direct impact on the rising monthly bills during the winter months. We are hoping this will help our colleagues through the challenging economic times the country is facing and we will continue to investigate further opportunities to support our people through this period."

Employees working in Selco's 73 branches, as well as its Support Centre in the Midlands and two delivery hubs in London and Birmingham, will all benefit from the payment.

Following successful trials, free breakfasts with locally sourced products will also be available for staff every day across the Selco estate.

In addition to this support package, Selco offers numerous career development opportunities to its staff with several hundred benefitting from apprenticeship programmes, including the introduction of a Driver Academy to offer employees the chance to re-train to become HGV drivers.

Howard added: "Our colleagues are undoubtedly the biggest asset of our business and we will continue to invest in them at every opportunity."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



West Fraser donation helps South Molton bloom with colour

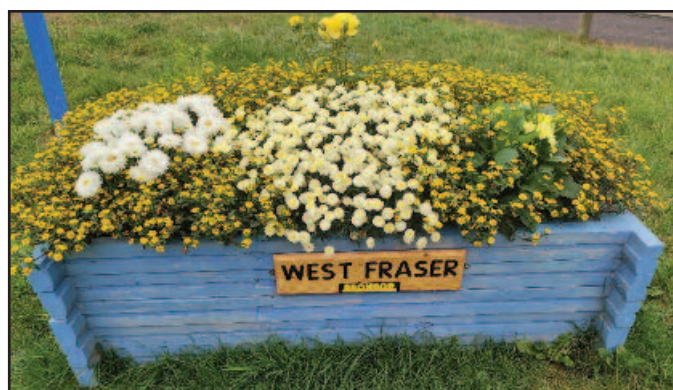
SOUTH MOLTON-based wood panel manufacturer, West Fraser (trading as Norbord), has donated £1,000 to help a community sustainable planting project, designed to sow colourful gardens across the town.

The factory in South Molton donated the funds to the South Molton In Bloom project which has been used to create beautiful flower displays around the local community, including a garden of blue and yellow flowers near the

South Molton Community hospital — cultivated to show solidarity with the country of Ukraine.

The project was founded by the recently retired Sue Harrison, who decided to launch the project during lockdown to work with the community in creating eye catching and vibrant gardens. Each garden is designed sustainably and helps provide wellbeing support for all residents in the area.

On the project and donation, Sue said: "The South Molton In



Bloom project started out as a simple idea I had during lockdown and has grown into a fantastic community effort, which people and businesses alike have been hugely supportive of. It's been fantastic to see so many people from across the area band together to add some wonderful colour to the town with the new gardens.

"I'd also like to thank the generosity of the West Fraser team for their large donation which has helped us to not only create a dedicated garden near the South Molton community hospital, but allows us to extend the project to

Bloomer's Corner in the town centre."

John Maude, general manager at West Fraser's South Molton mill, said: "We are always happy to support great local initiatives in any way we can so we were thrilled to help Sue in her goal to bring together the local community and add some beautiful gardens to the area. The whole town looks fantastic now that all the flowers have bloomed over the summer, so thank you to Sue and everyone involved for their hard work."

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

England's home World Cup quest gets Selco backing

SELCO Builders Warehouse has joined the three England teams preparing for the Rugby League World Cup which kicked off in October 2022.

The fast growing builders merchant has become an official partner of England Rugby League and will see its branding feature on the playing shirts of the Men's, Women's and Wheelchair teams for all matches until the end of 2023.

The agreement, which also includes ticketing benefits and a string of other branding and promotional opportunities for Selco, begins with the sport's biggest tournament which got underway at St James's Park in Newcastle on October 15, when Shaun Wane's England Men took on Samoa.

Carine Jessamine, marketing director at Selco Builders Warehouse, said: "Rugby League as a sport will have a fantastic showcase with the World Cup being held in this country and it's the perfect chance for the England teams to shine. We have seen from other sporting events in recent times how much the country gets behind a national



team in a major tournament and that will be no different with the World Cup. We are delighted to be supporting the England teams and wish them every success for the tournament."

Selco has a proud record of supporting Rugby League and is currently an official partner of the Rugby League World Cup and main partner of Super League team Salford Red Devils.

Mark Foster, the RFL's chief commercial officer, said: "We are delighted to welcome Selco Builders Warehouse to our England teams preparing for the Rugby League World Cup. Selco Builders Warehouse have shown a strong commitment to sponsorship across a variety of grassroots and professional sports. As an ever-expanding national brand with a fantastic reputation for serving tradespeople in the UK, it's a perfect fit for a partner of the RFL. As an organisation, we are delighted to welcome Selco on board as a partner at an incredibly exciting time for the England teams and the sport as a whole."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

Luigi de Vito is the new Eumabois president

THE ANNUAL General Assembly of Eumabois, the European Federation of Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers, was hosted by the Polish association DROMA on 22 & 23 September in Krakow. After six years as president and three years as vice-president, Jürgen Köppel handed over the steering wheel of the European Federation to Luigi De Vito, SCM Group general manager and SCM wood division director, who has been supporting the Federation already as vice president since 2016.

Frederik Meyer (Homag Group) is the new vice president. The Eumabois Board of Directors was also renewed. The new board with Wolfgang Rohner (IMA Schelling), Daniel Bucher (Striebig) and Ismet Toktas (AES Group) can count on a composition at the highest levels in the sector. Outgoing members are Samuel Hänni (Lamello) and Mustafa Sabri Erol (Türk Makine).

Luigi De Vito said in his inaugural speech as the new president: "I want to express my best wishes to the new Board of Directors that will be in office for the next three years-term. My heartfelt thanks go to all the outgoing board members I have worked with and who, in recent years, have contributed to bringing Eumabois to its current levels of quality and influence worldwide.

"Finally, a very special thanks goes to Jürgen Köppel, the years spent together have been fuelled by a strong spirit of collaboration and mutual esteem and I can say that I am very proud of the work done together and of the results achieved."

In his farewell speech, Jürgen Köppel said: "I am very pleased that such top-class representatives of our industry are supporting at European level and are thus driving our common European ideas worldwide. Euro-

pean woodworking machines and tools are setting trends worldwide and this leading position needs to be secured and expanded with the support of our Federation.

"I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in my work, especially I want to thank Luigi De Vito, because in the past six years of working together, he, as a former competitor, has become a strong comrade-in-arms and friend."

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The handover between Jürgen Köppel and Luigi De Vito.

IronmongeryDirect continues to deliver with latest supplier recognition

LEADING specialist supplier IronmongeryDirect, has been recognised as the first Approved Retailer Partner by window security and safety restrictor manufacturer Jackloc. Set up as a partnership scheme to ensure that only the best retailers represent the brand, customers at IronmongeryDirect will benefit from enhanced product knowledge and support on Jackloc's residential and commercial range.

As part of its 'Trusted to Deliver' brand promise to provide trade professionals with a wide range of quality products and exceptional customer service, the specialist ironmongery retailer has worked closely with Jackloc for over ten years to achieve its Approved Retailer Partner status.

The partnership further cements IronmongeryDirect as a reputable and reliable supplier that can provide in-depth knowledge and support to customers

when specifying products from Jackloc's range.

Eric Collins, managing director of Jackloc, said: "We are delighted to recognise IronmongeryDirect as an official Jackloc Approved Retailer. Now trade customers can find the full range of Jackloc products and the support that they need from IronmongeryDirect, with a fully



trained team who understand our product range and offer the best advice to their customers."

Roland Etheridge, category manager of IronmongeryDirect, said: "We are honoured to be recognised as a Jackloc Approved Retailer. We have worked with Jackloc for a number of years because they are simply the best

window restrictors in the marketplace. The quality of the engineering work in each of their products is second to none, and we are proud to offer the safest solution to our customers. We're looking forward to the benefits that our long-standing relationship brings for our customers in the future."

IronmongeryDirect is the UK's largest online supplier of ironmongery to the trade. With over 18,000 products in stock including everything from cabinet hardware to sliding door gear, woodworkers, carpenters and joiners can choose from a range of flexible delivery options to meet the needs of their busy schedules, including free next day delivery on orders over £45 ex VAT, same day delivery to postcodes in selected areas of London and the East of England, as well as click and collect from 6,500 pick up points across the UK.
Ironmongery Direct
www.ironmongerydirect.co.uk

40VMax brushless router trimmer from Makita

MAKITA continues to deliver great power and precision with its new 40VMax XGT brushless router trimmer (RT001G). With a 35% increase in work speed (compared to predecessor model), this tool is a must for woodworkers who demand the highest standards, according to the company.

The new model with a standard trimmer base has been designed to achieve an even greater trimming speed than previous models — up to 35% faster, at 10,000-31,000 rpm.

The RT001G benefits from Makita's innovative Auto-start Wireless System (AWS) which connects the tool to a compatible dust extractor via Bluetooth, keeping dust to a minimum and protecting the user when the machine is in use. Moreover, it is equipped with a number of features to provide precision and prevent the work materials from damage, including soft start function that minimises start-up shock so that the tool starts smoothly; soft brake and variable speed control, to match the cutting speed to the application. Furthermore, constant speed control maintains consistent speed under load.

Other benefits include a flat top for stability, a lock-on function that reduces hand fatigue in long continuous operation, plus Twin LED job lights that illuminate the cutting edge and increase visibility. What's more, the RT001G has been designed to match the needs of multiple projects. For this reason, the trimmer base can be removed quickly to install alternative

base options: plunge, tilt and offset. These are equipped with a precision cutting depth adjustment, a simple and efficient base lock system, as well as a replaceable, non-marring plastic base which protects the tool from scratching and provides a smooth sliding on the work surface.

The offset base offers highly stable trimming, for applications where the offset position is needed, enabling users to cut as close as 18.5 mm to walls or corners.

The ergonomic body grip of the tilt base is easy-to-grasp with one hand and benefits from a tilting capacity of -30° to 45°. Additionally, the enlarged opening section of the base assembly offers excellent visibility.

The plunge base offers a three-stage precision cutting depth adjustment with a plunge capacity of 0-35 mm, as well as an easy-to-operate lever and an optional fine adjusting straight guide.

It also features ergonomically contoured knob style handles for stable control.

Kevin Brannigan, marketing manager at Makita, said: "We are delighted to add the new 40VMax brushless router trimmer to our powerful XGT range. This is a reliable tool that surpasses the capabilities of other models and reflects the many benefits of being both cordless and powered by our impressive XGT battery. And thanks to the different bases, it can be adapted to the needs of the job, helping woodworkers achieve the desired results even faster than before."

Makita ● www.makita.com



Salford Red Devils trio meet fans at Selco's Salford branch

SALFORD Red Devils' fans had the chance to enjoy a pre-play-offs meet and greet in early September with three of the squad members chasing Super League glory.

Shane Wright (pictured), Tim Lafai and Amir Bourouh appeared at the Salford branch of main club partner Selco Builders Warehouse on North Phoebe Street off Regent Road.

The trio were on hand to speak to fans, as well as signing autographs and posing for pictures ahead of the start of Salford's play-off campaign the following weekend. The event at Selco Salford was free for fans to attend.

Speaking before the event, Simon Lee, branch manager at Selco Salford, said: "We can't wait to have the three Salford players in branch and we look forward to welcoming along fans who will be excited about the play-off campaign."

"It's been a special season for the club getting to the play-offs and hopefully there is more excitement still to come."

"The success has really captured the imagination of customers and colleagues alike and it's been a real thrill for everyone at Selco Salford to be the main club partner."

As part of the three-year deal, Selco is the front of shirt sponsor while it also receives advertising benefits and tickets for customers and colleagues.

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 73 branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and efficiently as possible.

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

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Rob Wilsher celebrates 20 years of service at Abode

ABODE, award-winning designer and designer and distributor of market leading kitchen taps, sinks, bathroom taps & showering solutions has always referred to itself as a family and now, its strong values and company culture help to mark a huge company milestone for one of its team.

Now regarded as the longest serving employee at Abode, Robert Wilsher has been with the company since day one and recently, he proudly celebrated his 20th anniversary with a special congratulatory dinner in his honour.

To further acknowledge this fantastic personal achievement, Rob was awarded his own commemorative trophy, which was presented to him by the directors of the business at company headquarters in Yorkshire.

Robert Wilsher in the purple shirt is joined by Peter Phelan, sales director, far left; Tom Sharpe, finance director, holding the longstanding service award; and Matthew Pitt, managing director, far right.

Matthew Pitt comments, "Rob started his career with Abode in September 2002, first beginning in the warehouse before progressing into distribution management and then stock control. Supplying him with a depth of knowledge and expertise following two decades of working with the brand, Rob continues to prove his dedication and loyalty every day and has become a great role model for those already in the company or thinking about joining."

Robert Wilsher, stock controller at Abode says, "For me, the last twenty years has felt less like work and more like a fun journey, which I have been able to learn and grow from along the way.

"Not only am I surrounded by colleagues that I deem as my friends and family, I also get to share how the company and marketplace have dramatically changed over the last twenty years and with that, how Abode has continued to influence and helped to define the latest designs technologies for the UK kitchen and bathroom."

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Inaugural graduate scheme at Warringtonfire

WARRINGTON, a global leader in fire testing, inspection and certification, has welcomed four new engineers as part of its inaugural graduate recruitment scheme.

The company, which is part of Element Materials Technology, launched the scheme to help future proof the fire safety industry and coincides with the 50th anniversary of the first commercial fire test at its fire testing laboratory in High Wycombe.

The extensive history and experience of Warringtonfire's multiple laboratories enable the company to provide graduates with the support and knowledge needed to make valuable contributions to the fire safety industry going forward.

Amman Ahmed, Evandro Valente, Shannon Muir and Susie Hall joined Warringtonfire as graduate engineers in September 2022. The two-year structured trained programme will see the four new recruits join Element's team of over 7,000 scientists, engineers and technologists working across a network of over 200 laboratories worldwide.

It is the first time Warringtonfire has formalised its approach to graduate recruitment, with the scheme receiving over 200 applications for just four places from recent graduates with a minimum of 2:1 degree classification in a STEM subject.

The scheme comprises four rotations through key areas of the business: Reaction to Fire Testing, Fire Resistance Testing, Technical Assess-



ments and Quality. And additional three-week 'flexible placement' to focus on a selected topic will complete the programme. As well as a thorough schedule of internal training, the new graduate engineers will also undertake external IFE Level 1, 2 and 3 qualifications throughout the two-year cycle. As a testament to the company's commitment, each graduate engineer is guaranteed a full-time role within Warringtonfire following their completion of the scheme.

Mark Cummings, technical director — Built Environment at Warringtonfire comments: "Talent identification and retention are fundamental to the success of any

organisation and Warringtonfire is very proud of its record of developing world class fire safety professionals. Many leaders and senior stakeholders within the business have spent the majority of their careers within the organisation. However, given the pace and scale of product development within the construction industry, fostering the next generation of engineering talent is more important than ever.

"After a highly competitive application process, which saw over 200 graduates apply for just four places, we are delighted to have welcomed Amman, Evandro, Shannon and Susie into Warringtonfire. We hope the 2022 cohort is the first of many to undertake this programme, all of whom will be playing their part in helping us make tomorrow safer than today."

Warringtonfire ● www.warringtonfire.com

BSW sponsored event raises industry profile as family traditions continue at Carve Carrbridge

SAM BOWSHER followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a multiple winner of Carve Carrbridge, the BSW-sponsored Scottish Open Chainsaw Carving Competition.

Sam has been attending the competition since the age of six and his 'Otterly Delightful' chainsaw-crafted creation saw him retain the title he won virtually in 2020. This makes it 10 titles for the Bowsher family, with Sam's dad Pete Bowsher, an area timber buyer at Tilhill — a member of the BSW Group — having previously won eight gold and two silver medals. In all the years Carve Carrbridge has been held, Pete has carved at every one, except for when he missed out due to a detached retina.

Pete said: "I would like to think that I have been a part of the event's growth, from six carvers on the football pitch to a very highly respected world class chainsaw carving event, which attracts carvers from around the world. The four-hour chainsaw only competition attracts around 4,000 spectators during the day, and I'm still amazed at what can be accomplished in such a short amount of time.

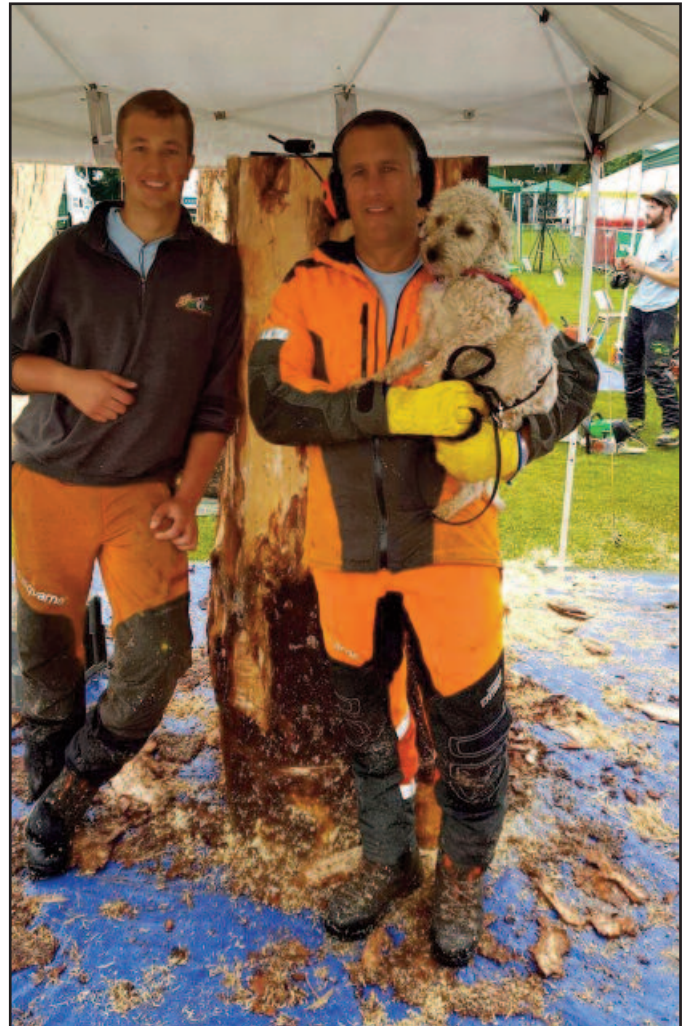
"Carve Carrbridge would not be possible without the help and support of volunteers and sponsors, and BSW's supply of suitable carving logs is essential and very much appreciated."

Sam, who has been attending and watching the event alongside his dad for years, explained: "I now find the event even better being able to compete, but winning this year really is the icing on the cake."

BSW Group's sponsorship came through the donation of Sitka Spruce logs from its Fort William sawmill, while Dave Mills, mill manager at BSW



Sam Bowsher claimed top honours at Carve Carrbridge 2022. Credit: Jamie Ross.



Sam has followed in his father Pete's footsteps in winning the competition with his 'Otterly Delightful' creation. Credit: Jamie Ross.

Timber, judged the event and presented awards to the winners at the Cairngorms National Park.

He said: "Having been a regular supporter of the Scottish Chainsaw Carving Championships, I was honoured and privileged to be part of the judging panel and present the prizes for the 2022 event.

"The weather was mercifully dry and once again the standard of the carving was just outstanding.

"Every year that I've been involved in judging this competition, we all seem to find it harder and harder to separate the top contenders as the standard just keeps on improving. This year Sam Bowsher's 'Otterly Delightful' was a classic example of how the standard of carving just seems to be getting better and better."

Dave said that seeing the evolution of the designs through the four-hour crafting window is fantastic to watch and he highlighted the importance of the event in raising the industry's profile. He added: "Aside from the creative reward from supporting this great event, it's also great to raise the awareness of the forest industry and how much it contributes to our local communities in the North Highlands.

"As a timber professional for over 35 years it is great to demonstrate that, as an industry, we provide jobs that build communities and sustainable futures, whether that is in the forest, the sawmill, the haulage sector or indeed the supply end to customers and builders."

BSW Group ● www.thebswgroup.co.uk

Timber professionals return to their roots to grow the market for sustainable wood use in construction



Ben Sharples



Dr Keerthi Ranasinghe



Dr Andrew Pitman

TIMBER expert, Dr Andrew Pitman, recently returned to global testing, certification and inspection specialist, BM TRADA, as its principal technical consultant.

Having spent six years in alternative roles including a start-up manufacturer of resin-modified wood and a construction engineering company, Andrew recently re-joined the business in August 2022. His return to BM TRADA is driven by his passion for the sustainable use of wood products and interest in protection and performance of timber in service.

Andrew, whose new role involves responsibility for disputes relating to timber product performance, said: "I'm thrilled to return to BM TRADA, particularly as my colleagues imparted so much of their expertise during my previous tenure. Over the next 12 months, I'm looking forward to applying my experience of investigating performance of timbers in service. I'm also keen to build on my knowledge of timber coatings while supporting industry peers through timber training."

Andrew spent 11 years in academia in the field of timber technology before developing his expertise as a timber conservation consultant. He then worked as a technical consultant for BM TRADA between 2007 and 2015. Throughout his career he has had stints on several technical committees relating to protection of wood, is a Fellow of the Institute of Materials (IOM3), member of the International Research Group Wood Protection (IRG-WP), and was previously President of the Wood Technology Society.

"The days of plentiful virgin growth logs from which large, long, near-perfect structural timbers could be cut are long gone," Andrew said. "What adds fuel to the fire is the ever-changing regulatory landscape. For this reason, the approach to timber construction requires adjustment. It's crucial to understand the impacts on trade and end-use of timber which is why this role is so exciting for me."

Andrew's return comes after Dr Keerthi Ranasinghe and Ben Sharples

made the same choice to re-join the business in 2021, both of whom were previously long-standing members of the timber division.

Keerthi worked for BM TRADA from 2008 to 2017 as an in-house structural timber engineering expert, and was responsible for the highly successful timber engineering publication: *Eurocode 5 Span Tables 4th edition for solid timber members in floors, ceilings and roofs for dwellings*. When he returned to academia as senior lecturer & programme director for the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's civil engineering programme in 2017, he remained a member of BM TRADA's Advisory Committee, continuing to consult and write on behalf of the timber team.

Commenting on his full-time return to BM TRADA's timber team in 2021, Keerthi, principal engineer — structural timber said: "The variety of the projects that BM TRADA's timber experts are asked to engage in makes this a fascinating place to work for a curious mind. I look forward to applying my teaching within a professional setting, helping suppliers and manufacturers to develop their understanding of the essential requirements relevant to their products."

Having left BM TRADA in 2019 after six and a half years as a timber technical consultant and gaining two years' experience managing housing projects for leading developers, Ben Sharples also returned in 2021. Since then, Ben has been the commercial lead for the timber services division.

"Having worked for several years in the construction industry, I was completely new to timber technology when I first joined BM TRADA. I cannot thank my supportive team enough for their part in my professional development," Ben said. "It's been a pleasure to re-join and work alongside this team of timber experts. We have a long-term focus on optimising the services that we offer as well as developing and growing in other areas that tie in with the level of expertise that we have."

BM TRADA ● www.bmtrada.com/timber-services

New appointments at The Pallet LOOP

THE PALLET LOOP team is growing ahead of the roll out of its circular economy, reusable green pallets in early 2023. As The Pallet LOOP ramps up its dialogue with stakeholders across the construction industry, the business has made two strategic appointments. Deb Dillon-Foster has been appointed head of customer engagement and Amy Fernandes has joined the business as agile delivery lead.

Previously a senior sales manager at Scott Group, Deb Dillon-Foster will be responsible for transitioning customers at the top of the building materials supply chain to The Pallet LOOP. With more than 25 years' experience in the pallet industry, Deb knows the sector inside out and has relationships in place with key building material manufacturers nationwide. Before joining Scott Group, Deb was manager of sales and service at CHEP, believed to be the largest global pallet pooling company and the operator of a blue pallets used within the retail sector. Deb also worked for a number of years at RM2 International — a US-based company that has a pool of composite pallets employed by retailers and manufacturers in North America.

Amy Fernandes joins The Pallet LOOP from University College London (UCL) where she was agile delivery manager for the research data product team in the information services division. At UCL Amy was responsible for the delivery of new services as well as improvements and maintenance to current services within the product team, including JIRA, financial, resource and process management. Before UCL, Amy was a project manager at Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust. At The Pallet Loop, Amy will champion agile working practices and embed processes and procedures that will underpin the business as it works to solve the costly problem of pallet waste in the construction sector.

Phil Dent, CEO of The Pallet LOOP, said: "Deb and Amy join The Pallet LOOP at a pivotal point. The last few months we've focused on face-to-face engagement with manufacturers, merchants and end users throughout the building materials supply chain. With help from the Builders Merchants Federation, we've hosted a series of working group meetings



with different stakeholders to discuss the practicalities of implementing The Pallet LOOP. That dialogue is progressing well with several end-to-end trials now underway. We've also had excellent feedback from principal contractors and housebuilders, which are currently responsible for the disposal of pallets. They are incredibly keen for LOOP to roll out and many have, in readiness, started using our LOOPBack service to collect single use white pallets. As our conversations continue and as full scale roll out draws near, Amy and Deb's roles will be invaluable."

Shifting the construction sector away from the linear practice of 'deliver, distribute and discard' to 'recover, repair and reuse', The Pallet LOOP is on mission to eliminate avoidable pallet waste from the building materials supply chain. To collect its pallets and ensure reuse is achieved time and time again, The Pallet LOOP operates a dedicated recovery infrastructure and a comprehensive network of collection hubs nationwide, which is enabled through its partnership with the Scott Group.

The Pallet LOOP is targeting roll out of its distinctive green, circular economy pallets during Q1 2023.

The Pallet LOOP
www.thepalletloop.com

Deb Dillon-Foster



Amy Fernandes



Leeds College of Building: supporting students

THE fifth annual Colleges Week, a national celebration of further education providers, was held in October.

As this year's awareness campaign centred on the theme of 'Staff, Students and Skills', Leeds College of Building focused on student support to help counter the devastating effects of the cost-of-living crisis. Leeds College of Building is the only specialist general further education construction college in the UK. It teaches around 5,500 students across more than 200 courses related to construction and the built environment, a sector in need of talent to fill significant skills gaps in the industry.

The College trains nearly 2,800 apprentices across diverse subject areas with the support of over 600 employer partners across the UK. More students than ever before are benefitting from apprenticeships and the ability to 'earn while you learn' during this difficult financial period. The College offered student support and guidance during Colleges Week at the 'Next Gen Choices Fair' at the Centenary Pavilion at Elland Road in Leeds. Taking place on 18 October, Leeds College of Building was represented alongside education providers from across the region.

Over 1,200 pupils were booked to attend the careers event during the day. Live demos took place throughout the event, and Leeds College of Building staff were available to help with any course or support queries.

The first Leeds College of Building Open Event of the academic year also took place in October. Students were able to tour workshops for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alongside finding out about the varied and exciting careers in construction and the built environment, attendees were able to speak to a team of dedicated support staff. The College offers personal guidance, welfare and safeguarding advice, financial and transport support, and



progression and employer engagement activities to ensure each student reaches their potential.

Financial support from the College can include half-fare bus passes, bursaries and access to the Learner Support Fund, free meals, help with applying to trust and charity grants, Advanced Learner Loans, Tuition Fee Loans, Maintenance Loans for Living Costs, and discounts from local suppliers for stationery, protective clothing and drawing equipment.

Nikki Davis, principal & CEO of Leeds Building College, said: "For this year's Colleges Week, Leeds College of Building is focusing on ways in which it can support students during the cost-of-living crisis. We understand that times are incredibly tough for many families.

"Our staff are available to talk to students, parents and carers about construction courses that offer great prospects and employment opportunities, as well as the ways in which we can give financial support to help make life a little easier."

At the events, students were able to learn about the College's latest

vocational qualification: the Design, Surveying & Planning for Construction T level. A 45 day industry placement opens opportunities for the brightest talent entering the market and offers excellent progression and employment opportunities.

The College's University Centre offers higher-level qualifications including HNCs, HNDs, and even a BSc (Hons) Civil Engineering Site Management Degree Apprenticeship.

Students studying these higher level and professional qualifications can progress onto well-paid jobs in respected professions such as Transport Planning, Quantity Surveying, and Civil Engineering without amassing the debt typically associated with higher education.

Leeds College of Building
www.lcb.ac.uk



BSW Group continues drive to educate and inspire industry

THE UK'S largest integrated timber and forestry business, BSW Group, is gearing up for a busy end to 2022, with its commitment to supporting STEM development continuing as students returned to school.

Throughout the 2021-22 academic year, BSW Group members BSW Timber and Tilhill, along with associated partners, hosted secondary school students at sites across England, Scotland and Wales to enhance their understanding of the timber industry, with an emphasis on attracting young talent to the sector in the coming years.

Tony Lockey, BSW Group Learning and Development Manager, stressed the importance of engaging with young people as they prepare to make decisions that could shape their future careers. He said: "What we offer at BSW is a fully rounded training package for our apprentices, not just study in the classroom but hands on experience with a range of jobs and opportunities. We build our teams through robust succession plans and choose the right individuals to take our business onwards."

BSW Timber and Tilhill have worked closely with the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCID) and Young Engineers and Science Clubs (YESC) to deliver industry insights through the last 12 months. In April, 50 young people from primary and secondary schools descended on Aberdeen Science Centre for a Regional Celebration of STEM in partnership with BP and Shell UK Limited, and a further 90 students attended Dundee Science Centre for a Celebration of Engineering.

In Carmarthenshire, students from Rhayader Primary School at DCWW Elan Valley visited a Tilhill client, Foresight Sustainable Forest Company, to plant trees of their own. A workshop on biodiversity and conservation was delivered before silver birch and sessile oak trees were planted, while Long Mead Community Primary School in Tonbridge also planted 60 mixed broadleaf trees with the help of Kent Tree and Pond Partnership, and Trench Ward Community Tonbridge.

Youngsters in Scotland were given an insight into how the timber industry can positively impact the environment, while also being given the opportunity to visit a



Tilhill harvesting site at Bainloch and the BSW timber sawmill in Dalbeattie. The students were studying land management and forestry as part of their new Rural Skills course and were hosted for the day by Tilhill and BSW Timber.

Harvesting manager Iain McMurtrie and Tilhill colleagues were able to give students an insight into the planning and preparation that goes into managing a working forest, and how harvesting can be carried out safely and effectively. There was time to get a close-up look at the modern machinery involved in this work and to talk to the team who were on site. Students

were also shown how decisions are made about replanting. At BSW Dalbeattie the group found out more about the high-tech sawmilling operation and how a tree is processed into sawn timber products.

"These chances to get out of the classroom and to see the real world — to meet people doing real jobs — are vital for our young people today," commented Helen Patterson, trip leader from Dalbeattie High School. "Several of the young people have commented to me that they can really imagine themselves doing jobs like these in the future now they've seen them close up."

Over the last year, Tilhill has also been working with Moray Council and Lhanbryde Primary School in North East Scotland to fell and restock a small wood in the school grounds. It was a project that proved challenging operationally, but it was a hit with the children.

Senior Forest Manager Phil Whitfield said: "We spent a lot of time talking about safety around work sites, but there was also a lot of interest in helping us with the replanting."

Tony Lockey, of BSW Group, added: "A recent promotion saw several new Tilhill graduates sign up for STEM Ambassador status. This is a fantastic way to promote our business to a wide range of individuals and inspire future timber and forestry workers.

"This often promotes the roles that are available through site visits and demonstrations, bringing young people face to face with exciting new opportunities that many had never thought they would explore."

BSW Group
www.thebswgroup.co.uk



Abode appoints two area sales managers to further support its retailers

ABODE, award-winning designer and distributor of market leading kitchen taps, sinks, bathroom taps and showering solutions, is delighted to welcome Annette Wensley and Victoria Hatton as its newly appointed area sales managers. Annette will operate in London and the South East of England, and Victoria's territory will cover the North of England and Scotland.

Annette has a wealth of experience within the brassware and bathroom manufacturing industry with previous roles at British tap manufacturer, Samuel Heath, luxury hardware and wiring accessories manufacturer, M. Marcus Ltd, along with positions at Swadling Brassware and Hurlingham.

Extremely well-versed in the world of interiors with a passion for quality product design and innovation, Annette will also make use of her time within estate agency, providing her with a profound insight into the UK property market.

Victoria joins Abode with a strong commercial background in showroom sales and bathroom design from her time at City Plumbing in Leeds, following senior account management roles within the digital marketing sector.

Highly organised and tenacious, Victoria rose to the challenge of opening a new showroom and trade counter during lockdown and is looking forward to deepening her brassware, heating and plumbing knowledge at Abode.

As area sales managers, both Annette and Victoria will be responsible for maintaining current sales programmes within the business, whilst proactively seeking new opportunities to maximise sales and increase dialogue between the brand, and new and existing customers across the UK.

Annette Wensley says, "I am thrilled to become part of the Abode family, proudly representing the brand and its comprehensive product range for the kitchen and bathroom. For me, the emerging sustainability trends provide a really exciting proposition for the UK home, and so it feels good to now be in a position to cater to this rising demand and also educate our customers on the benefits of more specialist taps like our water filtration and steaming hot water solutions too."

Victoria Hatton says, "I am excited to step into my new sales role for such an innovative and progressive brand, which continues to push the boundaries of product design and leading customer service. The ability to connect with people and find the best possible solutions for their needs is what drives me in business, so I look forward to offering a portfolio of products to my customers in the North and throughout Scotland."

Peter Phelan, sales director at Abode, says, "I believe that as a business, we provide a unique offer for professionals in the KBB industry wanting to advance their career, as we are 100% committed to elevating the prestige of kitchen and bathroom brassware in the UK and globally. I am therefore

really pleased to welcome Annette and Victoria to the company and look forward to seeing them build on their sales territories moving forward."

Leanne Adamson, marketing manager at Abode, adds, "We are dedicated to bringing the UK homeowner high quality sink and tap designs with distinct features, special finishes and the latest technology, and so it gives us great pleasure to expand the sales team and have both Annette and Victoria become our latest members to join our growing work-family."

Abode celebrates its 20 year business anniversary in 2022, having first launched the brand with a range of premium kitchen taps in 2002. Its range of Aquifier filtered water taps was introduced in 2004, and patented Switch filter water device in 2007, which marks 15 years since first release. In 2008, the company expanded into bathroom brassware and showers and kitchen sinks in 2010, before debuting its award-winning hot tap range Pronteau in 2016.

Abode
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Victoria Hatton



Annette Wensley

Surface Design Show announces its 2023 theme of 'Shaping Communities'

SURFACE Design Show has announced the theme of its 2023 edition: 'Shaping Communities'; with an ambition to improve the surroundings for all, through collaboration and meaningful design solutions.

Surface Design Show once again takes place at London's Business Design Centre from 7-9 February 2023 allowing architects, designers and specifiers to discover the best in material design for the built environment.

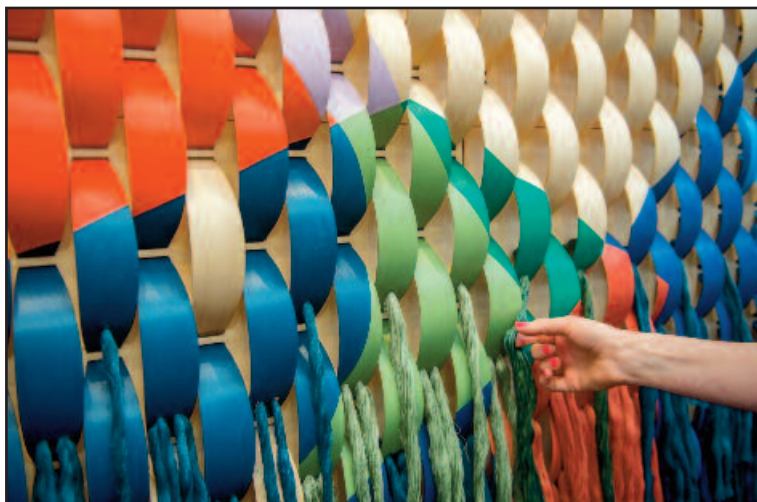
The theme explores an open dialogue amongst industries and brands with the common goal of building stronger relationships between people and places. Where we live and the places in which we spend our time play a huge part in shaping who we are as people. The role our built environment plays within society should inspire new conversations where human experience and a community's identity are paramount.

Says Surface Design Show director Christopher Newton, "We are seeing rapid change and progress in the design world, with digital platforms showcasing the real power of teamwork. And so, rather than working in isolation we are fully realising the potential of bridging the gap across industries to create long-lasting values that reflect how we want to work, live and communicate within that space."

Surface Design Show will highlight how fundamentally important design decisions truly are, not simply for creating aesthetic pleasing areas, but for understanding how our surroundings hold the ability to evoke emotional responses, uncovering how a space can enhance your productivity and mental wellbeing.

Not only will the Show explore the importance of how buildings can affect our mental wellbeing, but naturally it will also turn a focus to the wellbeing of our planet. As much as places need to have a positive impact on people, how buildings affect the environment must also be considered with sustainable practice being imperative to both design and outcomes.

The Main Stage located on the mezzanine level of the show



will play host to over 40 speakers during the two and a half days of the Show. Several sessions including Tuesday evening's Opening Night Debate will focus on the topic of Shaping Communities. The full programme will be announced in November.

Located at the heart of the show and a recurring highlight of the exhibition, Surface Spotlight Live features innovative and tactile material for visitors to touch and feel, providing a hands-on experience for architects and designers. Curated by trend and colour expert Sally Angharad, Surface Spotlight Live explores the narratives underpinning aesthetic choice, material selection and design ethos.

The 2023 selection for Surface Spotlight Live highlights the importance of community and will encourage new exchanges between surfaces as well as industry sectors.

The theme of 'Shaping Communities' will unite the various elements of the Show, building on the event's previous successes and being expected to make 2023 its most successful edition yet.

Surface Design Show
www surfacedesignshow.com

SCM celebrates 70 years of innovation for the woodworking industry at Xylexpo

SCM ONCE AGAIN took centre stage at Xylexpo 2022, held from 12 to 15 October in conjunction with Bi.Mu.

The trade fair was a special opportunity for the Group from Rimini to celebrate its 70th anniversary with customers, dealers and media partners. SCM's first woodworking machine, L'Invincibile, dates back to 1952 and from there, the beginning of a long history of international successes that continue to this day, with 750 million Euro in turnover, over 4,000 employees and a range of products and services believed to be globally unique to meet all the production demands for wood machining.

With an innovative, multimedia stand of over 2,000 m² in Pavilion 22, the Group presented its vision of the digital, connected and inte-

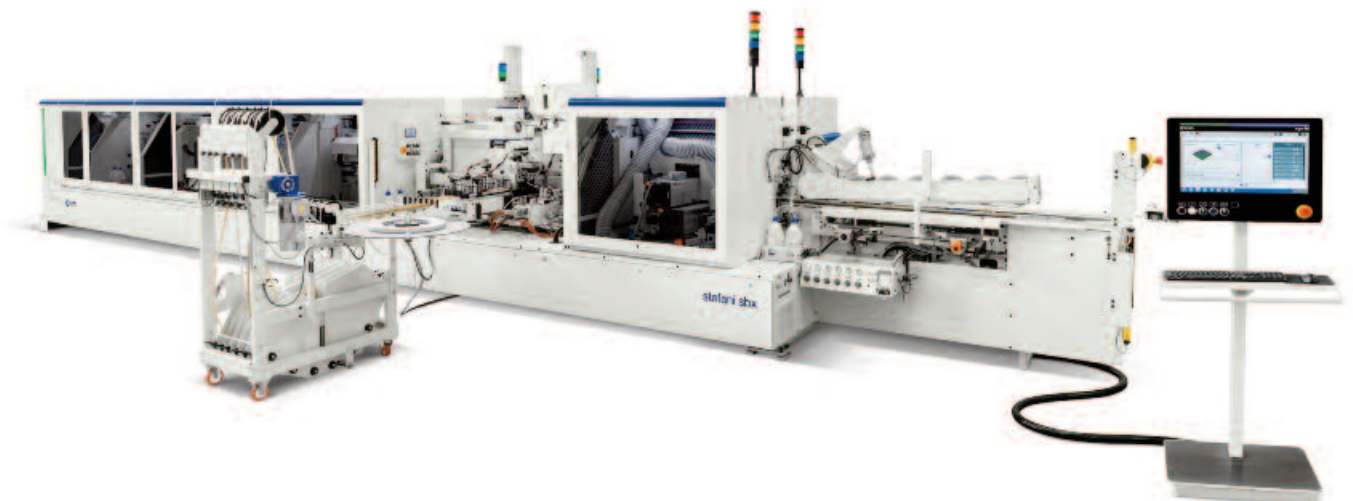


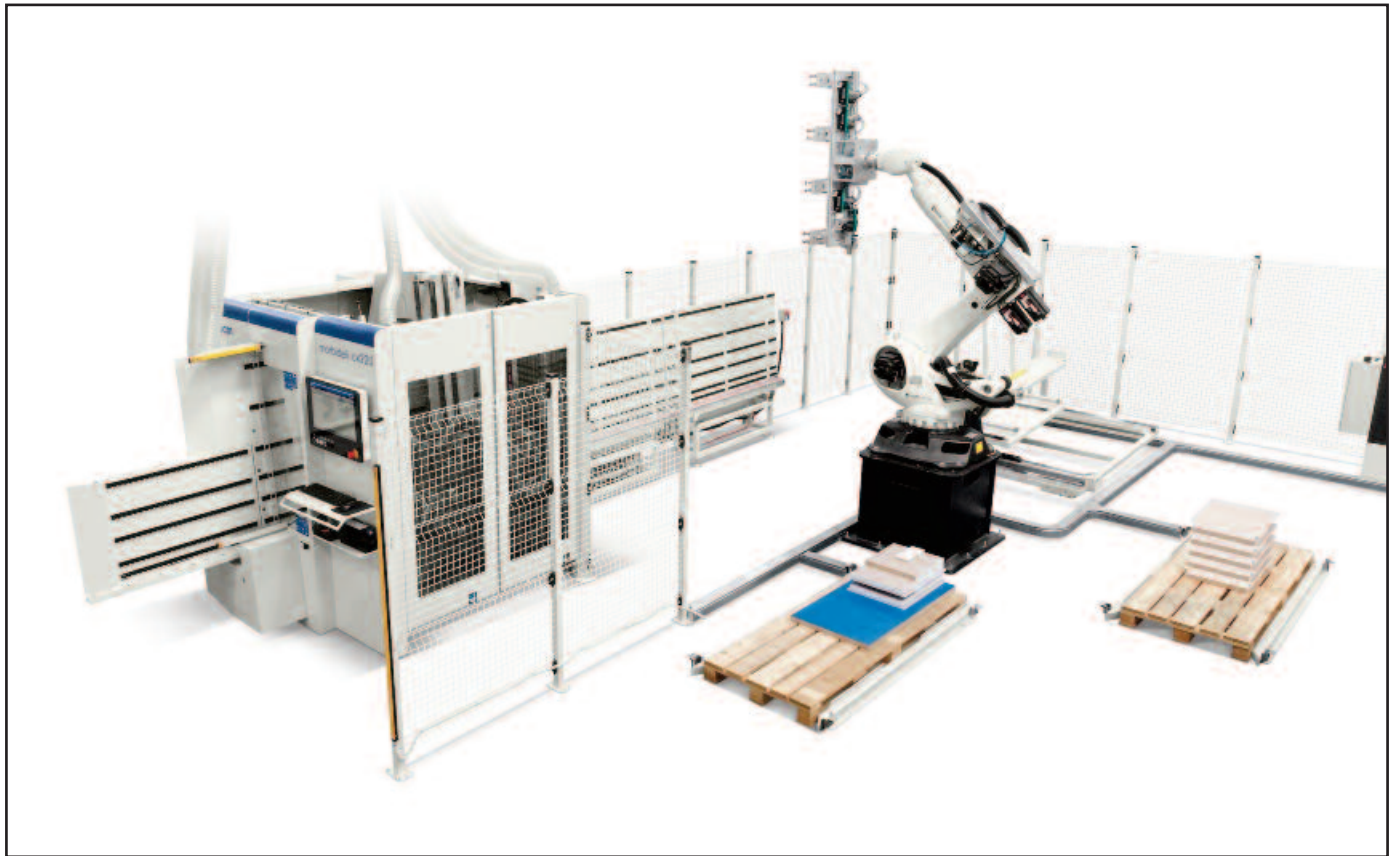
grated factory, designed to accompany all the businesses and fields of application in the sector: from artisans to large industries; from furniture to windows and doors and from woodworking to timber construction.

Integration was one of the key concepts that drove the experience of visitors at SCM's stand. The Smart&Human Factory model already successfully applied by global manufacturing leaders, presented different innovations aimed at making customer processes even more efficient and sustainable and was re-proposed in two specific versions for industry and artisan.

In both cases, SCM proposed integrated automated flexible cell systems that are modular and easily reconfigurable, capable of meeting all the Industry 4.0's demands.

Cells that combine the advantages of SCM technologies in terms of solidity, efficiency and reliability, with world class manufacturing digital products and services: MES systems to manage and control production; line and cell supervisory software to monitor the state of each of the products being machined





throughout the entire process; IoT systems and apps to gather and analyse data from machines, for complete control and implementation of intelligent and prognostic maintenance models. Without forgetting the robotic and automation systems integrated into the machines, these too are flexible and modular, for use in large industries.

Also integrated is the digital transformation vision that visitors at Xylexpo had a chance to see for themselves in the SCM Digital Integrated Woodworking Process. Here, technologies, software and services integrate at each of the stages — preparation of data, planning, production, monitoring and assistance — to increase productivity and connect the entire process from the office to the factory.

There are a lot of new entries in process software, at different stages of woodworking. Considerable interest is also expected for easyFlow, SCM's new MES plug&play that is simple, scalable and available even to artisan businesses, and Thundercut, the cutting optimiser-sequencer that brings the potential of a circular saw closer to the most powerful industrial panel saws.



In the same area, there was the opportunity to get a more in-depth explanation from SCM's experts on the increasingly customer-centred digital services that support the customer from pre to after sales: the new My SCM portal that grants access to a vast range of technical support services anytime, anywhere, even via smartphone; the new integrated E-shop for the online sale of machines, spare parts, software and services; the IoT Maestro connect platform perfectly integrated to the 'Woodworking made lzy' project that sees the most important machinery manufacturers committed to offering a common language for their technologies, as part of a complete integration of the customer's machines.

'Made in SCM' innovation encompassed the entire range of solutions on show for the industry: sizing, nesting, edgebanding, drilling, assembly and packaging as part of panel machining; integrated SCM surface technologies for sanding, pressing and painting to meet all the demands for surface treatment with exclusive, state-of-the-art finishing results; technologies for windows and doors and solid wood machining; squaring, including the latest for click furniture; systems for timber construction and 4.0 woodworking.

Equally innovative was the presentation method of the various new entries with 7.5 x 3 m LED wall, multimedia and interactive systems, video cameras and 3D flow animations ready to let visitors enjoy a real-time experience on each production process. As well as the daily demo and interviews with SCM professionals in the 'SCM News' feature, there was no lack of remote connections with SCM's Technology Centre to present the new entries on show at the trade fair and take a closer look at them.

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



IronmongeryDirect and ElectricalDirect raise £10,000 for Beacon Hill Academy

ESSEX based trade suppliers, IronmongeryDirect and ElectricalDirect, have proudly donated £10,000 to a local school, Beacon Hill Academy. Employees from the leading retailer have undertaken a number of initiatives to raise funds for the community academy.

Beacon Hill is a special academy based in Thurrock for students between the ages of 2 to 19 who have severe and complex learning difficulties. Described by Ofsted as “an inspirational learning community”, IronmongeryDirect and ElectricalDirect selected Beacon Hill as part of its mission to help and support local causes and charities.

By organising various activities and events, the company was able to raise as £10,000 for the academy and Steve MacPherson, head of the WOW Team at the company, presented Beacon Hill with a cheque during October. The WOW Team is a group of employees from each department who work together to organise company events, charity events and represent all employees across the business.

As part of its efforts, the team took part in bake-offs and cake bakes, as well as a Christmas raffle to win prizes donated from the company’s suppliers which raised over £4,000 towards the funds. Additionally, the company organised a sponsored cycle, where nine energetic employees cycled a total distance of 152 miles, raising £1,200.

Steve MacPherson, head of the WOW Team at IronmongeryDirect and ElectricalDirect, said: “A huge part of our culture is giving back to the community and supporting worthwhile causes where we can.

“We are pleased that the money we raised will help Bea-

con Hill Academy continue its excellent work and provide pupils with the new sensory room they will all be able to enjoy full use of.”

Amanda Bradley from Beacon Hill Academy said: “We are very grateful to the staff at IronmongeryDirect and ElectricalDirect for their support in raising this fantastic sum for us. The donation has enabled us to create a voice activated sensory room, which is due to be completed at the end of this year and will include, to name but a few, a sound & light floor, LED light sources, a bubble tube and even a heated waterbed. This sensory room will make a huge difference to the students we help, and in particular those with visual impairment. We are very excited for the students to be able to start using this wonderful new space.”

IronmongeryDirect has been supplying architectural ironmongery for over 50 years and has the UK’s largest range with over 18,000 products in stock. ElectricalDirect has over 12,000 electrical products available, with both companies offering a wide choice of flexible delivery options for anyone looking to renovate or embark on a new project.

Customers can choose free next day delivery on orders over £45 ex VAT, same-day delivery to postcodes in selected areas of London and the East of England, as well as click and collect from 6,500 pick up points across the UK.

Beacon Hill Academy

www.beaconhill.thurrock.sch.uk

ElectricalDirect ● www.ElectricalDirect.co.uk

Ironmongery Direct ● www.IronmongeryDirect.co.uk



Bury veterans charity scoops bee project boost

A BURY veterans charity is buzzing with excitement after winning building materials to help develop its beekeeping area.

Bury Veterans Hub has won £500 worth of materials from Selco Builders Warehouse through the builders merchant's newly-launched Community Heroes campaign. And it could get better yet for the charity, which will go forward to a public vote later in the year with £5,000 up for grabs for the winner.

Bury Veterans Hub helps veterans with PTSD, debt, addictions, isolation, budgeting and housing. The charity is creating a beehive and training some of its members as beekeepers.

Shirley Simmons (pictured), founder of Bury Veterans Hub, said: "We're thrilled to win these materials from Selco, it's a tremendous boost. We use different therapy projects to help our members focus on things they are interested in and enjoy. We are developing an apiary which we hope will encourage some of our members out of isolation, which is a very common problem in veterans once they leave service. Once the apiary is complete, which we'll be able to do with these materials from Selco, we will purchase two queens to develop their own colonies."

Shirley said the charity plans to sell its own honey as well as providing informative talks about bees for the wider community. There are also plans to create a wildflower area and a wildlife pond.

"Once complete, we will then raise awareness of the community gar-



den within the local residents and organise barbecues to decrease isolation amongst the wider population," said Shirley.

Selco, which has four branches in Manchester including one in Salford on North Phoebe Street, is awarding two £500 prizes each month throughout the six-month Community Heroes campaign.

All 12 winners will be entered into the final public vote for the £5,000 jackpot, or the £1,000 runner-up prize.

The scheme is open to any charity or group which is at the heart of its local community and entry

can be made by explaining in no more than 100 words how they would use the building materials or money to benefit them.

Carine Jessamine, Selco marketing director, said: "We're delighted to support Bury Veterans Hub as one of our first winners of this year's Community Heroes contest. They do tremendous work with veterans in the area and help them make the difficult step back into civilian life after serving our country. So many organisations do sterling work in their communities and we look forward to supporting many more through Community Heroes in the months to come."

The first two overall winners of the competition, previously called Selco Stars, have been Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice and Helping Homeless Veterans.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com

<https://www.selcobw.com/info/selco-community-heroes>

Croydon firefighters see wellbeing garden plans blossom

FIREFIGHTERS in Croydon will be able to relax and reflect in a new wellbeing garden — thanks to a local builders merchant.

Selco Builders Warehouse's South Croydon branch has donated more than £750 worth of building materials so firefighters can build the garden at Croydon Fire Station.

The new-look garden will include benches, plants and eating areas to support the mental health of staff who have to deal with traumatic incidents. Research by Mind found that 87 per cent of emergency services

staff and volunteers have experienced stress and poor mental health during their work.

Oliver Young, leading firefighter on Croydon Green Watch, said: "We're so grateful to Selco for their backing and allowing us to create this valuable space for our colleagues. The South Croydon branch has been fantastic in helping us with these materials.

"We have 80 firefighters working here across four watches and we are also a technical rescue station, so we do tend to deal with larger incidents.

This garden will give our firefighters a tranquil place to use to take time away from the challenges they face in their jobs. The main work we will be carrying out is converting the current pergola area with screening and benches so it doesn't feel as if you are sitting in a car park. Everyone is really looking forward to the garden's completion."

Selco South Croydon, on Imperial Way in Purley, donated decking boards, timber and screws towards the project.

Laura Hunter, deputy branch manager at Selco South Croydon, said: "It's a privilege to be able to make this donation and help the firefighters at Croydon Fire Station.

"The job that these men and women do — and more so this year than ever before in soaring temperatures — is incredible.

"You can only imagine some of the traumatic incidents that they deal with in their roles. Hopefully this new outdoor space will allow them a chance to reflect and unwind."

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 73 UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and effectively as possible. As well as offering trade services, Selco also has a strong digital presence including Click & Deliver and Click & Collect services and a new app to make life as convenient as possible for tradespeople.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



Left to right: Laura Hunter (Selco), Rosita Ulin (Selco), Leading Firefighter Oliver Young, Ian Hobby (Selco), Hannah Ross (Fire Service) and Airidas Jokubauskas (Selco).

Newport community hub bags improvements boost

A NEWPORT community hub set up to ease the cost of living crisis and to alleviate loneliness has won support from a leading builders merchant.

Sirhowy Valley Hub has secured £500 worth of building materials from Selco Builders Warehouse through the Community Heroes campaign.

The hub, on Maindee Road in Ynysyddu, offers a food pantry with affordable products as well as a safe environment for visitors to have a chat and receive support. Jamie Arr, founder of Sirhowy Valley Hub, said the materials from Selco will help to rejuvenate the meeting space.

Jamie said: "We were absolutely thrilled to receive this support from Selco. We launched as a food pantry giving people the chance to purchase 20 items for just £5. Many of the products have been donated by local supermarkets or by groups in the area.

"It's open to absolutely everyone and helps people with the rising cost of living. These are tough times so if people can save some money on food and essentials they have extra funds for bills. With the money from Selco we're looking to buy some flooring and decorating materials, which will make the meeting space much more comfortable for our clients. It's somewhere where they can go, have a chat, a piece of cake and be signposted to any support they need. We can't wait to get to work."

Selco, which has two branches in nearby Cardiff in Llanishen and on Hadfield Road, is awarding 12 prizes of £500 worth of building materials throughout its six-month Community Heroes campaign.

Sirhowy Valley Hub will also be a competition finalist later in the year, going head-to-head with the 11 other Community Heroes winners in a public vote to bag £5,000 in cash, or £1,000 as runner-up. The scheme

is open to any charity or group which at the heart of its local community and entries can be made by explaining in no more than 100 words how they would use the building materials or money to benefit them.

Carine Jessamine, Selco marketing director, said: "We're delighted to be able to support Sirhowy Valley Hub and the tremendous work they do in Newport. It's a really hard time financially for many people so groups like this can make all the difference. We look forward to welcoming Jamie into branch helping him find all the products he needs to completely revamp this room.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com/info/selco-community-heroes



St John Ambulance Cymru wins materials boost

A GROUP which provides life-saving first aid at events throughout Wales has won building materials to help modernise its facilities.

St John Ambulance Cymru has won £500 worth of materials from Selco Builders Warehouse through the builder merchant's Community Heroes campaign.

And it could get better yet for the charity, which will go forward to a public vote later in the year with £5,000 up for grabs for the winner.

St John Ambulance Cymru has over 1,500 active volunteers across Wales who give hundreds of hours every week to support local events, ensuring there is first aid for all.

James Cordell, Support Manager at St John Ambulance Cymru (pic-

tured), said: "We're delighted to win these building materials through Community Heroes.

"Our committed volunteers are on the frontline throughout Wales, working with the NHS, Welsh Ambulance and other partner agencies. Not only that, but we are also training local groups, schools and businesses in life-saving first aid.

"Winning Selco Community Heroes will help us modernise our facilities for our volunteers and the public at our training centres."

Selco, which has three branches in Wales in Cardiff and Swansea, is awarding two £500 prizes each month throughout the six-month Community Heroes campaign. All 12 winners will be entered into the final public vote for the £5,000 jackpot, or the £1,000 runner-up prize.

The scheme is open to any charity or group which is at the heart of its local community and entry can be made by explaining in no more than 100 words how they would use the building materials or money to benefit them.

Carine Jessamine, Selco marketing director, said: "We're delighted to support St John Ambulance Cymru as one of our first winners of this year's Community Heroes contest. St John Ambulance Cymru is so important in providing first aid at so many events across the country. It's a really valuable service.

"So many organisations do sterling work in their communities and we look forward to supporting many more through Community Heroes in the months to come."

The first two overall winners of the competition, previously called Selco Stars, have been Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice and Helping Homeless Veterans.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com
<https://www.selcobw.com/info/selco-community-heroes>



Warrington scouts given community garden help

A SCOUT group will encourage green-fingered Warrington residents to embrace nature by creating a community garden — with the backing of a leading builders merchant.

13th Warrington East Scout Group has won £500 worth of building materials from Selco Builders Warehouse through the Community Heroes campaign.

The thriving scout group will use the gift to build a community garden close to its Fairfield Community Centre base, including a growing area and a wildlife pond.

13th Warrington East Scout Group will also be a competition finalist later in the year, going head-to-head with the 11 other Community Heroes winners in a public vote to bag £5,000 in cash.

Sarah O'Neill, a leader at the group, said: "We're over the moon to win this fantastic prize from Selco.

"We've been planning a community garden for some time and these materials will allow us to start the project.

"It will be a tremendous asset for the local community, giving them the chance to grow fruit and vegetables. There will also be a wildlife pond which will encourage nature to thrive and will be a hotbed for honeybees.

"We are located in one of the poorest areas of Warrington so funds are extremely limited. Having the backing of Selco is a very welcome boost."

Selco, which has a branch in Warrington on Milner Street, is awarding 12 prizes of £500 worth of building materials through its six-month Community Heroes campaign.

At the end of the process, the dozen winners will go into a public vote grand finale to win the £5,000 cash top prize, or £1,000 as the runner up.

The scheme is open to any charity or group which as the heart of its local community and entry can be made by explaining in

no more than 100 words how they would use the building materials or money to benefit them.

Carine Jessamine, Selco marketing director, said: "Community Heroes is all about helping good causes across the country as they embark on exciting new projects — and that is certainly the case here. We are delighted to be able to help.

"We're looking forward to welcoming the scout group into our Warrington branch and helping them select all the materials they need to make this community garden a reality."

Selco ● www.selcobw.com/info/selco-community-heroes



Sarah O'Neill.

Watford disability group secures allotment support

A WATFORD disability charity will launch a farm to fork project — with the help of a leading builders merchant.

Watford Mencap has won £500 worth of materials from Selco Builders Warehouse through the Community Heroes campaign. The charity supports more than 600 local people with learning disabilities each year.

The Community Heroes funding will allow Watford Mencap to create an allotment where members can learn horticultural skills while growing produce to be cooked in its training kitchen.

And it could get better yet for the charity which will go forward to a public vote final later in the year with £5,000 up for grabs for the winner.

Michelle Hamilton, fundraising manager at Watford Mencap, said: "We were thrilled to hear we had been selected as a Community Heroes winner. We provide a multitude of services including registered care homes, children's services, leisure and learning opportunities, as well as free information and advice.

"These building materials will allow us to create an exciting allotment area where people can learn new skills while enjoying friendship and exercise. They will then cook as a group before eating a meal together.

"These are difficult times for charities so it's brilliant to see Selco getting involved with groups across the country."



Selco, which has a branch in Watford on Imperial Way, is awarding two £500 building materials prizes each month throughout the six-month Community Heroes campaign. All 12 winners will be entered into the final public vote for the £5,000 cash jackpot or the £1,000 runner-up prize. The scheme is open to any charity or group which is at the heart of its local community and entry can be made by explaining in no more than 100 words how they would use the building materials to benefit them.

Carine Jessamine, Selco marketing director, said: "We're delighted to support Watford Mencap and the fantastic work they do in South West Hertfordshire.

"We have had an incredible number of entries to Community Heroes and it has been a very difficult task picking the winners so far. There are so many amazing causes across the country but Watford Mencap really stood out and we can't wait to see the new allotment area."

Selco
www.selcobw.com/info/selco-community-heroes

Selco hit the heights with Lake District Peaks Challenge

A TEAM of intrepid explorers from Selco Builders Warehouse conquered the Lake District Peaks Challenge to raise more than £10,000 for charity.

The 28 colleagues from the leading builders merchant took on five daunting summits, walking more than 21 km and climbing in excess of 14,000 ft. All the money raised was donated to Selco's nominated charity for 2022, Cancer Research UK which funds doctors, nurses and scientists to carry out pioneering research to help provide a solution to defeating cancer.

Simon Ball, one of the event organisers, said: "It's a daunting challenge to complete in a day and everyone should be proud of their finishing times, which were all under ten-and-a-half hours. It's a relentless challenge but the team spirit was fantastic and we all pulled each other through the tough moments. We called the event 'Believe, Achieve, Inspire' and I'm confident we did all three of those on the day.

"It was brilliant to see different departments of Selco represented at the event and to raise a significant amount of money for a fantastic charity was the icing on the cake."

The highlight of the challenge included a trek to the summit of Scarfell Pike, England's highest peak at 978 m. The other summits were Rossett Pike (651 m), Allen Craggs (784 m), Ill Crag (930 m) and Great End (907 m).

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's UK branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs

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

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



West Fraser saves the grass at the 20th Baxters' Loch Ness Marathon and Festival of Running

OCTOBER saw the 20th Baxters' Loch Ness Marathon and Festival of Running and Inverness-based wood panel manufacturer, West Fraser (trading as Norbord) was on hand to help protect the grass at Bught Park.

"The Festival is a great community event bringing together families and friends of all ages. We were pleased to be able to support the event with a donation of 80 boards of 11 mm SterlingOSB Zero to protect the grass in Bught Park," said Timea Cooper, West Fraser's marketing manager.

The Festival of Running is a two-day event providing sporting opportunities for all the family, from "Wee Nessie", an 800-metre 'run' for under five-year-olds, 5 k and 10 k runs to the full Loch Ness marathon. The Event Village also hosts a Sports Expo, street food and pop-up bars and musical entertainment.

Malcolm Sutherland, event & race director, commented, "We are extremely grateful to West Fraser for donating the boards to the event. These were used to protect the grass within areas of high footfall at the Event Village. We were delighted to welcome 7,300 runners to the 20th edition of the Baxters' Loch Ness Marathon & Festival of Running, many of whom were raising significant amounts for charity. We would like to thank West Fraser for their fantastic ongoing support for the event."

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

BSW Timber celebrates double success at industry awards

BSW TIMBER, believed to be the largest timber business in the UK and a member of BSW Group, picked up another two awards at this year's Builders Merchant Journal (BMJ) Awards and Timber Trades Journal (TTJ) Awards.

The sawmilling giant was named Timber Supplier of the Year at the BMJ Awards for the second year in a row, while saw doctor Jamie Duncan took home the Under 25s Career Development Award at the TTJ event.

Jamie's success was also the second successive victory for a Fort William employee, after electrical supervisor Stuart Matheson claimed the same award at the prestigious TTJ Awards in 2021.

Jamie, first an apprentice and now a fully qualified saw doctor, said: "I'm very proud to receive this award. I enjoyed my development, both at UHI and in the workplace, and there was a great balance between learning on and off site.

"I received amazing support at the college and would also like to thank the tradesmen on site for enabling me to achieve this.

"I'd definitely recommend this pathway to others and can't wait to continue learning and developing my skills at BSW."

BSW Group learning and development manager Tony Lockey said Jamie's victory was well earned, given his exemplary attitude while study-



Sawmilling giant BSW Timber was named Timber Supplier of the Year at the BMJ Awards for the second year in a row.

ing for his qualification. He explained: "Jamie has shown incredible focus and determination to gain his apprenticeship through a period of the pandemic, and he had very positive comments from the Inverness College assessors, who said it was a pleasure to work with him.

"These awards highlight the calibre of all our apprentices at BSW Group, as well as the level of training they receive both in the workplace and in colleges.

"This type of award also sends a positive message to the local community in which Jamie grew up and now works."

Olly Stephen, mill manager at BSW Fort William, added, "I am delighted for Jamie to receive this recognition.

"He has put a lot of hard work and effort into completing his apprenticeship and should be a real inspiration to his peers and other young people in Lochaber, as he has demonstrated what can be achieved when you put your mind to it."

The TTJ event, which took place at the InterContinental in London, followed the BMJ Awards at the Grand Connaught Rooms, also in the capital, where BSW scooped Timber Supplier of the Year.

Sales director Dave Chapman also placed third in the Supplier Account Manager of the Year.



Jamie Duncan took home the Under 25s Career Development Award at the Timber Trades Awards.

BSW Timber
www.bsw.co.uk

Abode Agilis on Designer Awards 2022 Product Innovation shortlist

ABODE is excited to announce its Agilis single lever mixer tap has made the Product Innovation Shortlist at the esteemed Designer Awards 2022.

The winners will be announced on 25 November 2022 at Old Billingsgate London as this year's Designer Awards, and mark 20 years of showcasing the very best of residential and commercial kitchens, bathrooms and architectural design projects from around the world.

Leanne Adamson, marketing manager at Abode, adds, "Every member of the Abode family can see that our drive for excellence and desire to serve the KBB industry to highest possible standards, is being recognised by the best of the best in architecture and interior design. It is fantastic to see that our unique and creative approach grounded in extensive market research, field trials and rigorous product testing is valued by end users and the design community alike."



Paul Illingworth, design manager at Abode, says, "Our commitment to innovation and practicality is at the heart of our design philosophy, delivering the ultimate in safe, user-friendly solutions which are attuned to the needs of today's multigeneration homes. Inclusivity is therefore inspiring next-level product development in the kitchen, with focus on how a tap can deliver water more efficiently without compromising on style or user safety. In fact, there is now high demand for person-centred home experiences so products like our Agilis mixer tap continue to futureproof the wash zone and deliver all-inclusive design and manoeuvrability."

Leanne adds, "We wish every brand, business and industry professional who is shortlisted at the Designer Awards the very best of luck and look forward to a wonderful evening!"

**Abode ● Tel 01226 283434
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The Pallet LOOP wins BMF Sustainability Award

THE PALLET LOOP is celebrating after winning a top Sustainability Award from the Builders Merchants Federation (BMF). The Pallet LOOP beat off stiff competition from long-established industry players to win the BMF's 2022 Sustainability Award at the BMF Annual Members Conference and Awards.

The 2022 BMF Sustainability Award was presented to The Pallet LOOP on 15 September, at the black-tie event at St George's Park, Burton on Trent, by John Newcomb, chief executive of the BMF, and James Mitchell, managing director of Kerridge Commercial Systems. Paul Lewis, founder of The Pallet LOOP, received the award, supported by colleagues Nathan Wride and Deb Dillon Foster.

Presenting the award to The Pallet LOOP, John Newcomb said: "Sustainability is a core element of the work of the BMF and its members, so this is a hugely significant win for The Pallet LOOP. As manufacturers and merchants, BMF members are in the vanguard of the supply chain and have a vital role to play in championing and delivering the changes necessary for success in the move to zero carbon. We appreciate the work The Pallet LOOP is doing in supporting our industry's transformation."

Commenting, Paul Lewis said: "The theme of this year's BMF Conference Awards was *Aspire, Innovate and Thrive*. These three words neatly sum up our business and everything we are trying to

achieve. At The Pallet LOOP, we aspire to change how building materials are delivered throughout the UK. We're doing that with an innovative circular economy model, that will enable all businesses — throughout the construction industry — to thrive, while also doing the right thing for the planet. Thank you to John and the team at BMF for this award, and for their ongoing support. To be recognised by the BMF as a business that will drive fundamental, positive change in the sector — at this stage in our development — is absolutely amazing."

The Pallet LOOP is the construction industry's first ever circular economy, carbon net zero, pallet reuse scheme. On a mission to transform the

way building materials are distributed across Great Britain and Ireland, the business has designed a range of distinctive green, 100% FSC pallets that have been engineered to last, and can be used again and again.

Ahead of its pallets being rolled out in early 2023, The Pallet LOOP has organised a series of working groups with BMF members. Attended by key players from different vertical sectors across the construction industry, these meetings have given participants a chance to discuss how The Pallet LOOP works and the collective benefits it will bring to businesses and the construction sector as a whole.

The Pallet LOOP
Email info@thepalletloop.com
www.thepalletloop.com



Left to right: John Newcomb, chief executive of BMF; Nathan Wride, head of partnerships & innovation, The Pallet LOOP; Paul Lewis, founder, The Pallet LOOP; Deb Dillon Foster, head of customer engagement, The Pallet LOOP; and James Mitchell, managing director of Kerridge Commercial Systems.

Daval shortlisted for business awards

DAVAL, a leading British designer and manufacturer of quality fitted furniture located in Slaithwaite, West Yorkshire, has been shortlisted at the first ever Connect Yorkshire Business Awards, named one of four finalists in the Family Business category.

Part of Connect Yorkshire, a not-for-profit organisation with a 15 year proven track record for helping Yorkshire companies grow, the new Connect Yorkshire Business Awards are designed to recognise the hard work and dedication of the local business community. Each and every company shortlisted has been chosen by a panel of judges from its network of entrepreneurs in residence, who all come from a variety of industries in the local area and deliver Masterclasses, take part in panels and provide mentoring for members of Connect Yorkshire.

These are an organic, merit-based awards where the winners will be announced at a special awards dinner on 30th November 2022 at The Royal Armouries, Leeds.

Simon Bodsworth, managing director at Daval Furniture, says: "We have always taken great pride in being a family-run business with true Yorkshire heritage, and ever since my parents founded Daval back in 1978, I am proud that four decades on I still have my two brothers, Paul and James, by my side to help run the business. As a market leader, we absolutely love being part of the creative community and help fly the flag for Yorkshire manufacturing through our trademark British-made furniture that is made by our family, for yours."

James Bodsworth, design director, adds, "We are committed to developing our business to meet the needs of future generations, as more and more homeowners see the benefits of investing in bespoke fitted furniture for the home. As a family business, we are keen to keep leading the way in fitted furniture manufacture and use of quality raw materials, which are helping to change the conversation and shine a light on British interior design. Everything we do is informed by our traditional family values that we learned from our parents and so being shortlisted for this award is a fitting tribute to their vision, hard work and creativity."

Connect Yorkshire is all about helping Yorkshire businesses to grow and excel by learning from the region's most successful entrepreneurs. Sophie Conboy, chief executive at Connect Yorkshire, says, "Our highly experienced entrepreneurs in residence give time and considerable expertise for free to support growing businesses and nurture emerging talent to help companies prosper, creating wealth, jobs and opportunities across the Yorkshire region. This is an invaluable environment for like-minded individuals to discuss and resolve issues and help develop their propositions for greater success."

There are two Connect Yorkshire groups: one in the South Region of Yorkshire and another covering the West and North Regions.

● **DAVAL has also been shortlisted at the Yorkshire Business Masters Awards, named one of six finalists in the running to win the Sustainability award.**



Left to right: James, Simon & Paul Bodsworth.

In association with TheBusinessDesk.com, the 2022 Business Masters Awards celebrate the best Yorkshire has to offer with categories for all business types and a total of 17 prizes, all independently judged. The winners were announced at the Queens Hotel, Leeds, on 20 October 2022.

As businesses are becoming much more aware of their impact on the environment, the sustainability award category requires each applicant to demonstrate a product or service that supports the endeavours of others, or a strategic change or investment that has made a significant impact by taking an authentic approach to sustainability.

Simon Bodsworth says, "We are extremely proud of our Yorkshire heritage and traditional approach to interior design, where the best of sustainable British manufacturing is an integral part of how we design and make our furniture products. The need to help the planet cannot be ignored, and Daval strongly believe that the UK property market is calling for a sustainable foundation, where construction and product specification require a certain level of eco-credentials."

"To once again be recognised for our efforts in sustainability that more recently, has been supported by fellow local resident and

award-winning interior designer, Lynsey Ford of Lynsey Ford Design, is a huge credit for our brand, business and continued eco-inspired product development."

Daval was the first choice for enhancing Lynsey's home-studio space, as she commissioned the company's 100% recycled Renzo Furniture, which introduces the subtleties of nature without impact to the environment. James Bodsworth explains: "Renzo is the ideal furniture solution for this project as the range offers rich textural variety with three contemporary timbers and two mineral-inspired options with fine-textured, stone effect surface. Designed to empower the eco-conscious homeowner, every door within the Renzo collection is made from 100% recycled raw materials at our factory in the heart of Yorkshire."

Paul Bodsworth, operations director, adds, "From an operational perspective, any opportunity for us to be able to shine a light on our home county, is yet more scope for us to emphasise our pedigree manufacturing, sustainable best practices, and regional ties company-wide. Being shortlisted for a Business Masters Award is great recognition of how much we have grown since we began in a small shop in Milnsbridge to our current site in Slaithwaite; which today offers 100,000 ft² manufacturing facilities, staff offices and a kitchen and bedroom showroom open to the public."

Ben Ormsby, Yorkshire editor at TheBusinessDesk.com, says, "The 2020s have kicked off as a decade that so far seems to be marred by economic uncertainty, but despite a testing number of years the region's businesses are adapting, evolving and innovating. Against this backdrop, it's been fantastic to see and hear about businesses growing, creating new ways of working, new products and entering new markets."

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

Rotpunkt shortlisted for Excellence in Sustainability (Product)

ROTPUNKT, award-winning designer and leading manufacturer of climate friendly German kitchen furniture, is named a finalist at the London Construction Awards 2022, for Excellence in Sustainability (Product).

The awards shortlist is in recognition of the company's Together to Zero climate strategy, which pioneers its award-winning Greenline BioBoard Gen2 furniture and a portfolio where 95% of all Rotpunkt kitchens are FSC® certified to provide a greener alternative for both home and planet.

Award winners were announced on 23 September at the Leonardo Royal London Tower Bridge Hotel, and celebrated achievements, developments and innovation across London's booming construction industry, impartially judged by a panel of industry leading experts.

Matt Phillips, head of UK operations at Rotpunkt, says, "We are so excited that our company has been recognised for our efforts in sustainable kitchen design, as London explores pathways to net zero carbon by 2030. Securing a place as one of 11 finalists is a credit to the vision of the Rotpunkt family as we continue to roll-out our Together to Zero climate strategy in partnership with MyClimate.org, to help shape our future and support the 17 goals outlined by the United Nations for sustainable development."

The Rotpunkt values of innovation and attention to detail are pivotal to its Together to Zero climate strategy which focusses on controlled steady and sustainable growth to support the needs of its customers and end-user. For example, Rotpunkt has selected Greenline BioBoard Gen2



as a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional chipboards. Made by Pfleiderer Deutschland, BioBoard Gen2 is a resource saving chipboard that consists of up to 90% recycled wood without compromising on style or quality. Fulfilling the world's highest requirements for formaldehyde emissions, BioBoard Gen2 is certified F4 star standard = 50% less emissions when compared to conventional chipboard to ensure a healthier living environment in the domestic home: 80% of Rotpunkt products are made of Greenline BioBoard Gen2.

Climate protection is fully embedded into Rotpunkt production using an approach grounded in 'avoid-reduce-compensate', so that carbon emissions are being reduced gradually and effectively. Any emissions that cannot be avoided or reduced will be offset via sustainability projects in partnership with MyClimate.org. For example, MyClimate.org and Rotpunkt are supporting hundreds of families in Kenya with efficient cookers. Currently, 849 Kenyans are already benefitting from better indoor air quality and more leisure time thanks to less time spent collecting firewood. In addition, the activities have preserved a forest area of 5.25 ha (equivalent to the size of 50 football fields) as a natural CO₂ reservoir.

Green production is key to optimising manufacturing processes and offering Rotpunkt employees a healthy working environment so that the Rotpunkt sustainability pledge covers every aspect of operations. For example, batch production at the Getmold plant has significantly reduced the amount of waste materials and Rotpunkt has also switched to green energy from approved suppliers. Staff also have the option of using mechanical exoskeletons to reduce the physical strain of performing heavy repetitive or overhead tasks. Rotpunkt production has been 100% climate friendly since 2020 thanks to the use of green electricity and investments in sustainability projects. Growing together for a better future is at the heart of Together to Zero. For the past five years, Rotpunkt has been appraising its systems with one overarching aim — to make the business and its products more sustainable and climate-friendly.

Matt concludes, "Every day we move a little closer towards climate neutrality and we invite everyone in the construction and interiors industry to join us on this planet-changing journey - one mission to zero emission."

Rotpunkt UK ● matt.phillips@rotpunktuk.com
rotpunkt.co.uk ● rotpunktkuechen.de/en/



Agilis by Abode named a finalist at London Construction Awards



ABODE, AWARD-WINNING designer and distributor of kitchen taps, sinks, bathroom taps & showering solutions, is pleased to announce its Agilis single lever kitchen mixer tap designed for ultimate ease of use, is named a finalist at the London Construction Awards 2022, for product innovation.

The Agilis single lever is part of the Contemporary Kitchen Taps Collection by Abode. Specially designed to transcend generations, its highly inclusive contemporary design, and alternative functionality options perfectly cater to a multi-generational home and lifestyle. The winners were announced at the prestigious awards ceremony on 23 September 2022, at Leonardo Royal London Tower Bridge Hotel, which is associated with London Build Expo, a construction and design show on 16-17 November 2022 at Olympia.

So why is Agilis so innovative? The Agilis features a sweeping L shape body with knurled aerator collar and the handle is located on the front of the tap body to reduce reach. Providing agile movement via a single lever, just a flick of the wrist will operate the water flow: ideal if people are preparing food or have dirty hands from baking or gardening.

Paul Illingworth, design manager at Abode, says, "Home ergonomics continue to focus on ease of use and product safety as more of us live in a multi-generational household, and this has led to water safety

being identified as the UK's number one priority. Taps that are designed to be used by people of all ages, including those with limited mobility or reduced dexterity, are outperforming other inclusive-style taps that sacrifice form over function. The ergonomically designed Agilis single lever mixer tap lends itself perfectly to a multi-generational or inclusive household seeking added style and convenience without compromise."

Leanne Adamson, marketing manager at Abode, adds, "We are thrilled to be recognised by the UK construction industry as a product innovator in the design and distribution of sinks and taps. It is great to see that our continued investment in market research and product development are paying dividends, another reason why being shortlisted at this year's London Construction Awards for product innovation is remarkable."

A future proof, sustainable design, which is ideal in a forever home, the Agilis tap will look after a family from smallest to tallest, oldest to youngest through to end users with limited mobility or living with a disability. Designed for ultimate ease of use, the Agilis reduces reach making it simpler to access the tap handle and key features include its inclusive design, 120° tap rotation, minimum 0.75 bar pressure, single flow characteristics and five year warranty.

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New awards celebrate historic buildings and craftspeople



Kevin McCloud.

THE Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) is proud to announce a shortlist of 28 of the best built heritage projects and craftspeople from across the UK and Ireland. The winners of the first SPAB Heritage Awards will receive their award from designer, writer and TV presenter Kevin McCloud on 3 November at an event at Conway Hall in London.

The SPAB's expert judges have shortlisted a range of wonderful buildings cherished by their communities and owners. Building repair projects on the shortlist include a Glasgow tenement, a country house in Yorkshire, an ancient church in Holyhead and a historic town centre in Co. Donegal. The traditional skills that repair historic buildings are also celebrated, highlighting the work of craftspeople new to their trade, from a conservation bricklayer to a cabinet maker.

Three new awards — Best Loved Building, Sustainable Heritage and Building Craftsperson of the Year — join the SPAB's established awards, Philip Webb and the John Betjeman Awards.

Kevin McCloud says: "These awards celebrate excellence in everything I hold dear: conservation, intelligent design, sustainability and craftsmanship. The appeal of ancient buildings and places is a strong and undeniable force. It connects us to our past, points us to our future and helps us understand the value of our built and natural environments. In turn, these are powerful tools in helping us tackle the big new societal challenges of climate change, sustainability and energy efficiency. Now more than ever we need wisdom, clarity and the long view, qualities abounding within the SPAB."

Matthew Slocombe, SPAB Director, says: "The SPAB has always championed the traditional skills needed to look after our old buildings. Old buildings contribute positively to the world's beauty and sustainability. When cared for well, they improve the quality of people's lives and promote wellbeing. The SPAB Heritage Awards celebrate our historic buildings and those that care for them."

The Best Loved Award is for the buildings that have been kept in good repair, that are well maintained and loved by the community and/or their owner. The winners were voted for by the public (voting closed on 31 October 2022).

Shortlisted (public category): The Old Town Hall, Faringdon, Oxford-

shire; Union Chapel, London; The Endeavour, Godstone, Surrey; Wentworth Woodhouse, Yorkshire.

Shortlisted (private category): Camphill Gate Tenement, Glasgow; The Thatch, Attleborough, Norfolk; Berwick Lodge, Ryde, Isle of Wight; Nunwick Barn, Ripon, Yorkshire.

The Sustainable Heritage Award celebrates projects that take a 'whole building' approach when tackling sustainability.

Shortlisted: Abbey Strand, Edinburgh; 4 Black Bull Close, Dunbar; Ramelton, Co. Donegal.

The Building Craftsperson of the Year Award recognises the best up-and-coming craftspeople working with traditional materials and old buildings across the UK and Ireland.

Shortlisted (under 30): Killian O'Flaherty, stonemason; William Gaches, traditional plasterer; Adam James Innes, stonemason; Ronnie Douglas, conservation bricklayer.

Shortlisted (career changer): Wilma Wyatt, cabinet maker; Rob Thompson, HES Craft Fellow; Jack Lewis, lime plasterer.

The John Betjeman Award celebrates excellence in the repair of places of worship of all denominations and faiths.

Shortlisted (England & Wales): Church of St Peter, Rodmell, Sussex; Church of St Peter, Knowstone, Devon; Church of St Cybi, Holyhead, Anglesey; St Mary's Church, Beverley, Yorkshire.

Shortlisted (Scotland): Shore Chapel, Isle of Bute; Bishopton, West Glasgow; Carntyne Parish Church, Glasgow; St Aloysius' Church, Glasgow.

Shortlisted (Ireland): the Church of the Ascension, Timoleague, Co. Cork; the Honan Chapel, Cork.

The SPAB is delighted that Storm Bespoke Secondary Glazing, a company that SPAB has worked with for 15 years, is the headline sponsor of the SPAB Heritage Awards. Terra Measurement, a surveying, measurement and engineering services company, sponsors the Philip Webb Award. Keymer Tiles, a company crafting handmade tiles and fittings since 1588, is the sponsor of the Sustainable Heritage Award. Owlsworth IJP, one of the leading specialist contractors within the building conservation sector, is the sponsor of the Building Craftsperson of the Year.

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)
www.spab.org.uk/get-involved/awards

Wood Awards 2022 shortlist announced



THE WOOD AWARDS has announced the 2022 shortlist, revealing a stunning, innovative array of British architecture and product design using wood, all now in the running to receive the highest architecture and design accolade of the UK timber industry.

From more than 200 projects entered, a shortlist of 32 entries has been created which unveils the diverse, creative and high-quality buildings and furniture being made using the world's only truly sustainable and renewable material — wood.

Included in the list are some of the UK's leading architects, engineers, product designers and furniture makers, showcasing some of the exciting talent arising from the UK's domestic timber industry and the wood suppliers who support them.

The Awards are split into two main categories, Furniture & Product and Buildings. Buildings is split by: Commercial & Leisure, Education & Public, Interior, Private and Small Project.

Within Furniture & Product, there are three subcategories: Bespoke, Production Made and Student Designer.

Shortlisted projects from the Buildings category are:

- **Sport's Pavilion, Master's**

Field, Balliol College, London.

- **March House, Cookham.**
- **Buggy Store at The Farmyard at The Newt, Bruton.**
- **Abba Arena, London.**
- **Equal Access Project, Inner Portico, London.**
- **Mews House, London.**
- **The Studio, Aldeburgh.**
- **Wintringham Primary Academy, Cambridgeshire.**
- **Greyfriars Charteris Centre, Edinburgh.**
- **The Green House, London.**
- **Homerton College Dining Hall, Cambridge.**
- **The Gramophone Works, London.**
- **Clifford's Tower, York.**
- **The Chapel Roof at Radley College, Abingdon.**
- **Douglas Fir House, London.**
- **The Threshing Barn, Willesborough.**
- **Brent Cross Pavilion, London.**
- **Old Four Row, Lincoln.**
- **UK Hardwoods Storage Building, South Molton.**
- **The Water Tower, Castle Acre.**

Jim Greaves, chairman of the Building category, says: "The Wood Awards are the highest accolade of the UK timber industry, and each year we see the quality continually improving. This year's shortlisted projects demonstrate that the UK has some of the most exciting timber talent in the world.

"The shortlisted schemes comprise a wide range of building types that have been selected from a longlist of 128 entries. Not surprisingly, each scheme has been chosen because of the excellent quality of their individual design and construction."

Shortlisted projects from the Furniture and Product category are:

- **Alder Hey Foraging Collection, Liverpool.**
- **Wave Bench, Liverpool.**
- **Fenland Black Oak CIO, Ely.**
- **Furniture For 2 Bessborough Street, London.**
- **Mlgo, Kintbury.**
- **RoundOak Chairs, Newhaven.**
- **IO Collection.**
- **Reprise Chair, Princes Risborough.**
- **Pebble Table.**
- **Oak Desk with Upstand.**
- **Veneer Stool.**
- **Chord Chair.**

Corinne Julius, head of the Furniture and Product judges, says: "The Wood Awards was set up to encourage beautiful and thoughtful designs in wood and this year's shortlist does just that. We are showcasing some very exciting work by some of the most interesting designers and makers in the UK, both those who are already established and others just starting out.

"Our shortlisted entries mani-

fest how objects thoughtfully designed in wood can shape, enhance and enrich our lives.

"We are especially pleased that after the hiatus of covid, we can bring back the Student Category, of Awards. The competition was intense and high quality, giving us confidence in the future of design in wood in the UK."

The Wood Awards shortlist is on display at three locations this year, including 22-25 September at Gallery@Oxo in partnership with the Materials Matter Exhibition during London Design Festival.

During late October until December there is a special exhibition at the Building Centre which showcases the building shortlist with building models and a series of talks.

The winner of the Wood Awards will be announced on 23 November during a Winner's Ceremony at Carpenter's Hall.

Established in 1971, the Wood Awards recognise, encourage and promote outstanding wood design, craftsmanship and installation. Partners of the Wood Awards are: American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC); Carpenters Company; Timber Development UK. Sponsors are: American Softwoods; Züblin Timber.

Wood Awards
www.woodawards.com

Kitchen Kit by BA named Finalist at London Construction Awards 2022

BA, ONE OF the UK's leading manufacturers of factory-built, bespoke, made-to-measure kitchens and bedrooms and specialist components, is pleased to announce that its trade offer Kitchen Kit, is named a finalist at the London Construction Awards 2022, short-listed for 'Supplier of the Year'.

The LC Awards ceremony was held on the evening of 23rd September 2022, at Leonardo Royal London Tower Bridge Hotel for an incredible evening of live music, entertainment and high-level networking. This prestigious industry awards recognise achievements, innovation and developments across London's construction industry and further afield.

The London Construction Awards 2022 is part of London Build Expo, which takes place on 16th-17th November 2022 at Olympia.

Kitchen Kit is a natural extension to the trade professional by expanding their business offer to include a stress-free, easy to order kitchen kit solution, which is dispatched within 48 hours flat-packed or 10 days rigid. Allowing customers to take an expedient approach to contract kitchen design, this industry-wide furniture solution is 100% trade-oriented,



allowing customers to freely plan, design, price and order a kitchen in one go.

"Easy to choose, Easy to buy and Easy to build", fitting a kitchen has never been faster or easier for customers thanks to its new product line, Kitchen Kit, which has fast become the new choice for anyone wanting a trade kitchen in quick-time. Made in Britain and available flat pack, Kitchen Kit fea-

tures a quality range of furniture, worktops and complimentary accessories so trade customers can include all components in one Sku code.

Peter Rush, CEO of Kitchen Kit by BA, says, "We're extremely proud to be shortlisted for the finals at this year's London Construction Awards — to be recognised by the industry for our latest Kitchen Kit trade solution is a huge accomplishment, especially due to the record number of entries this year. Our commitment to helping trade customers choose, buy and install high quality kitchens faster than ever before is a real game-changer for the furniture industry, and we will continue to innovate, educate and enable our customers in the coming years."

Customers can choose from three door styles:

- J-Pull: 19 mm handleless door with integrated J profile and 10 UltraMatt & SuperGloss finishes.
- Slab: 18 mm smooth slab door with PET foil laminate in 10 UltraMatt & SuperGloss finishes.
- Shaker: 15 mm Shaker-style door with 4 mm beveled internal profile and four UltraMatt finishes.

Available in standard sizes, the Flatpack offer provides a range of quick-build cabinets with a three-

day despatch and a build time as little as 30 seconds. Cabinets hold FIRA Gold Certification for quality assurance and peace of mind.

Trade customers also benefit from the company's exclusive Kitchen Kit Kitchen Builder, where customers can choose, buy and build quickly with an easy-to-use kitchen styler tool. To further aid customers the Kitchen Kit Training Academy was launched in May 2022 and is a way to facilitate ongoing learning for new and existing trade customers to hone their Kitchen Kit experience. Each event is free and is suitable for 15 participants with course material covering all aspects including lead generation, sales conversions and how to assemble and install.

Pictured above is Kitchen Kit Slab in SuperGloss Graphite with 38 mm Jet worktop, rail bar handles in stainless steel, twin lever tap in chrome, 1.0 bowl sink in stainless steel, 600 mm base cabinet, 600 mm sink cabinet, 800 mm three drawer cabinet, 600 mm wall cabinet, 1,000 mm wall cabinet, 600 mm fridge and freezer housing, 600 mm single oven housing unit and plinths.

Kitchen Kit by BA

Tel 0333 6665 999

customerservices@kitchenkit.co.uk
www.kitchenkit.co.uk



Altendorf Group receives Productivity Award

THE ALTENDORF Group from Minden is a typical hidden champion of the German SME sector. The world market leader in the manufacture of premium-class sliding table saws and edgbanding machines has succeeded in almost doubling output at its Hebrock brand plant — in just four months. This was achieved through a line concept, digital support and employees who are open to new ideas. For this achievement, the machine manufacturer received the Productivity Award from the Concept AG.

With the support of the Concept AG, a dedicated team from Hebrock developed a line production that defined work contents for 14 stations and implemented the new structure in a very short time. For this purpose, the factory hall was converted and equipped so that the machines can move

continuously from station to station with a cycle time of 105 minutes. The time target is monitored as part of digital store floor management and accompanied by a continuous improvement process (CIP). "We have completely turned our production around and, as a result, increased the weekly output of edge banding machines by around 67 per cent. Today, we work many times more efficiently, because the digital support and the CIP accelerate our internal control processes enormously," is the positive conclusion of Hebrock managing director, Roman Kühnlein.

Altendorf Group ● www.altendorfgroup.com







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SCM is expanding its range of right size box making machines with the new cut c 100/200



UP TO FOUR made-to-measure boxes per minute, different in shape and size, produced just in time for flexible and sustainable packaging. This too is possible with the new Cut C 100/200 right size box making machines that further expand the range of SCM technologies for cardboard packaging. These new entries have been developed in line with growing demand by manufacturers of assembled and kit furniture for solutions that guarantee maximum flexibility, without compromising on high productivity levels.

The secret of 'batch one' packaging or order by order lies with the independent cutting and longitudinal creasing units and the transversal unit. Both allow for the creation of shapes that vary considerably from one another and in a shorter period of time compared to market standards: more than two boxes per minute per Cut C 100 and more than four per Cut C 200. This is possible thanks also to the high advancement speed and use of a brushless motor with extremely fast positioning set-up.

Use of both the machines is simple and intuitive. The operator can call up the required box from the interface or by reading a barcode, or by using the scanbox, that automatically transmits the sizes of the product to be packed, to the machine via barcode reading in real time.

No more waste. One other advantage is the possibility of optimising the consumption of cardboard based on the actual size of the box pro-



duced. With the Cut C 100/200 models, a choice can be made between three different types of feed: single sheet cardboard or fanfold, with side by side fanfolds or with automatic selector up to eight fanfolds. After which, the machine selects the most suitable size automatically from among those available.

The packaging is then put together based on the actual size of the product which avoids using expensive additional filling materials and encourages a saving in manpower times.

Space optimisation. Storage and movement of dozens of boxes of different shapes will no longer be a problem with the new Cut C 100/200 range, with considerable advantages, in this case as well, for the operator's everyday work.

High versatility. SCM's new punching machines are standard fitted with seven cutting and creasing units. There is, however, the option of choosing a configuration with 12 units to achieve up to two flanked boxes.

Lastly, each unit can fit different kinds of tools (with the added advantage of having standard longitudinal and transversal units on Cut C 200) and preparation is fully automatic.

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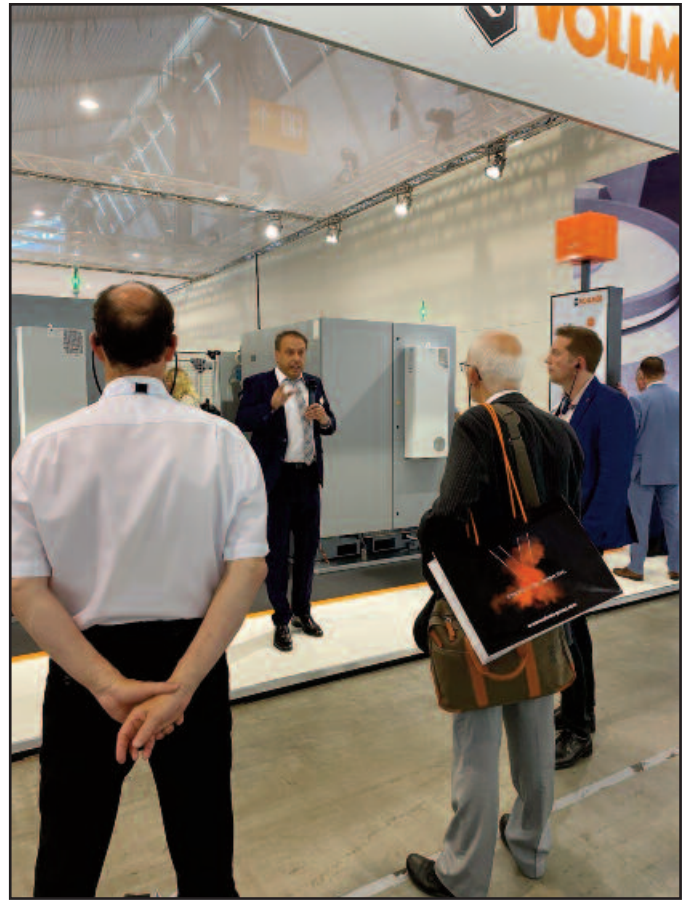
VOLLMER has a new 'side' to its saw sharpening range

PARADIGM shifts in technology are something that VOLLMER has been abreast of since the company's inception in 1909. With saw blade production and servicing instilled in the very DNA of VOLLMER, the Biberach manufacturer has been the industry benchmark for generations, according to the company. To retain this position, VOLLMER has now introduced its next generation of saw blade sharpening and servicing machines, the CS860 and CSF860. To celebrate the launch of the latest generation machines, VOLLMER's Thomas Wenger discusses the new CSF860 technology for side grinding saw blades in more detail.

With two new machines arriving for saw blade manufacturers; Thomas, the product manager for carbide saws and a seasoned expert with 24 years of service at VOLLMER, discusses the concept behind the two new machines that will supersede the CHD270 and CHF270 saw blade processing machines. Thomas says: "The CHD

and CHF machines were based on a completely different construction to our new technology. The CHF side grinding machine was designed in 2000 and we evolved this machine until we reached the limit of what could be achieved with the existing construction. Now, with a new foundation, new drives and software technology — we can add new benefits for our customers."

Rather than strive to squeeze further benefits from an ageing platform, VOLLMER applied its expertise and started over. Alluding to this, Thomas says: "We identified our development goals and we started to design the CS and CSF machines. The base, the housing and everything else is now completely different to before. We have designed both new machines with the same kinematics, housing, structure and polymer concrete base, so we can have a modular foundation. This makes it easier for us to internally streamline production and reduce lead times. It also makes the machine easier for the operator to handle



as there is greater synergy between the CS and CSF machines. This creates uniformity with re-

gard to loading, setting-up, the view and ergonomics and also the programming. This uniformity of technology was our target, adopting the same CNC, operating philosophy and also the latest drive technology."

With a new foundation, construction, frame, software and hardware — the new CSF860 is an entirely different machine from its predecessor, the CHF270. As with all machines in the VOLLMER portfolio, the foundation blocks of all product development are flexibility, productivity, reliability and quality.

For any manufacturer comparing the machine to its predecessor, the direct comparisons will no doubt be impressive in terms of the increased capacity, flexibility and potential of the CSF860 — all in the same footprint. But, the key concerns for manufacturers at present are energy costs, productivity rates and automation, and the diminishing skill base in the employment market.

So, as a baseline statistic, the CSF860 is 2 to 4% more productive than the previous CHF270 — a result of the machine kinematics





and design, but that is just a base figure. Now, you can add up to 20% cycle time saving derived from ingenious software updates that precisely calculate the grinding area and eliminate 'air cutting'. There is a new saw carrier and R2 axis for flange management system that eliminates 10 to 15 minute changeover times between different blade types. The manual measuring of 2 to 3 minutes per saw blade can be eliminated with the new measurement and calibration system — a system that also eradicates the 25+ seconds of non-productive grinding wheel calibrating and checking.

Whilst these statistics typify just a few of the cycle time and automation benefits, energy consumption has been reduced by more than 10%. On top of this, there are ingenious software updates and the integration to the IoT gateway — the result is a cascading flow of benefits that will delight any customer buying the new CSF860. With flexibility and productivity mentioned above, the foundation pillar of reliability has been infused throughout the new CSF860 with the introduction of new technologies.

The build quality of the VOLLMER CSF860 is assured. The

new construction introduces ergonomic features for the operator, such as a 'deep cut' door that opens further than before. This gives the operator greater access to the work envelope, and for heavy blades that may need lifting via an overhead gantry, the new door design also opens at the top for overhead access. A new maintenance door has also been introduced for quick access to critical components and the control cabinet has also been moved to a more ergonomic position — all of these instantly recognisable differences are the result of customer feedback that could only be acted on by completely starting from the ground up with a new machine concept.

With this new concept, VOLLMER has upgraded all motors to servo motors for improved reliability, speed and efficiency. As Thomas adds: "Uniformity of technology was our target in developing the new machines, adopting the same CNC, operating philosophy and also the latest drive technology. In the past, we used some servo motors with standard asynchronous motors. Now, all motors, grinding spindles and axes are servo driven. We have seven motors on the CSF860 side grinder

with an optional 8th-axis R2 saw carrier cross-axis. The axes also include linear CNC axes and two CNC grinding spindles. As well as being more reliable and stable, the servo-driven grinding spindles provide a higher quality saw blade, and we can now conduct different in-feed and cutting speed rates on each tooth. This improves the surface quality of the cutting edge and brings more flexibility to the grinding process. Customers can now do whatever they wish."

Expanding on the servo motors, Thomas says: "Previously, standard motors had power and encoder cables, by evolving to servo OCT [One Cable Technology] technology there is just one cable. This means there are fewer cables and switches, reduced power consumption and it is easier to change a single cable — something that reduces the future service costs for the customer."

Expanding upon the reliability aspect of the new machines, Thomas says: "No new VOLLMER machines use hydraulic systems — it is all pneumatic. This eliminates hydraulic oil, the potential for spillage or contamination of the coolant and the wider workshop. This also removes the need for filter changes."

Whilst machine reliability and performance are essential for any machine tool builder, service and support are critical facets in creating customer confidence. Here, VOLLMER has its impressive IoT Gateway, as Thomas says: "With Industry 4.0, we can undertake service from anywhere. We can update the machine components and software remotely. Our remote system can also email the customer when a batch of saws is complete, or if there is a disruption during a production cycle — emailing the customer their complete machine status. The active dashboard can be accessed via a mobile phone or tablet to provide a complete up-to-date status report."

The machine is based on a win10 IoT operating system. The integrated IoT gateway, which is responsible for data communication with the outside world, works with a hardened Linux system, thus guaranteeing network security.

From a quality perspective, VOLLMER has really taken the new CSF860 side grinder to a new stratosphere, and with the integration of IoT and software advances, the customer will instantly enjoy huge gains when compared to its CHF270 predecessor.



Acknowledging the ingenuity of the new measuring technology, Thomas says: "Our stable production processes are derived from three measuring devices. First, we have the latest measurement devices. First, we have the latest measurement innovation from a world leader in precision measurement technology that is repeatable to 1 µm. It has a high-end 3D spherical system that provides remarkable accuracy.

"The second system is a new measuring cube for the grinding wheels. It has an absolute fixed point and it gives knowledge of the grinding wheel position. If there is a temperature fluctuation in the machine or spindle, this fixed point will compensate for all other parameters. We can measure the grinding wheels whilst the machine changes the saw blades. In the past, it was necessary to compensate the grinding wheel by measuring the tooth — this was unproductive time. Integrating this process increases grinding stability whilst reducing unproductive time.

"This grinding wheel measurement is pre-programmable. The manufacturer generally knows they need to recalibrate the wheel every five or ten saw blades. The

customer can define the measuring point, whether it be by the number of teeth or saw blades processed. Furthermore, the customer is not losing production time. As an example, the 20 to 25 seconds wheel measuring process can be undertaken simultaneously with the saw blade changeover which also takes 25 to 30 seconds. This effectively enables every saw blade to be measured to a precision level of roughly 2 µm to guarantee process stability without losing production time.

"We have now added our third measurement device to the new CSF860 side grinder — our acoustic sensor that was previously on the CHD machine. This promotes very fast setups by combining technologies. With the probe, the measuring cube and with the acoustic sensor, we are bringing everything together by checking the tooth with the grinding wheel. The wheel senses the tooth and the acoustic sensor knows if we have the right in-feed — making all three measuring devices work together. Combining this closed-loop system with our polymer concrete foundation puts our quality and precision on a completely different level to all other machine builders."

Integrating this measuring technology with the IoT gateway to complete the quality control process, Thomas says, "Now, if an end-user has quality concerns with their saws, our customer can undertake a final inspection before dispatch. When a saw is complete, a measuring sequence can be applied to one tooth or all teeth on the blade. Our customer can select their measurement parameters. This process creates an XML file for quality and traceability to ensure each saw is 100% correct. Previously, saw manufacturers and service shops used manual measuring equipment and inspected every fifth or tenth saw blade for conformity — and then recorded the data. Now, a fully automated sequence can be integrated to save considerable time."

Discussing the bold move to phase out the CHD and CHF machines, Thomas concludes, "Product development teams meet weekly with worldwide sales colleagues and collect all the sales engineers and customer requests — the list is huge. The base point for our development is the well-built technology from before. We analyse the technology and how we can improve the machines, but

on the other side, there is a huge list of customer requests or needs. So, we have to understand the customer requests and integrate them with product development.

"For example, we had the electrical cabinet at the back of the machine — but if you have three machines alongside each other, there is only 900 mm of space between machines. The customers have fed this response back to us and on the new machines, we have moved the electrical cabinet to a side where customers would have the gangway. This can also be seen in the new frame and door design where we have improved access to the machine."

With regard to the changing requirements of the market, Thomas says: "Automation is the biggest factor. Machines need to make more and more by themselves. Our Industry 4.0 technology has provided comprehensive remote support during Covid and our energy efficiency and productivity enhancements are reducing the cost per square metre of production for our customers — we will always drive this forward."

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XYZ announces incredible offers on the purchase of one of their new routers



AS A LEADING global manufacturer of CNC router machines and knife systems, XYZ recognises the need for versatility when it comes to cutting systems. The company's portfolio of routing machines consists of five different models: Innovator, Infinite, Trident, METALWORKER and PANELBuilder, all with their own unique options and versatility to cross over infinite markets. XYZ is excited to announce its special offer that starts on 11 October and runs to 30 November 2022.

The offer includes 10% off all standard XYZ routers (Innovator, Infinite, Trident, METALWORKER, PANELBuilder).

- No extra charge 2 year warranty
- No extra charge 2 year pre paid maintenance (parts & labour)
- No extra charge industry specific starter tool kit

This fantastic offer is only available for a limited time, so don't delay!

For a detailed look at XYZ machines visit the company's website, but below is a quick snapshot of what is available:

Innovator

<https://www.xyz.co.uk/product/innovator/>

Industrial precision; compact design; full-scale capability.

The XYZ innovator, optimised for prototype, signs and graphics, woodworking shops and educational institutions, is equipped with powerful integrated servo motors, an optional tool changer and standard helical rack. Choose from two standard sizes that fit the most common sheets sized for this market.

Infinite

<https://www.xyz.co.uk/product/infinite/>

Believed to be the most versatile and customisable CNC router system in the industry.

The Infinite router is a highly configurable CNC machine. The Infinite Series is suitable for one-off, small batch production as well as high volume and high productivity applications, including point of purchase, sign making, woodworking, plastic fabrication and so much more.

Trident

<https://www.xyz.co.uk/product/trident/>

Believed to be the most versatile router-knife hybrid in its class.

Processing a wide range of materials requires more than one cutting head. The Trident combines three different cutting technologies to provide maximum versatility by offering a choice of routing spindle and two knives, which can be either tangential, oscillating or a combination of both. Ideal for foam processing, graphics & print finishing, point of purchase & sign making.

METALWORKER

<https://www.xyz.co.uk/product/metalworker/>

High performance CNC router.

Manufacturers looking to process non-ferrous metals in low to high volume manufacturing environments will benefit from a standard list of features that make METALWORKER CNC router among the leading machines in the market specifically engineered for high precision part production in nested-based CNC operations, such as metal fabrication, aluminium and metal composites.

PANELBuilder

<https://www.xyz.co.uk/product/panelbuilder/>

Believed to be the world's leading panel fabrication system.

The PANELBuilder system is believed to be the most sophisticated, all-in-one solution on the market. By combining advanced, easy-to-use software with custom machine design, it processes all types of cladding materials faster, more consistently and at a lower cost than ever before. With its dedicated CAD/CAM software for automated panel fabrication, XYZ is confident that it is a world leading panel fabrication system.

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SCM presents Windorflex, the new machining cell for producing windows and doors



TODAY, design and eco-sustainability are the two main trends defining wooden windows production. The design dictates windows' finish quality and shape, while eco-sustainability mainly involves the way in which they are manufactured.

To ensure perfect wooden window quality and optimise production rates and flexibility, it is essential to pay significant attention to the machine's constructive features.

Being a technology partner of the world's leading window and door manufacturers for 70 years gives SCM the opportunity to continuously listen to the customers' detailed requirements and allows the company to constantly come up with advanced responses.

Based on these prerogatives, SCM designed Windorflex, the new machining cell for the pro-



duction of windows and doors. According to the “Spread your wings with Windorflex & future-proof your windows production” campaign, the machine is an innovative and high-tech solution for producing window frames, regardless of the type. Windorflex has a fixed gantry structure that enables high machining speeds whilst ensuring the best accuracy.

The configurability of the machining units with four and five-axis electrospindles, allows all the necessary operations for the production of

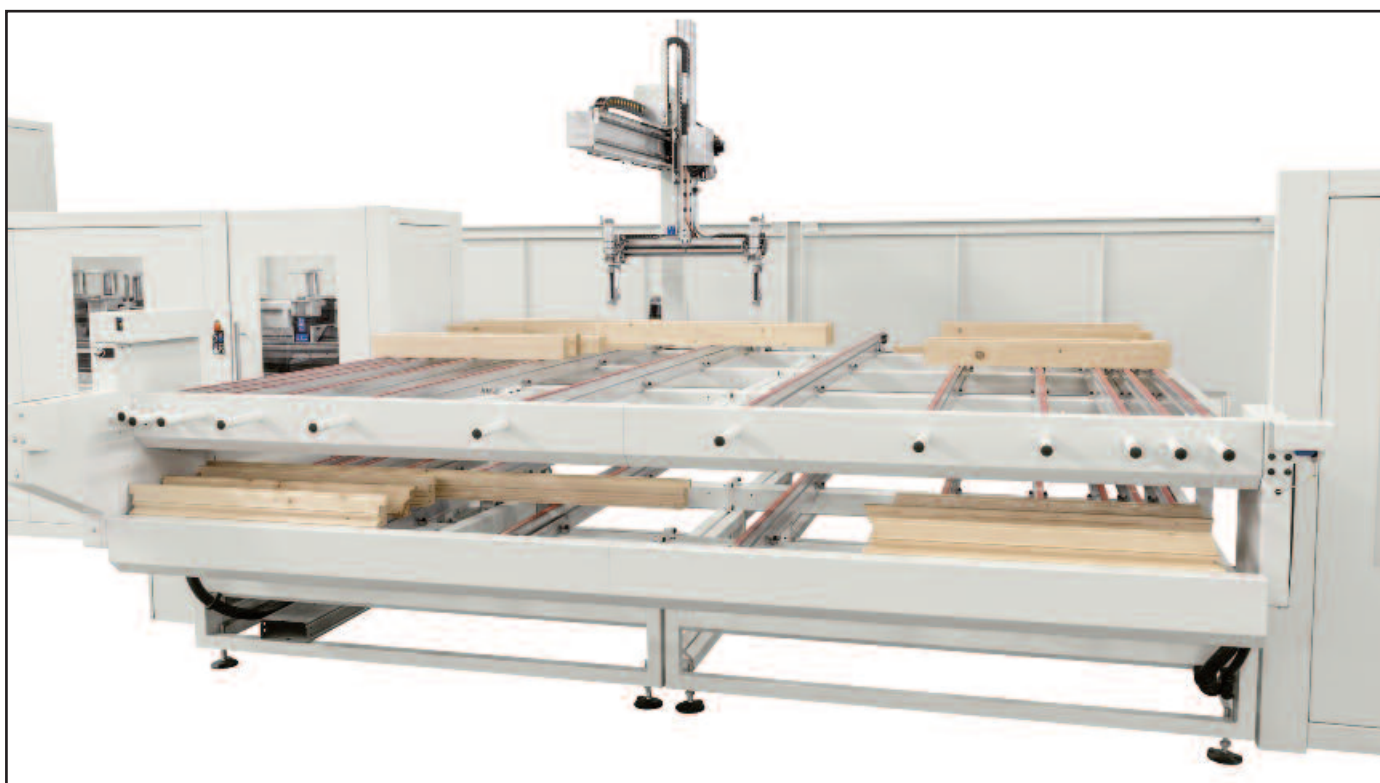
complete windows. The alternate use of the two routing units reduces the cycle time; while one unit is working, the other performs the tool change in masked time.

The innovative automatic worktable is equipped with dedicated clamps for the constant holding of the work-pieces. It is possible to process from one to four workpieces in sequence. The worktable modularity allows managing three workpiece lengths: 3,500 mm, 4,500 mm and 6,000 mm. The workpiece repositioning, from the internal side machining to the external one, is direct between the clamps, without needing additional devices, to ensure excellent finish quality.

Another advantage is the automatic workpieces loading/unloading systems that enable the machine to work autonomously, without the continuous input of the operator. These systems are available in two solutions: with loading/unloading bench or with an anthropomorphous robot that picks up the rough elements and unloads the finished workpieces on special trolleys.

The exclusive Maestro Active Window software, specifically developed for the control and the programming of Windorflex, is capable of meeting any demands related to windows and doors production thanks also to Maestro Connect, the SCM IoT system.

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MB Fentech for Allan Bros

ALLAN BROTHERS, founded in 1811, has a long and illustrious history in the joinery industry. To this day, it remains rooted in traditional values and its master craftsmen take immense pride in quality and detail. Since 2007, the company has been part of Inwido Group and, with a decentralised structure and a focus on long term growth, Allan Brothers has moved into a new era.

Factory manager, Robert Frost, was tasked with identifying manufacturing improvements and one area of high priority was the finish of the windows. Like all manufacturing businesses who spray finish products, Allan Bros moved to water based paints to reduce emissions. This introduced the need to hand sand, particularly between coats and when the framing was assembled.

This really needed a change in direction and amore automated sanding system was required. An added problem was the mix of products and the constant need to change the profile.

After lengthy research, Dean Grimbley of John Penny Woodworking Machinery introduced the MB Fentech sanding machine to Allan Bros. The machine is manufactured in Herford, Northern Germany. The Fentech was created and designed by the owner and chief engineer, Ronald Busch, and is the culmination of many years' research.

One of the key factors in Ronald's early ideas was to create a machine for a batch size of one. This led to the introduction of the Fentech scanner-based setting. The part is scanned on entry and all heads are set from the information. Another key factor was the very complex shaped parts that make up modern window frames. This was overcome with the vacuum transportation of the parts, believed to be unique; the parts are held down whilst moving through the machine on the vacuum belt.

The benefits to Allan Bros were now they could consider a machine that can sand one part and change automatically to the next profile with no manual setting. The vacuum transportation also can deal with even the shortest of sash components and has the option to return the part, making it a one-man operation when needed or the part can be unloaded with another operator for higher production.



The large 400 mm diameter sanding heads are equipped with automatic oscillation and provide a large sanding area and very long life of sand paper. The machine is also equipped with the option to use automatic jump positions of all the sanding heads, which protects the vulnerable shoulders from over rounding.

The machine is operated through a touch screen control and several sanding programs can be stored. Sanding programs can be stored and saved with control over feed speed, RPM, jump position and oscillation. These programs can also be used to deal with very specialist sanding such as conservatory parts such as rafters and ring beams.

Rob and his team took some time to build up a case study and, after several meetings to discuss all the profiles in detail, it was decided to move forward. Dean Grimbley said, "My colleague Heiko Dowe arranged and conducted sanding trials over at our showroom and test facility in Germany for Rob and his team. The result was an order followed very soon after their return."

All in all, the Fentech sanding system is considered ideal for window, door and conservatory producers and can save hours of hand work. It will also make it easier to maintain a consistent high quality.

Allan Bros Timber Windows ● Tel 01289 334600
www.allanbrothers.co.uk

John Penny Woodworking Machinery Limited ● Tel 01235 531700
www.john-penny.co.uk ● www.mb-maschinenbau.de

Video link of the Fentech installation and MB Partnership at Allan Bros
<https://youtu.be/AAAzW0yjO4E>

JMS 3D Pro enabling JCK Joinery/Unity Group to grow after 150 years in business

SERVING the industry for over 150 years, JCK Joinery, now part of the Unity Group, decided to upgrade its in-house systems and JMS 3D Pro was the answer the company was looking for.

Founded in 1830 by John Cornelius Kellet, JC Kellett & Sons (JCK Joinery) has been a pillarstone in Leicester throughout the years and played a significant role in the transformation of Leicester between 1845 and 1895.

Over the years the business has changed a lot, so have the products, to the point where the company now concentrates more on doors and screens than anything else.

In 2019 JCK started to look at solutions to replace the in-house software. The MRP software the company had was outdated, and although it did a lot of what the team was looking for and extensive work had been made to modify it to fit the joinery door business and processes, it still didn't do everything the company needed.

JCK could immediately see the benefit of having software like Joinerysoft's JMS 3D Pro which is made specifically for the joinery/commercial door industry and in May 2019 decided to take the plunge and purchase, around the same time Louise Sheppard joined the company as office manager.

In February 2020 JCK was taken over by Unity Doors and the Unity Group was formed, and at the heart of the systems was JMS 3D Pro. "We use it for quoting our clients, order acknowledgements, client drawings and sometimes cutting lists too," says Louise.

When purchasing the software the company settled on three people being able to use the system at the same time. They have found with the introduction of JMS Pro that every member of the office team can now do every job, whereas previously just those who knew how to use the external software could do certain parts. Louise explains, "It's made us a more multi-tasking office. Instead of one of us doing the quoting, another doing the drawings and a third doing the cutting lists, now all of us can do every job. So I can now do the quotes, order ac-



knowledgements, cutting lists, and client drawings — which was impossible before JMS Pro."

The new layout of the quotes and the extra detail compared to the old system has saved the company time, especially when it comes to the customer being able to understand what they are getting. "I think it's easier because the last system that we used literally just said FD60 Door, and customers would ask, 'Oh, have you included this size vision panel, or have you included this?'. At least now they can see that we've added a longer vision panel or a shorter one or put top lights in it. They can visually see the specification of the door they are getting in the quote," says Emma Heathcote, JMS Pro user.

Using the automatic calculations for U-Values on every quote saves the company time and money that might have been spent on testing the individual products.

JMS Pro has proved beneficial over the original software or using Excel spreadsheets as many door companies do. Louise says, "I'd definitely say it's worth having

Joinerysoft, it has benefited us and saved us time from previous solutions."

Emma agrees, saying "It's more user friendly to build a door. Previously in Excel or our old system, yes you could build a door, but JMS 3D Pro is a lot more user friendly because you can see the elements you are changing."

It is also easier in JMS 3D Pro to train new people with accurate quoting achieved quickly. Louise explains, "When you've got new people coming in, or you've got people that need to learn a new task, I think you get the quotation ending up being more correct. Whereas previously you'd have a lot of 'do I need to use ... or can I use that ... or is that part of our certification?', now we have set up everything in JMS Pro to be covered under our certification, and I think our quotes are more accurate, with fewer mistakes."

Emma says, "It's easier now with JMS 3D Pro — if you want to tweak a size, you just duplicate the lines."

Louise adds, "I think the whole process from quoting, sales, client drawings, cutting lists etc is quicker because once you've done the

quote everything is there in the background already, so we don't have to start a drawing outside of the system in CAD or something."

Emma agrees, "Making changes in CAD you'd have to do each individual door and door style separately, whereas with JMS 3D Pro you can make a change once at quote level and the changes cascade down to each individual item so the changes are already there for you!"

Implementing software solutions in your business can save you time, make you more professional, profitable on every job and reduce wastage, making purchasing purpose designed software a no-brainer that can pay for itself within months. For more information about JMS 3D Pro contact Joinerysoft Ltd.

Unity Doors Limited
Tel 0116 291 2288
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www.unitydoors.com

Joinerysoft Ltd
Tel 01608 643302
sales@joinerysoft.com
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Jones Digital celebrates two-year partnership with Virtual 360° Tours Glos



JONES DIGITAL, believed to be the UK's fastest growing digital powerhouse, is celebrating two years in partnership with Virtual 360° Tours Glos, following a hugely positive response to its range of creative solutions for the independent to enhance its business offer virtually.

Founder and managing director

at Jones Digital, Peter Jones, says: "As e-commerce has surged in the past 20 years, I think we can safely say that digital marketing has become one of the world's most creative and influential industries. I anticipate a rapid expansion in the technological interface in the next decade and beyond, where we move more into a 'phygital' world

and continue to blend digital experiences with physical ones like a virtual showroom tour.

"We have seen the rise of wearables in the fitness industry and I predict that more and more consumers will appreciate a seamless integration of technology within bricks and mortar retail, with the sole purpose of improving the

customer experience. It is true that some concepts like the Internet of Things (IoT) have been in development for a number of years prior to hitting the mainstream, but the assimilation of the smartphone into business and leisure has demonstrated a rapid pace of change which is intensifying.

"This is lending itself to new op-





opportunities for retailers and wholesalers to connect with their target audiences digitally, and prior to purchase.

"As a result, the customer has changed and carved a niche for a new type of retail which embodies the best of online convenience with analogue expertise."

Supporting over 200 showrooms online and 500 businesses overall, Virtual 360° Tours Glos travel nationwide to create the very best in immersive showroom experiences. Using a premium quality Matterport 360 camera to pinpoint accurate 3D tours throughout the interior and exterior of the showroom, visitors can step into a bricks and mortar store at their convenience by simply visiting a company's online website.

Together, Jones Digital and Virtual 360° Tours Glos has been instrumental in helping many premium brands shift the needle with regards to their online presence and since the launch of its bespoke products and services, many clients are enjoying the virtues of video as it becomes a daily part of their ongoing business model. Enabling key brands to bring a virtual showroom experience direct to the customer, online and 24/7, market leaders like Homebase, Siemens, Bathstore, And So To Bed, Schmidt and Poggenpohl are already benefiting from the new opportunities available to them.

Scott Currie, managing director

at Virtual 360° Tours Glos, says: "We are now the UK's leading virtual tour provider for the KBB industry. No one has done more than Peter and I and we are structuring our team to support the industry. Not only will a virtual tour enhance your visibility online, but it will also increase your Google search results, so that more and more people will be visiting your website and using the interactive sources of marketing! It's all about turning browsers into buyers. I was a kitchen designer prior to launching my own business and want virtual tours for everyone."

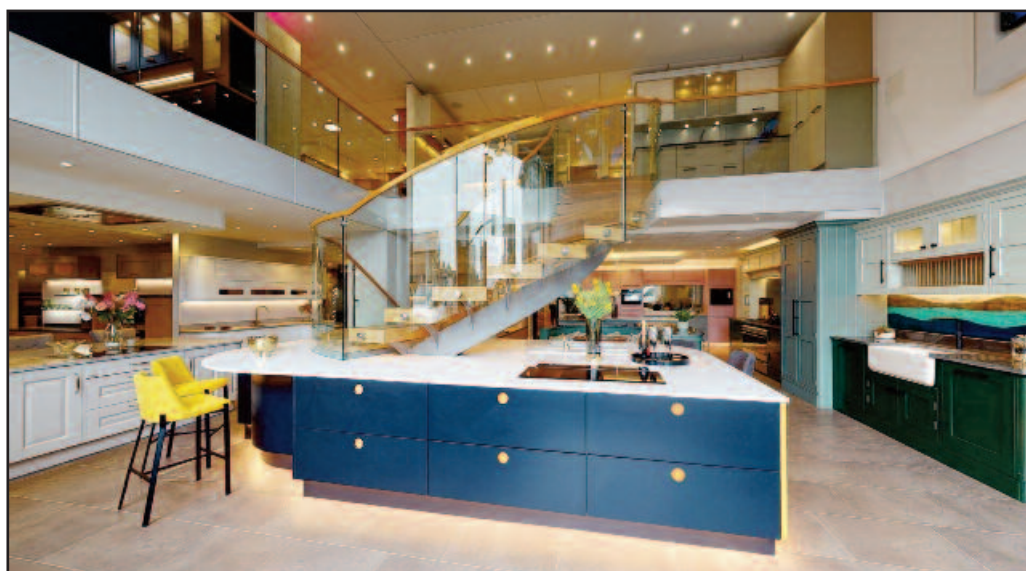
Tristan Sherlock, sales director, BSH Group says "With studies showing that up to 70% of the buying decision being made be-

fore a prospect even contacts your company, a virtual tour is a fantastic way to engage and make a great impression with prospective customers. These virtual tours are truly exceptional and I'm delighted that a large number of our retail partners have taken advantage of this fantastic opportunity to improve their website and digital offering. I honestly believe that before long, the majority of KBB retailers who have a website will also have a Virtual Tour."

Working in partnership with Virtual 360° Tours Glos, Jones Digital has created a new pathway to assist revenue stream and bring committed customers with money to spend direct to the retailer's door. These easy-to-integrate dig-

ital solutions offer an excellent ROI, as they give even more value to visitors so they will spend longer on websites and explore their options with tags, links and product videos for a more in-depth and enriching showroom experience. Peter adds, "Digital storytelling is all about creating, growing and sustaining a community through authentic content which is carefully tailored to your market. Our bespoke approach allows us to shape and convey our clients' messages, all the while providing edu-tainment to their customer base within the guidelines of their brand and business."

Jones Digital
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Daval Salcombe kitchen with integrated drinks cabinet

AWARD-WINNING designer and manufacturer of British-made fitted furniture, Daval, introduced the concept of blended living to a new build family home in the rolling countryside of West Yorkshire.

Designed, made and installed by Daval Furniture, this charcoal and dove grey kitchen scheme presents a vibrant combination of custom Salcombe furniture, natural stone surfaces, high-quality upholstery and industrial style hardware to offer a well-defined kitchen living space with casual dining, bench seating and integrated drinks cabinet with larder storage.

Simon Bodsworth, managing director at Daval Furniture, says, "As homeowners continue to optimise storage in line with their own lifestyle preferences, custom kitchens which incorporate different areas for work and play are being designed to enhance the flow of the ground floor, so being able to support the smooth running of this busy family home now and long into the future, is a real privilege."

Daval Furniture was tasked with providing ample yet discreet storage, specially designed to serve the different disciplines in the kitchen living space like cooking, dining, seating and home entertaining. Made-to-order, made-to-measure fitted furniture creates a run of full height cabinets on the far wall, complete with built-in twin ovens and a 13 bottle colour-matched wine rack.



Ergonomic industrial style knurled handles and knobs provide form and function in stainless steel to reveal a fully integrated fridge-freezer, essential cupboard space and a deluxe drinks cabinet with antique, mirrored effect back splash. Built for entertaining, the bespoke drinks cabinet stores the homeowners' top shelf liquor and is designed with a series of suspended glass holders, a solid oak door pantry and barista-style coffee station for the perfect nightcap.

The Salcombe furniture by Daval was designed in two contrasting colours to provide a strong foundation and high degree of tone and texture. Salcombe Charcoal painted oak grain effect was chosen for the island, run of tall units with integrated drinks cabinet and built-in bench seat with two low-level drawers, whereas textured wood effect dove grey top units help to depict the pure grey-vein marble surfaces. The white oak herringbone flooring beautifully frames the wrap-around island and the exposed pendant lighting by Buster + Punch, gives a subtle nod to the industrial heritage of the region.

James Bodsworth, design director at Daval, says, "Texture and visual depth were a key part of the brief, which is why we specified our versatile Salcombe furniture in two opposing finishes to balance the homeowner's choice of mustard and grey upholstery fabric and provide definition to the main kitchen area.

"The distinct high rise bar stools offer friends and family a comfortable bar-style dining experience, which is great when entertaining or keeping the chef company. Our decision to include a peninsula unit allowed us to maximise the layout of the kitchen to provide plenty of room to manoeuvre, as well as seat five at the bar, and more on the recessed bench seat close by."

The main cook and wash zone is minimalist by design, featuring a Bora Pure induction hob with integrated cooktop extractor on one side, and a Matrix 1.5 bowl stainless steel sink and hot tap by Quooker opposite. Above the bench seat near the sink area is a stainless-steel champagne cooler, which is inset within the surface of the chunky marble worktop. In short walk of the French doors, this deluxe cooler is considered ideal for when the homeowners are entertaining at home and want to serve their guests ice-cold drinks on demand.

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

Warm welcome with bootrooms from Blossom Avenue by BA



BA, ONE OF the UK's leading manufacturers of factory-built, bespoke and made-to-measure kitchens and bedrooms and specialists components, shares the latest furniture trends elevating the home and kitchen space.

Where fine UK craftsmanship brings Italian style to life, Blossom Avenue by BA offers a range of be-

spoke and rigid kitchen furniture, which will adapt to individual lifestyle needs like the rising trend for a dedicated boot room, where friends and family can store their coat, bags, shoes and brolly, and limit the inevitable overspill in the main living areas.

Aine McKernan, Blossom Avenue brand manager at BA, says, "Our field research has consis-

tently shown that we are still spending more time at home than in the previous decade, and this is impacting how we live and use the ground floor space.

"Overflow kitchen storage like a dedicated bootroom or utility is a great way to introduce a practical solution at the backdoor and expand the main kitchen area. And as we approach the coldest, wettest months of the year, furniture schemes that add value are now becoming integral to daily life."

Pictured is the new Bootroom concept from Blossom Avenue by BA, which is designed in the new Bella Supermatt Indigo Blue Austin furniture and offers a classic contemporary door style with vertical grooves.

Launched in 2022 and part of the Contemporary Collection, the Austin door style is considered a perfect mix of classic and contemporary design, able to answer the 'modern country' trend to create a made to measure bootroom in high-fashion, dark blue. Extended into the main kitchen area, the new supermatt indigo blue furniture is broken up with a block-style kitchen island in complementary supermatt light grey finish.

Aine adds: "The new supermatt indigo blue finish remains one of the hottest colour trends in classic contemporary kitchen, with other new shades including matt sage green, matt colonial blue, supermatt dust grey, supermatt light grey and supermatt white to present a variety of design options for the UK home and lifestyle."

Bella is a fully made-to-measure furniture range, boasting 40 colours and 29 style choices. New door styles within the Bella range by BA include Austin Shaker Grooves as featured, along with Buxton Classic Square, Chester Twin Panel, Stratford Multi-panel, Helmsley Mock Frame and Oakham Narrow Frame Shaker.

Designed for the UK homeowner, Blossom Avenue by BA offers a further eight collections, so customers have piece of mind that there is something to suit every space, style and budget. Each range is considered a perfect mix of quality, sustainable materials and cutting-edge design, categorised in four distinct styles: contemporary, handleless, classic and traditional.

BA
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Gira brings style and substance to a Little Black House

GIRA, one of the world's leading full-range suppliers of intelligent building solutions for commercial and residential properties, has brought the latest style and substance to a little black house on Lake Ammer in Germany.

With a black charred wooden façade and supersized pivot windows, this little black house makes a big statement in the popular lakeside resort of Lake Ammer, near Munich in Germany. The little house designed by leading architects, Buero Wagner, defies all the clichés as a bold alternative to generic detached houses, urban sprawl and nondescript buildings and instead, champions individuality and creativity.

Conceived as a new extension, the little black house was cleverly inserted between an office and an apartment block. It is directly connected to the apartment block and deliberately stands out as a separate structure. The wooden framework is charred, making it resistant to both water and fungal attack with no need for chemical treatment.

The black house not only has an impressive appearance but also a carefully considered interior with design elements pared back to basic, essential functions. Its location and the necessary integration inspired the architects to create a nested effect by arranging rooms of different heights inside each other. This also is reflected in the



Photos: Florian Holzherr.

different roof shapes which flow into one another: flat roof connects the black house to the apartment block and a pitched roof.

Minimalist and simple, there are 80 m² of living space, comprising a kitchen with a living and dining area on the ground floor and a bedroom with a bathroom and a separate cloakroom in the basement. A special highlight is the living area above the kitchen, which merges into a terrace. Thanks to the two floor-ceiling pivot windows, the north and west façades of the house can be opened almost completely, so that the

boundary between inside and outside almost disappears with a view towards the lake.

The interior is restrained in form and material, complementing the basic minimalist concept of the black house. All fixtures such as kitchen cabinets, windows and doors and the staircase are made of natural, oiled oak.

Despite the simple furnishings, the rooms have a cosy atmosphere. The concrete ceilings, walls and floors provide thermal energy storage for the built-in panel and underfloor heating.

These surfaces were sanded

down to make the stone pattern more visible.

With a minimalist interior, a lot of emphasis is placed on the details. For this reason, great importance was attached to the interplay of design and functionality, including the sockets and light switches where the Gira E2 Design Line in Black Matt create elegant highlights upon the walls.

Gira E2 Black Matt finish — this timeless socket and switch series will complement a range of interior styles and will stand up to the rigours of family life. Available in a range of shatter-proof UV-resistant colours to illuminate and automate a home, Gira E2 comes in pure white matt, pure white glossy, aluminium, grey matt (a new addition), anthracite, on-trend colour black matt and high quality stainless steel. It also works seamlessly with the Gira System 55, which offers over 300 functions to assist intuitive smart home living.

Everything has been well considered in this building. It plays with concepts of inside and outside, top and bottom. Overall, the little black house has a purist and open feel due to its shape and the sparing choice of materials. It was nominated for the DAM Prize for Architecture 2020, which recognises outstanding buildings prestigious in Germany.

Gira UK Ltd
Tel 01483 713400
sales@gira.com
www.gira.com



Photos: Florian Holzherr.

MB Maschinenbau — “Sanding quality is in our DNA”



MB, ESTABLISHED in 1992 by Ronald Busch, has come a long way since its inception. Currently located in a modern manufacturing unit on the outskirts of Herford in northern Germany, the company has grown in size and reputation as a true specialist in brush sanding and cleaning technology, with a host of world leading customers across the globe. The company is truly a family business with Ronald's wife and both sons active members of the 30 strong team.

The MB range of machines covers most applications of furniture, joinery and timber and MDF linear mouldings. But one of the key areas of growth in recent years has been with kitchen cabinet door sanding and cleaning.

MB offers two main models for this application with the Roba Tech and Roba Split Belt models. The Roba Tech is equipped with a unique and patented sanding aggregate which rotates and swivels through 360° at the same time. The head has a sanding area of 1,300 x 1,500 mm putting a huge area of paper in contact with the work piece. Along with the action of the head this ensures it sands in every direction over all areas of the work piece. This is one of the key reasons why nothing sands better than MB, according to the company, which makes this model especially good for hardwood, MDF and primer sanding.

The MB Split Belt is more of a specialist sanding machine need for fine finishing, very often added to finishing lines. With the introduction of more engineered materials, it became more apparent that MB needed a new approach. The industry has proved that nothing stands still and commonly today we are experiencing spraying on all manner of surfaces from timber, MDF wrapped or pressed through to composite door skins. The Split Belt is best placed to deal with this using its four directional sanding aggregates and optional aggregates for speciality details.

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Over at MB there is a fully functional showroom and test facility, and the company invites customers on a regular basis. If you are experiencing high labour costs in your sanding department or suffering quality issues and need help or advice from an expert, then MB might just be the partner you are looking for.

Available in the UK from John Penny Woodworking Machinery Ltd.
John Penny Woodworking Machinery Limited ● Tel 01235 531700
www.john-penny.co.uk ● www.mb-maschinenbau.de

MB Roba Tech Top sander and Duplex Edge sander installed at Superior Cabinets <https://youtu.be/3ZxgPZlcSRg>

Antimicrobial coatings from Microban

MICROBAN International is proud to present LapisShield™, a novel, non-heavy-metal technology designed to seamlessly integrate antimicrobial functionality into any water-based coating formulation. This broad-spectrum antimicrobial technology is proven to inhibit bacterial growth by up to 99.99% and prevents the growth of mould and mildew, helping to protect treated surfaces from various sources of microbial degradation.

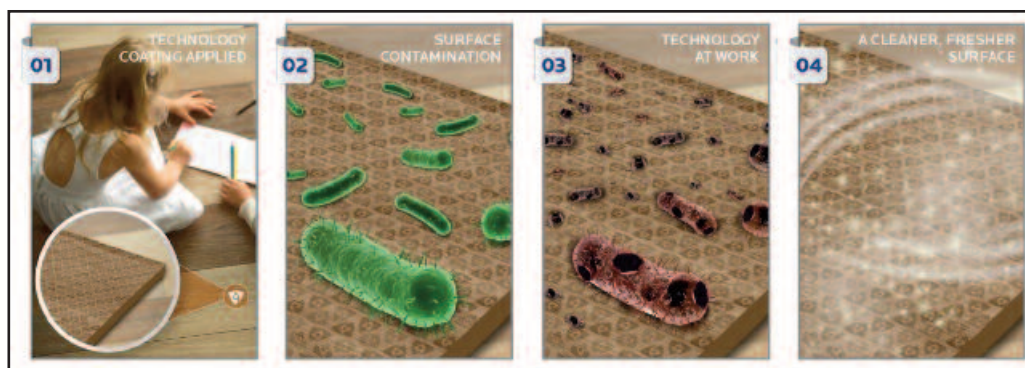
LapisShield is the newest coatings innovation from a leader in antimicrobial technologies, demonstrating the company's continuing drive to deliver more sustainable solutions to deter microbial growth. With this state-of-the-art technology, manufacturers can enhance their coatings with the power of product protection against the detrimental effects of microbes — including stains, odours and premature degradation — extending the lifetime of coated products. LapisShield offers superior quality and stability by optimising processing and manufacturing requirements. It also allows coating batches to be stored for future use, preventing unnecessary waste and optimising resources for more sustainable coatings manufacturing.

LapisShield is specifically designed to meet the needs of the water-based coatings industry, a sector that is constantly striving for clearer and more environmentally friendly systems that create a seamless finish. This ground-breaking technology is compatible with thin coating systems and offers enhanced UV stability, limiting impacts on the optical properties of

water-based coatings, and making them ideal for transparent glass or plastic applications, according to the company. Michael Ruby, president of Microban International, commented: "We are excited to introduce LapisShield as the latest example of Microban's commitment to developing sustainable, non-heavy-metal antimicrobial technologies for its partners worldwide. Our coatings experts have worked tirelessly to deliver a more environmentally friendly technology that offers the best quality and compatibility for water-based coating systems. The fantastic stability and clarity of LapisShield allows it to be easily integrated with a wide variety of coatings systems, including anti-fingerprint and anti-smudge formulations, and applications requiring optically clear performance."

LapisShield is available to water-based coating manufacturers across the world to help prevent the growth of bacteria, mould and mildew on a variety of substrates, including glass, metal, wood and plastics.

Microban International
www.microban.com/antimicrobial-solutions/technologies/lapisshield



PANELS

UK manufactured West Fraser SterlingOSB Zero T&G ensures reliability

STERLINGOSB ZERO T&G, from timber panel specialist, West Fraser (trading as Norbord), presents specifics with precision-engineered tongue and groove boards which are typically used for pitched or flat roof decking and timber frame construction, as well as for flooring and other applications.

With the product now being one of the most widely used of its type in the UK, because it performs so well in our varied climate, it is perhaps stability as well as overall value which commends it to so many customers. Unlike traditional wooden boards, SterlingOSB Zero's make-up ensures that no voids or knots are present meaning that it will not delaminate. This inherent strength makes it far safer for tradesmen working at height laying flooring or decking.

Additionally, being precision-cut means less waste on site and the associated costs of disposal to landfill. Another eco-friendly factor is that the timber used in the production process is grown in the UK — reducing transportation and embodied energy, as well as guaranteeing a more secure supply in an increasingly unreliable global market.

From an environmental viewpoint, the 'Zero' in the name means no formaldehyde is added during its manufacture, which is a first in the UK — encouraging its specification on improved health and safety grounds. Potentially highly toxic, formaldehyde can be absorbed into the lungs, causing respiratory distress or nausea.

West Fraser delivers a net carbon benefit in all the products produced in the UK, locking up more CO₂e in the products (and lifetime of use) that is emitted in the manufacture of them. That accounts for everything from forest to customer, including harvesting, production, sales and logistics.

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

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





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Senoplast Acryl Glass 2mm scratch and scour resistant glosses are a coextruded material which, combined with high gloss levels delivers all the aesthetic advantages of real glass with the processing and practical advantages of Senoplast, also available in smooth super matt. **Available in quantities from as little as just one board.**

Contact us for more information.

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www.decorativepanels.co.uk

From ice rink to event space with SterlingOSB Zero

WHEN Gordon Barron, CEO of Inverness Ice Centre Ltd, was looking for a temporary cover for the ice rink, he sought the advice of Inverness-based wood-panel manufacturer, West Fraser (trading as Norbord).

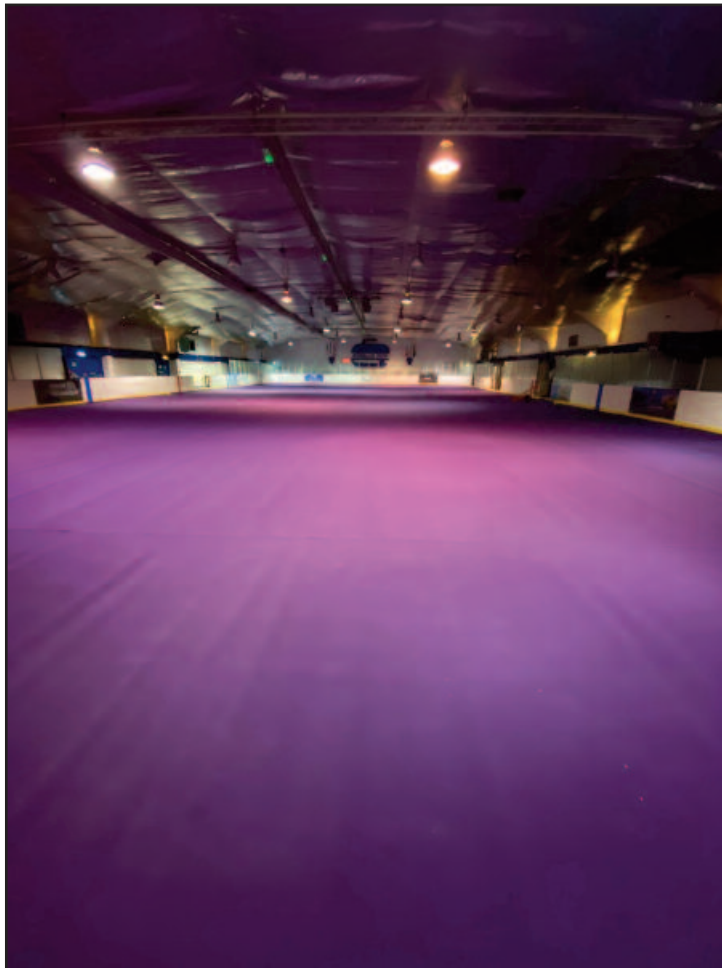
The Board of Directors of the Ice Centre wanted a simple, easy-to-install covering for the ice to enable the space to be used to stage fundraising events when not in use for skating or ice sports.

"We wanted to cover a floor space of 1,176 m². West Fraser suggested we use SterlingOSB Zero and was able to offer the boards at a subsidised price through our local branch of Buildbase in Inverness," said Gordon.

"We can now prepare for fundraising events by laying 800 panels of SterlingOSB Zero and then covering the area in carpet, protecting the ice while giving us a useable surface. Now that we've done it a few times, we are down to four hours, laying the floor by hand. We are looking to source the right lifting equipment to reduce the set-up time further. We hired a small forklift but that wasn't quite right, so we'll keep on looking," Gordon said.

"We are grateful to West Fraser and Buildbase for their patience and support! The solution presented to us is light, so easy to lay, and the panels are cost-effective and readily available should the time come when we need to replace any of the boards."

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



Weatherproofing flooring with protective film

CABERDEK from West Fraser (trading as Norbord) is ideally suited to the UK's unpredictable climate, being that it combines the company's market leading particleboard flooring with a tough, waterproof and slip-resistant film.

Compliant with BS EN312: part 5, CaberDek creates a safe working platform thanks to the waterproof, heavy-duty film, which is also resistant to the sudden impacts, puncture and tear risks to be encountered on any building site. It is recommended that CaberFix D4 adhesive is used for bonding flooring to joists, within tongue and groove joints and along the exposed perimeter edges of the floor. When applied in accordance with the instructions, CaberDek has full BBA approval for 42 days' exposure.

For the eventual building occupant, CaberDek flooring more than meets the acoustic requirements of the Building Regulations: with tests on the CaberDek and CaberFix Pro flooring system having confirmed an impressive 44 dB sound reduction. Meanwhile the easy to peel film, once removed, leave a clean and undamaged floor surface ready to accept a full range of floor finishes.

Measuring 600 mm wide by 2,400 mm long, CaberDek is available through West Fraser distributors in an easy to install and familiar T&G format, making it an ideal choice for housebuilders or sub-contractors to ensure rapid installation, ready to face the toughest of conditions on site.

West Fraser ● Tel 01786 812921 ● Daniel.Clarke@westfraser.com
<https://uk.westfraser.com/housebuilders/>

Weathertex®'s Selflok Ecogroove Weatherboards now available from Lathams

JAMES LATHAM has announced the introduction of Weathertex®'s sustainable Selflok Ecogroove Weatherboards to the UK and Irish building products market.

Exclusive to the distributor in the UK and Ireland, Lathams has added Weathertex's popular Selflok Ecogroove Natural and Selflok Ecogroove Woodsman to its cladding range in response to a growing demand for a more sustainable, but simultaneously natural, option to traditional lapped timber planks.

Not only that, Selflok is also delivering a greener alternative to the carbon-intensive cement-based boards popular in the booming domestic cladding sector, reducing a home's carbon footprint whilst achieving a robust, resistant and attractive façade.

The engineered boards are considered ideal for a wide range of external cladding applications and can withstand harsh winter conditions, retaining their aesthetic appeal without compromising on technical performance.

Considered a green solution for cladding and facings, both boards contain no added formaldehyde or chemicals; just 97% PEFC eucalyptus hardwood fibre and 3% natural waxes.

From a visual perspective, Selflok Ecogroove Natural and Woodsman boards possess a characteristic wood grain effect, and each product has its own distinctive attributes. The Natural board is un-primed and features deep cuts and patterns to show the knots, cracks and imperfections of the raw and organic timber. Customers can choose to stain the product, or to leave unsealed, allowing a natural ageing process to take place, eventually providing a mellow, weathered finish.

In contrast, Selflok Ecogroove Woodsman features the same face texture, but is factory primed, meaning it can be painted or coated immediately, without pre-treatment.

With the panels measuring 3,660 mm in length and 300 mm across the width with a 15 mm groove running straight the middle, they replicate two 150 mm boards, meaning installation time is halved.

Hard-wearing, cost-effective and versatile, the Weathertex Selflok range can be applied internally to any flat or curved surface (with a minimum radius of 2.5 m) and can also be used for walls or ceilings. Simple



to cut to the required size, both boards are easy to install, by simply overlapping the edge of the next board over the previous one, leaving the full face visible.

Both products are also considered perfect for horizontal outdoor use, especially in locations with harsher climates, as they can withstand most meteorological conditions without bowing or warping. Furthermore, the low sugar and starch content ensures both of the Weathertex boards also make the material resistant to insect attacks. A mark of quality and long-term value, all primed Selflok cladding boards are covered by a 25-year warranty, while un-primed products feature a 10 year warranty.

Selflok Ecogroove Natural and Selflok Ecogroove Woodsman are safe and low-maintenance, as well as being the first range of cladding materials to gain GreenTag™ Platinum, with complaint credits for LEED v4.0.

Commenting on the introduction of Weathertex to the Lathams catalogue, technical timber sales development manager Justin Hayward says, "These new cladding boards respond to a number of challenges across the industry, particularly the need to balance aesthetics with longevity, and stability with sustainability. We have a strong commitment to sus-

tainability, particularly CO₂ reduction across our product range. When we became aware of Weathertex's Selflok range we instantly knew we wanted to have exclusive access to distributing these high-performance products here in the UK, offering one of the greenest cladding solutions currently available."

Weathertex's Matteo Bossi adds, "Preserving, protecting and enhancing the environment is at the heart of our business model, so it's essential we work with like-minded partners who share our values. Lathams, which has consistently demonstrated its commitment to sustainable business, was an obvious choice to introduce the Weatherboards to the UK and Ireland design and build community. We're excited to collaborate with them, raising awareness around the Selflok range, and helping suppliers, specifiers and developers across the industry make more sustainable choices."

James Latham ●
www.lathamtimber.co.uk/products/timber-cladding/weathertex-



Premier Forest Products' 'Superva' features on Channel 5 show

THE TEAM at Premier Forest Products was delighted to see one of its most popular products appear on a Channel 5 show, thanks to the company's work with specialist van refitters, Redruth-based Ecowagon.

Earlier this year, Ecowagon was approached by a family hoping to transform their van into their dream motorhome, as part of the Channel 5 programme 'Million Pound Motorhomes'.

For this inspiring transformation, Ecowagon, which specialises in turning VW T6 and T6.1 vans into campervans using sustainable materials and techniques, used their go-to lightweight plywood, Superva, throughout.

As the family had invested their savings and money from an inheritance into getting their van transformed, Ecowagon managing director Kenny Green and his team knew they wanted this van to be extra special. They worked with



Superva to create the bespoke look envisaged by their experienced designers.

Superva lightweight plywood, which is supplied by Premier Forest Products, is designed to suit the specific needs of the leisure industry and widely used to fit out campervans, motor homes and caravans.

Superva is made from an exterior-grade lightweight plywood core, to save weight, and high pressure laminate (HPL) for enhanced wear on one, or both sides of the board.

For this project, Ecowagon went for a classic cream plywood which contributed to the overall sophisticated, quality finish of the van.

Kenny Green, owner, Ecowagon said: "We've worked on so many of these conversions over the years and every single one is different, which is why it's great to have a product like Superva available to give us so many different, high-quality options. This conversion was very much the customers' choice and they knew they wanted to have a high end finish so, Superva really was their best bet and I'm so pleased with the final result."

Heather Broad, Superva sales executive, Premier Forest Products, said: "We loved seeing Kenny and the Ecowagon team on Million Pound Motorhomes.

"Working in the industry we're always fascinated by the programme and it was lovely to see some familiar faces, especially using Superva that we're so proud of.

"As Kenny has said, everybody wants something different when it comes to their motorhome and we love working with people to find the perfect product to complement their vision — Superva really does have something for everyone."

Premier Forest Products is a vertically integrated timber operation engaged in the importation, sawmilling, processing, merchandising and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from its 12 sites in the UK.

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

Rhino Wood comes to the UK market

INTERNATIONAL Timber, a leading importer and distributor of bespoke, sustainable timber and panel products, has announced stocks of a new FSC® certified range of modified timber.

Rhino Wood, of which International Timber is the sole UK distributor, is manufactured from sustainable, plantation-grown pine. It undergoes a process of thermal modification which brings the moisture content down to below 5% and turns the pine from a yellow colour to a more aesthetically appealing walnut brown which will naturally weather to a beautiful silver-grey.

It is then pressure impregnated with a non-toxic compound which solidifies within the cells of the timber, creating a long-lasting low-maintenance timber which can rival the durability of traditional hardwood.



The manufacturing process uses waste products as an energy source — using clean energy over fossil fuels. In recognition of the contribution to curbing deforestation, the company received the WWF Climate Solver Award in 2014.

Speaking before the first delivery, Kerry Wardle, marketing manager at International Timber, said: “We are delighted to be stocking Rhino Wood, with stocks due to arrive early in September. This timber is a game changer for the UK market which is struggling with global supply chain issues.

“Not only is Rhino Wood an environmentally responsible choice thanks to its sustainable sourcing, but it delivers when it comes to performance too. The impregnation treatment increases the strength of the pine timber by up to 60% without decreasing its bending ability or elasticity, resulting in a class 1 durability rating — making it ideal for endless applications such as cladding, decking, pergolas, gates and laminated beams.”

International Timber ● <https://internationaltimber.com/contact/>



Lathams introduces WISA® BioBond across its UPM WISA-Spruce range

JAMES Latham Ltd (Lathams), one of the UK's leading independent distributors of panel products, has announced the introduction of WISA's new BioBond technology to its full range of WISA-Spruce plywood.

WISA BioBond is the latest bonding innovation from UPM, a globally-renowned manufacturer of sustainable architectural plywood, now used in the entire WISA-Spruce range. A landmark development in plywood adhesive, BioBond replaces at least 50% of standard glue's fossil-based phenol with lignin, timber's inherent bonding agent.

Obtained as a by-product of the Kraft Process, this partial substitution reduces the carbon footprint of WISA-Spruce by approximately 10% without compromising technical performance or visual appeal.

WISA-Spruce is manufactured using UPM's proprietary BioBond technology, and mirrors the qualities of plywood produced using the traditional higher-carbon bonding method. This means it offers a like-for-like greener alternative. As with all WISA's plywood, WISA-Spruce with BioBond technology has undergone rigorous testing to guarantee its high performance qualities, meeting superior standards of strength, resistance and sustainability.

More than just a new form of glue, BioBond has reduced CO₂ across WISA's plywood portfolio. Already available for birch, and now spruce, plywood, UPM plans to roll out BioBond across all its plywood mills, gradually covering its entire range. As one of the UK's most sustainable materials distributors, Lathams is keen to introduce UK specifiers to the low-carbon advantages of WISA-Spruce with BioBond technology. By incorporating this innovation to its ever-expanding collection of green architectural materials, the company is demonstrating its ongoing commitment to supporting sustainable design and build.

Commenting on the introduction of BioBond to the WISA-Spruce range, Nick Widlinski, panels director at Lathams says, "There's no doubt timber and wood-based materials are helping architects and designers



tackle global climate change through making lower-emission material choices. However a question around the carbon intensity of glues and adhesives used in the production of engineered wood persists, and WISA BioBond tackles it head on. Its introduction and standardisation across the brand's high-performance spruce range is a game-changer, offering the best quality with a reduced carbon footprint. Not only is it helping us to promote more sustainable construction methods, it's also supporting a wider drive toward a Net Zero society."

UPM's VP of strategy and business development, Susanna Rinne, concludes, "Sustainability is at the heart of our ethos and guides our ongoing R&D. We are the first manufacturer in the world to use a lignin-based solution for spruce and birch plywood, offering a no-compromise sustainable material solution. It's imperative we work with those who have similar values. ... Latham's longstanding reputation for championing sustainable specification make them a great partner to help us introduce BioBond and its unique properties to the UK and Irish markets."

Providing further confidence in WISA-Spruce's green credentials and certification, the product category scored one of the best ratings on Lathams' new Carbon Calculator tool. An academically developed formula which scores the embodied carbon of each Lathams'-stocked timber product from cradle to purchase, BioBond WISA-Spruce achieved top ranking across the board, providing third party verifications for the material's sustainability claims.

UPM ● www.upm.com/

James Latham Ltd
www.lathamdigitalshowroom.co.uk



Preserving Central Africa's forests

CENTRAL AFRICA'S forests are threatened by deforestation. The 240 million hectares of Central African rainforests, which cover 11 countries, constitute one of the last primary forests in the world. These forests are also exceptional reservoirs of biodiversity with more than 10,000 recorded plant species.



Today, these forests are threatened: more than 3 m hectares disappear on average each year, and 10% of their surface is given over to mining (gold, copper, cobalt, diamonds) which causes permanent destruction of the soil. In addition, the forest is also shrinking as a result of land conversion to agriculture, illegal logging and trade in tropical timber, the expansion of urban areas and population growth. Given the urgency situation, the International Tropical Timber Technical Association (ATIBT), through its Fair&Precious programme, acts daily to preserve the forests of the Congo Basin.

The actions of certified forest managers, in partnership with governments, NGOs and all stakeholders in the sector, are reflected in the ten Fair&Precious commitments:

1. Managing and protecting forests to combat global warming.
2. Preserving forest resources by harvesting less than is naturally grown.
3. Developing knowledge on biodiversity to facilitate the renewal of species.
4. Ensuring the preservation of living space of wildlife.
5. Implementing programmes that combat poaching.
6. Contributing to the well-being of populations by facilitating access to ed-

7. Stimulating the economies of producer countries by enhancing the value of the forest and favouring the local processing of timber.
8. Setting up training courses for the forest and timber trades.
9. Providing technical knowledge on the diversity of tropical timber species and their uses.
10. Promoting responsible purchases of this exceptional material.

This programme aims to develop a sustainable, ethical and legal tropical timber industry as a natural and renewable resource By promoting this programme, FSC,

PEFC-PAFC and ATIBT are supporting producer countries in the development of good practices.

According to Norbert Gami, anthropologist and socio-economic principal technical advisor at the American NGO Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Congo Brazzaville, "Sustainable forest management means taking as little as possible to ensure a preserved environment for all future generations. In reality, thinking about this management means reconciling conservation and development. Bringing awareness through education to both local communities and European buyers about forest certification and the concept of 'zero' deforestation is essential. In practice, the FSC and PEFC-PAFC labels allow people to buy wood from a 'sustainable' forest management system that preserves the resource, protects biodiversity and provides a source of income for local populations."

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

West Fraser Sustainability Report offers roadmap for future improvements

WEST FRASER has issued its 2021 Sustainability Report outlining the group's environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance over the past year while reflecting on the multiple ways in which respect for the planet and its population can become fundamental to interactions with customers, communities, its supply chain and other organisations.

The report details the company's 2021 sustainability achievements and strategy to meaningfully advance its performance through establishing credible ESG goals and targets.

This includes a focus on climate action and decarbonisation of its operations, environmental stewardship, sustainable forest management and responsible fibre sourcing practices.

In 2022, West Fraser will continue to drive continuous improvement and identify opportunities to improve its climate, biodiversity, forest, land management and water practices.

West Fraser aligns with the principles and requirements of the Task Force on Climate Disclosure (TCFD), Global Report Initiative (GRI) and Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), and guided by leading ESG ratings agencies such as Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS), S&P Global, Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) and Sustainalytics.

Constant improvement to its carbon footprint and other sustainability measures is a journey to which West Fraser is fully committed.

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



Image courtesy of Unsplash.

Selco accelerates sustainable fleet push

ONE OF the UK's leading builders merchants has delivered an electric commercial dropside van to its fleet for the first time.

As part of its commitment to operate more sustainable transport solutions, Selco Builders Warehouse has been adding cleaner fuel options to its fleet over the past 12 months. The latest development has seen Selco add an electric dropside vehicle, supplied by Guest Truck & Van, to the fleet operating from its Birmingham Delivery Hub for a trial period. The vehicle has a payload in excess of 1,300 kg and a range of up to 145 miles.

Richard Evans, head of transport operations at Selco, said: "This is an

extremely important development in our ongoing transition towards operating a fully sustainable commercial fleet.

"Dropside vans make up a large percentage of our fleet so this trial will be crucial to seeking vital information on the suitability of commercial electric vehicles and help determine our route to zero emissions.

"We have been clear about our commitments around sustainability and we are now making swift and sizeable progress in terms of reducing our carbon footprint within the transport fleet."

Selco has made impressive strides towards reducing its carbon footprint within its transport fleet in recent months. A

dozen electrically powered counterbalance forklift trucks now feature across Selco's 73-strong branch network while there are seven compressed natural gas vehicles currently in operation, with three to add later this year. Alternative, cleaner fuels have become an increasing part of Selco's fleet with all vehicles at its two Delivery Hubs in Birmingham and Edmonton now operating on either compressed natural gas or hydrotreated vegetable oil fuel.

In addition, Selco has also directly supported the planting of more than 260,000 trees across two sites in Scotland and Wales as part of its carbon offsetting programme, with plans for a third "Selco Forest" to be planted in early 2023.

With hundreds of trade brands always in stock, Selco's 73 branches are firmly focused on helping tradespeople complete their jobs as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Selco ● www.selcobw.com



WOOD WASTE & DUST CONTROL

Timber manufacturer saves money by investing in wood waste heater



A TIMBER manufacturer has purchased a replacement wood waste heater from Wood Waste Technology to continue to save money on waste disposal bills and heating costs.

Stoneleigh Timber Engineering Ltd is an independent manufacturer of roof trusses, floor joists, stairs and timber wall components based in Wiltshire. The business manufactures its products from a 1940s building that used to make Spitfire components. Although the large building provides the business with lots of manufacturing space, it's a cold, draughty building to work in during the winter.

When managing director Adrian Hall took over the business five years ago, the building already contained a wood waste heater, but it was quite old and hadn't been very well looked after. Adrian didn't want to be without a wood waste heater, having become reliant on it to dispose of waste wood and generate free heating, so he decided the business needed to replace it with a newer model. As Wood Waste Technology had been out to service the original boiler, Adrian contacted Kurt Cockroft at Wood Waste Technology to purchase a replacement.

Adrian explains: "We generate 40 cubic metres of waste wood each year, so a wood waste heater is vital to our operation, especially as we aim to make our business as carbon neutral as possible. The WT15 burner ticks a lot of boxes for us, as it's a good piece of kit at the right price — plus we've always found the team at Wood Waste Technology to be especially helpful. The new heater is fantastic, and performs even better than we hoped it would, giving us greater heat output than the original burner. We're delighted we purchased a new one from Wood Waste Technology."

Managing director of Wood Waste Technology, Kurt Cockroft, says: "Wood waste heaters help businesses to save money on heating, reduce waste disposal costs and provide carbon neutral energy, which are all extremely important factors in today's economic climate."

Wood Waste Technology ● Tel 01785 250400
www.woodwastetechnology.co.uk ● www.grossuk.co.uk

Wood Waste Control extraction system gets royal attention



The then HRH Prince of Wales met community maker space co-ordinator Jack Lindsey at a visit to Newquay Community Orchard.

DUST EXTRACTION specialist Wood Waste Control (Engineering) Ltd has installed one of its extraction systems in a workshop which has attracted recent royal interest.

The then HRH Prince of Wales and Duke of Cornwall visited the Newquay Community Orchard in his role as landlord of the Duchy of Cornwall estate.

The Newquay Community Orchard is a community space in the centre of Newquay, created and cared for by over 800 volunteers, and sitting on seven acres on Duchy land. It has a traditional orchard, a community grow space, a forest garden, a wood workshop, performance spaces, co-workspaces, classrooms and a community café.

The wood workshop is part of the Orchard project's Kreft — Cornish for craft — community maker

space. Co-ordinator Jack Lindsey said: "Kreft includes an educational hand tool facility, a fully equipped wood workshop including a CNC router and floor standing equipment, and a technical studio space, housing a laser cutter and 3D printers.

"Two days each week it is used for educational purposes, teaching groups of up to eight volunteers basic wood repair and construction techniques.

"The remaining three days are devoted to commercial design and build work, which is an important revenue earner for the whole site.

"We have a number of regular contracts in place as well as producing one-off items for local people."

The Kreft recently designed and made all the wooden fittings for a new shop at the Lost Gardens of

Heligan in Cornwall — Europe's largest garden restoration project with more than 200 acres of gardens and grounds.

When the Kreft workshop was created earlier this year, Wood Waste Control was selected to design, construct and install its dust extraction system.

The company is one of the UK's leading dust extraction and heating equipment specialists for the woodworking industry, and specified a four-bin fine dust extractor filter with 11 kW high-efficiency extractor fan and ducting to all relevant machines.

The collected waste is currently discharged into dumpy bags and used for compost across the Newquay Community Orchard site. Jack Lindsey said: "We are getting FSC qualified and have a briquetter machine on order, and aim to sell the briquettes locally."

He added: "The Wood Waste Control extraction system is great — it does the job perfectly."

Wood Waste Control is based in Bourne End near High Wycombe and has hundreds of successful waste extraction, processing and heating equipment installations across the UK, in Europe and Africa.

The family company manufactures its wide range of filters in the UK and supplies shredders, briquette presses, biomass heaters/boilers, plus quick-assemble and spiral ductwork to enable it to offer solutions from simple stand-alone bagging units through to complex integrated systems.

**Wood Waste Control
(Engineering) Ltd**
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Holzbau Rohrmoser relies on UNTHA shredding technology to heat its business premises as well as the adjacent residential building



THE ROHRMOSER carpentry and timber construction business in Flachau/Salzburg appreciates the quality of the UNTHA LR700 shredder. The waste wood from the company's production as well as building sites is processed by the compact shredder into high-grade fuel for a wood-chip heating system. The business and the residential building that joins it cover their energy needs for the winter with the material produced in-house.

Wood is a precious resource and a fuel source produced in Austria, making it crisis-proof and renewable. This not only means that value creation stays in the region, but also constitutes a possibility for wood-working and timber-processing businesses to use their waste wood efficiently — as is the case for Holzbau Rohrmoser in Flachau. "By utilising and shredding the waste wood from our production and building sites as well as from disposable pallets, we are able to dispose of waste wood quickly and use 100% of it as an energy source," says proprietor and master carpenter, Johann Rohrmoser. The business was founded in 1992, employs six people and does general carpentry work, builds wooden houses, car ports, roof structures, balconies and "anything else that comes along," as Johann Rohrmoser puts it.

Mr Rohrmoser first began to use an LR700 unit from UNTHA shredding technology for the shredding of waste wood around Christmas 2016. Johann Rohrmoser sees the benefits of the unit in the cutting system with a swivelling pusher and the low maintenance requirements. Waste wood from joinery constructions, splinters from circular saw operations and waste wood from the construction sites are all fed into the shredder and are mixed with wood shavings, resulting in a particularly productive heating material. The chips are extracted into the chip silo straight after the shredding process, where they are stored until the winter, when they are fed into the wood chip heating plant via a discharge system. "The wood chips see us through the winter," says Johann Rohrmoser, who uses the heating plant not just for his business, but also for his home that adjoins it. The LR700 shredder is filled twice a day and runs for an hour each time. In the three and a half years since the unit was first put into operation, it has completed

approximately 250 operating hours. It is the second UNTHA unit in operation at Rohrmoser, where a smaller, two-shaft shredder provided a valuable service over many years. Johann Rohrmoser is more than happy with the purchase he made in 2016. He sums up the main features of the unit: "It is robust, compact, and crucial to us in our daily workflows."

With the LR series, UNTHA offers a family of machines that ensure compact shredding for carpentry workshops, cabinet makers, joiners, sawmills and timber industry businesses of all sizes. These shredders with tried-and-tested single-shaft technology come with rated capacities from 11 to 60 kW and fulfil the needs of smaller as well as larger players. Overall, the LR series stands out for its efficient cutting system, longevity and reliability. All models of the LR series have a high level of efficiency and economy and are maintenance-friendly. For users, this translates into homogeneous wood chips ranging from 12 to 80 mm, at a low cost and with little effort in terms of operation. The final product is suitable for wood-chip heating plants and for briquetting, which offers yet another layer of energy efficiency for users who are able to recycle their own residual wood. Thanks to UNTHA shredding technology, users of the LR series are able to make an important contribution to the sensible use of precious raw materials that nature provides.

UNTHA shredding technology develops and manufactures customised, reliable shredding systems that are used in a wide range of applications, from material recycling to processing of residual and waste wood and the reprocessing of waste to produce alternative fuels. In this way, the company makes an important contribution towards the conservation of resources and the sustainable processing and reduction of waste.

The company was founded in 1970 and is headquartered in Kuchl near Salzburg. UNTHA has more than 250 highly qualified employees and a worldwide sales network that spans 40 countries on all continents, placing it among the world's leading manufacturers in this growing, future-oriented industry.

**IMA SCHELLING U.K. Ltd ● Tel 01937 586340
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HAVSPRO experiences strong early growth as HAVS & WBV feature highly in H&S concerns

THE FIRM behind HAVSPRO, a newly evolved solution for the accurate, real-time measurement and monitoring of workplace vibration, is expanding its workforce to meet the demand for its product from a variety of sectors, including Local Government, manufacturing, engineering and agriculture.

In its first six months of operation, Derbyshire-based HAVSPRO has grown its team by 50 per cent, across both production and sales functions, and turnover has reached almost £1 m. To help the company cope with this influx of interest and orders for its industry-leading product, recruitment is continuing, to ensure further expected growth can be managed.

HAVSPRO has been developed by SIXIS Technology, part of the Simpatica Group, from over 20 years of experience in the field of remote monitoring. Created with both the safety of operators and the protection of employers in mind, the new technology measures and monitors real-time vibration magnitude as users operate vibrating tools, which drives proactive exposure alerts before the user reaches their limit.

With an estimated two million UK workers exposed to the risk of debilitating injuries from Hand Arm Vibration exposure, HAVSPRO is a vital piece of PPE in delivering a healthier, safer workplace, through reliable data providing a proactive, evidence-based decision making.

Russ Langthorne.



Recent significant interest in HAVSPRO's solution, which sits on the tool and not the wrist, has led to a flurry of enquiries from a wide range of sectors and industries including local councils, civil engineering, manufacturing, horticultural and engineering, who see the benefits of protecting both their workforce from the far-reaching effects of Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) and Whole-Body Vibration (WBV) and minimising the risk of corporate litigation.

Notably, the HAVSPRO system has been incorporated into one of Europe's latest construction projects, where more than 1,000 of main contractor, Laing O'Rourke's workforce are benefiting from accurate real-time monitoring of the risk of exposure to excessive tool vibration.

According to client feedback, the biggest success factor for the HAVSPRO system is the ease with which operators can implement the system, as they simply click the sensor on and off the tool they are using.

Russ Langthorne, managing director of HAVSPRO, is pleased but unsurprised by this huge growth in awareness of the potential problems created by HAVS and WBV: "We are delighted that companies in all sectors now feel they have a vibration risk management system that goes a long way to proactively protecting their workforce from these life altering conditions. The added benefit of protecting companies from costly litigations, as we have seen recently, is also a key driver to the continued increase in interest in the HAVSPRO system. We look forward to working with many other organisations in managing the risk of vibration and protecting their staff as effectively as possible."

HAVSPRO ● www.havspro.com



Five ways technology is improving health & safety for construction workers

FOR CONSTRUCTION workers, there are many dangerous risks to face. In fact, the cost of injuries within the industry across the UK has reached more than a staggering £16.2 billion a year, truly emphasising the impact that working on a building site can have.

However, despite the overwhelming findings, there are more ways to offer protection thanks to advanced technology.

But how exactly does this work? Here, with some help from van leasing company, Van Ninja, we delve into five ways technology is helping to improve the health and safety of the construction sector.

Wearable technology

While PPE is an essential measure for construction workers to ensure their health and safety, that's not to say there's no room for improvement: in fact, there are more items that workers can wear to protect themselves.

Wearable technologies are yet another way that safety can be improved in the construction industry, with many helping monitor vital signs, identify collisions, and keep track of workers who are working unaccompanied. So, if workers are using van leasing to go from site to site, you can keep an eye on them for their safety.

When out and about, especially during rush hours, mishaps can take place at every turn. Even slamming the breaks to avoid colliding with another vehicle or a pedestrian can be harmful. You are likely to suffer an abrupt movement of the head and neck, which may result in whiplash injury.

Susanne McGraw, head of personal injury at Watermans, said: "As part of a team of personal injury lawyers, I support many people who have suffered a whiplash injury when at the wheel of their vehicle. Most of them will recover within days, whereas others have to deal with its effects for weeks or even months. My recommendation is to seek medical assistance as soon as possible. This will give you the chance to get the treatment you need and alleviate feelings of discomfort in a timely manner."

Exoskeleton is one example of wearable technology which assists the workers' physical support when there is a high risk of injury.

Site sensors

There are many risks that can affect the health of a construction worker, but with site sensors, there's extra protection in place against these.

With site sensors, which companies like SmartSite and Pillar Technologies have developed, many things such as noise levels, temperature, and dust particulates can be monitored to protect the workers from high exposure. Across the construction site, these sensors can be implemented to inform the employees if they are in danger of passing the exposure limit.

Digitalised safety processes

Turning the safety process to digital instead of having a pile of paperwork will not only provide more time to be used elsewhere, but also contribute to the safety process of the construction site.

With an ePTW system, safety is ensured while making life easier. Digital sign-offs allow for more traceability, and you can rest assured that you have clarity of what's going on throughout the construction site, thanks to real-time visibility, even if you aren't on-site. In addition to this, consistent standards can be implemented across various sites, even

for different types of construction work. With consistency across teams and visibility over the sites, you can rely on this technology for a safer working environment.

Drones to monitor sites

It's essential for site workers to be aware of hazards to avoid major injuries. Thankfully, technology can monitor sites to improve workers' safety.

Drones are excellent for construction companies as they can be used for an aerial inspection of their site, which offers a wide view of the area and the surrounding environment. Given their ability to reach elevated areas and places that may be deemed unsafe, the inspection is much more accurate and efficient. With this technology, any safety hazard can be spotted prior to work being carried out to identify any procedures that need to be in place.

Digital training sessions

Training is important in any job role for upskilling, but for the construction industry in particular, it is vital due to the many physical health risks like back injuries and the harmful chemicals in paints.

By streamlining training sessions, all workers across several sites can learn the same information, avoiding miscommunication that could be spread through in-person training through multiple sites. As well as this, sessions can be recorded for workers to revisit to refresh their memory, ensuring excellent safety conditions as employees can become much more familiar with necessary procedures.

Technology provides an abundance of opportunities for many different industries, but given the risks for construction workers, the advancements are particularly useful for this sector due to the ability to improve safety.

This article has been provided by Van Ninja, a van leasing company.

Van Ninja

<https://vanninja.co.uk/>

Watermans

<https://watermans.co.uk/services/personal-injury/injury-location/accidents-at-work/>

