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SEASON’S GREETINGS FROM HUSQVARNA

In the spirit of giving, Husqvarna will be giving away a 455 Rancher Chainsaw to one lucky Wood SA subscriber!

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AND STAND A CHANCE TO WIN

A HUSQVARNA 455 RANCHER!

TERMS & CONDITIONS: (1) One winner will qualify to win a Husqvarna 455 Rancher. (2) Entries close 31st December 2017. (3) Only entries featuring the October 2017 issue will qualify. (4) E&OE.
CONTENTS

Editor’s Note.................................................................2

FORESTRY.................................................................
Cover Story: Stihl – The best just got better.....................4
Bell widened its mechanisation offering in 2017...............6
Girl torque on chainsaw training course.........................8
Unimog we salute you!...................................................10
Bakkie Sakkie and guest lecture boost for forest engineering......................................................10

SAWMILLING..........................................................
Enrolment open for ITC-SA roof estimator / designer courses 2018.........................................................11
Competitiveness in secondary processing is all about Industry 4.0...........................................................12
Milestones of innovation..................................................14

WOODWORKING......................................................
SASDEA looks forward to a prosperous 2018....................17
Multisaw launches new automated log sorting line........18

WOODWORKING......................................................
Roof inspector training a step towards greater compliance..........................................................20
The certified Roof Inspector is an expert........................20
ITC-SA training courses lay the foundation for a greener built environment.........................................21
FX Group implements European manufacturing standard on new range...........................................22
The right tooling helps you get the best return from your CNC investment...........................................26
Donald Fuchs Woodworking Machinery set to finish 2017 on a high note...........................................29
China FOMA Southern Africa set to make a big impact.................................................................30

Happy Holidays
The familiar laments of “I can’t believe it is December already,” or, “you haven’t achieved your target so no bonus for you,” and, for some, “time is running out to fix up my house before the Air B&B guests arrive,” can be heard everywhere. It is also the season when people seem to lose their inhibitions in the shops, at parties and on the roads.

The general economic downturn, political uncertainty, and the seemingly contradictory simultaneous calls for industry mechanisation / modernisation, and job creation has not made 2017 any different from previous years. What has made it different is the experience and acceptance of climate change and its associated drought, extreme wild fires and flash floods having dire effects on the forest products sector. Another characteristic of this past year is the increasing psychological and manipulative power of social media and the Internet of Things (IoT).

By Joy Crane

Message from the Editor

The general economic downturn, political uncertainty, and the seemingly contradictory simultaneous calls for industry mechanisation / modernisation, and job creation has not made 2017 any different from previous years. What has made it different is the experience and acceptance of climate change and its associated drought, extreme wild fires and flash floods having dire effects on the forest products sector. Another characteristic of this past year is the increasing psychological and manipulative power of social media and the Internet of Things (IoT).

Business owners, like civil servants, can no longer hide behind their traditional gatekeepers. Everything is now in the public domain, be it on Facebook, business networking sites, Twitter, websites, newspapers and trade publications. Even your cell phone can tell people where you are. Attempts to censor media of any sort is almost impossible. This means that the need for transparency, honesty, integrity, fairness and mindfulness of your own actions and those of your organisations is more important than ever.

The various science and research symposia, Focus on Forestry, agricultural shows, contributors to the magazine, and international trade shows like Interzum and Ligna, all emphasise the inevitability and significance of the IoT and, particularly, the inexorable move to Industry 4.0.

Professor Klaus Schwab, author of The Fourth Industrial Revolution, and founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, states that Industry 4.0 “in its scale, scope and complexity will be a transformation unlike anything humankind has experienced before”. The first industrial revolution was driven by the advent of steam engines, and the second revolution was brought about by electricity and communication by wire, and the first just-in-time operations and production lines in the mid-1800s. The third industrial revolution, spurred by wars, brought the invention and application of computers. The combination of these events changed the way in which people viewed and shopped for products. Wood as a source of fuel, furniture and construction materials played a massive role in all these transformations.

In 2017 the tipping point was reached. Everyone in the African forestry sector must accept the inevitable. When one company implements change, such as lean manufacturing, data driven decision making, and digital control systems, the rest must follow, or risk being left behind. Industry 4.0 offers the forest products industry the potential for so many powerful gains that we need to be prepared to act, and take advantage of what technology can do for the industry, the skills levels of its people, customers and our economy.

On behalf of the Publisher, the Wood SA Team wishes everyone a safe and blessed holiday season, and please take care on the roads.
STEP INTO A WORLD OF INTERESTING

We're excited to bring you our fresh new digital magazine OnTrend. It's loaded with practical and inspiring news, info and the latest trends that'll help you create the kind of working and living spaces you've always imagined.

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The best just got better

The STIHL MS 382 chainsaw is an enhanced version of the ever-popular MS 381, the country’s best-selling chainsaw.

Working harder, costing less

Designed especially for professional forestry applications, the 3,8kW MS 382 is a tough, fuel-powered chainsaw that is ergonomic and lightweight (6.2kg) with an excellent power to weight ratio and numerous upgraded features. A significant bonus is its economy – it uses up to 20% less than previous models, thanks to the improved 2-MIX motor.

The MS 382 is a cost-cutter in other ways. The STIHL Ematic™ bar lubrication system facilitates longer wear and reduces chain oil consumption compared to conventional methods of chain lubrication - up to 50% less depending on the cutting attachment and the type of wood being cut. The enhanced oil pump has a one-gear drive system and ensures a consistent and steady flow of oil to the saw chain links and guide bar rails.

The new-look starter cover helps stop dirt from entering the cylinder fins, so there is less wear and less frequent need for maintenance. Other upgraded features include an optimised crankshaft and a 100% aluminium flywheel with fewer fins, again assisting with cooling. Because there is less rotating mass, there is reduced wear on the main bearing and the crankshaft for even greater reliability. A forestry contractor from southern KZN says, “I’ve been running 35 of the MS382 and I’m most impressed in the improved technology, especially the crankshaft – we’ve had a downtime-free year while felling gum and pine. I also estimate an improved fuel consumption of about 8-10%. Most impressive.”

User-friendly

In addition to being fuel-efficient, easier to service and cost-effective to maintain, the MS 382 is more user-friendly and comfortable to operate, with reduced noise levels, lower emissions and a lighter, ergonomic design. All factors helping to reduce operator fatigue during extended work periods.

No need to wait

STIHL in South Africa maintains high stock levels of machines and spares so there’s no wait for products or spares to be imported. STIHL also offers a guaranteed ten year spares availability, even after a product has been discontinued. A nationwide network of more than 180 expert STIHL dealers provides reliable after-sales service and expert advice, and ensures proper, professional servicing – essential for hard-working machines.

Outstanding performance

The MS 382 chainsaw is another example of how STIHL continues to develop and enhance its products, even when a model is a hot favourite and a top seller. The MS 382 proves why Stihl is the world’s best selling chainsaw brand.
GREAT SAWMILLS. GREAT VALUE.

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Expandable modular system promotes your future business growth.

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Bell widened its mechanisation offering in 2017

The Southern African forestry industry continues to push for innovation as a catalyst for safer and more efficient ways to get timber to the mills. Local manufacturer and supplier, Bell Equipment, answered this call for innovation in 2017 by bringing several new products to the market.

Bell identified the cost and sophistication of high end mechanised forestry solutions as a barrier to entry for smaller contractors and companies that require a low to medium level of mechanisation. However, agreements reached during the year with alliance partners such as Matriarch Equipment and Kobelco have paved the way for products that ideally fulfil this need.

Bell already sells Matriarch's UitECO slew cane loader into the agricultural industry and now the new agreement has brought forestry products into the mix providing the market with competitive and quality mechanisation solutions at an entry level. The Matriarch Skogger timber extraction and loading machine and the FASTfell felling and bunching machine are aimed at operations with higher cost sensitivities that require a simpler system with low capital outlay, and ultimately, lower cost per tonne.

Adding further muscle to the company's forestry range is the Kobelco range of excavators that the local company now sells and supports exclusively throughout Southern Africa. Bell Equipment Product Marketing Manager, Tim Beningfield says: "Kobelco is seen globally as the benchmark with regards to excavator carriers for the forestry industry and we are excited to be able to offer our customers the popular Kobelco SK210 and SK260 models for their forestry requirements."

The introduction of new products will continue in the first quarter of 2018 with the Bell F-series range of Tri-Wheeler Loggers, which have been designed to meet customer requirements for a quieter machine with improved safety and comfort.

The F-series, which is also aimed at entry level mechanisation, will be available as a base machine that is equivalent to the current machine in terms of specifications and pricing. Customers will then choose from a range of ‘bolt on, bolt off’ packages to tailor their machine to their specific needs, from a fully open cab to full HVAC, enabling them to only pay for the technology and features that they require for their operating environment.

According to Tim, these new products complement the company's range of high end solutions, suited to high volume commercial contractors, and enables Bell to provide a tailor made full line solution to its customers.

"For volume operations the Waratah range is standard equipment on the high end John Deere Harvesters and Bell is able to use these heads with the new range of Kobelco excavators as a solution to forestry operations looking for premium processing power at affordable prices. We are introducing products like the Waratah H290 and H215E heads for this purpose. This means that, combined with the John Deere range of high production full tree length and cut-to-length solutions, Bell is able to offer a wide range of solutions to meet customers' needs for different levels of mechanisation and machine complexity," he says.

"2017 has been a challenging year for the forestry and timber industry, which has faced the pressure of pest and diseases in the east of the country as well as devastating fires in the Western Cape. However, foresters are a highly resilient and innovative community, and forestry remains a key market segment for Bell, so we are excited to have competitive products that strengthen our product offering to this industry and have no doubt that they will add value in time to come.

"Going forward we remain committed to providing appropriate and relevant solutions to the industry. Bell Equipment's forestry offering in 2018 is the most versatile and comprehensive it has ever been - from a fully fledged high end CTL system offering through to solutions designed to be run in remote, self sufficient operations embarking on mechanised forestry for the first time," Tim concludes.
Technology tailored to your forest!

Through our carefully selected combination of own and partner products, Bell Equipment provides solutions that meet customers’ needs as they move from manual to fully mechanised operations. Driven by providing lowest cost per tonne solutions, we look at the whole mechanised system and not only specific parts of the system, with a keen view to improve operational safety and productivity.

Bell Equipment - a proudly South African company committed to helping businesses realise Africa’s potential.
Girl torque on chainsaw training course

Husqvarna’s “power and performance” branding recently became synonymous not just with some of the best forestry and outdoor tools in the world, but also with a diminutive student, whose prowess with a Husqvarna chainsaw impressed everyone.

Londeka Shangase, a 20-year-old second year student at Cedara Agricultural College in the KZN Midlands, proved that dynamite does, indeed, come in small packages. She showed her “power and performance” during an arduous and challenging four-day Husqvarna chainsaw. Why?

Because during the course the trainers found out that plucky Londeka was born missing half a leg, as well as almost three fingers on her throttle hand. She never once complained or wimped out. The future dairy farmer, who hails from Hammarsdale, was an inspiration to instructors and peers alike at Cedara.

Husqvarna’s course includes comprehensive safety training, followed by practical activities like debranching, felling in the right direction and cross cutting felled trees into logs.

“Londeka is an amazing young woman and has remarkable strength of character and determination,” says chainsaw trainer Roger Jackson of Husqvarna, who has been overseeing the courses at Cedara and other venues countrywide for two decades. “The course is not for sissies. We had four women and 12 men on the four-day event and it is seriously tough. Wielding a 7.5kg chainsaw in stinking hot, energy-sapping humid conditions (think 32 degrees) is no mean feat, even for big tough okes. By the end of a hot day, it feels as if it weighs a ton,” he comments.

“Londeka’s no giant, yet she managed to keep up with the rest, and only flagged towards the end, when the heat just got too much for her. We had no idea she wears a prosthesis, because her limp is very slight, and we were taken aback when someone told us about her disability. How she managed to control the throttle with two and a half fingers missing astonished us. We were hugely impressed by her, and have absolutely no doubt she will achieve whatever she wants from life. What an inspiring person.”

Was she apprehensive, beforehand, about whether she would cope, and was she nervous about the challenge of taking up her Husqvarna chainsaw? “No ways,” says the quietly spoken and unassuming Londeka. “I’m never nervous, about anything. I was really looking forward to it.”

The four-day course has been running at both Cedara and Stellenbosch University for more than 20 years and is very popular.

“We go in with a group of instructors, each supervising about six students, and roll out a hugely comprehensive course which involves everything they need to know about chainsaws,” explains Jackson.

They do one day of theory, and three days of field work. “We teach them the correct procedures when handling the equipment, which safety equipment to use, how to use it properly, why it is critical they wear it, how to handle the chainsaw efficiently while minimising all risks, how to fell a tree safely, and make sure it falls in the chosen direction – which is an incredibly exact skill – and thereafter, how to debranch it. It is an intensive course, for both students and instructors, and there are various issues the youngsters need to overcome, fear being one of them.”

On completion of the course, he adds, “many of the students change dramatically, performing better in teamwork activities, gaining more confidence with the realisation that they, can and have, achieved and overcome their trepidation and fears. They are instilled with a massive ‘I can do’ attitude, which is great.”

That Londeka was able to overcome her disabilities and complete the course was a tribute to her determination and strength of character, he says. “She was an inspiration to everyone – just taking the punishing course on the nose, so to speak, and never once complaining. What a star.”
TAKE SPRAYING OPERATIONS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

HUSQVARNA 325S25 SPRAYER
25.4 cc - 0.8 kW - 9.8 kg - 25 l Tank

The 325S25 sprayer is light on fuel, powerful and efficient. Because it is motorised, the 325S25 delivers a consistent spray pressure, which is unrivalled by a manual pump where factors like operator fatigue can play a role.

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SAVE R 1 400

TERMS & CONDITIONS (1) Prices valid 1 October - 31 December 2017 (2) Valid while stocks last. (3) E&OE
Unimog, we salute you!

Novel CNC, based in George, decided to give an ‘old dog’ a face-lift, and on a cold and sunny winter day, a Unimog 416 with more than 60 years’ service in his chassis, rolled into the surgery unit where work began to restore him to his former glory.

Careful consideration was given to every aspect of the surgery. After six weeks of hard work by an excellent and dedicated team understanding metals and materials, the Unimog was finally ready to leave the unit and head back out to the field as an emergency response vehicle.

Novel CNC explains that 71 years ago, in a small town in Post WWII Germany, Albert Friedrich designed the first Unimog for the agricultural industry. Unimogs were shipped all over the world to be used in a range of poor terrain military, forestry and emergency responder applications.

But as with most veterans, when retirement seems to arrive it is the ideal time to find something else to keep you busy. Their versatility and reliability quickly saw them filling in gaps in the forestry and rapid response fields, especially for off-road situations.

Bakkie Sakkie and guest lecture boost for Forestry Engineering

The donation of a portable fire-fighting skid unit – “bakkie sakkie” – and a guest lecture by industry expert, Casper Pieterse of ANCO Manufacturing, was recently organised by lecturer Nonte Ramantswana for her students studying engineering principles in the Higher Certificate Veldfire Management (HCVM).

Nonte joined the part time staff of Nelson Mandela University (NMU) in 2017 and was instrumental in initiating and organising the link-up with industry. Prior to this she worked as a professional forester where her responsibilities included fire management.

“She brought a wealth of knowledge to the programme. Her hands-on experience in fire management as well as her close connection with the fire industry’s specialised vehicle and equipment manufacturers, firefighting organisations, fire protection associations and many more, equipped her well for her lecturing task,” says Tiaan Pool, programme co-ordinator at NMU’s Forestry & Veldfire Management.

“On her arrival at the campus she took on the task to modernise the veldfire engineering class notes by adding chapters on the latest technology and developments in the veldfire industry”, he added.

“The HCVM programme has high expectations for this academic and veldfire engineer programme and we are grateful for her valuable contributions in the short time she has been lecturing,” explains Pool.

Nonte, an alumnus of the campus Forestry Programme, will be completing her BTech qualification in Forestry this year, following which she plans to enrol for her master’s degree in 2018. Her husband, Muedanyi Ramantswana, a fellow-alumnus and a qualified forest engineer, is a permanent staff member in the Forestry Programme at NMU.
T
russ engineering software has made rapid advancements over the years and has modernized the role of the timber roof truss designer and estimator. Even so, the generation of products by the software is only as good as its input, making it vital that the designer and estimator understand the basics of truss design and can easily spot errors in software output.

The ITC-SA recognizes the need for training in this arena and offers its Level 1 and 2 Designer/Estimator course twice a year. The course addresses the basic mathematics, calculations, general concepts, and 3D visualizations that need to be fully grasped and correctly implemented in order to be a well-rounded, capable, confident and efficient timber roof truss designer or estimator.

Course delivery is through self-study of professionally prepared content supplied by the ITC-SA. A certificate of completion will be awarded, based on the submission of two open-book assignments (submitted via email), as well as a final written exam, which will be facilitated in KwaZulu-Natal, Cape Town, the Southern Cape, Eastern Cape, Gauteng, and other areas as required. Entry into the examination will only be granted to students who have returned both prior assignments for marking.

Applications need to be submitted to the ITC-SA on or before 31 January 2018. Successful applicants will receive their first assignment on 12 February 2018. The final examine date is 22 June 2018.

The enrolment forms can be found at www.itc-sa.org/designer-programme/. Please note that it is recommended that only applicants with a pass in Grade 12 mathematics should apply. The course fee is non-refundable.

The SANS Code of Practice 10243 is a requirement for study purposes and can be obtained from the SABS if you or your employer do not already have a copy. The actual course notes and commentaries will be provided for home study and the fee includes the marking of written assignments and the cost of the final assessment, which will be written at a suitable neutral venue.

Enrol now for Roof Estimator/Designer courses in 2018

The Institute for Timber Construction South Africa (ITC-SA) is offering its Level 1 and 2 Estimator/Designer courses in 2018, and now it is time to submit your applications to attend.

Tried and trusted

The STIHL MS 362 has the robust performance and powerful delivery of a chainsaw designed for professionals. This 3.6kW fuel-powered machine is ergonomic and lightweight (6.2kg) with an excellent power to weight ratio and low fuel consumption thanks to its 2-MIX engine - up to 20% less than previous models, as verified by selected forestry teams who have been testing the machines in the field. Operators also enjoy the reduced emissions and lower noise levels. Improved technology, improved delivery, costing less. What’s not to like?

Like any premium item, STIHL products are only available at specialised dealers nationwide, for expert advice and superior after-sales service.

www.stihl.co.za
Representatives of most of the world’s largest and most significant manufacturers of sawmilling equipment gathered in Johannesburg in October to meet South African sawmillers who were hungry for information on the latest trends and developments in timber processing.

The speakers were hosted by the Nukor Group, the organisers of the Timber Processing Conference. Both suppliers and sawmillers thanked Nukor for the opportunity to meet over a period of two days in a relaxed setting that allowed an easy exchange of facts and figures and business cards.

“Due to economic and political uncertainty and socioeconomic factors worldwide, companies are working more efficiently and seeking ways of operating their production lines in a more economically viable way,” explains Cobus Richter of the Nukor Group.

“This conference made huge strides toward exposing local companies to the new products and technologies that can help them do exactly that. It was also a perfect networking opportunity for the forging of new relationships and collaborations,” he says.

Last month, WSA&TT reported mainly on the suppliers to the primary processing industry, and this month we are focusing on the presentations by the secondary processing suppliers; and they all emphasised the advantages of partially or completely embracing Industry 4.0.

Weinig Group

Day two of the conference was dominated by input from the Weinig Group. First up was Pascal Renévier who presented an overview of the unprecedented growth and consolidation of the Weinig group over the years. For example, he said, between 2013 and 2016 the group experienced growth of 25%, which he puts down to the acceptance of their products in the international market place and their ability to move customers into Industry 4.0 by means of “digitisation with sound judgement.”

The Weinig Group’s diverse portfolio allows it to offer individual or complete, turn-key production lines for solid wood and panel processing.

Dimter

The group’s solid wood business unit was presented by Iain Denovan. He explained and used videos to demonstrate a wide spectrum of Weinig Dimter Opticut high performance cross cutting equipment, the Profipress range of high frequency (RF) laminating presses, and the glue application stations that provide excellent returns on investment and the differences between the Opticut 150, the Opticut 200 series with optimising cross cut machines and the top of the range Quantum 450 finger jointing lines.

Luxscan and Raimann

Denovan’s explanation of Dimter’s wetmill and drymill processing systems segued into his presentation on Luxscan Technologies’ board scanning solutions by means of 2D and X-ray technologies.

These include fully automatic, high performance scanning lines that are increasingly in demand in both the wetmill and drymill environments. Denovan described how an entry level scanner and, for example, a single Raimann optimising multi-blade rip saw, can make a massive difference to productivity. “The addition of one scanner can make a huge impact on the quality and output of a production line because it allows speedy piece by piece optimisation.”

Grecon

Weinig Grecon’s value adding product range was presented by Frank Medicus. Grecon’s present focus is on Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things (IoT), which Medicus described as all about machines talking to each other and helping the business owner to add value and reduce waste. This is assisted by mobile applications via cell phones that make it possible to receive production information from your plant no matter where in the world you are.

“In highly productive environments, the computer represents a central interface between the data compiled in the technical office and the human machine interface (HMI) that enables the operator to view a wide range of activities and information,” explained Medicus. “A picture is worth more than 1000 words, and the HMI can tell you exactly where failures and errors occur. This includes the machine configuration, tool data, profile data and the contents of both the raw materials and finished parts warehouses.” He described solutions and developments for finger jointing lines and showed how the Weinig apps for Apple and Android makes it easy to view and control machine stations remotely. It is even possible to adjust conveyor belt speeds via your cell phone.

Grecon

Nukor’s Branislav Petrovic rounded off the Weinig group presentations with an informative description of the dangers of both wet and dry wood dust. He showed videos that demonstrated that Grecon’s spark detector and extinguishing systems should be an invaluable part of any wood processing mill.

“Dust is combustible and the Grecon system uses sensors that trigger an alarm and extinguish sparks without production stopping. The reaction time is almost immediate,” Petrovic said. “It is very important for board manufacturing plants to have spark detection and extinguishing systems.”
The need for all timber processing companies to embrace Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things (IoT) was explained by Weinig Grecon’s sales manager, Frank Medicus.

Iain Denovan described the Weinig group’s solid wood processing technologies in detail. He gave practical examples of how one or two well-placed scanner combined with, for example, optimising ripping and fingerjointing lines make lean manufacturing possible.

Pascal Rénevier, managing director of Weinig, thanked Nukor for taking the initiative to organise the conference. He presented an overview of the Weinig Group and its worldwide activities.
Meet the Microsoft, Apple, SpaceX and Tesla of the wood processing world: Microtec.

The input from Microtec at the recently held Nukor Group wood processing conference in Johannesburg, was met with fascinated interest by industry and wood technology students.

For over 30 years Microtec has steadfastly stuck to its commitment to treat wood as a valuable, sustainable resource that it says is “the finest natural building material on earth”. Like Steve Jobs’ vision for Apple, Microtec’s single focus and specialisation on the processing of wood, has allowed the company to achieve continuous product improvements and to develop new and exceptional solutions.

According to Federico Giudiceandrea, a founder and now the CEO of the organisation, “Today Microtec is the technology leader in the field of optoelectronics for the wood processing industry. With a workforce of over 130 people, including more than 20 research and development engineers, Microtec delivers solutions worldwide.”

1980
- Microtec was founded on 20 March 1980 by Paul Durst, Hansjörg Thaler and Federico Giudiceandrea in Brixen, Italy

1981
- Introduction of the Intel 8080 microprocessor for numeric process control that is used in the Apple II computer

1982
- Development and introduction of infrared multiplex technology to create fine definition light grids

1983
- MicroVIC - Integration of all control components such as microprocessors, memory, video and keyboard control drives on a single controller board industrial computer

1984
- Introduction of a video interface controller

1985
- The world’s first laser light triangulation technique for 3D reconstruction of the lumber surface

1986
- First bucking and sorting automation

1989
- Introduction of the graphic user interface (GUI) and the mouse (Atari)

1990
- Real time software driver units for automation on PCs

1992
- Development of a digital image processor based on parallel computing

1994
- The first scanner for detection of defects on the wood surface

1995
- Goldeneye - X-ray technology to support the image process in recognising knots

1996
- SHAPE - a high-speed image processing system featuring up to 400 images per second and laser light triangulation techniques for measuring the full profile of logs in a high-speed sorting line

1997
- Development and introduction of the laser scattering effect (tracheid effect) to recognise wood defects by using the characteristics of the wood’s fibre direction

1999
- Goldeneye 80/1 - the first contactless board strength sorting system featuring X-ray technology based on neural networks

2001
- First tests with X-ray computer tomography and development of a radioscopy scanner to recognise the inner features of logs using multiple X-ray projections

2004
- Discan - the compact 3D scanner module that combines laser triangulation, differential shadow scanning and laser scattering
- Qscan - the first transverse quality scanner using the laser scattering effect
2005
• ID Scan - tracks lumber at any point of the production line by means of its optical fingerprint

2007
• Logeye - worldwide launch of the new multi-sensor quality scanner system for logs

2008
• First prototype of CT Log computer tomography scanner

2009
• Red dot design award honourable mention
• Goldeneye 500 – a compact and high technology quality scanner for producers of wood components
• Goldeneye 900 – high performance multi-sensor transverse quality scanner featuring X-ray scanning over the whole board length
• Crometic – a high performance CMOS sensor (Generation 1)

2011
• CT-Log – the first industrial high-speed computed tomograph
• Optiglue – controls application of glue and finger joints
• Inkline – a modular marking system to print chop positions, quality marks and for lumber tracking

2012
• Goldeneye 600 series launched – an innovative multi-sensor quality scanner for rip optimisation

The Microtec Goldeneye 900 does four-sided scanning of planed and rough lumber. It grades the lumber and accurately recognises, localises and sizes knots and other defects such as cracks, pitch pockets and discoloration.

WINCH PRODUCTION FRAME
portability meets versatility - The Contractors Mill

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• Crometic – digital sensors featuring full high definition (HD) images at ultra-high speed
• New low power X-ray technology for efficient and safe operations

2015
• Software and applications are built specifically for 64-bit architecture for faster image processing and optimisation results
• Goldeneye 600 – a solution to scan and repair defects in wood panels

2016
• Logeye Fingerprint – X-ray technology recognising CT-scanned logs at saw infeed
• Goldeneye 800 – multi-view X-ray technology for high speed applications up to 1200m/min

2017
• Image flow processing for virtual encoders and log rotation control
• Mill Manager – control suite for all scanning and optimisation systems in your mill

Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful festive season and joyous, prosperous New Year.

We thank you for your support during the year and look forward to assisting you in future.

From

Wood Industry Supplies cc

and

MÖHRINGER

iRed is a fast and straightforward infrared measurement solution determining log outlines for basic optimization tasks. The solid measuring module accurately recognizes diameter, length, taper, curvature and volume of logs, proven in over 1,500 installations worldwide.

The M3 Scan Moisture Meter is a modular system that measures moisture content of dried lumber. It automatically compensates for the influence of density. The scanner works with most common wood types and sizes. It is a contact-free system that works at high conveying speeds. Thanks to automated grading based on different moisture criteria, the system ensures greater value recovery.

The CT Log 360 degrees X-ray computed tomography data is the basis for the powerful breakdown optimisation software, Maxicut, that determines the best cutting pattern with the highest outcome based on quality and resale value of the final products.

Microtec’s Mill Manager controls all scanning and optimisation systems in the mill.
It has been a good year for the South African Saw Doctors Educational Association (SASDEA), having recently successfully completed its annual conference and AGM as well as having played a large part in the development of a curriculum for a new saw doctoring tertiary qualification.

According to SASDEA chairman Fanie Smit, the completion of the saw doctor qualification curriculum and the subsequent approvals that it has received from different authorities was definitely one of the highlights of the year.

“We expect the final approvals to come through in March of 2018, after which the real hard work, finding an institution to offer the course, and arranging all the logistics for that, will begin.”

According to Smit, the saw doctor qualification will now once again establish the profession as a registered trade.

“This is fantastic news for the entire industry,” he says. “Too many times we find that the saw doctor at a sawmill or wood processing company is not qualified in any way. People are not qualified and thus not earning what they should.

“Also, since people are generally trained only on the material and machines that are used at the specific company where they work, their future prospects are limited as they tend to have no skills and experience in working with different machinery and different cutting material.

“A saw doctor is an integral part of the production process at any timber processing company, and without the necessary skills and experience, he is unable to be effective in his job and can end up causing huge losses for his employers.

“The reestablishment as saw doctoring as a registered trade will be beneficial across a number of industries as it does not pertain only to the wood sector, but to any sector where saws and saw blades are used.”

When asked about where this trade qualification will be presented, Smit says that there are a number of options available.

“There are private FET colleges like Tirhani Skills Training, based in Sable. They have the infrastructure, the facilities as well as the expertise required to present a course like this.

“Obviously one would have to approach government for some funding for new machines and the like, but that is a bridge we will cross when we get to it.”

SASDEA is looking forward to another good year in 2018, with the celebration of its 20th anniversary.

“We are planning to have a very special conference next year to celebrate our 20th anniversary,” says Smit. “We are currently trying to narrow down our list of speakers as well as a venue for the event.

“There are also plans in place to do a site visit or two as part of the conference.”

According to Smit these plans are not yet set in stone. “We are busy with the planning and preparations and as soon as we have it all laid out, which we are hoping will be early in 2018, we will make a final announcement.

“The SASDEA members are a very close knit community and we have had a really good run thus far. We will continue to strive to attract new members and fulfill our mandate of actively promoting training and education within the industry.”

Smit says that, while many companies have come to see the importance of having well trained and experienced people running and working in their saw shops, there is still quite a way to go to get the industry up to standard.

“The recognition of saw doctoring as a registered trade will definitely go a long way toward achieving this, he says.
Log sorting can change your sawmill and your recovery," says Alan Pierce of Multisaw. Multisaw is the South African manufacturer of Pinnacle sawmill equipment.

"Making sure you have the optimum cutting pattern for specific logs will change recovery dramatically," explains Pierce. Without log sorting, a sawmill will need a very high-end sawing line that scans every log and can set cutting patterns on the fly, to make good sawing decisions. Without this, recovery will suffer dramatically.

Multisaw's new Pinnacle log sorter is available with a log rotator so that all your logs can be fed, either big end first, or small end first, making the flow of logs through the sawing line more efficient, with less stoppages due to stuck pieces in the sawing line.

How it works
Logs are loaded onto the log deck and advanced to a stepfeeder to singulate them onto a chain conveyor. The logs pass a beam array sensor and are measured at each end for diameter and overall for log length.

After this the rotator orients each log, with either the big end or small end first, and the conveyor then moves the logs on to the class bins. If there is no need for the rotator, logs move directly to the class bins. Pierce says the number of bins is up to the customer and depends on the range of logs coming in, as well as the size gap for the batch. The batch may be 2cm increments, for example, 19cm to 21cm.

The scanner also provides a tally system that feeds-back volume per batch. This data can be truckload by truckload, daily input, or monthly input. Pierce says this tally is an invaluable check on both incoming raw material as well as production.

Secondary scanning is possible into the wet mill and can relay real time information back to management regarding the current shift volume. This information again is a check on total volumes, and when combined with a sawn volume out per shift, is an immediate report on shift recovery.

A change in sawing pattern or cutting methodology will quickly be measured as good or bad for efficiency and recovery. Pierce says these tools put the sawmiller ahead of the game. "In these hard times it is of paramount importance to make sure we are at the top of our game or stream. After all, the guy at the top of the stream gets all the good water."
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The engineers, quality home inspectors, fabricators and erectors who participated in the recently held ITC-SA Roof Inspector training programme unanimously agreed that the course was informative and added value to their knowledge base.

The Institute for Timber Construction South Africa (ITC-SA), is a SAQA-registered Professional Body for the engineered timber construction industry. The main objectives of the course were to enable technical professionals in the construction industry to be able to carry out roof inspections with sufficient knowledge and insight, as well as enable registered persons to sign off on roofs.

Content covered basic roofing terminology, such as rafters, tie beams, webs, gables, hips, truncated hips, spans, overhangs, cantilevers as well as prefabricated/bolted methods and addressed the basics of timber design, including loading, information of the relevant codes, explanations of permissible stresses, limited state loading and tributary loading.

Bracing in roofs was covered, including a practical look at the differences between lightly versus heavily loaded roofs based on field experiences, rafter bracing, the need for different bracing systems, tie beams and web bracing, including standard bracing details, were discussed and supplemented with case studies of the reasons for roof failures.

A general overview of the roofing industry in South Africa highlighted the main role players in the sector and what their responsibilities are in ensuring industry standards are upheld. The administrative tasks involved in being a successful roof inspector also formed part of the course.

The theory was balanced with practical work, and the candidates visited two different construction sites; one with a timber roof built to standard and another with a timber roof in distress due to ineffective bracing. The site visits made for lively discussions around site observations, ethics in the line of roof inspections and the potential entrepreneurial opportunities available to roof inspectors.

The Roof Inspector Training Courses concluded with a slide show and discussion of non-compliant roofs and their consequences as well as a non-compulsory written evaluation.

Roof inspector training a step towards greater compliance

The certified Roof Inspector is an expert

While all delegates who attend the ITC-SA’s Roof Inspector training course enjoy enhanced knowledge about roof inspections, not all of them will graduate as ITC-SA Certified Roof Inspectors.

This designation is only obtained through compliance with several basic requirements, including an academic component, practical or workplace experience, and a board examination or competency assessment.

A Certified Roof Inspector is defined as a practicing professional who will traditionally come from the built environment, must have prior experience in roof design and construction, and should preferably have a recognized qualification (NQF level 5) in the built environment.

An added qualifier is the fact that a Certified Roof Inspector but may only inspect roofs in his or her specified category of competence. These are:

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<td>A</td>
<td>High</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>Complex domestic and simple industrial and commercial roofs, including up to 10 metre spans</td>
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Woodworking
Amanda Obbes, the national coordinator of the ITC-SA, urges all professionals working in both the public and domestic construction industries to embrace the advantages of incorporating structural timber in their work.

“There is a strong call from various sectors to explore and fully harness the many advantages of timber as a sound choice to build both public buildings and low-cost housing. Timber is poised to be used on a much larger scale for both construction and domestic roofing,” says Obbes.

“The proposed carbon tax bill is also a great signifier of changing times and a push for greener legislative and business practices. Timber is a lighter, green and renewable building material that has all the credentials to play a profound role in how South Africa will move forward into an era in which carbon tax is the norm,” she adds.

“Skills development programmes, such as our recently held Roof Inspector training course, are the building blocks of an industry that not only operates in line with all National Building Regulations, but that is competent in correcting itself when this is not the case,” Obbes explains, concluding, “Training is essential for an industry that has a tremendous role to play in the future of greener, more sustainable building practices supported by a burgeoning green economy.”
It is no secret that South Africa does not exactly command a lot of respect in the international arena at present. With a severely depressed economy made worse by political instability and scandal after scandal making international news headlines, 2017 has thus far not been among the better years in our history.

Yet good news abounds, albeit just under the surface.

The FX Group, one of the largest local manufacturers of laminated board, has been granted the license as the regional manufacturer for Swedish raised access flooring and ceiling systems giant Bergvik, which specialises in raised flooring systems for electrical rooms, substations, and data centres among other applications.

According to FX Group CEO Mohammed Bera, Bergvik has had great success during their 10 years in South Africa, securing local manufacturing with many of their other products.

“The company used to service the local market using products out of their home country, Sweden. The fact that we are now able to locally manufacture this product, in the form of a multi-layered laminated panel tile, according to the strictest European standards, has been a milestone for them,” says Bera.

The tiles are manufactured at the FX Group’s headquarters in Benoni, from E1 P7 board, sourced from PG Bison, which is then upgraded with various melamine and phenolic polymer papers, as well as aluminum sheeting, and fabricated into top quality flooring tiles in various sizes.

Bera says that the materials used for the manufacturing of the 38mm thick flooring tiles were chosen for various qualities that they possess, including strength and stability, fire resistance, and electro-static dispersal capacity.

The various layers of melamine and phenolic polymer papers, as well as the aluminum sheeting are first bonded to the board in a high pressure melamine press.

The upgraded board is then machined, using a re-commissioned production line supplied from Bergvik in Sweden. The line cuts the tiles to final size with a 4° chamfer on all sides, before being edged all around.
Finally, the product is packaged on pre-fumigated Euro pallets for delivery, meaning they can be sold locally, or exported.

The product undergoes a strict quality check in the production process, including testing for flatness, squareness, chipping, surface defects, angle of cut, deflection, density, and thickness, amongst others. According to Bera, the tiles are currently manufactured for the local market and also for export to Australia and East Africa.

“Our ambition is to become a global manufacturer and supplier for Bergvik, to compliment and enhance their Swedish output.”

The FX Group is currently running one shift on the flooring tile line with the capacity to manufacture around 10,000 tiles per month, and plans are in place to implement a second shift during 2018.

According to Bera, a manufacturing contract of this magnitude has been an important revenue and margin boost for The FX Group and it is another arrow
in the quiver for the FX Group in terms of diversifying their revenue stream, production capability and product offering.

It is also a great source of pride in that, as a local company, they have the capacity to implement and maintain the high European manufacturing standards that this highly specialised product requires.

The FX Group already manufactures a diverse range of products, including "Innowood" their range of melamine faced boards, “Chrometree” their range of UV cured gloss boards and “Mirrorwood” their range of high gloss acrylic faced boards that have proven to be very popular in the South African market.

With 27 retail outlets, and numerous manufacturing contracts with private clients, including large furniture manufacturers, the company is continually looking toward the future.

“We are definitely looking toward expanding our product and client base with more niche manufacturing offerings in the future," concludes Bera.

According to Bergvik South Africa director, Charl Kinghorn, it has been a massive boost to the company to be able to have this product locally produced.

“Eliminating the need to import this product from Sweden has made a huge difference," says Kinghorn. "Not only is there a significant saving in terms of cost,"
which we are able to pass on to our customers, but the ready availability of the product has meant that we were able to cut down significantly on our lead times, allowing us to actively expand our sales efforts into Africa and even export to Australia."

Kinghorn says that, while the initial challenge of experimenting with different materials and testing in order to conform to the very strict EN12084 European standards was a daunting task, the FX Group proved their mettle and managed to come up with an exceptional product.

"The FX Group really went above and beyond the call of duty to pull through for us on this project and it has made the world of difference. They have managed to meet every demand in terms of quality and they have really impressed us with the excellent service that we receive."
CNC machines are a significant capital investment for any company. Companies of all sizes, from small and expanding joinery and furniture manufacturers, to international production companies with world-class manufacturing facilities, turn to CNC machines to streamline their business, and increase production and profitability.

So, with easy-to-use modern technology helping to fill the skills gap and increase flexibility, why isn’t it going quite to plan?

“We hear about all sorts of different production and manufacturing issues, from poor finish right through to noise,” says Leitz Tooling sales manager Brian Maddox. “Companies large and small rely heavily on their CNC machines, so issues like short tool life and product rectification can become serious problems which affect their bottom line.”

Two market leading British caravan manufacturers, Coachman and Elddis, turned to Leitz for advice on their production speed, and discovered it was the tooling on their CNCs which was holding them back.

Both Elddis and Coachman had been experiencing increasing pressure on production and needed to get product to the assembly departments faster to meet demand. This could be considered a ‘good’ problem, but it is one both companies recognised as a serious issue which had to be resolved.

Coachman Caravans has a reputation for producing high quality, well-built products. Care and attention is taken over every model and they are crafted with design and construction quality front of mind.

Steve Marsh, Coachman’s machine shop manager said, “The diamond nesting routers on our CNCs were lasting two or three working days. We had to constantly check the boards and tool for clogging. The frequent down time alone was a big problem.”

The diamond nesting routers from Coachman’s previous tooling supplier were less expensive than those offered by Leitz, but, said Marsh, once the whole production cost was evaluated, the solution was clear. “Leitz diamond nesting router is very impressive,” he said.

“ Its first run lasted 37 days on the machine and we got through almost twelve times the number of sheets with no clogging, vastly reduced noise, a great finish and double the feed speed. With more diamond edges giving an up and down cut, it’s just a far superior product.”

Elddis started life as a manufacturer in 1964. In the 50+ years since, the company has expanded and today includes some of the UK’s most well-known and best-selling brands. All caravans and motorhomes are manufactured in the company’s County Durham production facility, which employs 350 skilled staff.

“Elddis is a UK success story. Our award-winning ranges are in demand and with our sustained growth, hold-
ups in production are unacceptable,” said Brian Jackson, production manager for Elddis. Both Elddis and Coachman have similar CNC routers, but used tooling products from different suppliers.

“At Elddis, we had to run the previous diamond nesting router slower to help the finish. It was noisy, and after the first service, the tips were coming off. We went to Leitz for a solution, and they delivered on everything we needed.”

Brian Maddox said, “This experience isn’t just limited to caravan production, or CNC manufacture for that matter. We solve issues like this across the spectrum of manufacturing of all scale and type every day.” Leitz work with companies before they make individual or additional machine investments, looking at the products the customer makes, through to the right tooling for the jobs.

This helps the company decide on the right specification for the machine, so they are well informed and prepared before they seek proposals from machine manufacturers.

“Our tools give an excellent finish, which means less sanding and rectification, less coating and ultimately, lower costs. Companies can become fixated on the purchase price of tools, but correct, quality tools can have a fantastic positive impact on other costs,” continued Brian. “You have to ask yourself, what would you pay for 12 times the productivity from the same tool?” Coachman’s Steve Marsh said, “Buying quality makes all the difference.”

“We are a dedicated and forward-thinking company, and it’s all about the customer,” says Brian. “Our research, development and customer service go above and beyond just the supply of tools. Our extensive experience, care and unparalleled support from our sales and service personnel give customers invaluable reassurance, and with Leitz, production lines and workshops enjoy significantly improved running times, and reduced downtime and setting time, resulting in increased and improved profitability, every time.”
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It’s been a whirlwind year for Donald Fuchs Woodworking Machinery, with industry stalwart Donald Fuchs stepping aside into an advisory role to make space for the new generation to take the company forward.

Fuchs announced earlier this year that it was time for him to slow down after many decades as one of the most prominent and charismatic figures in the South African woodworking machinery industry, appointing his son Iain and longtime staff member Hein Smit to the helm of the company that he has built into one of the foremost machinery suppliers in the country with its exclusive range of Homag machines.

Iain and Hein this year represented Donald Fuchs Woodworking Machinery at Ligna in Germany and according to Donald, the pair made a formidable team, representing the company with professionalism and managing to attract a lot of enquiries and leads.

A number of months down the line, and the company seems to have taken the change at the top in its stride and has managed to secure strong sales figures with installations all across the country and across the border, including in Namibia.

According to Iain Fuchs, they have been very fortunate thus far in 2017, showing the strongest sales figures in the past six years.

“We’ve been blessed,” says Iain. “Taking over from my father who is notorious for his work ethic is no small task, but with a lot of hard work, and with the support of our loyal clients, we have managed to not only keep going, but to maintain positive growth.”

Iain says that a large part of maintaining positive growth for the company, was in the attention to detail, largely learned from his father.

“It’s very easy to get lost in the chase for more sales, but one has to keep in mind that what we do is so much more than just supplying machines. Even though the Homag range is well-known as one of the top quality machinery ranges available on the market, one has to keep your finger on the pulse of all areas of your business.”

With that in mind, a strong focus of the company this past year has been on its technical back-up service, and making sure that the top class service that they have become known for over the years is maintained and even improved.

According to Iain they are very optimistic about the future of Donald Fuchs Woodworking Machinery and there are even plans to expand the business even further.

“Even though my father is not at the helm of the business anymore, anyone who knows him will undoubtedly know that he is not likely to ever step down completely.”
The rise of Chinese-made timber and board processing machinery in recent years has been significant and dramatic.

With economies coming under more and more pressure, the need for an alternative to the traditionally used – and very pricey - European machinery has become more and more eminent as companies strive to continue manufacturing good quality products without breaking the bank or pricing their products out of the market.

The main problems with Chinese-made machines was the inevitable issues with back-up service and the availability of parts, not to mention language barriers, with instruction manuals very rarely being printed in English.

Enter FOMA Southern Africa, a very unique joint venture between local laminated board products manufacturer, the FX Group, the Chinese state-owned China FOMA Group, and Shanghai FUMA Woodworking and Machinery Company.

According to the FX Group CEO Mohammed Bera, the idea was not only to provide South African timber and board processors with a quality, affordable alternative to the very expensive European machines, but to establish a full service machinery supplier that caters to every need of the client.

“Quality is our first priority,” says Bera. “Along with our partners in this venture, we identified the very best of what is available in China, and in addition to just selling machines, we also, from the outset, ensured that we are able to provide an efficient and reliable after sales and technical back-up service.”

FOMA Southern Africa’s plan to achieving this is simple: in addition to identifying only the best machines available, they have ensured that they have, on hand at their brand new offices and showrooms in Germiston, the full range of replacement parts for every machine in the range, and they also provide an impressive 12 month mechanical guarantee on all of their products.

According to Bera, they can also provide a guarantee on electrical components, on condition that the client has adequate surge and clean power protection installed.

“China has quickly risen to become the second biggest manufacturer of woodworking machinery in the world after Germany, and we believe we’ve identified...
the right mix of machinery and manufacturers that is ideal for South African conditions."

Another big plus for FOMA Southern Africa is that, unlike many local machine suppliers that also provide Chinese machine ranges, they have no problem being tied to residual manufacturers that are threatened by the rise in popularity of Chinese-made machines.

Since the official announcement of the formation of FOMA Southern Africa in March this year, the company has come a long way, having secured all the necessary regulatory approvals and permits needed, ensuring that they have enough stock on hand, and setting up their very impressive offices and showrooms just off the Osborne offramp in Germiston.

According to China FOMA Group’s South African representative, Constance Wu, the company has been off to a flying start and has seen some really good sales thus far.

"Our first sale was made in July and we have successfully placed and supported edgebanders, table saws, dust extraction units and other machines in the market since then. Our clients are very happy with the quality of the machines and the services that we provide."

Technical back up service

One of the key factors to successfully establishing a viable full service timber and board processing machinery supplier in any country, is the ability to provide an efficient and comprehensive technical back-up service.

No furniture manufacturer can afford to have a machine out of commission while waiting for parts to arrive from overseas, thus one of the first steps was to ensure that the full range of mechanical replacement parts is on hand.

According to Bera, the company has also ensured that all electrical components in their range of machines are of international standard and readily available in South Africa.

"We have ensured that we are able to effectively respond to any given situation that may arise in a timely and efficient manner."

In order to do this, the company has brought to South Africa a prominent Chinese technical expert to head up their technical department.

Simply known as Mr Yu, he hails from the Shanghai FUMA Woodworking Machinery Company, and he is well known and respected in China as one of the foremost experts in his field, with more than 15 years worth of technical experience on all the machine ranges that FOMA Southern Africa imports.

In addition to heading up the Technical department, Mr Yu is also undertaking training of new technical staff.

According to Bera, FOMA Southern Africa is focused on creating employment for young technically orientated South Africans within the industry and is committed to ensuring that will they be extensively training their staff on the machines and they will be investing further in the formal education of promising staff members.

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“Their training under Mr Yu is going very well and we are committed to providing ongoing training to them as they progress,” says Bera.

**Product range**

FOMA Southern Africa prides itself on not only having identified the right mix of machines and manufacturers for the South African market, but also on the diversity of the range of machines that they supply into the South African market.

The company offers a broad range of products to fit the many facets of the timber processing industry including a diverse range from entry level to high end and high speed automatic edgebanders.

Options include pre-millers, double station trimmers, corner rounding and scrapers. Feed speeds range from 12, to 16, and 23 meters per minute. The HD810 edgebander sports a high speed corner rounding unit, a double station glue system with the ability to automatically readjust the machine for varying tape thicknesses.

They also stock a diverse range of panel saws with up to 430mm wide sliding tables with automatic rise and fall of the saw blade. Automatic beam saws are also available either in 3.3 meter or 3.8 meter sizes.

Further products include pot hinge drilling machines, spindle moulders, combination machines, automatic fingerjointing lines, compressors and vacuum forming machines, and CNC drilling machines.
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