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72.2 cc • 3.6 kW • 18” 3/8” C58 • 6.3 kg

This professional saw is designed for highly demanding conditions where efficiency is of prime importance. Based on professionally proven Husqvarna technology, it combines high power with low weight and rapid acceleration. Equipped with a three-piece crankshaft and magnesium crankcase, the 272 XP® is a reliable felling partner. Ease of use is ensured by features such as Smart Start®, adjustable oil pump and angled front handle.
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The events calendar for the year is filling up rapidly

These 2017 events include research symposia, new product launches and demonstrations, agricultural shows, furniture design and décor exhibitions, educational association meetings, opportunities for skills and knowledge development, government stakeholder gatherings and networking.

Significantly, the biennial migration to Germany by furniture manufacturers, sawmillers, foresters and the suppliers of equipment and technology is taking place in May when Interzum and Ligna capture the headlines.

The common denominator of these events is the focus on innovation, product design, process re-engineering, lean manufacturing, waste elimination and waste beneficiation and competitiveness.

The government is endorsing this approach and, during an interview with the Department of Trade and Industry’s director: forestry based industries, Tafadzwa Nyanzunda and her deputy, Stella Maphiri they emphasised the importance of establishing a “wood culture”. To this end the final version of the Forestry Beneficiation Framework is eagerly awaited.

This month a large part of the forestry and sawmilling sections is devoted to statistics. Forestry SA (FSA) supplied the spreadsheets and graphs that summarise the sector data gathered between 1980 and 2015. It makes intriguing reading and contains so much information that we decided to let some of the pictures speak for themselves.

Also in the forestry section, we introduce Willem van der Merwe of Africa Biomass Company who makes a living out of adding value to wood waste.

The need to improve recovery is carried into the sawmilling section where we discuss Swartland Boudienste with Hans Hanekom. He describes the organisation and its obsession with recovery, zero waste, lean manufacturing, product development and multi-skilling of staff. In the woodworking section Roy Williams of Austro describes the steps the company is taking to assist its clients to achieve lean manufacturing and enter Industry4.0.

We also introduce the SA Furniture Initiative (SAFI). This is the first time the furniture manufacturers have a national body that acts in their interests and we wish it every success.
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.

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Chipping and biomass service provider adds value to wood waste with the help of Bell loggers

WP Chipper Hire & Sales, which trades as Africa Biomass Company (ABC), is rapidly evolving into a leading national service provider for converting waste wood into useable end products, including decorative wood chips, mulch, boiler fuel, biochar, wood pellets, charcoal and packaging materials.

When WP Chipper Hire & Sales was established in Worcester in 2008 it was the logical next step for Willem van der Merwe. "Four years earlier I bought a small tree felling business and it included a tow-behind wood chipper. The calls from fruit farmers in the Ceres area for assistance with recycling prunings and old orchards into wood chips and mulch grew exponentially and it soon became time to grow our equipment and expand our services" explains Van der Merwe.

WP Chipper Hire and Sales joined forces with Môreson Groendierskuiwers and ventured into the important new territory of “green” agricultural practices. Since 2008 they have acquired a fleet of the world’s best recycling equipment for the processing of various kinds of green waste.

Fruit trees, vineyards, unwanted windbreaks, municipal green waste, and sawmill waste are increasingly converted into mulch for ground cover, compost, or useful boiler fuel, used instead of carbon fuels. The company recently started harvesting and processing alien trees from the water catchment areas of the Western Cape.

The fleet of recycling equipment has increased to

- 20 Bell 225 loggers
- 8 Bandit Beast horizontal grinders
- 1 boiler fuel chipper
- 1 whole-tree chipper
- various tractors and trailers
- chip spreaders (own design)
- forestry mower
- other logging equipment
“We would not be able to run fully mechanised operations if it was not for the versatile, heavy duty and reliable Bell three-wheeled logging machines. The back up from Bell Equipment is excellent and this has helped us grow our own technical expertise and skills,” Van der Merwe points out.

The current monthly material produced for composting, bio-fuel and mulch exceeds 50,000-cubic metres in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape, with 100% local consumption of the product. “WP Chipper Hire & Sales has been in the forefront of the development of biomass processing and bio-fuels in Africa. For this reason, in 2014 we established Africa Biomass Company (ABC) because clients from other provinces began to contract our services,” explains Van der Merwe.

A brief encounter with Van der Merwe and a visit to the company confirms that all the employees practice the company’s philosophy of looking after their suppliers, colleagues, and customers. “Without these three elements it is not possible to be a successful business. Everyone has a right to be treated with dignity and my viewpoint is that people who work for me must be better off, if and when they leave. By looking after our resources and the wellbeing of people the industry – and the business - will survive.”

ABC’s vision is to provide a worldwide service and infrastructure that is sustainable and above par, and considers the unique requirements of each client without deviating from its policy of innovative service and high ethical standards. “What began as an effort to reduce waste timber volumes to cut down on trips to dumping sites, resulted in the birth of a new industry based on converting waste wood into reusable and renewable value adding products.”
Bandit Industries partners with ABC to service southern Africa

Africa Biomass Company (ABC) is proud to announce that it is the agent for the USA’s heavy-duty tree and wood waste processing equipment manufacturer, Bandit Industries, in Southern Africa.

BC’s Willem van der Merwe explains that in September 2016 Bandit Industries approached his company to represent the entire range of Bandit equipment. “We are Bandit’s biggest customer in Southern Africa and over the years our technicians and machine operators have become experts in all aspects of the equipment,” he explains.

ABC is fully equipped to provide technical support, spares and machine maintenance services for Bandit owners. There are more than 50 different types of Bandit machines:

- Hand-fed chippers
- Stump grinders
- The Beast range of horizontal grinders
- Skid-steer attachments
- Whole-tree chippers
- Stationary chippers
- Track carriers
- Forestry mowers
- Stump grinding heads

“Our future depends on us to keep the carbon cycle healthy and I believe there are huge opportunities for entrepreneurs who enjoy the outdoors to start a business and hire or buy one of more of these machines,” says Van der Merwe. He adds that there is a growing demand from small and large municipalities, farmers, land owners, sawmills, tree felling and garden service companies, forestry companies, wildfire rehabilitation organisations and garden centres for the value these machines can add to woold waste.

“A well-managed business that follows a strict equipment maintenance regime can soon become sustainable while contributing to making the soil healthier which will result in higher yields for agricultural concerns,” he explains.

With names like Beast and Intimidator, the machines come in a wide range of standard and customisable sizes. Examples include the Model HB20 self-propelled 25-horsepower stump grinder with 381mm diameter cutter wheel, and the likes of the Beast Model 4680XP horizontal grinder (1200-horsepower) with a huge 1143mm x 1524mm mill opening.

Van der Merwe invites everyone who needs assistance with their Bandit equipment, or who would like to explore business options to contact ABC at its headquarters in Worcester, north of Cape Town.
Bandit Industries has entrusted Africa Biomass Company (ABC) to supply and support its wide selection of machines. ABC in Worcester in the Western Cape stocks a comprehensive range of spares and consumables for Bandit equipment.

**BANDIT CHIPPERS DEALERSHIP SOUTH AFRICA**

Suppliers of the whole range of Bandit Equipment including: Hand-fed chippers, Whole-tree chippers, Stump grinders, Beast recyclers (horizontal grinders) and more. For machines, parts, service and advice please contact: E-mail: info@abcchippers.co.za

Office: 023 342 1144                Website: www.abcbanditchippers.co.za
Elmia Wood show takes place in June

It is three months to go before Elmia Wood opens its gates on 7 June, and the organisers confirm it will be the world’s biggest forestry fair ever.

Elmia Wood has been the world’s leading forestry fair for many years. Decision makers from around the world attend to experience the latest technology in use and work continues daily to build new roads and lay out new areas in the forests south of Jönköping, Sweden.

Three new sections will welcome visitors. The biggest of these is Load & Transport with its theme of forest roads, logistics and timber handling. Big-name exhibitors planning major programmes in this section include MAN, Liebherr, Volvo and Tatra.

“It’s unusual to have such a strong and immediate response for a new section,” exhibition manager Jakob Hirsmark says.

Another new section is the Drone Zone. As the name suggests, the theme is drones. Elmia is cooperating with UAS Forum, which organises the Nordic region’s leading conference on unmanned aerial vehicles. The exhibitors are leading suppliers of aerial products and services. Several times each day there will be aerial shows, demonstrations and talks.

Hunting is the third new section. Wildlife management is part of active forest management and this section brings together exhibitors, target practice ranges, food made from game and other activities.

New knowledge to acquire

Visitors can gain high-quality knowledge from the programme of seminars in the event tent. The seminars topics include: Invasive species, Precision forestry, Careful logging, Remote sensing, and Technological leaps for future forestry.

“We recommend a couple of days at the fair so you can have time to discover everything that’s happening in the forest industry,” Hirsmark says.

Precision Forestry Symposium a success

Stellenbosch University provided the venue for the 2017 proceedings of the four-yearly symposium titled “Precision Forestry – Towards optimising value in the bio-economy from data driven decisions.”

It was jointly hosted by Stellenbosch University (Department of Forest and Wood Science), Southern Africa Institute of Forestry (SAIF), Forestry South Africa (FSA) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

Pierre Ackerman of Stellenbosch University was the master of ceremonies and said the high quality of material presented and the large number of delegates that attended, attest to current and continued interest in promoting the all-important facet of Precision Forestry to the forest industry.

Researchers specialising in the drive to precision forestry enjoying the opportunity to network.
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Invest in STIHL and reap the rewards

Users of STIHL products know they are investing in globally acclaimed technology with a proven track record. The new STIHL MS-382 chainsaw is a case point as it surpasses the performance of its popular predecessor, the STIHL MS-382 chainsaw and at the same saves money because it works faster and harder for less.

Fuel efficiency at its best
The 3.8kW MS-382 is a tough, fuel-powered chainsaw that is ergonomic and at on 6.2kg is light with an excellent power to weight ratio and numerous upgraded features. Developed specifically for the forestry industry, it combines a powerful professional delivery with outstanding fuel consumption – up to 20% less than previous models, thanks to the improved two-mix motor.

“When every cent matters that’s a statistic that’s hard to ignore, “ says Jonathan Rencken, forestry Manager for Tree Fall Harvesters. His teams have found that they are saving a tank of petrol a day per machine, which is a significant saving.”

Less wear and tear, less downtime
The MS-382 is a cost-cutter in other ways. The trade marked 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 prevent 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, resulting in even greater reliability.

Kinder on the operator
Harvesting is a labour-intensive job that wears hard on the workforce. In addition to being fuel-efficient, easier to service and more cost-effective to maintain, the MS 382 is also more user-friendly and more comfortable to operate, with reduced noise levels, lower emissions and a lighter, ergonomic design. All these factors help reduce operator fatigue during extended work periods. Andre Barnardo, Procurement and Harvesting Manager for Treated Timber Products, comments, “The MS 382 has a lot of power yet is lighter than the MS-381, which makes my team happy.”

STIHL quality control and after-sales service
STIHL is one of the few power tool manufacturers to control the quality of its products by manufacturing its own elements such as the chain and guide bars, carburettors, crankshafts, pistons, cylinders, and outer housings. 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. And the nationwide network of STIHL dealers ensures reliable after-sales service and expert advice.
STIHL THE BEST

Destumping is labour intensive and a demanding job for chainsaws – it takes equipment you can trust to make it faster and easier to accomplish. The powerful STIHL MS 661 C-M chainsaw has enhanced delivery, greener features, and fine-tuned handling. One of the lightest professional-grade chainsaws in its class at 7.4kg, the MS 661 C-M boasts a high power-to-weight ratio alongside an impressive 5.4kW power output for cutting through hard, dry stumps and harvesting larger timber. Its updated technological features include an upgraded oil pump system to increase flow in the dusty conditions of destumping and when using the longer guide bars needed for this application (STIHL recommends the Rollomatic® ES Light Guice Bar for better balance and control). The HD2 heavy duty flocked paper filter provides protection from very fine dust, increasing the machine’s lifespan, while larger particles are expelled before reaching the air filter through the process of pre-separation. The super-efficient STIHL 2-MIX engine delivers high torque over a wide rpm range, while consuming up to 20% less fuel. The MS 661 C-M is fitted with STIHL’s M-TRONIC electronic engine management system so it automatically adjusts to varying altitudes and operating conditions. When faced with challenging applications such as destumping and large timber harvesting, there’s only one choice – the MS 661 C-M, produced by the world’s best-selling chainsaw brand. How could you trust anyone else?

Like any premium item, STIHL products are only available at specialised dealers nationwide, for expert advice and superior after-sales service.
The appointment is a return to Bell for Hughes, who previously worked with the Richards Bay-based heavy equipment manufacturer in the 1990s through his involvement with their excavator supplier at that time.

"I am pleased to be back in the Bell fold after all these years. I’ve always admired the Bell brand, the company and its culture. It’s a family business with a respectful and highly professional working environment. It’s also a world class company with a strong entrepreneurial spirit and the tenacity to never back down from a challenge. Over the years this has seen Bell grow in physical size as an organisation as well as in the maturity of its products to industry leading standards," he says.

Hughes is upbeat about the impact his role will have on the Bell business going forward. "I am confident that our range of E-series ADTs is set to be a new market leader. This, backed by Bell Equipment’s industry leading support, will most certainly see Bell consolidate its dominance of this sector.

"After a few tough years, the industry is starting to see green shoots again and I would like to believe that we are through the bottom of the cycle. This bodes well for Bell with our full line of products for the various industries we serve," he adds.

In welcoming Hughes to the Bell family, MD of BESA, Menzi Dumisa says: "Mark brings a wealth of industry and leadership experience to the team and our region, and his experience in our industry will greatly assist in meeting both our customers and our business objectives. We look forward to his contribution and wish him a long and satisfying career with Bell."

Husqvarna’s greenhouse gas emissions commitment approved by Science Based Targets initiative
Husqvarna group is the world’s first forest and garden equipment company to have its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets approved by the Science Based Targets Initiative.

The initiative works with companies to set ambitious emission reduction targets, consistent with the global effort to keep temperature increases well below two degrees Celsius. This is a key goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, and the initiative is a collaboration between the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), UN Global Compact (UNGC), Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and World Resources Institute (WRI).

The Husqvarna group is a world-leading producer of outdoor power products for gardens, parks and forest care. Products include chainsaws, trimmers, robotic lawn mowers and ride-on lawn mowers. The group includes brands like Husqvarna, Gardena, McCulloch, Poulan Pro, Weed Eater, Flymo, Zenoah and Diamant Boart. The products are sold via dealers and retailers to consumers and professionals in more than 100 countries. Net sales in 2015 was SEK36-billion and the group has more than 13 000 employees in 40 countries.

It has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 10% across the company’s value chain by 2020, from a base year of 2015. The absolute greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 33% by 2035, also from a base year of 2015.

Husqvarna commits to reduce scope 1 and scope 2 emissions 30% per unit of value added by 2020 from a 2015 base-year. In addition, the company commits to reduce scope 3 emissions 10% per unit of value added within the same timeframe (purchased goods and services, transportation, and product use emissions).

This is a milestone in the long-term goal to reduce absolute scope 3 emissions from the use of their products 33% by 2035, from a 2015 base-year.

“Our greenhouse gas reduction targets are ambitious, measurable, and now also independently approved. We aim to reduce our emissions throughout the value chain – from our suppliers to the use of our products. Delivering on these targets not only strengthens our business, it delivers value to employees, customers and investors alike. Setting the targets and getting approval by the SBTI, demonstrates that we’re serious and committed to contributing to a low-carbon future,” says Kai Wärn, CEO and president of Husqvarna Group.

Lila Karbassi, chief of programmes, UN Global Compact, a SBTI partner says, “Husqvarna Group has recognized the opportunity and the imperative to be part of the transition to the low-carbon economy. By having their ambitious target approved, they now have a clearly defined pathway to cut their emissions and this will help future-proof their growth. Other companies that have set targets have seen benefits including increased innovation, reduced regulatory uncertainty, strengthened investor confidence and improved profitability and competitiveness. We encourage other companies to follow Husqvarna’s lead.”

Husqvarna Group will reduce greenhouse gases across the value chain by:

**Product use**
- Shift from petrol to battery products
- Innovative solutions for efficiency improvement of petrol driven products

**Transportation**
- Production close to customer and direct distribution
- Efficient transportation through optimised packaging

**Manufacturing**
- Waste reduction through a lean operating system
- Utilising renewable electricity and/or own generated energy by solar panels

**Sourcing**
- Embedding the top 150 suppliers into the group’s carbon dioxide programme to ensure full value chain impact

The SBTI champions science-based target setting as a way of boosting companies’ competitive advantage in the transition to the low-carbon economy, and one of the We Mean Business Coalition commitments. The initiative defines and promotes best practice in science-based target setting, offers resources and guidance to reduce barriers to adoption, and independently assesses and approves companies’ targets.
The strategic location of commercial forests and natural forests in South Africa makes the industry key to achieving the critical economic growth and transformation needed in the country.

South Africa’s forest land covers just over 1% (1,224,456 hectares) of the country’s total land area. The forests are divided into three categories: natural forests, commercial plantations and wooded savannahs (woodlands). South Africa has approximately 1.26-million hectares under plantation with more than 53% of the plantations grown for pulp and paper.

All natural forests in the country are protected in terms of the Natural Forests Act of 1998. About 82% of commercial plantation areas in South Africa have achieved the global Forest Stewardship Council certification, which is the highest level of international certification in the world.

The forestry and forest products industry contributed R72.6-billion to South Africa’s GDP in 2013, the timber sector contributed R10.9-billion, whereas the wood, paper, publishing and printing sector contributed R32.4-billion and the furniture sector contributed R27.2-billion.

In terms of employment the forestry sector contributes over 260,000 jobs to the economy – these jobs can be subdivided among the sectors as shown below:

- Forestry: 88,200
- Sawmilling: 28,000
- Pulp and paper: 24,000
- Timber and boards: 6,000
- Mining timber: 2,200
- Other (pole plants, furniture, etc): 10,000

**Total**: 158,400

Employment in the Forestry Sector as at 2015
Source: Forestry South Africa

The graphs on the following pages are extracted from a presentation by Roger Godsmark of Forestry SA, and make interesting reading.
Forestry

Land Use in South Africa

- Grazing: 13.9%
- Agriculture: 9.6%
- Nature Conservation: 6.9%
- Other: 1%
- Forestry: 68.8%

Total RSA land area – 122.3 million ha

Plantation Area as % of Land Area by Province

- Mpumalanga: 6.07%
- KZN: 5.34%
- E. Cape: 0.83%
- Limpopo: 0.40%
- W. Cape: 0.38%

Land Use Comparisons 2005, 2010 & 2015

- Maize
- Forestry
- Wheat
- Sugar

Drop in Forestry Area – 110 000 ha (8.2%)

Plantation Area Comparisons 2015

- China
- India
- Russia
- USA
- Japan
- Indonesia
- Brazil
- Thailand
- Ukraine
- Iran
- RSA

Million Hectares
Latest forestry industry facts and figures released

**Plantation Area by Province and Genera 2015**

- **Mpumalanga**: Hardwood 190,638 ha, Softwood 305,835 ha
- **KZN**: Hardwood 120,920 ha, Softwood 367,671 ha
- **E. Cape**: Hardwood 23,422 ha, Softwood 118,326 ha
- **W. Cape**: Hardwood 1,980 ha, Softwood 47,312 ha
- **Limpopo**: Hardwood 21,434 ha, Softwood 26,919 ha

Total - 619,311 ha (softwood)
Total - 605,145 ha (hardwood)

**Pine Plantation Area by Province 2015**

- **Mpumalanga**: 49.4%
- **KZN**: 19.5%
- **E. Cape**: 7.6%
- **W. Cape**: 4.3%
- **Limpopo**: 19.1%

Total - 619,311 ha (51.0% of total)
**Eucalyptus Plantation Area by Province 2015**

- Mpumalanga: 57.3%
- KZN: 34.2%
- E Cape: 4.1%
- W Cape: 0.3%
- Limpopo: 4.2%

Total – 512 226 ha (41.8% of total)

---

**Wattle Plantation Area by Province 2015**

- Mpumalanga: 82.8%
- KZN: 2.4%
- E Cape: 0.0%
- W Cape: 0.1%
- Limpopo: 14.7%

Total – 88 320 ha (7.2% of total)
Latest forestry industry facts and figures released

**Plantation Area by Province and Ownership 2015**
- **Private**
  - Mpumalanga: 1,311,522 ha
  - KZN: 31,392 ha
  - E. Cape: 114,346 ha
  - Limpopo: 56,485 ha
  - W. Cape: 66,773 ha
- **Public**
  - Total: 1,011,268 ha (53.0%)
  - Total Public: 213,189 ha (17.0%)

**Planted Area Comparisons by Province & Product 2015**
- **KZN**
  - Pulpwood: 2,752 ha
  - Sawlogs: 8,444 ha
  - Mining Timber: 34,437 ha
  - Other: 2,035 ha
- **Mpumalanga**
  - Pulpwood: 372 ha
  - Sawlogs: 3,113 ha
  - Mining Timber: 6,066 ha
  - Other: 5,228 ha
- **E. Cape**
  - Pulpwood: 10,118 ha
  - Sawlogs: 209,136 ha
  - Mining Timber: 6,471 ha
  - Other: 2,733 ha
- **W. Cape**
  - Pulpwood: 24,479 ha

**Plantation Area by Species and Ownership 2015**
- **Private**
  - Pine: 401,969 ha
  - Eucalyptus: 30,482 ha
  - Acacia: 9,840 ha
  - Other Hardwood: 3,414 ha
- **Public**
  - Total: 1,011,268 ha (53.0%)
  - Total Public: 213,189 ha (17.0%)

**Composition of Roundwood Production by Product 2015**
- **Softwood**
  - Saxlogs: 93%
  - Puipwood: 17%
  - Other: 17%
  - Foires: 17%
  - Mining Timber: 3.9%

Overall: Softwood = 38% & Hardwood = 62%

**Roundwood Production vs. Plantation Area 1980 to 2015**
- Plantation Area: Total increase in production over period: 59.8%
- Plantation Production: Total increase in afforested area over period: 5.4%
Latest forestry industry facts and figures released

**Damage to Plantations by Fires 1980 to 2015**

- Total area damaged over period: 1,689,632 ha
- Total area damaged by fire: 639,072 ha (39%)
- Total area damaged by other causes: 450,560 ha (41%)

**FSC Certified Forest Areas in Selected Countries as at January 2017**

- Brazil: 2,315 thousand hectares
- Chile: 1,289 thousand hectares
- RSA: 1,083 thousand hectares
- NZ: 1,236 thousand hectares
- Australia: 1,235 thousand hectares
- Uruguay: 873 thousand hectares
- China: 640 thousand hectares
- Argentina: 460 thousand hectares

Total FSC certified area in world: 194 million ha

**FSC Certified Forests by Region as at January 2017**

- Europe: 52.21 million hectares
- North America: 32.25 million hectares
- Latin America: 13.057 million hectares
- Asia: 3.522 million hectares
- Africa: 2.436 million hectares
- Oceania: 2.034 million hectares

Total FSC certified area in Africa: 7,592,153 ha
Total FSC certified area: 194 million ha in 83 countries

**Damage to Plantations by Fires 2006 to 2015**

- Total area damaged over period: 409,332 ha
- Total area damaged by fire: 280,713 ha (69%)
- Total area damaged by other causes: 128,619 ha (31%)
FORESTRY CALENDAR

13 – 17 March in Nelspruit area
Silviculture supervisor / junior manager course
- Presented by CMO
- Bookings: nikita@cmo.co.za

21 March – Worldwide
International Day of Forests
- On 21 March people around the world will celebrate the International Day of Forests. The purpose is to raise awareness about the importance of all types of forests and this year the theme is Forests and Energy.
- On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.
- More information: www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests

19 – 21 April at Cedara, KZN
Focus on forestry
- Theme: Harvesting, silviculture and fire management systems in a restructured forest industry. This event covers the full value chain of practical forest management - forest engineering, silviculture and fire protection.
- Conference includes a field day / expo
- Organiser: CMO, ICFR and NMMU
- Registration: follow the link on www.cmo.co.za and nontethelele01@cmo.co.za

15 – 17 May in Pretoria
The 28th Annual TPCP Symposium: Keeping trees healthy
- This is the annual meeting of the Tree Protection Co-operative Programme (TPCP) and the DST/NRF Centre of Excellence in Tree Health Biotechnology (CTHB), and is one of the most important relating to forest tree health in South Africa. The main TPCP Symposium will be on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th with satellite meetings, lab and facility visits and a meeting of the Core Team Members of the CTHB will be held on Monday 15th.
- The meeting will provide feedback to the forest industry and other stakeholders on programmes focused on dealing with threatening pest and disease problems following an integrated pest management approach.
- Internationally recognized tree health specialists including Dr Ecki Brokerhoff (Scion, New Zealand), Dr Jeremy Alison (Natural Resources, Canada), Prof Tom Bruns (University of California, Berkely, USA), Prof Rytas Vilgalys (Duke University, North Carolina, USA), Prof Paolo Gonthier (University of Torino, Italy) and Dr Simon Lawson (University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia) will be amongst the guests and speakers.
- Visit th
- e www.fabinet.up.ac.za for more information.

9 -12 May in Johannesburg
Machine tools Africa 2017
- Expo Centre Nasrec
- Machine Tools Africa, launched in association with the Machine Tools Merchants’ Association of Southern Africa (MTMA), is the biggest trade exhibition of its kind in Africa showcasing cutting edge developments across the machine tool and related industries. Machine tools will not only be displayed but demonstrated.
- There will be machining equipment such as turning and milling, grinding and drilling, as well as all types of sheet metal machinery, laser, plasma cutting, bending and punching and presses.
- Suppliers of tooling and CAD/CAM software will also be there.

16 – 19 May in Cologne, Germany
Interzum 2017
- Koelnmesse exhibition centre (see story in this issue)

22 – 26 May in Hannover, Germany
Ligna 2017
- Deutsche Messe exhibition centre (see story in this issue)

7 – 10 June in the forests of Jönköping, Sweden
Elmia Wood
- Elmia Wood is the world’s leading trade fair for the forestry industry. The fair is completely built in the forest and you can see and test forest machines and tools in their natural environment. It is held every four years and provides an excellent opportunity to get an overview of the market and see new trends.
- Contact: w
- ood@elmia.se

18 – 20 July in Pietermaritzburg
7th Forest Science Symposium
- Co-hosted by ICFR, IUFRO, DAFF, FABI, NMMU and SUN
- This event will showcase the depth and breadth of forestry research across southern Africa, and aims to provide a unique opportunity for the southern African forest research community to interact with international partners and share knowledge around the work being carried out across the region.
- The theme will focus on Research underpinning the sustainability of a diverse forestry sector and will explore forestry research in the broadest sense looking at natural forests, plantations and woodlands, the range of genera and species, geographical and environmental variation, and the diversity of people and products.
- Organiser: Sally Upfold, sally.upfold@icfr.ukzn.ac.za, Tel: 033-3862314

28 August – 1 September in Pretoria
Short course:
An introduction to modern tree breeding
- Presenter: Prof Steve Verryn, sverryn@creationbreeding.co.za 083-6525719

16 – 19 April 2018: Rotorua, New Zealand
6th International Forest Engineering Conference
Theme: “Quenching our thirst for new knowledge”
The conference will include visits to:
- Equipment manufacturers
- Koverau central processing plant
- Port of Tauranga
- Two PF Olsen steep terrain harvesting operations
- Registration and call for papers will open in March and close in November 2017.
The company already has 30 dealer sites across southern and eastern Africa, with new sites in Johannesburg and Angola completed in 2016 and fully operational. New facilities are also currently being developed in Pinetown, Port Elizabeth, Kenya and Zambia.

Locally, Volvo Group is represented by Volvo Trucks, Volvo Bus, Volvo Penta as well as the UD Trucks brand. The group employs more than 1000 staff in southern and eastern Africa through various representative offices, brand headquarters, and two factories in Durban and Rosslyn, shared back office support and a regional distribution centre for parts.

Volvo has representative offices in Zambia, Ethiopia, East Africa and Angola to bring support closer to customers in those regions.

Torbjörn Christensson, president of Volvo Group Southern Africa says the company is constantly exploring ways to develop and improve the way they support their customers. “There are high market demands on new financial solutions and we are developing financial solutions as part of our total offering that will be available later in the year," explains Christensson.

Volvo Trucks Southern Africa’s customer service research has seen its ratings improve significantly over the past year. In the sales category, Volvo Trucks moved from third to first position with a 98.5% customer satisfaction rating. Its service score also improved to 94.86% moving the brand from 12th to fourth, while parts customer service ratings improved to 94.46% from eighth to fourth position. The combined scores make Volvo Trucks the leading brand in the European commercial vehicle segment.

“By bringing together the best of everything, from the offer to the relationship, our customers will ultimately reap the rewards of a profitable and successful business,” says Christensson.

New safety features will be introduced on the Volvo Trucks extra heavy commercial vehicle range locally. These include electronic stability control, adaptive cruise control with forward collision warning and emergency braking, lane keeping and lane support, as well as driver alert support – all aimed at assisting the driver to operate the vehicle safely and responsibly. It also enhances the overall driving experience by minimising fatigue and increasing productivity.

These new ‘safety’ trucks will be assembled by Volvo Trucks at its Durban factory, which was recently renovated at a cost of over R6.5-million to enable, amongst others, the assembly of these specialised units.

Looking back at Volvo Group performance in Africa during 2016, the company managed to grow its net sales by 1.2% despite continued challenging market conditions. Volvo Trucks claimed a 15.6% market share of the local commercial vehicle market last year with a total of 1,957 units sold.

The company also continued its commitment to the development of its staff and dealer employees, investing R25-million during 2016 in its diesel technician apprenticeship programme, and several learnerships and bursaries to develop 2,308 people.

Volvo has also renewed its commitment to Star for Life, a non-profit organisation that provides young people with essential life skills, sport training and health education. Over the next three years, Volvo will invest R8.1-million in the lives of learners at 17 schools in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal to provide life skills support.

The programme has already reached more than 100,000 children and equipped them with the necessary skills and knowledge to prepare them to be productive members of society and to live a healthy meaningful life. In the process, opportunities also arise for some of the qualified youth to who completed their training through Star for Life, to be employed by Volvo.
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Nine-axle truck trailer launched in British Columbia

FreFlyt Industries has launched a nine-axle logging truck trailer combination with a gross vehicle weight of 71-tonnes, which represents a 16% increase in payload capacity over a conventional six-axle truck-trailer configuration.

The larger trailers improve the economic feasibility of hauling logs from more remote Canadian forestry areas. Paul Stewart, business manager of P & H Supplies/FreFlyt Industries, says: “FreFlyt Stretch Super B trailers allow short-log haulers to improve their payload to the mills by delivering higher volume, all at a nominal increase of expense.”

Transportation accounts for about 50% of the forest industry’s costs and hauling logs in Canada, which is an estimated $750-million each year. Maximising vehicle payloads could reduce costs by $2 - $4 per cubic metre of wood harvested, including reduced fuel costs. The lower fuel use reduces greenhouse gas emissions, since forest-sector transportation produces about 640-million kilograms of carbon dioxide emissions each year. Fewer logging trucks on the road contribute to improved road safety.

Given the heavier loads that these trailers can carry, each public road where truckers want to use the trailers must be reviewed and approved to confirm that it can handle the extra weight and that the trailers can traverse the route safely. Each truck/trailer also needs to be pre-authorized by the ministry of transportation and infrastructure.

Up to 800 nine-axle trailers could be incorporated into logging operations in British Columbia, which would result in savings of $30 - $40-million annually for its forest industry. This project is an example of how government and industry are working together under “Strong past, bright future: A competitiveness agenda for British Columbia’s forest sector”. The agenda contains 49 strategic actions to support the inter-related goals of healthy, resilient forests and a globally competitive and diverse industry that supports stable communities.

Merger creates new player in aerial firefighting

Westline Aviation Group, the new company formed by the merger of Kishugu Aviation and Westline Aviation will be established and tested for integrated operations by the end of March, and will be launched in April.

Although the merger expands the scope of the business, the aerial firefighting will continue unchanged under Kishugu Aviation with the same management structure. The appointment of Chris Briers as the CEO of Westline Aviation Group will see the fusing together of aircraft sales, international contracts, firefighting, freight and many other fields in which the company will diversity due to internal capability in regional and international bonds.
Swartland adopts lean manufacturing

The success of the West Coast based Swartland Investments lies in its capacity to interpret economic and market trends, and to quickly adapt its business model and production methodologies to retain its reputation as one of the largest joinery and mouldings manufacturers in Southern Africa.

Swartland’s comprehensive range of wooden products are all manufactured to high specifications using kiln dried hard and soft woods. The brands in its collection of windows, doors and door frames include the 10-year guaranteed Cape Culture range, the five-year guaranteed Winsters range, the Kayo range guaranteed for one year, the Col Timbers decorative mouldings, PAR timber and DIY products. It also supplies Maxicare, the top German manufactured water-based sealant.

New products and more roofs
Always up to the minute with its market research, Swartland recently launched the Ready-2-Fit selection of pre-sealed, pre-glazed wooden windows and doors. It is made from imported hardwood, is sealed with Maxicare, complies with new building regulations, and - in a first for South Africa - is supplied fully finished and glazed for minimum fuss on site.

When the chief executive, Hans Hanekom, describes the success of the business he does it visually by taking visitors to the legacy wall where a timeline of aerial photographs depicts the story of a dynamic business. It does not need a trained eye to see the exponential increase in the size and number of roofs, infrastructure and acres of land that has taken place over the last 66 years, and is once again picking up pace.

Swartland’s head office and main hardwood doors and windows plant is in the village of Moorreesburg, an hour’s drive on the N7 north of Cape Town. Closer to the city, the organisation’s massive pine manufacturing factories are in Atlantis, the sprawling industrial estate surrounded by poor communities where thousands of people are unemployed. Swartland is a major employer in Atlantis and its recent venture into manufacturing aluminium windows and doors promises to create yet more jobs.

"Unlike corporate companies, in a family business, we can think of something in the morning, begin working on it in the afternoon, and make it a reality within a few days."
It is this speed and agility that allows us to roll with the punches so to speak, and ensure that we are consistently able to set the industry benchmark, remain relevant and stay ahead of the pack,” Hanekom explains.

An example of this flexibility is Swartland’s decision to diversify into aluminium products. “We resisted the move to aluminium for two years before deciding that for the sake of the business and our employees we needed to take the plunge, explains Hanekom.

“We decreased wooden windows production slightly and in 2015 slowly entered the aluminium products market. Our non-aggressive approach worked for us and in a short time we had sourced top of the range manufacturing equipment, completed our market and design research, found customers for our first production runs, set up a manufacturing plant and went from zero products to 600 windows a day. In March this year our target is 800 – 1000 windows a day. “

The introduction of the aluminium processing unit Atlantis necessitated far reaching additions and alterations. The entire Winsters wooden window manufacturing plant in Atlantis had to be relocated to Moorreesburg at the same time as the first phase of the modular Nestro dust extraction system was installed.

“Two divisions had to be relocated without production loss to make space for Winsters. We also used this opportunity to our advantage to improve the flow through for another division which we then installed directly between the two facilities. Winters was relocated from Atlantis and running within a week because of good planning and preparation work,” explains Hanekom.

**Lean manufacturing: zero waste**

Hanekom says the only way to run a sustainable manufacturing business is to realise that everything is about recovery and the elimination of waste. “We are gradually phasing in processes that are all linked to lean manufacturing,” explains Hanekom. “This involves the implementation of a range of philosophies and systems to become a world class manufacturing organisation.

These include: the theory of constraints (TOC), lean manufacturing, total productive maintenance (TPM) and six sigma. We use our ERP system to help us with that.”

These systems are all dependent on computerised systems. “Technology must be scrutinised carefully because it can pull you down very quickly. You must first know what you want, do the research and implement a process of incremental progression. It must work for you and not become a millstone around your neck,” he warns.

Hanekom says the key focus is elimination of waste. “To do this we strive to eliminate waste caused by: over-production, waiting time, materials handling, transportation, inventory, processing, motion, and waste from product defects. A controversial area for local suppliers of machinery is that lean manufacturing calls for every Swartland-supplier connection to be directly with the machine and equipment manufacturers (OEM) rather than through local principal agents.

“TPM is the foundation block for implementing lean manufacturing and involves a process of training machine operators to maintain their own equipment and to be proactive in doing preventive maintenance for fewer breakdowns, stops and defects.” The organisation has a formal training department at both sites and uses a system of regular and comprehensive competency assessments and multiskilling programmes for all machine operators.

**Kiln drying for recovery and quality**

The Moorreesburg operation is a tightly run ship. The FSC certified hardwoods arrive in containers from Uruguay and are offloaded and checked before sticker stacking. There after the timber is kiln dried in the BES Bollman and Mahild kilns. “Each time the raw materials suppliers change we enter a learning curve to adapt our equipment to accommodate new drying cycles.”

There are four Mahild Drying Technologies kilns with a capacity of 400 cubic metres each. These are standard kilns for hardwoods that were commissioned in May 2014.
Hanekom specified that the kiln controls be innovatively situated in a roofed exterior walkway between the kilns so that maintenance and repairs on fans and motors can be carried out with minimum impact on the performance of the kilns.

The seasoned wood is automatically de-stacked and checked for drying and other quality defects before entering the ripping, planing, butt jointing, profiling, jointing and laminating plants. Because the elimination of waste is a key concern in lean manufacturing, unusable off-cuts are chipped and sent to the furnace to generate steam for the kilns. All other off-cuts are automatically sorted and reused. It is important to minimize human handling of the timber hence the importance of materials handling.

The plant has its own comprehensive engineering department that maintains, refurbishes, and often builds the customized equipment and materials handling systems the company needs.

Dust extraction and the environment
Swartland takes its social, corporate and economic responsibilities seriously, and Hanekom says for this reason they have recently installed a state-of-the-art – another first for South Africa - Nestro dust extraction system. “From a waste management point of view we bought the system to reduce noise, reduce dust emission and lower the energy used by the plant. It enhances the safety of our employees and makes it much more liveable for our neighbours.”

Describing their reasoning further, Hanekom says the company has a responsibility to minimise its impact on the environment and surrounding communities. “Our old dust extraction system was permanently 100% active, irrespective of the number of machines in use. It deposited the fine and coarse dust and chips through cyclones into bins that had to be emptied regularly, with some difficulty. These cyclones were inefficient, extremely noisy and depending on the wind direction, dust blew onto the houses and playing fields close to the Moorreesburg factory.”

The Nestro dust extraction system reduces this dust by 100% and the noise absorbing housing of the system cuts the noise by half. At the same time the new system is reducing the electricity required to run the dust extraction system by up to 40%, and the automated closed dust removal system eliminates the need for staff to work in unpleasant and unhealthy conditions. Hanekom opted for the modular system to accommodate the constantly changing needs of the expanding factories.

Sensors ensure that extraction is only active on the machine or group of machines that are working. The automated closed dust removal system eliminates the need for staff to work in unpleasant and unhealthy conditions.

Future growth
“We understand that change is inevitable and picking up pace. We constantly re-examine our processes and make improvements to streamline it. Each time we make a mistake we rebuild and do it better,” remarks Hanekom. “Our commitment to increased energy efficiency and environmental sustainability for the future is deeply ingrained.”
The Hanekom family business legacy

Swartland Investments is more than a successful business venture - it is a perfect example of a thriving family business. With humble beginnings as a small hardware shop in Moorreesburg, a West Coast town that is an hours’ drive through undulating dry wheat fields north of Cape Town, it has grown to be a major employer and manufacturer in the Western Cape.

With its roots firmly in the timber industry, its product lines offer quality crafted pine and hardwood windows and doors at every price point. But drawing on the uniquely agile nature of a family owned business it also offers a wide range of other products, including the increasingly popular Kenzo range of aluminium windows and doors, and the Col Timbers range of mouldings.

When Hans Hanekom, the chief executive of Swartland is asked about the history of the business he recounts the story of how his grandfather, affectionately known to everyone as Oupa Jurie Hanekom, grew up on a farm, Winkelshoek near Piketberg. In 1951 he started a small company, Swartland Electrical Engineers, in Moorreesburg. He began supplying the local community with electrical goods, but Oupa’s ambitions lay beyond the boundaries of Moorreesburg, and it wasn’t long before he opened another electrical shop in Piketberg. In 1963 the business migrated into a building merchant and became Swartland Bouhandelaars.

Oupas’ son Jurgens joined the company and in 1970 he turned his hands to making wooden products, first for the surrounding communities and then further afield. He brought new ideas to the business and built on the foundations laid by Oupa. Jurgens strengthened the tradition of long term thinking and decisiveness and jumped at the opportunity to expand to the then industrial development zone of Atlantis on the outskirts of Cape Town. Jurgens’ expanded Swartland Boudienste by increasingly investing in industrial machines to speed up and improve the manufacturing and distribution of its wooden windows, doors and other wooden products.

In 1987 Jurie (Jurgens’ son) joined the business. He decided to streamline the business to only focus on joinery products and to expand its offerings to the local and export markets. High end products were made at Moorreesburg while the Atlantis plant became Winsters and another plant, Pine Doors was started to take advantage of export incentives and Swartland’s reputation as the producer of quality pine and hardwood windows and doors grew.
Over time Jurgens’ sons - Jurie, James and Hans, were gradually eased into leadership positions in the company. The brothers were keen to continue the legacy and Hans says this was a smart business move because the next generation often sees things with fresh eyes that are on pulse with what is new and trending.

Hans says succession planning for a family business is very important. “When kids grow up in the business, they absorb the skills it takes to succeed. We are giving our children the opportunity to decide whether they want to be part of the business. This is not an overnight process they are encouraged to study and to work their way up in the business so that they earn the trust and respect of their colleagues.’

Hans himself started at the bottom and became factory manager, then site manager, followed by technical director before being appointed to the position of CEO. This experience showed him that successors should be groomed in all aspects of the business and that this could take between 10 and 15 years. “As the son of the owner, you get to know and understand the company in a very intimate way – it is in your blood and part of who you are. You also get to see how it affects the lives of your parents and you understand the trials and tribulations, and what it takes to make it a success.”
Raising the bar for dust extraction systems in South Africa

The state-of-the-art Nestro dust extraction system recently installed at the Swartland Boudienste plant in Moorreesburg is a first for South Africa, and raises the bar for efficient and energy saving dust extraction.

Solid wood and wood based panels generate sawdust during the processing and finishing stages and most manufacturers adopt the traditional extraction systems with hundreds of metres of ducting running throughout the factory. The traditional extraction system has one main switch and when the system is on the extraction systems on all the machines it is linked to work simultaneously. This dust extraction process is therefore an expensive drain on resources and is not efficient.

In addition, the traditional systems collect the dust in one or more silos. These encounter problems including large amounts of sawdust escaping in strong winds and the silo clogging with damp sawdust during heavy rains.

In a move to increase efficiencies, reduce the amount of energy consumed by the plant, and importantly, to eliminate any dust pollution caused by the older system, Hans Hanekom, chief executive of Swartland Boudienste, did extensive research to find a modular system that can keep up with the continuous growth of the company.

Nestro, the 40-year old German company specialising in a wide range of extraction and air cleaning systems, ticked all the boxes for Swartland Boudienste.

The Nestro modular filter 9/4 S is a clean gas system with the fans installed on the clean gas side after the filter bags on top of the filter.

This system has several advantages:

• The location of the fans on the clean gas side means the fans don’t touch the sawdust. This allows the installation of closed impellers in the fan with an up to 20% higher efficiency compared to classic raw gas systems with open impellers.
• Combined with a pressure control system based on frequency variation and fan cascading according to the actual production air volume demand, the energy saving can be increased even higher to 30%. In addition to the energy advantages, an absence of sawdust in the fan reduces the risk of sparks causing fires. Also, the wear of the fans is nearly down to zero.

• The Nestro modular filter 9/4 S is equipped with the Nestro counter pressure system (vibration plus flushing air) and ensures continuous operation 24 hours a day without down times for cleaning.

• Every filter element is isolated from the negative pressure by dampers, making it possible to isolate a unit for maintenance without shutting the system down.

• The motor-operated cleaning system provides additional support by vibrating the filter bags. This is unique to Nestro and ensures that the dry return air is used for the blasting and not external air with moisture that can block the filter fabric.

• The modular system of the 9/4 S filter allows filter installations up to 300 000 cubic metres an hour in steps of about 10 000 cubic metres per hour, according to the customer’s demand. It is also possible to add extensions of the filter in steps of 10 000 cubic metres per hour.

Swartland opted for a Nestro sheet metal silo with a strong silo unloading system to store the dust.

The Nestro sheet metal silo is a bolted construction manufactured from 3mm-thick galvanized steel sheet with a structural design for an explosion pressure load of 0.5-bar. It is available in three sizes with a volume of between 147 and 287 cubic metres. It has a self-supporting roof that is used to mount a roof filter. Swartland decided to erect the silo on a flat concrete surface but it can also be installed on a steel base with a maximum platform height of five metres.
Bollman Drying Solutions and Kara Green Energy, the Moorreesburg-based company that manufactures and supplies BES Bollmann Drying and Control Systems, and Kara Energy Systems products, is experiencing an upswing in interest from local and international sawmills for its products.

General manager of the company Gert Reinders, says the decision by sawmillers in Africa to invest in bio-energy and improved timber solutions is influenced by global warming and the need to improve production efficiencies.

The South African company, Bollman Drying Solutions and Kara Green Energy, is a subsidiary of the parent companies in the Netherlands and was established 2011. “There is no third-party involvement when you deal with Bollmann Drying Solutions and Kara Green Energy in Africa, explains Reinders. “We can assure our customers of superior service and peace of mind in all dealings with us.”

BES Bollmann designs and manufactures timber drying kilns, moisture meters and kiln control technologies. Reinders says the brand was introduced in South Africa more than 30 years ago, and these drying systems are hard at work at several South African sawmills. The highly accurate and specialised moisture metres are used extensively for wood moisture content research and quality control.

Reinders’s technicians are highly experienced and Reinders invites drying managers to contact him if they have need information on kiln drying and how to improve drying efficiencies. For added peace of mind, the local office carries stock of consumables and components for most standard maintenance programmes, and has a direct line to the parent company if other equipment is needed.

Reinders explains that when investing in timber drying solutions, it is important to consider the method of providing the heat required to dry timber in a kiln. For this reason, the BES Bollman and Kara Energy Systems partnership can ensure minimal energy consumption. Kara is a worldwide supplier of complete combustion systems for wood and other biomass.

“Wood is an environmentally neutral source of energy. When it is burnt a certain amount of carbon dioxide will be released, but if it is not burnt the same amount of carbon dioxide will emerge from the decaying process. Hence, heating by wood burning under optimal conditions is climate neutral and socially responsible.

“These high-quality combustion systems provide a smart solution to companies with wood waste or other solid biomass. When an operation burns its own waste, it can produce its own renewable and green energy, whether it is steam, heat or electricity.”
National Minimum Wage

Following negotiations at Nedlac, the parties involved (except for Cosatu) signed the National Minimum Wage agreement on Tuesday 7 February and it takes effect from 1 May 2018.

Roger Godsmark, Forestry South Africa (FSA) operations director, highlights the following points of the agreement:

- The NMW is set at R20.00 per hour to take effect from 1 May 2018.
- The agriculture and forestry minimum wage at 1 May 2018 will be 90% of this amount (R18.00 per hour).

There are several issues the industry needs to clarify:

- The minimum wage contained in the current Forestry Sectoral Determination is based on the industry norm of a 45-hour working week, not a 40-hour working week as provided for in the NMW Agreement. According to this sectoral determination, the new minimum wage for forestry workers will be increased by 8% to R3 001.13 per month or R15.39 per hour with effect from 1 March 2018.
- By 1 May 2018 this will increase to R18.00 per hour – an increase of R2.61 or 17%. However, if looked at from a monthly perspective, and based on a 45-hour week, the monthly wage could increase from R3 001.13 to R3 870.00 – an increase of R868.87 per month or 29%. How can this substantial increase be ameliorated?
- Theoretically, in terms of the current Forestry Sectoral Determination, a new minimum wage, based on CPI +1% will become effective on 1 March 2018. However, it is envisaged that the NMW would become effective on 1 May 2018, only two months later. What, therefore, would the minimum wage be for the two-month gap between 1 March and 1 May 2018?
- Following the introduction of the NMW, what would the future status of sectoral determinations be. Would they remain in place or fall away?
- According to the provisions contained in the NMW agreement, the agricultural and forestry NMW would be R18.00 per hour from 1 May 2018, rising to 100% of the NMW from 1 May 2019. Would the new NMW on 1 May 2019 be R20.00 per hour or 100% of whatever the NWM may have increased to by that date?

Godsmark says organised agriculture will comment on the Bill once it is Gazetted for public comment.
Multisaw’s Pinnacle finger-joint system at home in hard and soft wood mills

Within six months of its launch in 2016, there was huge interest from the structural pine industry for Multisaw’s locally designed and manufactured finger joint systems.

In January this year Multisaw installed and commissioned its new Pinnacle finger joint system at Bracken Timbers which is located near Greytown in KwaZulu-Natal. Bracken has a nil-waste policy and to aid its recovery process it requested Multisaw to provide it with a horizontal finger-joint system to assist the company to add value to offcuts and produce structural pine products.

Luke Murray of Multisaw explains: “Sawmilling and furniture manufacturing companies are concerned about their recovery processes. They are no longer looking at offcuts as waste, but rather as a value adding product. The finger-joint system for structural pine at Bracken Timbers is currently being tested against standards by the SABS.”

Murray is based at Multisaw’s R&D office in Cape Town, and stays in touch with customers to oversee the development of projects and works with the clients to test and refine the designs.

He explains that Multisaw entered the finger jointed products market when it was requested to redesign and manufacture a horizontal finger-joint plant for the jointing of boards to produce eucalyptus structural timber. Multisaw did not hesitate to take the opportunity to produce its first finger-joint plant, and its Pinnacle unit was commissioned at Limpopo Lumber last year.

Murray says the project is a success and it is converting the mill’s wet-off-saw low value black cross eucalyptus material into higher value long length structural timber. The material was previously supplied to the pallet industry, and was not cost-effective for Limpopo Lumber.

Timber joined in a vertical joint system has the typical zig-zag joint pattern on the wide face of the timber, whereas the horizontal joint simply has a line on this face. The horizontal joint therefore has a great aesthetic advantage over vertical jointing and, for this reason, Multisaw decided to offer the system to the pine market.

“As far as we are concerned, the Pinnacle is a first for a South African manufacturer of this kind of equipment. The machine is heavy duty and full of local content to ensure value-adding plants in Southern Africa have good back up.”

“We work closely with our customers to ensure that our machines meet their needs. Local technical support, a strong build and ease of maintenance are important to us. We provide constant access to support, both telephonic troubleshooting and guidance, as well as on-site visits. We also offer the option of site installation and project management,” Murray explains.

The Pinnacle range of finger-joint machines are simple to use, in line with Multisaw’s philosophy of keeping their products easy to set up and run, clean and maintain. The Pinnacle horizontal finger joint machine has three main sections:

• The in feed is magazine loaded onto a slat chain conveyor; material passes the first profile head and is then cross-fed piece by piece to the second profiling head.
• The boards then pass the glue head and are cross-fed onto the crowding table.
• From there the now joined pieces are fed through to the press, cross cut to length and hydraulically pressed to finish the process.

“Our staff like to keep themselves up-to-date with technology. It is important for us to develop logical solutions to complex problems. Creativity, passion and forward thinking are key, says Murray.
Pinnacle

Horizontal finger joint systems

Contact us to find out more about the new Pinnacle range of Finger Joint machine

sales@multisaw-sawmilling.com
Tel: 021 422 0129
Philippines sawmill meets Japanese quality standards with Wood-Mizer

Serafin Chan, operations officer of La Union Quality Timber Manufacturing (Latimco), in the Philippines, reports that the products produced on its Wood-Mizer WB2000 sawmill meets the high standards of their Japanese and local clients.

Latimco is situated in San Fernando, La Union and recently upgraded to the new Wood-Mizer WB2000 wide band sawmill to process southeast Asian hardwoods into timber for export, and for their own door manufacturing plant in the country.

The company manages the entire timber supply chain, from importing of logs up to manufacturing of finished products. Some of the products they produce are doors, door frames, mouldings, fascia boards and other wood architectural products for private clients and government projects and for export.

Logs are imported from Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Brazil, New Zealand, Australia, and Uruguay. Latimco used to only cut Meranti type of wood but the new saw has expanded their log inputs to include Malaysian hardwoods.

Chan says because quality is important for their local and export customers, Latimco decided to invest in the WB2000. “The Japanese quality standards are very high and timber should be accurate and precise. To achieve this, we invested in sawmill in the WB2000 machine and our Japanese and local clients are happier with the quality of the products we produce,” he says.

“In the Philippines and other markets, a higher percentage of recovery is one of the major goals. Before, speed was the primary objective and a recovery rate of 50% was acceptable. Now it’s the other way around. So, if any sawmillers want to achieve maximum recovery – less sawdust and less waste – then they should think about investing in Wood-Mizer machines,” explains Chan.

“ Our company and products are unique in that we have upgraded to the latest technology. New machines have new capabilities, new strengths, and new features that you
can’t get from old machines. This new Wood-Mizer is a perfect example of a machine that achieves better cutting for each board.

“I knew it could give us modern sawing technology and safety, but most important, it gives a better recovery percentage. If we continue to cut logs for eight hour shifts daily, our return on investment will be easily achieved,” says Chan. He continues: “This is not just a theory, we actually did the figures after we had been cutting for a few months and we could see the difference between our old vertical saw and the Wood-Mizer bandsaw.”

He comments that their energy consumption is almost half what it used to be. The WB2000 has a 44.7kW motor as compared to the vertical saw which has a motor of around 89kW. “That’s a big difference. You can save a lot of electricity.”

The heavy-duty and well designed Wood-Mizer wide band WB2000 has controls and set works that make it easy for the operator to get the best value out of the log with minimum waste, even on big logs. Chan advises wood products manufacturers to upgrade their facilities, “otherwise you will be left behind.”
Global success for Wood-Mizer’s Titan wide-band sawmill

The Titan WB2000 sawmill combines the best in thin kerf, narrow bandsaw technology that Wood-Mizer has perfected over many decades, with the versatility and strength of wide-band sawmilling technology, to deliver solutions that are now used around the world.

The WB2000 is a high production sawmill that offers heavy-duty construction matched with low maintenance requirements, efficient operation and maximum flexibility. It was the first in a series of new wide-band machines released by Wood-Mizer 2014.

This makes the WB2000 an ideal sawmilling solution for small to large companies that want to invest in a sawmill that can saw small, once-off custom batches or large volume, back-to-back orders equally well over a range of log diameters and species.

The WB2000 can work as a standalone sawmill or as a hard-working addition to an existing business to process oversized or irregular logs, or to produce custom orders that the existing equipment is not suited to. Running a 100mm wide band blade, offering maximum log capacity of up to six tonnes, and able to cut a 900mm log in half, the WB2000 advances Wood-Mizer’s industrial sawmilling range into new territory.

The twin post sawmill head and large throat, make this an attractive solution for working with medium to large logs. A 22kW electric motor is standard, and a 30kW motor is optional. Computer set works and a raised operator control station allow a single operator to manage all sawing and log handling functions while maintaining a clear view of his work. The WB2000 features a 19cm HMI touch-screen operating screen that displays board and cant sizes along with current head height, feed position, and blade power. Two joysticks provide the operator with precise control of all sawing and log handling functions, and feature proportional hydraulic speed control.

All hydraulic log handling functions - such as the log clamps, chain turners, and power rollers - are modular, and can be moved to different positions as needed.

Sawmillers who already use wide-band saw equipment can easily maintain the 100mm blades of the WB2000 on existing bandsaw blade maintenance equipment. This will reduce the running costs of the WB2000 even more and further improve the efficiencies of the WB2000.

The WB2000 sawmill, has since its launch in 2014, become a sawmill that is used around the world, including the Philippines, Poland, and many African countries. Ryszard Weber, owner of a timber processing company in Poland
who tested Wood-Mizer’s first WB2000 prototype, decided to purchase the mill after a few months of testing.

“The WB2000 is affordable for small to large companies, and provides flexibility other machines cannot,” says Weber. “With this mill, I can cut anything from small logs and large logs, to high and low quality logs. The addition of the WB2000 has improved my profitability and perfect for producing custom orders, and smaller orders that were impractical before.”

Wood-Mizer’s new wide band sawmill offers six tonne log capacity and a massive 900mm throat opening.

The WB2000 provides for the stability of cut and precision that wide bandsaw technology gives.
The ins and outs of high performance finger jointing

Finger jointing is recognised to be the most stable method of jointing two solid wood or wooden composite components to produce longer and stronger wood components.

It is produced by using a longitudinal joint with high initial force (self-clamping fingers), which is always glued. Because of the constant crossover between the two connected parts it also has a correspondingly high flexible strength. These characteristics make it superior to steel-wood joints and wood-wood joints. In fact, finger jointed components can almost achieve the same strength as components grown in one piece, given the ideal conditions in terms of production and quality assurance.

Weinig Grecon, the German manufacturer of finger jointing technology, has gained an international reputation of being a market leader for over 25 years. The Grecon product range is supplied and commissioned in Africa by the Nukor Group from its headquarters in Johannesburg.

The main aim of finger jointing is to add value to offcuts and to produce joints with a maximum precision. This means minimal dimensional allowance and waste, and low operating costs. The finger jointing equipment is designed in a modular format that allows machines to be assembled according to customer-specific solutions. There are finger jointing lines ranging from the ProfiJoint entry model to the Ultra, CombiPact and Turbo-S models up to the high-performance class with the HS120 and HS200 horizontal finger jointing systems.

Weinig Grecon recently invited customers from all over Europe to its plant in Alfeld, Germany to a theme day to learn about the latest developments in laminated wood from the Weinig finger jointing and jointing technology experts. Pascal Rênevier, managing director of Weinig Grecon, presented the technology to more than 130 visitors.

They had the opportunity to experience three systems in this segment live: a HS 3000, a Turbo S-3000 and a PowerJoint 15, which was almost ready for delivery. The new DKK through-feed press, an integral component of these systems, was also demonstrated. In the HS 3000, Weinig Grecon offers a single timber shaper capable of processing a wide spectrum of lengths. A particular quality feature for finger jointing is that the completed strand should not show any height offset and a new option allows the infeed of warped timber with no offset via additional chain pressure.

The Turbo-S-3000 is a fully-automated packet chamfer that enables both vertical and horizontal jointing. The PowerJoint 15 single timber shaper sets new standards in the compact system segment with 15 cycles per minute. Predominantly used in commission production, the system particularly impresses with the quality of jointing and gluing as well as the high degree of automation whose benefits include making it possible to process all entered orders in succession.

The new DKK through-feed press is designed for small timber cross sections and high through-feed performance. With a press force of 6 tonnes and a strand speed of up to 160 m/min, the DKK has outstanding performance figures. Thanks to the following edging saw, the continuous press does not need to stop during the pressing process. The DKK 60 can be integrated with the HS 3000 and Turbo-S 3000.
As for the future development of the company, Renévier is optimistic. He expects further growth in timber construction going forward and is confident that the comprehensive offering of the Weinig Group is an additional market advantage that makes Grecon finger jointing technology even more attractive to customers as part of a highly efficient value chain. The Nukor Group agrees with Renévier that Weinig Grecon’s process reliability, quality and innovation are guarantees of business success.
The good news for the start of 2017 is the growth in the demand for dried timber. Even the hardwood industry has been experiencing a sudden spurt in demand for dried timber since the third quarter of 2016 and this has continued into 2017. We pray that this trend will continue and provide more opportunities than those that were on offer last year.

With regards to the drying industry, there have unfortunately not been any major changes. The focus of most softwood mills remains on volume throughput rather than quality drying. We, as drying managers, and kiln operators, need to work hard to convince management of the vital role drying plays. We trust that the efforts by Roy Southey of Sawmilling SA and industry drying expert Peter Stohr in their recent tour of the country have persuaded sawmill owners and senior managers about the importance of drying and the need for skilled people to manage the kilns and work in the drying department.

The participants who attend the annual Saldea convention also have a significant role to play in changing the views and opinions of their managers and company owners. Poor drying practices can potentially adversely affect the sustainability of their companies.

We will receive feedback on the progress in this regard from Roy and Peter Stohr at this year’s Saldea.

With regards to the 2017 Saldea convention, feedback from the SA Saw Doctors Education Association (Sasdea) team was that they will not be able to team up with us to celebrate our 20th anniversary. Their organisation is 19 years old this year, contrary to our discussion at our annual general meeting in October.

This means we are back to the drawing board and need to decide on an appropriate way to celebrate.

I would like to urge everyone to consider inviting the Saldea family to attend their sawmill and learn from their drying experiences. Please let us know if you are willing to host us for the next Saldea as soon as possible so that we can see if all the coordination will work for the venue. Alternatively, if there is anyone with another option to make the 20th Celebration memorable please Amanda or myself.

In the meantime, best of luck with all your drying endeavours. Management may not yet value the quality of the dried timber you are producing I assure you that the time will come when your role will be recognised.

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The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests.

On each IDF countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organise activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns, art exhibitions, photo competitions and the international #LoveForests video campaign.

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) chooses the theme. The CPF is an informal, voluntary arrangement among 14 international organisations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests. These agencies share their experiences and build on them to produce new benefits for their respective constituencies. They collaborate to streamline and align their work and to find ways of improving forest management and conservation and the production and trade of forest products.
The forest based manufacturing industry is made up of the timber processing (mining timber, construction timber, and poles), pulp and paper, sawmilling, char processing (biochar and charcoal), and furniture manufacturing sub-sectors.

In 2015 there were 74 sawmills, 34 pole plants, 18 pulp, paper and board mills, 14 mining timber mills, three charcoal plants and one match factory.

The graphs below are extracted from a presentation by Roger Godsmark of Forestry SA and present an overview of the sawmilling industry at a glance.

Latest statistics:
The Importance of the forestry and forest products sector is declining

Overall average log intake increase by: 163%
Overall average sawmill increase by: 128%
Mining timber mills decline by: 38%
Forest products industry statistics released

Sawmilling

Investment in RSA Forestry Industry 2015

- Trees: 36.9%
- Land: 8.0%
- Roads: 4.2%
- Fixed Assets: 1.5%
- Moveable Assets: 49.4%

Total Investment - R42.7 Billion

Sales of Certain Products from Processing Plants 1980 to 2015

- Pulp (t)
- Lumber (m3)
- Mng. Timber (t)
- Chips (t)

Biggest increase that of chips: 1.9 million tons (+349%)
Biggest decrease that of mining timber: 1.2 million tons (-75%)

Direct & Indirect Jobs in & Created by Forestry Industry by Province 2015

- KZN
- Mpumalanga
- E. Cape
- Limpopo
- W. Cape

Estimated total – 158 400 jobs
KLEIBERIT Adhesives –
Solutions for woodworking and furniture production worldwide.

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FULL RANGE OF MDF BOARDS (E1)

SM 'art
Surface Materials

Size: 18x3050x2100mm

The woodgrain, modern and sophisticated, is accompanied by a syncopore very matt, deep, with a natural touch of raw timber.

Registered embossing and modern synchronised key melamine are exclusively available from us.

A woodgrain with irregular flowers with a large scale and important cathedrals, both elegant and sophisticated, enchanced by a synchronised finish which makes the product identical to timber.

Matching edging available for all products.
NEW VENEERS

AMERICAN WALNUT
BOARD SIZE: 2750 X 1830 X 16MM (E1)
R 975.00 PER BOARD
T&C APPLY

Screw Holdings for our 16mm white E1 Melamine
Face Side: 850N
Edge: 500N
Glossmax High Gloss boards are decorative shiny surface wood panels that are put through various industrial processes with an advanced and unique technology and achieved through the application of adhesive and UV lacquer to the single surface of MDF or chip boards. During the hot coating application which provides an excellent adherence to melamine surfaces, PUR (Polyurethane) adhesive coating is applied onto the material surface. After the chemical curing of the polyurethane adhesive an outstanding scratch, shock and wear resistant hard surface is achieved. The PUR material is also durable against UV rays and chemicals. The top layer which is applied immediately afterwards and which hardens under UV rays provides an excellent degree of gloss.

This technology provides a solution that opens new possibilities in surface coating, emphasizes the natural appearance and texture of solid wood and makes surface finishing applications considerably easier.

Glossmax high gloss boards create furniture combinations that are modern, graceful and shiny for kitchen, bath, home, office and all kinds of decoration projects. Glossmax high gloss boards which are resistant to wear, impact and scratches not only reflect the natural beauty of wood but will also enrich your venues with a variety of color options and a shine like glass. While useable in furniture production as a symbol of style and quality, Glossmax high gloss board products are paving the way to a whole new era in the sector with a technology that maintains the special glossy appearance for a very long time.

Available Decors:
Arcadia, Lacquered White, Veneza, Nova, Light Sapphire, Dark Sapphire, Galaxy Caramel, Galaxy Black, Moonrock, Coral, Daphne, Black, Red, Salvador, Bamboo, Elvira, Verde, Arcadia, Dark, San Remo, Ultra White, Super White, Rose, Berry, Cotton Latte, Cotton Mink, Kuvars, Anthracite, Sandstone, Ibiza

DIMENSIONS: 2100 x 2800 mm.
Production can be done at thicknesses between 8-40 mm.

Product Colour References in Image
D161 - DAPHNE
D139 - LACQUER WHITE

Illustration of layered panels using Glossmax technology
Time to Explore

The advantages of Gloss Panels ...

GlossMAX®

by kastamonu

MAX SIZE, MAX PERFORMANCE, MAX MATCH, MAX SERVICE

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Austro makes its Mark with the Total Saw Blade Management system

In a first for South Africa, Austro is pleased to announce the launch of the Austro Mark, a two-dimensional (2D) coding system that records critical information related to customers and their saw blades.

Trevor Williams, chief operating officer of Austro, explains: “We are making substantial investments in innovations and upgrades to ensure that we meet and exceed the expectations of our growing customer base within southern Africa.

The 2D Mark will assist Austro to facilitate improvements in customer service and communication and it will help customers to get the most out of their blades. It works by allowing wood products manufacturers using Leitz circular sawblades with the Austro Mark to track how many times an individual blade has been sharpened, what repairs were made to the blade, and get life cycle reports showing blade activity and usage.

“The introduction of the 2D data matrix coding system with its considerable IT infrastructure is part of the new equipment we are installing in our tool sharpening department,” explains Williams. “The data matrix code on each blade will allow us to help our customers manage their assets effectively and improve security through track and traceability coding. For the very first time furniture, kitchen, shop fitting and manufacturers using particle board will be able to accurately manage the performance of their blade’s life cycle.”

Customers will also benefit from Austro’s new Loyalty Programme. When a circular saw blade has been sharpened ten times, the next sharpening service is free. The introduction of the Austro sawblade management system and the innovative tracking process will help our customers continue with their transition to the fourth industrial revolution, [Industry 4.0] as it has become known,” says Williams.

Industry 4.0 connects the rapid changes in technology, such as sensors, bar codes, radio frequency identify chips, CNC machines, mobile devices, wireless monitors, and data matrix coding systems, and delivers data that, if managed correctly, provides information to measure production performance and drive efficiencies. “Our expert tooling consultants will spend time with your production team assessing and establishing your exact tooling needs and correct applications to ensure optimum efficiency,” Williams explains.

Technical support for tools
Austro’s modern, state-of-the-art service centres located in Johannesburg, Durban, East London, and Cape Town, guarantee customer satisfaction and, with 25 vehicles on the road nationally, Austro offers its customers a free collection and delivery service for tool maintenance. The service centres are equipped to handle a variety of re-manufacturing tasks; these include enlarging the bore on saw blades and cutter heads, altering tooth configurations, sharpening and sharpening.

Austro’s Johannesburg centre has the capability to sharpen up to 1000 blades per day.
and adding key ways, pinholes or mounting holes for special applications such as cutting acrylics or aluminium. Williams reports that currently the Johannesburg service centre has the capability of sharpening up 1000 blades per day.

"With the most advanced technical expertise and production knowledge, our team of factory-certified technicians and sales personnel provide a range of unique tooling solutions to add real value for our customers," Williams continues. "This customer service is at the very core of our culture because we understand the demands of high-quality production and are committed to service to keep production running smoothly."

Austro has invested in its tooling service centres by providing the latest CNC machines for its well-trained team of application engineers and machinists. "We have the ability to manufacture custom cutters and tools for any application whether it is for sawing, planing, milling or drilling," explains Williams "Our technical support centre handles more than 5000 calls annually, diagnosing and resolving 94% of issues with a simple phone call. When you need someone onsite, more than 18 field service representatives are available nationally to be dispatched at any time.

"Austro offers a wide range of technical support options including technical advice on specialized tooling to get the most out of the equipment’s performance. We can also upgrade software, hardware, and more as new applications are introduced", says Williams

SA’s largest distributor of woodworking equipment

"Despite the tough economic conditions over the past three years, Austro has experienced an average 20% growth year on year," comments Williams. "Customer surveys confirm that we are at the forefront of meeting the industry’s drive to improve efficiencies because we offer the right equipment at the right price. Our 18 technicians are highly knowledgeable, qualified, and experienced, and are trusted by our clients to assist and advise them.

Established in 1980, Austro has built a first-class reputation as a trusted supplier of woodworking solutions. It offers a comprehensive range of technologies and solutions covering the entire industrial processing cycle of wood and wood derivatives for challenging projects, including: furniture making, window and door manufacturing, kitchens and built-in cupboard manufacturing, shop fitting components, boat building, construction, and general joinery.

"The success of Austro is largely attributable to ensuring that customers receive the highest level of technical and after-sales support, and a commitment to constant innovation in its range of tooling and service offerings. Through the process of constant improvement, the team at Austro enhances customer’s confidence in the products sold, resulting in strong customer loyalty to the group."
Peace of mind for Austro customers

Austro is a subsidiary of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) listed enX Group Limited, which provides a sound foundation for the company to continue growing and offering further peace of mind to its many customers.

The Austro Group originally listed on the JSE’s industrial engineering sector in 2007, during the South African construction boom. Austro’s name originated from the woodworking machinery business, which was its sole asset at the time of listing. During the expansion of the Austro Group a number of business acquisitions occurred in the form of Newway Power and Centlube, an oil lubricant business that represents Mobil and ENI in sub-Saharan Africa.

Following these major changes in the composition of the group, the board elected to change the name of the group to better reflect the new composition and the direction in which it is heading. The name enX is an acronym for Energy Exchange and it highlights the board’s intention to refocus enX as an energy and industrial supplies company servicing sub-Saharan Africa. Recently it added Eqstra Fleet Management and Logistics and Eqstra Industrial Equipment to the fold.

Austro chief operating officer since 2011, Trevor Williams, emphasises the important role this solid backbone provides to customers. “Our long record of accomplishment, increase in the number of international original equipment manufacturers that want to do business with us and our growing footprint in southern Africa is important for our customers. They know they are not dealing with an unstable or fly-by-night business,” he explains.

When it comes to transformation, the group is a verified Level 5 contributor in terms of the amended codes of good practice, while certain subsidiaries and associates within the group have achieved Level 4 and Level 2 status. The group and Austro place high importance on corporate social responsibility. Williams says each year Austro invests in awarding four unemployed learners an internship that gives them invaluable theoretical, practical and workplace based experience.

Williams predicts a good year for Austro in 2017 and says this will be assisted by two projects that are nearing completion: Achieving ISO 9000/1 accreditation, and launching its online e-commerce site.
THE EXHILARATING SENSE OF SOMETHING NEW

Inspired by international trends, our latest Formica LifeSeal Worktop colours also boast our new square edge with a tight radius, for that crisp, sleek look.

Designed to endure most of life’s little knocks.
Don’t miss the Vermont Sales open trade day on 24/25th March

The Vermont Sales team is hosting its annual open trade day on 24 and 25 March and customers and potential customers are invited to register to attend one or both days.

“Our ever-popular Vermont Sales open day will be our largest to date this year offering our customers opportunity to continue growing their businesses,” says Vermont Sales director, Ryan Hunt.

“We have a large contingency of suppliers from Germany, America, Austria, the UK and Africa who have committed to the open trade day, allowing dealers to gain valuable insight and notice world hardware trends. This year we have allocated extra space to the open day allowing our dealers more time to experience our international basket of brands and to meet our Vermont Sales team,” says Hunt.

The two-day event will be staged at Vermont’s Second warehouse in Johannesburg. It has been converted to stage the event with rows of power tools and accessories, and demonstrations will take place throughout the Friday and Saturday. A full range of power tools and accessories will be on display and it will be possible to feel and test the products and to discuss it with the international and local experts who will be on hand to answer all questions and give advice.

“It’s a great opportunity to view the latest tool technology and to see it all in action during the event. Some of the new power tools and accessories are mind-boggling and the new technology that is now available is taking tools and accessories to completely a new level,” says Dale Engelbrecht, commercial director of Vermont Sales.

“These open days allow us to showcase many of the tools and offers our customers sales solutions for them to pro-actively service the market’s needs. Customers can also sign up on the day for any of our many training courses that we will be running this year, which is free to all our dealers.”
Cabinet Hardware Jig

Whether you’re updating your cabinets or you’re building a project from scratch, the Cabinet Hardware jig makes it easy to install new knobs and pulls easily and consistently every time. Adjustable hardened-steel drill guides, a moveable edge guide, and built-in measuring scales ensure simple, repeatable accuracy.

Key Features
- Construction: Polycarbonate/ABS
- Drill guides: two 5mm guides, moveable, with locking nuts
- Drill guide material: Hardened steel
- Drill guide spacing: 64mm, 96mm, 128mm
- Edge guide to hole-center spacing: 25mm-127mm
- Measuring scales: Imperial and metric

For more info and distribution enquiries
Call Vermont Sales on (011) 314 7711
www.kregtool.com
PG Bison Gallery One roadshow displays new ranges

Many South African homes, schools, hospitals, retail and office spaces are a gallery that display PG Bison and its products. Continuing this tradition, the company recently launched its 2017 range of product offerings and news on a national PG Bison Gallery One roadshow.

The company has a wide range of wood-based products for use in a variety of applications, including furniture, built-in cupboards, kitchens and shop fitting applications.

A key feature of the new range is the launch of the finish Fusion. “Consumers are demanding a tactile experience” says Justin Berry, PG Bison’s sales and marketing executive. “To the touch the new Fusion finish feels exactly like real wood. This gives designers the opportunity to combine the natural look and feel of Fusion with our wide range of colours providing customers with a wide variety of design options”.

Building on its already extensive range, PG Bison also launched three new MelaWood colours. The three designs are Cannero, a modern take on a classic wood grain, Normandy, which has a natural veneer look, and Maidenwood, a bold smokey-charcoal straight grain.

Berry reports that the Formica LifeSeal worktops are making a comeback. “This is driven by several factors: “Firstly, the range and new tight radius profile provides a fashionable and contemporary look that complements any kitchen style. Secondly, it is a significantly more affordable option than granite or re-constituted stone for the consumer and kitchen installer. Consumer concern for the environment is also driving demand and opting for these worktops because they are made from renewable resources.”

The Gallery One launch also highlighted many of the other decorative products PG Bison has on offer. Their recently launched MelaWood SupaGloss has been well received by kitchen and shop fitting manufacturers. The product provides a high gloss finish giving designers and manufacturers more design options. “Our SupaGloss board is manufactured locally by one of only five machines like this in the world” says Berry. “In
the past we had to import these boards and now we are able to provide a world-class gloss product that is made by South Africans in South Africa," Berry emphasises.

To help customers and channel partners incorporate these versatile new products into their projects, PG Bison has launched an on-line kitchen design software tool.

“Our investment in this industry goes beyond machinery,” says Berry. “We are constantly looking at ways to give customers more useful tools, so that they can confidently use PG Bison products.” Now, with just a few clicks, customers and channel partners can create a to-scale virtual model of their dream kitchen, complete with finishes and colours. This allows them and their customers to virtually view their selected PG Bison products.”

To complement this tool, the company has also collated a wealth of how-to videos and sampling images that can be accessed at www.pgbison.co.za, while their regular On Trend newsletter is a goldmine of insider knowledge, tips, tricks and trends.

“Now in our 50th year of manufacturing boards in South Africa, we will continue to re-invest in our manufacturing capability and launch new products and tools for our customers” says Berry. “We encourage our customers to register on-line with us so that we can send them a copy of our Gallery One catalogue and keep them up to date with any new product developments.”

Justin Berry, PG Bison’s sales and marketing executive, was at the Gallery One roadshows to welcome customers and show case the company’s products.
Kreg jigs make installing cabinet hardware easy

Kreg offers a full range of precise installation jigs, including jigs for installing cabinet hardware, door hinges and drawer slides, and are available from Vermont Sales and leading hardware stores and retailers countrywide.

Although the jigs are ideal for hobbyists who want to upgrade their kitchen cabinets, doors and drawers, they are also a great help for small kitchen, bathroom and built-in cupboard manufacturers.

Swapping cabinet hardware is an easy way to transform the look of an interior space, and Kreg goes out of its way to explain how to use its jigs to help the manufacturer gain the full advantage from the simple systems. For example, to get accurate, consistent spacing for all your cabinet hardware, you could measure and mark the holes on the doors and drawers by hand. But the task will be easier if you purchase a hardware installation jig, like the Kreg cabinet hardware jig. Jigs are also available for installing door hinges - the Kreg concealed hinge jig - and drawer slide jig.

Kreg’s new cabinet hardware jig makes the process of installing hinges painless

Kreg’s new hinge jig makes the process of installing hinges painless

Kreg’s new cabinet hardware jig.

Drawer slide jigs from Kreg make the job of installing and fitting drawer slides easy.
Time is running out – book your trip to LIGNA now!

Preparations for the world’s leading trade fair for machinery, plant and tools for the woodworking and timber processing industries, Ligna, are full steam ahead for 22 to 26 May when the revamped and redesigned exhibition will open its doors to thousands of people from all over the world.

This year there will be more than 1,500 exhibitors from 45 nations, and trade visitors from more than 90 nations have indicated they can’t wait for the event to begin. The show will occupy 10 exhibition halls plus the venue’s extensive open-air site.

All the global market leaders will be there with impressive showcases to highlight their latest products and process innovations. A sizable number of other exhibitors will join them, some of whom will be appearing at Ligna for the first time.

With growth in terms of its exhibitor lineup and a significant upswing in the amount of space booked by various exhibitors, the show is set to serve as the global wood industry’s top summit and source of innovative technology once again.

Dr. Andreas Gruchow, the Deutsche Messe managing board member responsible for Ligna, said: ‘This year, the exhibitors are presenting a wide array of innovations for intelligent, networked manufacturing systems, not to
mention new ideas and strategies for the many value-creation networks at play in the wood processing and woodworking industries."

The action-packed, five-day showcase covers all the technologies that wood industry companies need to succeed in tomorrow’s Industry 4.0 world. The range includes tools and machinery for custom and mass production, surface technology innovations, wood-based panel production solutions, sawmill technology, wood-energy technology, machine components, and automation and forestry technology.

“Ligna 2017 is where key solutions and applications will be showcased. It’s where business relationships and networks will be built that will benefit the entire wood industry for years to come,” said Gruchow.

The central focus of Ligna 2017 is on intelligent concepts for integrated manufacturing across multiple links in the wood processing chain. The solutions on display promise growth and efficiency. They give wood industry companies a route to business development that does not depend on being big. And they provide a rapid roadmap to the capabilities needed to meet growing market demand for custom production.

Ligna also scores highly in terms of international participation, with Italy, Austria, Spain, Turkey, Denmark, China, Sweden, Switzerland and the Netherlands following Germany as the show’s top 10 exhibiting nations. In fact, several exhibitors from Italy, Austria and Spain have opted to increase the size of their displays for the upcoming show. Ligna 2017 will occupy more than 122,000 square meters of net display area and feature all the latest wood industry process and product innovations.

The revamped layout includes a new “Tools and machinery for custom and mass production” display in halls 11 to 15 and 27. The display encompasses machinery for processing solid wood, plant and machinery for industrial-scale furniture production, and machines and hand-tools for crafting custom products from both solid wood and panel products.

It will present a comprehensive range of solutions for companies of all sizes at one convenient location and in a way that is supremely quick and easy for visitors to navigate. “The new layout of themes reflects the fact that, in modern woodworking, the type of technology used is more about what’s needed to get the job done than about the size or scale of the user’s operation. In other words, new technologies and their applications are converging. Ligna brings these innovations to life, making it easier for visitors to experience all the most relevant innovations for their particular needs,” explained Gruchow.

Under the new layout, the “Surface Technology” area remains in Hall 17, but now stars as a full-fledged display category in keeping with its growing importance within the Ligna universe. The “Machine Components and Automation Technology” showcase in Hall 16 will be a full-fledged display, thus reflecting the rapidly rising importance of integrated manufacturing and automation. These technologies promise greater efficiency, improved accuracy, and shorter production cycles for a wide range of applications.

This is the world of Industry 4.0, where machines are increasingly being networked with one another and robots have also entered the scene. Automation translates into significant efficiency gains – for small-scale joinery and carpentry firms as well as for large industrial processors and manufacturers. Industry 4.0 is on a growth trajectory

The latest solutions for manual and robotic spraying equipment will be on show.
CNC machine fabricators will demonstrate the latest technologies for board products manufacturers.

and offers major opportunities for niche providers of the many products that go together to create fully integrated, automated production processes. Demand for integrated, networked solutions is growing worldwide, and the uptake of robot technology is forecast to increase sharply, especially in the CNC machining segment.

The “Wood-Based Panel Production” and “Energy from Wood” displays in Hall 26 and the “Sawmill Technology” displays in Hall 25 are fully booked, thanks to strong support from global market leaders and a host of other exhibitors back for another season or joining the show for the first time.

Meanwhile, the “Forestry Technology” displays will feature on the open-air site and in the pavilions beneath the expo canopy with a fresh new look. These outdoor displays will boast a new layout that more accurately reflects the various links in the wood value chain.

The Wood Industry Summit includes innovative solutions for timber harvesting and primary processing, advanced technologies for integrating all the processing steps, and a strong showing by international delegations.

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WOODWORKING CALENDAR

18 – 21 March and in Guangzhou, China
39th China International Furniture Fair
Home furniture, furnishing accessories, furnishing fabrics, outdoor and leisure furniture

18 – 21 March in Durban
Decorex Durban
Durban Exhibition Centre

28 – 31 March and in Guangzhou, China
39th China International Furniture Fair
Office furniture and chairs, hotel furnishing, metal furniture, furniture for public spaces and waiting areas, accessories, materials and machinery for the furniture industry

31 March – 2 April in Cape Town
Working with Wood show
Top South African and international demonstrators will be at the Cape Town show to share their woodworking skills and crafts, including woodturning, carving, chair-making, sharpening, pyrography, boatbuilding and furniture making.

The Polo Club, Durbanville racecourse
Organisers: Vermont Sales and Spiros Mica
Email Working with Wood on info@workingwithwood.co.za, or visit the web site www.workingwithwood.co.za.

27 – 30 April in Cape Town
Decorex Cape Town
Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC)

9 -12 May in Johannesburg
Machinetools Africa 2017
Expo Centre Nasrec
Machine Tools Africa, launched in association with the Machine Tools Merchants’ Association of South Africa (MTMA), is the biggest trade exhibition of its kind in Africa showcasing cutting edge developments across the machine tool and related industries. Machine tools will not only be displayed but demonstrated.

There will be machining equipment such as turning and milling, grinding and drilling, as well as all types of sheet metal machinery, laser, plasma cutting, bending and punching and presses. Suppliers of tooling and CAD/CAM software will also be there.

16 – 19 May in Cologne, Germany
Interzum 2017
Koelnmesse exhibition centre (see story in this issue)

22 – 26 May in Hannover, Germany
Ligna 2017
Deutsche Messe exhibition centre (see story in this issue)

9 – 13 August in Johannesburg
100% Design South Africa
Hall 1, Gallagher Convention Centre
100% Design South Africa is the largest curated exhibition platform for sourcing high-end contemporary design in Africa.

9 – 13 August in Johannesburg
Decorex Johannesburg
Gallagher Convention Centre

4 – 5 May in London
4th Annual Forest Investment Conference
Park Plaza Hotel, London
Get a European perspective on global timberland investments at the 4th Annual Forest Investment Conference.

After three years in New York City, this event is moving to London - a move reflecting the globalization of timberland investing. Attracted to this financial hub city, already confirmed delegates include companies managing more than $1.5-trillion in assets.

This year’s speaker line-up includes some key European professionals from large investment companies, pension funds, and more.

Contact: information@risi.com for more information
Interzum 2017 – the leading trade fair for furniture and interior design

Every two years, Cologne in Germany becomes the centre of the worldwide furniture supply industry, and the stage for exciting world premieres, spectacular product innovations and industry-wide developments.

Interzum is the world’s leading trade fair for furniture production, interior design, shop fitters, bed makers and upholsterers. This is where the most important business is conducted and momentum for the global furniture supply industry is created. Decision makers, opinion leaders and disseminators from all over the world keep up with the innovations in the industry, seek and establish new contacts – those who want to do truly good business in 2017 should not miss this opportunity. This year Interzum takes place from Tuesday 16 May to Friday 19 May.

It is a must-attend event for decision makers, architects, designers and floor layers from the industry, the trade, and the craft sector: In 2015 Interzum hosted 58 023 trade visitors of whom 16 820 came from Germany and 41 203 from abroad.

“The number of visitors and the quality of the seminars was outstanding. We were able to inspire our customers and partners from all over the world and we are looking ahead to Interzum 2017 with confidence,” says André Dorner, managing director of Blum in Germany.

Interzum provides key momentum for the design of tomorrow’s living environments. The most innovative products, new technological developments and innovations in materials are presented at this, the largest industry event. Topics of discussion and viewing includes the conservation of resources, sustainability, upcycling, and the digitalised living environments.
Change as a Multiplicity of Possibilities

‘transform’ – The Tenth Interprint Furniture Days 2016

How does the omnipresent transformation influence home culture or furniture and décor design? The Interprint Furniture Days 2016 addressed this question under the ‘transform’ motto. Visitors from about 230 companies of the international furniture and derived timber product industry came to Arnsberg to attend the 10th anniversary of this event at the beginning of November. They experienced a standard-setting multimedia event at the location in a former factory hall.

The ‘Furniture Days’ Success Story

In their ten-year history, the Interprint Furniture Days have become a popular event that translates trends into market potentials for the furniture industry. “We want to entertain, inspire and set décor trends with our Furniture Days,” said Salvatore Figliuzzi, Director of Marketing & Design, to describe the spirit of the event. “Design trends are responses to the needs of people. The feedback from our visitors confirms that we were able to translate our trend topics into décor and furniture solutions,” summarised Salvatore Figliuzzi.

The Furniture Days will again go on a world tour in the coming months, this time under the ‘transform’ motto. They are to be shown at all Interprint production facilities.

The World in Transformation

After the Interprint Furniture Days 2014 (‘into spaces’) and 2015 (‘on focus’) dealt with the materialisation of ‘space’ and ‘time’, ‘transform’ was about the omnipresent change in our world. The presentation of change as a mix of video live presentation, film and photo moods: the ‘transform’ trend presentation by the Interprint design trio Salvatore Figliuzzi (Director of Marketing & Design), Daniel Heitkamm and Maurizio Burrato (both designers).

Four zeitgeist trend topics

Which topics reflect the spirit of our era? de/materialised, non_conform, co-everything and un_limited: According to Interprint, these four zeitgeist trends change our life and home needs.

de/materialised: Digitalisation means dematerialisation. What was once analogue becomes digital – from music, games and films to human relations. The result is a stronger desire for authenticity and materiality in interior design.

non_conform: Anti-perfectionism as an alternative concept to a perfect digital world. Flemish architecture or furniture ‘made by myself’ – the intentional imperfection has found its way into home design and furniture trends.

All uni colours are perfectly matched to the current colour range of the wood decors.
everything: Flexibility is demanded where work and home merge and co-working and home office are part of everyday life. Mobile walls and transformable 360-degree furniture are answers to the changed necessities of life.

un_limited: Boundaries of age, sex and origin become blurred. Home becomes the place of refuge in endlessly growing megacities. Fashion, furniture and interior design embody the no-limit mix of styles and trends.

Six Pack 2017
Premiere: Interprint presented its new Six Pack for the first time during the Furniture Days in order to shorten the time-to-market cycle. The six self-confident décor statements have the potential for international market success: three oak interpretations (Kronberg - natural, Intra - experimental, Ladin – country-style), one walnut (Paldao), one chestnut (Nairo) and one marble (Lavant) design. All six décors show authentic strength of character with their materiality and naturalness. (www.interprint.de/sixpack2017)

Plenty of application examples convinced of the variety of the new Six Pack. The décors were presented not only as décor material versions (melamine surface, Xelio finish foil, edge, thermoplastic film, EIR surface) but also directly on furniture.

Besides the Six Pack, Interprint also showed 18 ready-to-order décors. Overall, an impressive range of different wood types and textures for all conceivable home styles.

Harmony of Wood Types and Uni Colours
The new Interprint uni colours show a perfect harmony with the current wood and stone décors. The colours range from warm naturalness and soft neutrality to hybrid coolness.

Main colours have a powdery-matt look. Metallic shades continue to be a main topic – this time inspired by nature. Indigo-blue is an eye-catcher as accent colour that has already become a standard feature in fashion and design.
SAFI represents the interests of the furniture industry

The main objective of the South Africa Furniture Initiative (SAFI) is to advance the national interests of the furniture industry when liaising with government and other stakeholders.

The four pillars that were identified are aligned to government strategies:

Access to markets
To enhance the competitiveness of the furniture industry, a value chain approach is required; one which facilitates the development of a clear South African point of difference for supply into domestic, regional and international markets. These should be particularly clear for domestic and regional markets. Market plans need to be developed and scaled up in conjunction with the successes of other SAFI programmes, while strategic engagements and the development of associated strategic partnerships with South African furniture retailers are required.

Specialised support services
One of the critical challenges facing the industry is a shortage of skills and the limited use of advanced technologies in three key operational areas: design, pre-production, and production processes. Technical skills deficiencies in support of production are a potential bottleneck to the development of the furniture value chain, while a lack of design skills and associated infrastructure and equipment are a major limitation to the value adding potential of the furniture value chain. As importantly, deficiencies in pre-production skills and associated infrastructure and equipment can break the key link.

Improved competitiveness
The competitiveness of the furniture manufacturing value chain has declined over the years and the industry has put in place world class manufacturing (WCM) as the strategic pillar to improve its competitiveness. The three objectives of WCM are the development of advanced lean manufacturing capabilities within the South African furniture value chain, the securing of competitive materials costs versus leading cost furniture manufacturing economies, and reduced energy use, and by implication

SAFI was formed in 2013, formerly registered in 2015 and officially launched last year. Bernadette Isaacs, the chief operating officer, says its business strategy is centred on four key pillars: market access; specialised support services; world class manufacturing; and supply chain optimisation.

"These are complimentary pillars, designed to work in parallel to address the key challenges facing the industry, and to capitalise on the many opportunities that exist for its development" says Isaacs. "In addition, SAFI will focus on industry information collection and engagements with key policy and regulatory issues impacting on the performance and competitiveness of the South African furniture value chains."
reduced energy costs. Complementary to the industry efforts it would be important to come up with programmes that provide the critical infrastructure needed to increase competitiveness in the sector. Logistics is a critical factor that will contribute positively to the competitiveness if the cost of transport is reduced.

**Localisation, cluster development and supplier enhancement**

To improve the competitiveness of the industry the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is implementing a number of measures including the local procurement and designation of certain products of which furniture manufacturing has been prioritised. The aim of these initiatives is to promote the local industry to grow and substitute imports.
The annual competition is one of the DTI’s Industrial Policy Action Plan furniture programmes aimed at responding to design skills shortage in the furniture industry.

Akhona Thusi (21) and Simphiwe Mlambo (23) will exhibit their designs and work during the Durban leg of the Decorex Exhibition, and they will be in the running to win a one-year internship, design software training and graphic design tablets.

Thusi says being one of the finalists came as a surprise as she did not expect her designs to be noticed because she is still finding her feet as a first-year design student. “When I submitted my three designs late last year in the student category, the last thing I expected was an email confirming that I made it as a finalist. I can’t wait for the actual day, the experience of being there and meeting new people will be great, even if I don’t win,” says Thusi.

Thusi, who is 21 and grew up in Umlazi, south of Durban, says her parents initially discouraged her from choosing any form of art as a career as she was excelling academically at school. She says it took a lot of sacrifice and courage to finally convince them that design was her calling and that she could make a success out of it.

She says design is about breaking barriers, expressing ones’ emotions and doing the impossible. She adds that if she did not work hard, she would still be stuck in some lecture room studying psychology like her parents wished.

Fellow finalist and B-Tech student, Mlambo, says the competition will give him an opportunity to network with key stakeholders in the industry and other creatives. He says he is looking forward to getting advice on how to improve his designs and product solutions.

“I was inspired by my parents especially my mother’s love for furniture as a sales lady in one of the retail stores in northern KwaZulu-Natal. We used to help our father renovate houses and old buildings, and this experience brought creativity and all sorts of ideas to us as kids,” says Mlambo.

Mlambo explains that he had a difficult start to the year due to the lack of funding for his B-Tech studies but says he never once considered quitting due to his love for design. He is hoping to secure funds through his network and the competition.

Suzan Barrot a digital design senior lecture at DUT, says she is delighted that some of their students are finalists in this year’s competition. “Many students design things without thinking about how they are going to be built,” she comments. “Product design it is a good learning exercise for them because they now have to work out exactly how to make the product, which in turn makes them think about future designs. That is why we encourage them to enter competitions as it is beneficial to their learning.”

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Both Mlambo and Thusi aspire to start their own businesses and would like to focus on designing items for restaurants, offices and to create their own ranges of designs.
Working with Wood show comes to Cape Town

Cape Town is to have its first Working with Wood show in conjunction with Spiros Mica at the Polo Club at Durbanville racecourse on Friday 31 March to Sunday 2 April.

For many years, we have been looking for the ideal venue in Cape Town for our Working with Wood shows,” explains Ryan Hunt, sales director of Vermont Sales, the founders of the brand and shows. “We have found an ideal venue at the Durbanville racecourse’s Polo Club. Now Capetonians will have the opportunity to see the latest in tools from all over the world, along with some great demonstrations.”

The Working with Wood exhibition started in Knysna, and the event quickly established itself as a leading woodworking and tool show.

Top South African and international demonstrators will be at the Cape Town show to share their woodworking skills and crafts, including woodturning, carving, chair-making, sharpening, pyrography, boatbuilding and furniture making.

Everything timber related and eco related will be on display, from portable sawmilling to fine furniture and sculptures, sustainable alternatives for the home and natural resource management displays.

Leading international brands will be there, such as Tork Craft, Bessey, Triton, Pro-Tech router bits, Kreg, Festool, Saw Stop, Armor, DMT, Nes, Olfa, Felo, Rawl Plug, Alpen, GAV air products, Bondhus, Drill Doctor, Mag Switch, Spring Tool, Fixman, MPS, and Josef Haunstetter.

“The live demonstrations, tips, and networking with woodworking experts are a big drawcard,” says Greg de Villiers, sales manager at Vermont Sales.

“All the latest tools will also be available to purchase from Spiros Mica at the show so one can see the demonstrations, test the tools, ask the experts and buy the latest in tools.

“This show should not be missed,” says de Villiers.

For more information email Working with Wood on info@workingwithwood.co.za, or visit the web site www.workingwithwood.co.za.
White oak and ash create a modern office environment for Unique Properties in Dubai

Case study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>studio bruno guelaff</td>
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<td>studio bruno guelaff</td>
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Unique Properties, an estate agency in Dubai, wanted an office that would create a modern, well designed environment for its employees, and present a professional and welcoming space for its customers.

Studio Bruno Guelaff was commissioned to do the interior design of the 251 square metres of real estate commercial floor space. Bruno Guelaff says the main design challenge was to create a stimulating and creative space for the employees to work in. “We wanted to design a non-typical office using a variety of different materials,” he reports.

Privacy, good acoustics and light are necessary for a top performing estate agency and the designer had to find solutions that satisfied these requirements. “American white oak was our first choice of materials. We used it as a base..."
as we appreciate its creamy colour and wanted to incorporate its lines of sap into every wall panel. We also chose a matte finish sealer to make sure we did not change the color of the natural wood,” says Guelaff.

A full height wall of white oak spanning 7m, and a 2.5m high company logo cut out greets visitors entering the offices. The logo is dominant and has a backdrop of matte gold underlay surrounded by recessed lighting. The white-washed concrete floors reinforce the organic feel of the space.

According to Guelaff, the standout features of the office are the angled wood cladding in front of all glass partitions. American white oak was again the material of choice for the angled patterns that vary in widths from 750mm to 100mm. Besides giving the office an amusing treehouse effect, the angled panels provide privacy in a unique way.

“The angled panels also act as a motion catalyst as they give a sense of speed and movement. When the wood lined doors are open, these lines are broken, giving the office an organic feel. Custom wall panels are dual sided with one side using oak panels complete with lines of sap and the other a yellow gold fabric from the Danish supplier Kvadrat, which is a punchy addition to the office and acts as a colourful acoustic screen,” says Guelaff.

All the work surfaces are made of American ash finished in a matte sealer to protect its light colors. “The ash brings a great natural feel to the work space and the light colour compliments the sap from the oak. The ash is used on all work surfaces including the reception desk with a debossed logo, custom work desks with grooved out leg supports with hidden wire systems, a ‘zigzag’ table providing fluid motion through space, and studio Bruno Guelaff’s own ‘Hollow’ stools lining the meeting rooms.

“Quarter cut American ash veneer was chosen for all the work surfaces because of its linear grain and lighter color range. It also matches the sap of the white oak. We worked hand-in-hand with Fritz Kohl, who really helped us in terms of wood selection. We also sourced a special zero percent matt finish sealer from Germany to make sure we did not change the color of the natural wood. This was important as typically the sealer tends to yellow the woods especially the ash,” adds Guelaff.

“The project posed two main challenges. The first was the material acquisition, which was a grueling but rewarding activity. In second place and by no means an easy task, was to ensure that the randomness of every wood partition was achieved while keeping a line of sap in each wall to connect the overall character of the space. I would also say that time is always the toughest challenge as we never have enough of it,” he says.

Guelaff’s studio took the prize for Outstanding use of American hardwoods in the Middle East during the 2016 Commercial Interior Design Awards. Commenting on the win, Guelaff says: “This project was truly a work of passion. Every part of the project was custom designed, except the computers and office chairs. The wood is the real star and drives the organic energy in the office.”

About AHEC
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