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Enormous challenges ahead

The new year is often a time to reflect on business performance to date and to take the time to reset, as well as look forward. I think you would agree that the challenges ahead for businesses in 2017 are enormous.

After the shock of the Brexit vote and the inauguration of Donald Trump as the President of the USA, we have entered the new year with a global geopolitical landscape could be more uncertain and potentially more disruptive to businesses than 2016. Globalisation is in the crosshairs as new world leaders take charge – or is it?

Closer to home, we need to be mindful of the Ford Kuga debacle, and to remember that now, more than ever before, consumers have less faith in brands. Social media is a game changer and gaining customer trust is becoming a significant source of long-term competitive advantage. Everyone I have interviewed recently agree that we should be transparent in our interactions with customers because it is all about creating that direct connection and trust with the individual on a more personal level.

This also applies to employees who are often the interface between the consumer and the business. Technical competence, communication skills and a positive attitude are just some of the characteristics your business needs, and it is accepted worldwide that the best way to do this is through a combination of skills development and workplace based experience.

On this note it is important for all business owners to remember to submit the mandatory Workplace Skills Plan for April 2017 – March 2018 and Annual Training Report for the period April 2016 – March 2017. Firms with 50 or more employees must also submit a Pivotal Training Plan and Report. The information must be submitted to the Fibre Processing & Manufacturing (FP&M) Seta before midnight on 31 March 2017. If you do not submit or miss the deadline you cannot apply for a discretionary grant to fund the training of your existing and new employees.

And no matter the size of the business, by working with the FP&M Seta you will also be able to apply for the Employment Tax Incentive, which has been extended until 2019, and the Learnership Tax Incentive that has been extended until 2022. These national government incentives aim to stimulate the growth of youth employment by reducing the cost to employers of giving access to first time work experience for qualifying young people.

So, it seems that a way to cope with disruption is for business owners to stay agile and react quickly to opportunities. Building an authentic, two-way relationship with customers and employees could ensure that no matter what happens in the business world, you have the insight and understanding necessary to make smart business decisions.
Second Announcement & Call for Abstracts

7th Forest Science Symposium

Research Underpinning the Sustainability of a Diverse Forestry Sector

Hosted by:
the Institute for Commercial Forestry Research (ICFR)
&
the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

in collaboration with
the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries and our research partners (FABI, NMMU, SUN and others)

18-20 July 2017

One Life Church, Alexandra Road, Pietermaritzburg

A IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities (SPDC) training workshop will be held prior to the Symposium. For details please contact Dr Michael Kleine (kleine@iufro.org)

CALL FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

Abstracts can be submitted in one of four categories:

- **Full Paper (20 mins)** – unpublished work
- **Full Paper (20 mins)** – (Work previously presented/published
- **Short Paper (5 mins)**
- **Poster**

The Science Committee will evaluate all submissions and where full papers cannot be accommodated, these may be offered speed paper end/or poster options.

Please follow attached directions for abstract submissions

For more information contact:

Symposium organizer
Sally Upfold
Sally.upfold@ictf.ukzn.ac.za
+27 33 3862314 or +27 82 570 0851
Train the forester of the future to think of the future!

By Dr Jaap Steenkamp, SA Forestry Contractors Association and Entrepreneur

When the term “modernisation” was first used, it was as a synonym for the term “mechanisation”. It is now accepted that this is not the case because the use of technologies that do not meet international best practices and improve safety, productivity, and quality of operations, are not modernised.

Technology is an economic resource that is indicated by the level of sophistication and application of mechanised equipment, and should be used to mitigate modern problems. One of these modern problems that affect us all is climate change, its effect on silviculture and how to mitigate the present and future effects of climate change.

Training and education regarding modernisation and the use of technology to assist in mitigating climate change is of critical importance. Training organisations, especially higher education institutions, must ensure that climate change is not just entrenched in all their subjects, but should receive specific attention.

The reason for mitigating the factors of climate change in silviculture and forest protection is to improve yield and limit losses. We need fresh thinking regarding these aspects of forestry. It may require more investment, but then we need to expect a return on this investment.

In both South Africa and Australia, the planting season is in general short. During the past 18 months, we had difficulty to plant due to the severe drought in South Africa. During winter, low temperatures prohibit planting in many areas, but, in Brazil, planting takes place throughout the year.

Substantial investment in research of aspects like site-species matching, genetic improvement, pest and disease and some other areas are made, but not really in terms of modernisation.

This aspect is left to the original equipment manufacturers, some of whom do not have a good understanding of the dynamics of forestry.

In Brazil, there is a consulting group appointed to enhance technology development, and planting is prioritized, followed by mitigating negative factors like ants, disease, and drought. In South Africa and Australia, however, the forestry fraternities seem to be quite happy to follow and react to climate trends.

Growers mitigate dry conditions by re-irrigating up to four times to ensure the establishment of the seedlings. This is currently done with tractors pulling a water cart where the water is either continuously discharged on the tree line or where people are discharging a specific volume of water per seedling. This is quite costly, and is a process that can be modernised.

A stand consists of individual trees, and operational effectiveness can be increased when we know where every tree is physically located. This enables the repetition of operations like secondary irrigation and fertilizing. The adoption of modernised technology improves precision and allows for better and dedicated cultivation - and substantial cost savings.

Modernisation will mitigate numerous problems and enable the stretching of the planting season in some areas of Australia and South Africa.

Significantly, modernisation calls for a substantial management mind-set adjustment. There is a big difference between the management of most current methods of executing forestry work and that of managing a modern forestry operation.

Guidance and reporting systems are increasingly important in modern forestry. Consistent operations with management feedback improve the establishment and management of...
Where to get the fire management book

The response to our news of the publishing of the book was enormous.

In December, we reported on the launch of an indispensable resource: The Guide to Integrated Fire Management, and it is rapidly being recognised as an indispensable resource by the industry.

The comprehensive handbook assists Fire Protection Associations and other stakeholders involved in fire management to know how to implement best practices and improve service delivery. It is accompanied by a complete set of tools for implementing integrated fire management.


If a hard copy is required, please contact Henda Kellerman, Kishugu’s communication manager on: Tel: 021 712 5223 | 021 712 5251, Email: henda.kellerman@kishugu.com

The response to our news of the publishing of the book was enormous.

stands. It boils down to optimising your investment and utilising maximum opportunity (land) to execute your investment.

Unplanted areas are undesirable and should be minimised. These areas are mostly a result of climatic conditions, and if we can mitigate the conditions, we can improve our investment. Modern equipment has a huge role to play in achieving this goal.

To mitigate the effects of climate change on forestry, we need:

• to be less climate dependant in determining the planting window,
• a deeper understanding of the dynamics for improving survival and yield,
• investment in equipment R&D,

• more precision, repeatability of activities and consistency in operational quality (modernisation), and
• to train the forester of the future to think of the future!

Most important of all – we need to modernise our thinking, a real renewal of the mind.

“Training organisations, especially higher education institutions, must ensure that climate change is not just entrenched in all their subjects, but should receive specific attention.”
High intensity fires: do they reverse bush encroachment or speed up the loss of tall trees?

During the well-attended fire symposium recently held in the Kruger National Park, Izak Smit presented the findings of a study on the effectiveness of high intensity fires for reducing woody cover in the Kruger National Park.

The study was conducted by Izak Smit; Gregory Asner; Navashni Govender; Nicholas Vaughn; and Brian W. van Wilgen and published in the Journal of Applied Ecology last year. The extract below has been edited and it is recommended that the full article and its references be read (see below).

Woody densification in savannas

Many studies have documented how woody plants are invading grasslands and open savannas. This phenomenon is predicted to increase as atmospheric CO2 levels increase, favouring woody plants at the expense of grasses.

Woody encroachment can have many negative effects, including loss of agricultural production (cover ≈ livestock), changed herbivore assemblages (cover ≈ grazers) and reduced eco-tourism opportunities (cover ≈ ↓ game viewing opportunities ≈ tourism).

Herbicides or mechanical clearing can reverse woody densification, but are expensive and impractical over large scales, and often have unintended and negative ecological consequences. Frequent fire can also be used to combat woody densification, but few studies have explored whether high intensity fire can be used as a large, infrequent disturbance to reverse densification.

In our study, we examined the effectiveness of high intensity fires for reducing woody cover in the Kruger National Park.

Fire intensity effects on woody cover

We compared woody vegetation structure (cover and height) in areas exposed to repeated high intensity and low intensity fires, as well as protection from fire.

We collected pre- and post-fire 3D information on woody vegetation using a LiDAR sensor mounted on an aeroplane.

We found that two successive high intensity fires opened up the landscape and reduced woody cover, as intended. In comparison, the areas burnt by two successive low intensity fires became even denser over the 4-year study period (Fig. 3).

Managers need to make trade-offs when contemplating the manipulation of fire intensity.

Fig 3: LiDAR derived woody cover in 2010 (before first fire application) and 2014 (after fire applications in 2010 and 2013) for four fire intensity treatments (no fire (control), two successive low intensity fires (low), two successive high intensity fires (high-high), and a high intensity fire followed by a moderate intensity fire (high-moderate)). Fires were two years apart. Woody cover was reduced after high intensity fires, but increased under the no-burn and low intensity fire treatments.
The high intensity fire was successful, at least in the short term, in reducing woody cover, but we were surprised at the number of tall trees (>10m tall, with a canopy radius of >3m) that collapsed following high intensity fires (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4: Collapse of tall mature trees following high intensity fire, probably exacerbated by pre-fire damage (e.g. bark removal by elephants). Recovery of the tree layer would take a long time.

Tall trees in savannas are normally considered to be unaffected by fires because their canopies are beyond the flame zone, but more than a third of tall trees collapsed after two successive high intensity fires. This was much higher than the rate of collapse following low intensity fires (6%), or protection from fire (3%). Trees are apparently vulnerable to high-intensity fires, probably because they have been compromised by having their bark removed by elephants - often also leading to wood borer infestation, (Fig. 5).

Fig. 5: Elephant damage to mature tall trees – elephants remove bark within the “flame-zone” height (a), allowing wood to dry and become vulnerable to wood borer infestation (b). These exposed scars create “weak” points, enabling high intensity fires to set the main stem alight, leading to eventual toppling of the tree (c).

High intensity fires as management tool
We were hoping our results would indicate that high intensity fires could be used to reduce cover of encroaching shrubs. Although we confirmed this, at least in the short term, the accompanying damage to tall trees creates a management conundrum.

High-intensity fires can be used to reduce bush encroachment, but only at considerable cost to the tall tree component. Considering that top-killed small shrubs can potentially recover rapidly after fires (Fig. 6), and that recovery of tall trees will be slow (Fig. 4), a regime of infrequent, high-intensity fires can simultaneously produce a positive and a negative outcome.

Trees are important in the landscape, inter alia for nutrient cycling, shade for large mammals, habitat for small fauna and nesting sites for raptors. Therefore, managers will need to make trade-offs when contemplating the manipulation of fire intensity to achieve specific goals.

One solution may be to repeatedly apply high-intensity treatments to some areas, and not to others. This could generate a heterogeneous landscape where grasses become dominant and tall trees become scarce in some places, but in others tall trees persist (or at least decline at slower rates), and shorter woody shrubs increase in dominance.

Whether this would be acceptable, or practical, remains to be tested. We predict that in areas without elephants or with lower elephant densities, high intensity fires may have less of an impact on tall trees.
High intensity fires: do they reverse bush encroachment or speed up the loss of tall trees?

Mozambique bans export of logs from January

The Mozambican government has imposed a ban on all exports of unprocessed logs, to halt the devastation of its hardwood forests and “to contribute to the sustainable management of forestry resources, and promote national industry”.

Semi-processed timber may be exported, but is subject to an export surtax, which declines the greater the amount of processing. The tax ranges from 20 percent for simple beams, and 15 percent for planks to only three percent for parquet. There is no surtax on the export of finished wooden goods, such as furniture.

The ban on log exports took effect on 1 January. When he introduced the the Minister of Land, Environment and Rural Development, Celso Correia, pointed to an alarming rise in the legal export of logs, from 22,846 cubic metres in 2010, to 148,093 cubic metres in 2015. There was also an increase in illegal logging and illegal exports. The destination of most of this wood, whether legally or illegally logged, was China.

The bill, Correia said, is a part of a forestry sector reform programme “seeking to promote the protection, conservation, valuing and use of our forestry heritage, in a rational, responsible and transparent manner, for the economic, social and ecological benefits of Mozambicans, within the framework of sustainable development, and to build resilience to climate change”.

Read the full article:

Fig. 6: Basal resprouting from the roots (a-b) or coppicing from aerial parts (c) allows small shrubs to recover previous dimensions much faster after fires, as opposed to tall mature trees (see Figs. 4-5). These photos were taken within weeks of a high intensity fire.
Get a grip on pruning

STIHL, the global leader in high performance tools and equipment, has a professional-grade range of hand-held pruning equipment for forestry, agricultural, landscaping and home applications. From the high-reaching Super Turgid Cut Telecopic Saw to secateurs for trimming and loppers for heavy-duty cutting, this range caters for every pruning application. Lightweight and specially sized to fit user’s hands, with comfort grips and ergonomic handles, these tools offer maximum usability plus robust performance for hand-held precision cutting when it matters most.

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

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Criminal networks use corruption and the bribery of officials to establish ‘safe passage’ for the illegal movement of timber,” the December 2016 report states. “The criminal groups also exploit these routes to transport other illicit goods, such as drugs and firearms.”

A case study in the report provides an example of this corruption: The mayor of an important timber trading city in Peru was recently arrested for his involvement in a drug trafficking ring. The mayor controlled a timber business that had built a logistical network for bribing officials to move illegally harvested timber out of the country. Drug traffickers then used this to smuggle cocaine through shipments of plywood.

Interpol says that a 13-country survey discovered an average of 250 cases of corruption in each country related to the forestry sector every year between 2009 and 2014. The culprits most likely to be involved in the forestry sector are government officials who work for forestry agencies, law enforcement officers, and logging company officials.

Citing the results of a recent study conducted in collaboration with the Timber Regulation Enforcement to protect European Wood Sector (Trees) project, Interpol says corruption at the point of harvest is identified in about 50 percent of cases, road transport 23 percent of cases, and processing plants 27 percent.

Interpol notes in the report that studies over the last decade have repeatedly shown a strong correlation between levels of corruption, illegal logging, and deforestation rates.

Interpol launched Project Leaf (Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests) in 2012 to counter various forestry crimes, including illegal logging and timber trafficking, as well as related crimes like corruption. The project involves collaboration between Interpol and the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) and is a coordinated global response to organized and transnational crime in the forestry sector.

Under Project Leaf Interpol issues international notices and alerts on behalf of member countries to request information on and warn of the movements and activities of people, vehicles, and vessels involved in forestry crime.

In the report, Interpol recommends several measures countries can implement in order to reduce the risk of corruption in forestry operations.

These include policy and legislative reforms in countries where forest laws and regulations are ambiguous or unclear; capacity-building across the entire law enforcement chain to build greater awareness of the extent to which it facilitates other serious crimes; enhanced financial investigations to determine which government officials are living above their legitimate means and therefore may have received bribes; and adoption of Interpol’s secure communications network for anti-corruption investigators.

“By raising awareness and documenting current corruption practices as well as potential solutions, we empower law enforcement officers in the field,” says Interpol secretary general Jürgen Stock.

“This increases the chances of criminals getting caught and is one of the greatest deterrents to corruption. An international, coordinated response is an essential part of the solution to combat the organized transnational criminal groups involved in forestry crime. Our collective goal must be to turn corruption into a high risk, low profit activity.”

Interpol launched Project Leaf (Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests) in 2012 to counter various forestry crimes, including illegal logging and timber trafficking, as well as related crimes like corruption. The project involves collaboration between Interpol and the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) and is a coordinated global response to organized and transnational crime in the forestry sector.
Young Forester Award
applications open

The Commonwealth Forestry Association (CFA) has opened applications for the CFA Young Forester Award 2017 in conjunction with the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia, Canada.

The CFA Young Forester Award provides a short-term work placement of three months hosted by the University of British Columbia at their Malcolm Knapp Research Forest, between September and December 2017, where the successful applicant will be able to develop their practical skills.

The award covers flights, accommodation, local travel, subsistence costs and a small bursary to cover the period of the placement.

Eligible applicants must:
- Be a national of a Commonwealth country
- Hold a forestry qualification
- Be below 35 years of age on 1st January 2017
- Be able to travel to Canada and apply for a Canadian Study Permit
- Hold a valid driving licence

The application form should be completed and submitted via email to cfa@cfa-international.org by 15 March 2017. The form is available on the CFA’s website or from Corine Viljoen at saif@mweb.co.za.

The following information must be sent at the same time:
- An essay of at least 400 but no more than 500 words explaining why you are applying for the CFA Young Forester Award.
- A Curriculum Vitae/ Résumé of no more than two pages.

Short-listed candidates will undergo a Skype interview.
**Fun Facts:** Special Gems of Forestry: January 2017

**Ziziphus mucronata:** Rhamnaceae Family (SA no. 447)
Common name: Buffalo–thorn, blinkblaarwag–’n–bietjie, umPhafa, umLahlankosi, mokgalo

**TREE OF THE YEAR 2017**

*Ziziphus* originated from Greek (*zisyphon*), Arabic (*zizouf*) and Latin (*zizyphum*). The species name *mucronata* is Latin and refers to the stipular thorns or the apex of the leaves. The Afrikaans name (wag–’n–bietjie) is very descriptive of the small, vicious thorns that take time (wait–a-bit) to release from your clothes. Thorns are in pairs of two with the one facing backwards. The young twigs are zigzag and the tree is a hermaphroditic species. The family Rhamnaceae has 49 genera and 900 species. The genus *Ziziphus* includes approximately 86 species with *Ziziphus mucronata* being the best known. Another well-known species is *Z. mauritiana* (ber or jujube tree) because of the fruits which are often found in Asian food shops. Historic records indicated that Christ’s crown of thorns was made from *Ziziphus spina–christi* Wild.

**Habitat:** distributed throughout the summer rainfall areas of sub-Saharan Africa, extending from South Africa northwards to Ethiopia and Arabia. It grows in areas dominated by thorny vegetation in both temperate and tropical climates, open scrubland, woodland, forest margins and riverine vegetation. *Ziziphus mucronata* is a very hardy species and resistant to frost, drought, seasonal waterlogging, salt spray and soil salinity. It can grow at an altitude of up to 2 000m, with MAT of 12 to 30°C, MAP of 446 to 1 200m and a variety of fine textured soils.

**Allergies:** unknown

**Growth rate:** can grow up to 20m but normally 3 to 10m tall with a growth rate of 4 to 6m in 4 to 5 years.

**Pollinator:** bees

**Wood characteristics:** yellow, fine-grained, heavy wood containing 12.2 to 15.7% tanning matter.

**Uses:** fruits are eaten fresh or dried with meal or porridge. Young leaves can be cooked and eaten as spinach, while seeds are roasted, crushed and used as a coffee substitute. *Ziziphus mucronata* is also a valuable fodder tree in drier areas as stock and game (giraffe, eland, kudu, sable, black wildebeest, nyala, impala, klipspringer, springbok, Sharpe’s greysbok, steenbok, Damara dik-dik and warthog) relish the highly nutritious leaves and fruit. Beekeepers also consider this tree a valuable source of nectar. The wood is hard and makes good firewood and charcoal, while the termite-resistant wood is used for building poles and posts, live and dry fences, and for hunting and fishing weaponry. Whips and bows are made from saplings and from the flexible shoots. Thorny branches are sometimes used to make impenetrable kraals or fences. Roots are powdered and baked and can be used for almost any pain and to treat snakebite. The bark is used as an emetic, rheumatism, for stomach troubles and to treat coughs.

**General:** Africans have many beliefs and superstitions attached to this tree. Zulus and Swazis use the buffalo thorn in connection with the burial rites of chiefs (*umLahlankosi*). The tree can also keep evil spirits away from villages or houses. In Botswana and most parts of South Africa, it is believed to be immune against lightning, anyone standing under one in a storm would be safe. Furthermore, if it is felled in summer, a drought, hail or lightning will certainly follow. The species is easily raised from seed or cuttings.
PMD Forestry weathers the challenges of contract harvesting

Petros Mnisi of PMD Forestry Total Harvesting Services in Swaziland knows firsthand how challenging the timber contract harvesting business can be, but working alongside his son Vusi, who is his operations manager, and having two Bell Loggers as hardworking assets, Petros is once again fuelling his passion for forestry.

Petros grew up in the Hhohho district near the Maguga Dam and spent his school holidays working as an inventory officer for the Mondi Group in the Piggs Peak area, taking down diameters and cubic metres of timber. “You could say I literally grew up in forestry and got to love everything about the industry,” he says. “After matric, I worked for the group for 18 months before they sent me off to Fort Cox in the Ciskei to study forestry.”

After graduating, Petros joined Mondi full time to work back his scholarship over a three-year period. By 1995, he had the urge to start his own business in timber harvesting but fortunately, an older colleague Tony Bold, advised him to gain more experience before registering his business.

“Tony understood what I wanted to do and spent two years mentoring me in the correct way of applying for loans, and I will forever be grateful to him for that,” Petros says. “I was also fortunate to have other mentors, John Ferguson and Tony Hulett, who taught me a lot about production and cable systems.”

Petros registered his company PMD Forestry Total Harvesting Services in March 2001 and his former employers Mondi, assisted him in buying two second-hand skidders and two Bell 220A loggers from their fleet. Although used, they were in good running order. He started straight away and employed 45 people to fulfill contract-harvesting quotas granted by Mondi Forests.

Members of his teams worked as skidder and logger operators, fellers, log-scalers, cross-cutters, chalker-men, and supervisors. “Things went well for us thanks in part to the contracts we were getting and the business grew in turnover, people and equipment,” Petros says.
“In 2005, I joined forces with TLS, a long-haul timber transporting company. In timber harvesting, when you extract the timber and stack it at roadside, you only get paid once the timber crosses the weighbridge. My thinking was that by joining forces with Tommy Steven of TLS, we could get paid quicker as we could control how quickly the timber reached the weighbridge.”

The joint venture went well and there was rapid growth. The joint venture soon owned five skidders and six cable machines, and each machine needed a Bell logger to assist with timber handling.

“In 2002 I bought my first John Deere 360D cable skidder to overcome the challenges of the Swaziland forestry terrain. Bell loggers sell themselves and are really the best machines to use for stacking, loading and sorting timber in Africa as they are rugged and purposely designed and built for African conditions,” says Petros.

Disaster struck the timber growing areas around Piggs Peak in 2007 when fires destroyed timber plantations running from west to east. Petros and his teams started harvesting the burnt timber immediately afterwards so that forestry owners could get something for their now damaged product. This harvesting continued until 2010 when market demand suddenly dried up.

“We stopped all our operations in 2011 and sold our equipment to defray expenses and repay loans to the banks,” Petros explains. “Soon after the fires of 2007, plantation owners started planting gum trees as these grow quicker than pine. So in October 2014 when I saw adverts for contract harvesters I discussed it with my son Vusi, who was completing his forestry studies at Saasveld and we decided to go back into business.”

Petros spells out the difficulty of restarting a timber contract harvesting business with no capital and no equipment. “We were shortlisted for a contract but still had no equipment. Fortunately, with the contract and business plan in hand, we could approach funders like Swazi Bank and the Industrial Development Corporation of Swaziland, who assisted us with financing two Bell 225A crank boom loggers.”

PMD Forestry now employs 35 people to extract timber for use as transmission poles, where lengths vary between 12m and 7m. Shorter timber goes to the mine support industries.

Petros explains that when he and Vusi were researching the market, they looked at other equipment besides that made and sold by Bell Equipment. They decided to stay with equipment they knew and trusted, and that has technical and parts back-up in Swaziland. In addition, Bell Equipment pays the import duties. “It’s good to be associated with Charlie Boucher and his team at Bell Swaziland, and they really look after us,” Petros comments.

“We have a contract to produce 2 500 tonnes of timber a month and we’ve hired in a skidder to help us. The going is tough and we could really do with another two Bell loggers but we decided to stabilise our cash flow before taking on new financial commitments.”
We’ve got you covered!

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Bell Equipment - a proudly South African company committed to helping businesses realise Africa’s potential.
FORESTRY CALENDAR

20 – 24 February in Pietermaritzburg area
Silviculture supervisor / junior manager course
Presented by CMO
Bookings: nikita@cmo.co.za

13 – 17 March in Nelspruit area

28 February – 2 March in Stellenbosch
Precision forestry symposium
Theme: Precision forestry – Producing more from less. Towards optimising value in the bio-economy from data driven decision
Includes two days of presentations and a one-day field trip
Organiser: IUFRO and Stellenbosch University
Registration: http://conferences.sun.ac.za

19 – 21 April at Cedara, KZN
Focus on forestry
Theme: Harvesting, silviculture and fire management systems in a restructured forest industry
Conference includes a field day / expo
Organiser: CMO, ICFR and NMMU
Registration: follow the link on www.cmo.co.za and nontethelelelo@cmo.co.za

18 – 20 July in Pietermaritzburg
7th Forest Science Symposium
Hosted by ICFR and IUFRO
Organiser: Sally Upfold, sally.upfold@icfr.ukzn.ac.za, 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

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3D timber truck volume measurement system launched

The Swedish startup company Cind, has developed a product that uses three-dimensional (3D) military technology to measure the volume of wood on log trucks.

The system is based on stereoscopic technology developed by Sweden’s fighter aircraft manufacturer Saab. The Cind system accurately measures volume as the truck passes through gantries and instantly records the precise volume measurement. Cind is owned by Saab Ventures and private and corporate investors, such as Microtec, a world leading supplier of optical scanning systems for the timber industry. Cind’s offices are located in Linköping and Jönköping, Sweden.

“Saab is probably the world leader when it comes to this technology and has launched a number of spin-offs using military technology in commercial product applications, from mapping to industrial measuring technology,” says Cind’s Anders Nyberg.

“We have a license for the technology and will supply the industrial sector, primarily the pulp and paper and sawmilling industries. For worldwide distribution and service, our partner, Microtec, will introduce the technology to the wood processing industry,” says Anders. “Microtec is one of the leading suppliers of image processing systems for the sawmilling industry and an investor in Cind.”

“We have now installed and approved Cind’s first system in our railway terminal in Mora, Sweden,” says Cind’s client Olle Pettersson CEO of Trätåg. Trätåg AB is a logistics company that handles round-wood and biofuel on railways from seven of the company’s proprietary terminals and from two external terminals. The company was founded in 1970 and is owned by Stora Enso Skog and Billerud Korsnäs.

“It is a pilot installation that will be used for Billerud Korsnäs and Stora Enso’s logs and for certification by various organisations and authorities. We are going to install a second system at another terminal later this year,” says Pettersson. “Our ambition has always been to use the best solutions available on the market for our business.”

In addition to the pilot system at Trätåg Cind has agreements for three additional systems with Sweden’s most prominent forestry companies. “To expand our product, we have initiated a project that includes the Luleå University of Technology to develop new intelligent algorithms to increase automation and efficiency in Cind’s products for measuring timber stacks,” explains Nyberg.

The system uses two pairs of stereo cameras mounted on gantries through which the truck passes. Cind’s stereo cameras and software create a perfect 3D image so that the dimensions can be measured. This can be done by means of manual measurement on the screen or automatically by the system. The system is available for permanent installation at a site, and as a mobile unit that can be deployed in any location.
Feedback from NRCS levy consultation meeting

The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) held levy consultation meetings in Pretoria, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town in November to propose and discuss the 2017 levy increase.

Representatives of the South African Wood Preservatives Association (Sawpa) attended the meeting in Pretoria so that they could raise and discuss areas of concern and issues relevant to the timber treatment industry. The following feedback was reported on:

The NRCS presented its annual financial figures for the last couple of years as well as their budget for the current 2016/17 financial year. The proposed increase for 2017, which found favour with all stakeholders present, is 6% and is based on the consumer price index (CPI) figures for September 2016. Should the Minister of the Trade and Industry approve this it would mean that the current type 5 levy of R1,12 per cubic metre of treated timber, effective from 30 September 2016 (see Sawpa newsletter No. 206 of 18 October 2016) will increase by 6% towards the last quarter of 2017.

Time was allowed for the NRCS and industry stakeholders to raise and discuss matters related to levy payments and declarations. Any operational matters had to be taken to the relevant operational department at a later stage. The NRCS management present did, however, acknowledge that they have operational and system constraints, but ensured the meeting that they were working hard towards fixing this soon.

The NRCS reported poor levy returns on past and current figures presented, and issued a stern warning to all companies who have not submitted declarations and made payments, or who have under-declared on levies due. According to the NRCS it will soon introduce a system to retrospectively investigate and audit all declarations and levies due. Any company found to be at fault will have its issued LOA withdrawn. The NRCS invites defaulting companies to use the present amnesty period to ensure that all due declarations are submitted and paid.

In the case of the treated timber industry, the agreed date from which levies became due was 1 January 2015. This means that all plants in operation and treating since that time should have submitted declarations and payments for periods 15A, 15B and 16A (pro-rata for plants operational after the agreed date).

The NRCS has provided Sawpa with generic type 5 declaration forms. Members who have not received the declarations for the given periods can visit the Sawpa website or contact Sawpa for copies of the declarations forms. It is important, however, to note that when using the generic forms, the plant details and specific JDE or HEF number issued by the NRCS must be completed on the form, and if the unique client reference numbers are not known, Magda Spies from the NRCS must be contacted at magda.spies@nrcs.org.za (012 482 8890).

Sawpa raised the following issues were raised with the NRCS during the meeting:

Many members have not received their declaration forms from the NRCS, and as a result have not declared or paid levies to date. The NRCS responded by saying that the problem lies with incorrect email and postal addresses supplied on the initial applications and requested Sawpa to assist them to update the contact details of the members.

In some cases, where declaration forms have been received by treaters, the forms did not provide for the type 5 levy relevant to the industry. The NRCS undertook to ensure that in future the type 5 levies will be provided for on the declaration forms, and they will also make the generic versions of the forms available to Sawpa for distribution to members who have not received the forms.

The annual increase dates are gazetted on different dates from one year to the next, which is confusing. The effective dates for levy increases need to be standardised so that they become effective on a specific fixed annual date and remain so for a full 12-month period from the fixed date, e.g. from 1 January to 31 December of a given year, or alternatively from 1 July of a given year to 30 June of the following year. This will ensure that the effective dates for new levies coincide with the six-monthly payment periods. The NRCS undertook to improve their current system and to consider this proposal.
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Lonza’s community outreach project recognised

Lonza Wood Protection’s outreach project to help meet the educational needs of the people in its local community was recognised in January at the prestigious 78th Annual Chemical and Allied Industries Association (CAIA) Awards Ceremony.

Lonza was announced as the runner up in the Responsible Care Initiative of the Year, which honours companies in the South African chemical industry for outstanding achievements in sustainable corporate social responsibility projects.

The company focuses its social upliftment initiative on early childhood development in the community. Over the past six years Lonza has invested more than R700 000 to develop the Vulingqondo Creche into a well-structured educational institution where each child is nurtured and receives a healthy meal every day.

“It is Lonza’s philosophy to be a responsible neighbour by contributing to the quality of life in the communities in which we operate. As an industry leader, our commitment is to create sustainable value through an educational facility that forms the foundation for the children’s schooling careers,” says Doug Sayce, general manager of Lonza Wood Protection.

Situated in the rural area of Bethania near Port Shepstone, the Vulingqondo Creche has, under the care of Lonza, developed from a basic rural establishment into a flourishing school. The playground is transformed from an uneven and overgrown veld into a beautiful area with manicured lawns, trees and a jungle gym. The jungle gym is built with timber treated with Lonza’s own chemical, Tanalith® C wood preservative.

The importance of a wholesome cooked meal each day for these children is a top priority for Lonza, who sponsors their daily fresh food supplies. Seven waterborne toilets have been added to the school, the building has been rewired, new cupboards installed and the kitchen extended to accommodate new fridges and a new septic tank.

At the start of each year, Lonza supplies the school’s basic stationery and books. Mattresses for rest time and recreational items such as educational toys, bicycles, sport equipment, a TV, a DVD player and a computer have also been donated. In a step to assist the creche in becoming self-sustaining, Lonza plans to provide seedlings and tools to start a vegetable garden where the children can be actively involved in growing their own produce.

Lonza operations manager, Kesun Govender and Denise Conradie, Lonza compliance manager with the runner-up CAIA Responsible Care Initiative of the Year award

Two years ago, Lonza identified an exceptionally talented young girl and awarded her a full educational sponsorship to attend the local government school, where she excelled by finishing top of her class in grades one and two.

“Our team’s passion and commitment to the wellbeing and education of the children at Vulingqondo Creche is a rewarding experience that we hold close to our hearts, and we look forward to making a difference to the future of many more children in this community,” concludes Sayce.

Lonza is a world leading supplier to the pharmaceutical, biotech and specialty ingredients markets. It harnesses science and technology to create products that support safer and healthier living and that enhance the overall quality of life. Lonza also offers services and products ranging from active pharmaceutical ingredients and stem-cell therapies to drinking water sanitizers, from the vitamin B compounds and organic personal care ingredients to agricultural products, and from industrial preservatives to microbial control solutions that combat dangerous viruses, bacteria and other pathogens.
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Email: wood.sa@lonza.com

Find out more at www.lonzawoodprotection.com
First Cut, a South African manufacturer and distributor of cutting consumables, has launched a pallet blade with a varied pitch tooth configuration that can cut through wood and nails without the blade clogging or teeth getting blunt.

The blade is used in a reciprocating hand-held power saw. First Cut developed a bi-metal blade, where the body of the blade is of a softer material than the cutting edge, which is made of a hardened, high-speed steel (HSS), suited for high-speed cutting. The two types of steel are laser-welded together to form the blade blank.

"It was a question of finding and field-testing the right combination of metals for use in the bi-metal, without it being prohibitively expensive," says Ian McCrystal, CEO of First Cut.
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SIDE EVENTS:
The organisation says the South African construction market is experiencing a shortage of structural timber, and imports have become necessary and are on the rise. National building regulations require that all structural timber be compliant with South African National Standard (SANS) 1783. This standard applies to sawn softwood structural timber, and both national and international manufacturers of structural timber supplied to the South African market are expected to be certified by a South African-based ISO 17065-accredited certification body.

"Unfortunately, non-compliant structural timber is imported and supplied to formal and informal roof truss manufacturers. There is no safety or quality assurance for the integrity of the finger joints, adhesive used, or the grading of the timber," explains Abe Stears, managing director of the South African Technical Auditing Services (SATAS).

"Even worse, when a batch of non-compliant imported timber is rejected by a buyer, that timber is often sold on to another unsuspecting buyer. In this way, non-compliant imported timber for structural applications is still finding its way into the South African market," he says.

Only SATAS and the South Africa Bureau of Standards (SABS) are accredited to certify manufacturers of products in compliance with SANS 1783.

"It is unfair and unacceptable to expect local manufacturers to comply, at a cost, with the requirements to ensure that quality products are supplied to the end user. Even though South Africa is experiencing a shortage of structural timber that necessitates the use of imports, we must ensure that the same rules apply to this timber, and that timber coming into the South African structural timber market is in compliance with SANS 1783," says Stears.

All industry professionals who use structural timber are urged to be aware of national legislation for the use of structural timber. "Do not use any imported or locally produced timber that does not comply with South African standards and requirements," warns ITC-SA and Stears.

The ITC-SA, which incorporates the Institute for Timber Frame Builders (ITFB), regulates the engineered timber roof structure industry. It provides design, manufacturing, erection, inspection, and certification for compliance with standards including SANS 10400 and SANS 10082, where engineering rational designs are applicable.
RELIABILITY STARTS AT THE TOP

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Roof lends pastoral appeal to modern Pretoria home

House Chaplin, an exquisite family home in the picturesque Cornwall Hill Estate in Irene, Pretoria East, called for a specially designed farm style roof with zero margin for error. LCP Roofing, leader in roof truss technology, responded with precision and attention to detail for a roof that brings country life to the heart of suburbia.

Spearheaded by Vilvor Construction, and headed up by project manager, Jacques Vorster, the client’s brief was precise and concise: They wanted an exceptional farm style roof, complete with a sloped interior ceiling as well as a special feature in the form of a small barn style hip roof tower to be built in the middle of the roof over a double volume area.

“After reviewing the design by architects, Merida Yeatman & Associates as well as all the technical specifications, our design office manager, William Long, lost no time in getting stuck in,” says Lyndsay Cotton, LCP Roofing general manager. “The specified sloped ceiling meant that some of the trusses had to be scissor trusses and would have to span well over 12 metres. And while the roof tower added tremendous aesthetic value to the project exterior, it was also included to increase the amount of light coming into the house, since there were no windows in the double volume space below,” he says.

Truss design & fabrication

After all the technical roofing elements were assessed, the roof design was completed using International Truss Systems’ Roofcon design software. Once the designs were finalised and agreed upon, manufacturing of the timber roof trusses commenced.

A combination of 38mm Grade 5 and Grade 7 structural timber (SA pine), ranging from 76mm to 228mm timber...
LCP Roofing designed, fabricated and erected the roof of House Chaplin, an exquisite family home in the picturesque Cornwall Hill Estate in Irene, Pretoria East.

Depth, was used to manufacture the trusses. Using semi-autonomous electric Spida saws, and specially designed custom tables with a hydraulic 25 ton AV Birch Press, the LCP Roofing fabrication team completed fabrication of this 640 square metre luxury home’s roof trusses within a day.

Building span, roof pitch, specified covering, ceiling type and location are all factors that help in determining what grade of timber will be needed for a roof structure. In line with the National Building Regulations, only structural timber was used in this project.
Transportation & erection

Due to the sheer size of the trusses, LCP Roofing’s specialised truss trailer had to be used for the deliveries, and erection of the trusses on site took four days to complete. Once the sheeting accessories and sundries were delivered to site, the sheeting work took an additional week to complete and the project was handed over to a happy and satisfied client.

“At LCP Roofing, we’ve spent a great deal of time and resources to develop the business into a fast-moving and well-oiled machine,” notes Cotton, concluding. “House Chaplin’s roofing requirements stepped out of the proverbial box and called for a structure that shows rather than tells a story. It stands testament not only to the impact a roof can make on a home, but also to a rich visual narrative that can only be made possible by partnering with leaders in the trade.”

House Chaplin boasts a small barn style hip roof tower in the middle of the roof over a double volume area. This feature does not only contribute to the farm style aesthetics of the home, but has a practical application in bringing more light into the double volume space below.

House Chaplin’s roofing requirements stepped out of the proverbial box and called for a structure that shows rather than tells a story. A combination of 38mm Grade 5 and Grade 7 structural timber (SA pine), ranging from 76mm to 228mm timber depth, was used to manufacture the trusses.
Woodworking calendar

7 – 9 March in Dubai
Dubai Woodshow

18 – 21 March 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 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

27 – 30 April in Cape Town
Decorex Cape Town
Cape Town International Convention Centre

16 – 19 May in Koeln, Germany
Interzum 2017
Koelnmesse

22 – 26 May in Hannover, Germany
Ligna 2017
Deutsche Messe

9 – 13 August in Johannesburg
Decorex Johannesburg
Gallagher Estate

changing the way you think... about hardwoods
New Bisonbord line on track for May 2017

The installation of PG Bison’s latest particleboard line is well on track and scheduled to produce its first board in May 2017. The project will improve efficiencies and increase production capacity.

PG Bison continues to invest in the latest technology to provide the South African market with excellent quality product, produced cost effectively which, in turn, provides a platform for their customers to produce finished products that can compete with the best in the world. Once the Piet Retief plant is commissioned, PG Bison will be manufacturing all its products using latest technology, which allows it to compete internationally.

The project will be completed in two phases. The first phase is the installation of the German-built Siempelkamp continuous press and forming line, as well as new board handling systems and sander upgrade. Also, included in this phase is a Vyncke energy plant. The first phase will immediately increase the plant’s capacity to 680m³ per day.

“The new line will not only give us additional capacity, but we will also significantly improve the quality of the board,” says Brand Engelbrecht, PG Bison’s manufacturing executive.

The second phase entails an upgrade to the raw material preparation and drying equipment. “Plans are already well advanced to complete the second phase which will further increase the plant’s capacity to 1000 cubic metres per day,” says Engelbrecht.

Along with the new BisonBord line, a new melamine faced board (MFB) press is being installed at Piet Retief to bolster PG Bison’s capacity. This will assist in ensuring better lead times to the market for PG Bison’s MelaWood range and is scheduled to start producing upgraded boards in February this year.

“The new MFB press will increase PG Bison’s MFB capacity by 21% and give us the opportunity to provide shorter lead times to the market and a wider variety of products” says Justin Berry PG Bison’s sales executive. “This will enable our customers to provide more choice to their customers with a shorter lead time.”

In addition to this MFB press, PG Bison has already purchased an additional MFB press. This press is already in the country and will be installed as demand for MelaWood; SupaGloss and BisonLam increases. “Service to our customers is a key consideration” says Berry. “We wanted to make sure we are always able to service the market efficiently and effectively, and can respond quickly to any increase in demand.”

Another milestone for PG Bison in 2017 will be the celebration of 50 years of board manufacturing in South Africa.
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R3 – 3mm Profile

R4 – 4mm Profile

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Don’t miss the PG Bison Road Show coming your way

Plans are well under way to make 2017 an exciting year for PG Bison customers, beginning with the PG Bison Gallery One Road Show to 11 major centres across South Africa and Namibia.

PG Bison will be show-casing its latest product offerings and sharing news, plans and initiatives for the year ahead with its customers. The road show will kick off at the end of January and run up to March as it makes its way across the country.

On show for the first time will be three all-new and exclusive MelaWood designs as well as a brand new MelaWood finish. These will join PG Bison’s MelaWood collection in February 2017. The three designs are:

- Cannero: a modern take on a classic wood grain
- Normandy: a natural veneer look, and
- Maidenwood: a bold smokey-charcoal straight grain.

After the success of the deep textured Linear finish and matt Natural Touch, PG Bison will introduce a brand-new finish, Fusion. This finish offers a soft matt texture, complemented with an overall pore structure. This new texture suits a wide range of both the new and more mature designs and brings MelaWood even closer to the look of real wood.

The new Fusion finish will offer PG Bison customers even more products with which to differentiate themselves in the market.

Also on show will be four new Formica LifeSeal worktop colours and a new tighter radius for gloss tops. In these tough economic times, Formica LifeSeal worktops are making more sense for both the customer and kitchen installer. Their sleek, new square edge and modern designs provide a fashionable, elegant, and affordable offering and are the perfect solution for new kitchens or quick and convenient kitchen facelifts.

The road show will also highlight MelaWood SupaGloss and MelaMatched, PG Bison’s matching 3mm carcass backing board for its MelaWood range.

If you are interested in attending the PG Bison Gallery One Road Show in your area, contact Daniella on 073 202 8303 / 011 781 0439 or email pgbison@campbellandcampbell.co.za

![MelaWood Designs](image)

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Normandy  
Maidenwood
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Something to PUR over from Kleiberit

If the cost of converting your edgebander, or uncertainty in demand have swayed you against putting polyurethane reactive (PUR) adhesives to the test, now there’s a cost-effective, waste-free way you can process small runs with perfectly sealed edges.

Kleiberit PUR adhesives produce edge banded boards with edges that are totally sealed, water and moisture-proof, heat-resisting and have nearly invisible joints.

Brady Larkan of Kleiberit says there are two main reasons why board upgraders are hesitant to make the move to PUR adhesive. Firstly, without a robust commitment to either buy a new edgebander that’s fully equipped for processing with PUR, or substantially modifying your existing edgebander, you can’t try it out and check the results for yourself. Secondly, even if you went to the expense of adding heated nozzles, application equipment and closed systems to your present machine, there’s no certainty you’d have enough demand to justify the investment.

Well, you’ll be pleasantly surprised to learn that now there is a way around these challenges: a way that enables you to buy small quantities of whichever PUR formulation you need for a specific short-run job and keep the PUR you don’t use without fear of it curing before you need it next. And you can do this without the cost of modifying your existing edgebander.

“We are now able to offer our customers all the benefits of a PUR adhesive in a format that enables them to apply it using standard gluepots,” says Larkan. “It’s available in small quantities for testing, or for small jobs that might otherwise result in a lot of waste. And, because we’re able to supply it in aluminium cartridges, it’s guaranteed that the unused adhesive left in the cartridge will not go off.”

Kleiberit has introduced various of its PUR 707.0 grades in 270g cartridges that cover most edge banding operations, along with a kit comprising a pre-heater, a cleaner and a couple of different application guns for transferring the melted PUR into the gluepot of the machine. The nozzle of the cartridge can be sealed after use with Kleiberit grease 883.1 to prevent moisture ingress so any remaining glue can be used later.

“The cartridge looks and works much like a tube of silicone and it contains enough of the product for you to be able to test it and assess its suitability without waste,” says Brady. “The cartridges are also ideal for workshops that only have an occasional need for PUR and don’t have the demand for bulk stock in granulate form. If you want a white-coloured PUR to bond a white edge to a white board, we can give you the facility to create a zero glueline on your own machine without modifying it using standard PUR,” says Brady. “If you want transparent, we can offer transparent.” With gluepot and roller temperatures set between 120 and 130 degrees C, production can be run as normal. Target coating weights should be in the region of 100-120gsm for MDF and 120-150gsm for chipboard.

The idea of running PUR in a standard machine has been around for a long while but Kleiberit has now perfected the way to do this efficiently. “We decided there was a better way,” says Brady. “When you open any PUR package, it starts to cure. Using our cartridges, if you only want to use a small amount, you only put a small amount in the gluepot. The rest remains sealed in the cartridge and without air it will not cure. The cartridge prevents it from curing, so it’s good for your next project - even if that’s weeks away.”

The local suppliers of Kleiberit products are Austro Woodworking and Hüster Machinetool Company.

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Biesse AirForce system. The zero glue-line evolution!

Have you ever had the opportunity of seeing a panel edgebanded on four sides with a bonded edge, without using glue?

The demand for invisible “zero glue line” products is increasing rapidly in Europe, North America, and in other parts of the world. This trend is slowly starting to take hold in South Africa as architects and specialist furniture designers realise the enormous advantages it has over traditional methods.

Marco Cipriani, product specialist for edge-banding at Biesse, says “The quality can’t be questioned. No argument. It beats any aesthetic standard.” The colour continuity between the edge and surface gives a finish more aligned to a painted panel than a plastic edge. This kind of appearance has been described as a zero glue-line and should be the goal for any manufacturer producing high-end kitchen cabinet doors or any visible component for a top-quality piece of furniture.

Cipriani took a break from winter in Italy to visit Cape Town recently and met up with local representative Chris Hugo of Austro who hosted a meeting with Cipriani and Wood SA to discuss the latest developments in edge banding, and to demonstrate the Akron 1400 series that is equipped with Biesse’s AirForce hot air edge-banding system.
Air Force System, available on the Stream A, is based on the physical principle of convection. By using a compressed hot air system, the edge bonds perfectly with the panel, guaranteeing resistance to water and heat and an excellent long-lasting quality finish.
Biesse AirForce system. The zero glue-line evolution!

Cipriani explained that until recently, laser or plasma technology was the only way to go, but then at the Ligna show in 2013 Biesse introduced the AirForce system. “The simplicity and the cost of the AirForce System is far lower than laser systems, its maintenance and operating costs are not comparable. The quality of the panels processed with an AirForce System is even slightly better than that achieved with other systems.

“It is resistant to water, humidity and peel, providing the same standard as that of the laser processes. This process also offers benefits that including anti-bacterial properties that makes it a great solution for restaurants, health-care environments and public facilities,” he said.

The AirForce system uses an edge-tape that is co-extruded with an active layer that is colour matched. This layer is a thin coating of polyurethane reactive (PUR) adhesive. Rather than applying thicker hot-melt glue as is the norm in traditional edge-banders, the new system uses super-heated compressed air, delivered through a series of heating elements. The hot air is shot onto the reactive layer of the tape and this activates the adhesive, which is then pressed into the substrate to create a seamless bond and a continuous smooth surface.

Cipriani continued: “A key constraint of this system was the availability of the co-extruded edge-tape required for the hot air systems. Edge-tape and machine manufacturers and academic researchers have always worked closely together, and this raised the bar for them to develop easy-to-use and affordable solutions for the machines, adhesives, boards and edge-tape materials.”

Chris Hugo of Austro agreed and added: “This has been achieved and there is a ready supply of the...
edge-tape available on the local market. “Considering the increased accessibility of the edge-tape, it’s easy to see why the “AirForce” edging system is attracting interest and is gaining in popularity.”

Hugo continued: “Biesse’s edge-banders, such as the Akron 1400 series, are equipped with both, the usual hot melt glue pot and the AirForce hot air system. Perfect binding with EVA can be used for standard edging operations and carcass work. For joinery requiring continuously smooth surfaces the “AirForce” system can be used to achieve the zero glue-line.” After gluing is complete, the rest of the edge-bandng process proceeds according to the customer’s requirements, such as end cut saws, trimming units, and finishing and corner rounding units.

The good news for Biesse customer’s is that Austro can retrofit some of the existing edge-banders with the “AirForce” System, if the machine in question is no more than a couple of years old. “We generally recommend any established manufacturer with the volumes and who are on their second or third edgebander to go for a “zero glue-line” edge machine the next time around. Start-ups and new companies should rather wait to see whether it will be cost effective for them, or plan ahead by buying a machine, such as the Biesse Jade that can be upgraded at a later stage,” explained Hugo.

The AirForce technology is making it possible for companies to at least consider getting into the market. “We believe that seamless zero glue-lines are the future,” said Cipriani. “It started with high-gloss kitchens several years ago, and it has now also made its way into the office furniture market. It’s such a great look and as more people see demand will grow”.

Our Leitz’s approved service centres are equipped to handle a variety of specialised tasks, from enlarging the bore on saw blades to altering tooth configuration.
Ligna 2017 focuses on integration across value chains

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

Ligna is on track for success. In fact, compared with the same stage in the planning cycle for the last show, we are well ahead in terms of booked space,” comments Christian Pfeiffer, the director in charge of Ligna at the exhibition space, Deutsche Messe.

“For this show we are partnering with the German Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers’ Association and our regular exhibitors to develop a new thematic layout that reflects the changing ways in which customers of all sizes use woodworking and timber processing technology. And I’m pleased to say the initiative has really paid off.”

Exhibitor locations at the show are now based on salient aspects of technology use, giving rise to completely new display clusters. Visitors will benefit considerably from this revamped layout plan, which is designed to make their visit more efficient by giving them quick, convenient access to the themes that matter most to them.

Repeat exhibitors with a significantly greater footprint in 2017 include Biesse, Bürkle, Cefia, Felder, IMA, SCM and UNIMAK. Also among their number will be Festool, which will be represented at two separate stands. But it’s not just repeat exhibitors who have put Ligna’s organizers in an upbeat mood: This year will also feature numerous first-time exhibitors, such as RS Wood from Italy, Aigner-Werkzeuge from Austria and Vector Systems from New Zealand.

Newcomers in the surface technology display area also include many internationally renowned companies, such as Intergroup Plastik (Turkey), Unison (Poland) and IVM Chemicals (Germany).

The wood-based panel production, sawmill technology and energy from wood displays will include repeat exhibitors like German companies Akzo Nobel, Brüninghaus Verpackungssysteme and Heizomat, and Italian company Itipack. Well-known first-time exhibitors include Scheuch Ligno (Austria), Rotodecor (Germany) and Signode Industrial Group (Sweden).

The central focus of the upcoming show will be on intelligent concepts for integrated manufacturing across all links in the wood processing chain. Integrated manufacturing opens major opportunities for companies seeking to develop new business areas, boost productivity and build their competitive edge. Ligna 2017 will highlight the close interplay between and ongoing integration of the virtual and real worlds – across the entire value chain of the timber processing and woodworking industries.

Other big highlights at this year’s show include a comprehensive display of solutions for processing plastics and composites, a series of training courses for joiners, cabinetmakers, carpenters and mobile assemblers and installers, the Wood Industry Summit and the “Fibers in Process®Ligna” showcase. “Fibers in Process®Ligna” is a technology transfer event in two parts – one featuring processes and technologies from the pulp and paper industry that are relevant for the wood industry, and the other featuring materials made from paper, pulp and wood.
Interzum 2017: A must see for furniture manufacturers, designers, and architects

Interzum is the world’s leading trade fair for furniture production and interior design, and the products that are presented at Interzum lay the foundation for the interior designs of the future:

From 16 to 19 May, more than 1,600 exhibitors will present their products in 10 Halls in an area covering 180,000 square metres. There will be a mind-blowing array of furniture and cabinet components, board products, consumables, hardware, designs, solid wood, and software to experience.

The event is held every two years and is a global meeting point for creatives, architects and designers who are looking for inspiration, new markets, and international marketing possibilities for their products. Whatever your challenge the solution can be found at Interzum.

The exhibition will be divided into three sections: Upholstery materials and machinery, function and components, and materials and nature.
Holzher’s Auriga 1308XL and Sprint 1329 edge-banders are equipped with hybrid technology that allows the user to select either the traditional hot-melt adhesives or the Glu-jet polyurethane reactive (PUR) system that offers flawless finishes with all edge-band types.

“These edge-banders have what it takes,” says local supplier Hüster Machinetool Company. “The machines are among the most widely sold edge banders in the world because the zero joint edition models are leaders when it comes to repetition accuracy and automation levels.”

The Holzher Glu-jet system offers simple and reliable application of PUR adhesive to produce the high-strength, watertight connection with a zero-joint finish.

The highly viscous PUR adhesive is forced into the panel pores under high pressure, creating a strong hold between the edge and the carrier material. The scraper in the nozzle comb ensures that the adhesive can be distributed from the ‘mountain’ into the ‘valleys’ during pressing at the pressure unit, thus creating a razor-thin joint scarcely distinguishable from the joint quality achieved when laser edging.

Starting with the state-of-the-art, high gloss edging right up to solid wood edging with extremely high cross sections, Holzher explains that it remains unequalled in terms of appearance regardless of the material.

“The PUR adhesive offers the best visual appeal with all edge materials. PUR adhesive binds chemically and, after hardening, can no longer be re-activated like ethylene vinyl-acetate (EVA)-based hot melt adhesives, for example. This explains the water tightness of PUR. You simply cannot get a stronger connection between panel and edge with other types of adhesive.”
To add to the Holzher advantages it is easy to clean the gluing station by simply pressing the flush button to release a special, widely available PUR neutraliser.

The Sprint 1329 edge bander is a highly versatile machine that delivers top quality zero-joint products. It is ideal for companies small to medium sized companies. The Auriga 1308XL is an efficient and automatic machine that offers high productivity while remaining compact and affordable. It is equipped with NC servo-axes, which makes it unnecessary to open the machine hood. Standard features include three finishing units: the radius scraper, flat scraper and buffing units.

Hüster Machinetool Company summarises the benefits of the two edge banders:

- Top quality edged boards are produced
- Zero-joint finish is achieved with PUR adhesive
- High-strength adhesive connection
- Watertight quality due to chemical binding with the substrate
- Boards have high heat resistance
- The machines and adhesive systems are simple to clean

We are pleased to announce the commissioning of the first 6 foot wide high gloss production line in Southern Africa.
Salvocorp adds FunderMax and Laminam to its product portfolio

The professional supplier of a select range of market leading acrylic and quartz surfaces, veneer paper foils, and specialty papers, Salvocorp, has been appointed by FunderMax and Laminam to represent their products in southern Africa.

Salvocorp’s suppliers and clients hold the company in high regard and managing director, Simon Daniels, says “Our reputation has grown and this is evidenced by us being awarded two new agencies in the past six months. This is an exciting time as we now offer the top surface solutions for the commercial, shop fitting and high-end residential markets.”

Salvocorp represents the following leading brands in southern Africa: Staron solid surfaces, Perago quartz surfaces, Fundermax laminates, Laminam sheet ceramics, Décor-in-Printing papers, Likora veneer paper foils, and Munkjo specialty papers.

The company’s head office is in Johannesburg and it services the lower section of sub-Saharan Africa from this base, and its branches in Cape Town and Nairobi.

Daniels cut his teeth with Likora veneer paper foils. Seven years ago, the recession, introduction of the National Credit Act, and increasing competition in the bottom end of the market convinced him that it was time to expand. “I decided to take a calculated risk and to widen Salvocorp’s products, services and client base. The timing was right and the company grew as the economy improved,” explains Daniels. “The addition of high-end residential and commercial applications allowed us to diversify the business.”

Salvocorp’s focus over the last five years has been on becoming the leading supplier of the highest quality of solid surfaces to the commercial sector. The company has successfully completed numerous commercial projects. These include solid surfaces for the iconic new Sasol head office in Sandton, Cresta Shopping Centre, Menlyn Mall, and Mall of Africa, to name just a few.

“We know that our competitive edge lies in the strong relationships we build with our clients and principals. Jean Bezuidenhout, the solid surfaces sales manager, has played a significant role in building this trust. No business can survive if it cannot trust its suppliers, and the people in our sales and technical teams are all passionate about good service. To this end, we carry vast volumes of stock for our clients and go out of our way to assist them.”

It is essential to manage risk and to keep a finger on the pulse of international trends and technology developments, says Daniels. The huge advances in the materials and manufacturing processes of solid surfaces, panels and finishes present market opportunities for established organisations like Salvocorp.

Finishes are as important as the foundation when it comes to building, renovating, or redoing any space. Daniels says it’s the detail that turns a bathroom into a sanctuary, the kitchen into a culinary playground or retail or office spaces into a cutting-edge environment.

“At Salvocorp we understand the value of top quality finishes and use our technical knowledge, passion and experience to bring you a range of interior and exterior finishes that bring your vision to life. We are supply chain specialists and can offer everything from basins, tub decks and counter tops to furnishing finishes and specialised papers. We give our clients what they want because we know our products well and provide technical support, feedback and demonstrations.”

Salvocorp’s sales staff and accredited installer network are highly trained and experienced and are devoted to exceeding its customers’ service expectations.

York appoints interim chairperson

The Johannesburg Stock Exchange listed wood manufacturer, York Timber has appointed Dinga Mncube as acting chairperson, with immediate effect.

He takes over the reins from Dr Jim Myers, who has undergone an operation and will be recovering. Mncube is an independent, non-executive director at York. He will also assume Myers’ responsibilities on York’s remuneration and nomination committee, chairing the nominations discussions.
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Living Space is set to take cut & edge to the next level

Entrepreneurs, Melanie and Rodwell Walker, embarked on the next stage of their board upgrading business in January, when they opened the doors to their own premises in Maitland Park, Cape Town.

"We are proud to be able to welcome clients to our new factory and would like to thank them for using our services and helping us get to where we are today," says Melanie, who is the owner and managing director of Living Space Home Improvements.

The company provides a professional board upgrading and cut-and-edge service to shop fitters, kitchen and cabinet manufacturers, installers, and furniture makers. For the past four years Living Space operated from the Furtech business incubator in Paarden Eiland, and the timing of the move had to be carefully coordinated so that there was minimal impact on their customers’ orders.

To do this they had to ensure that their Altendorf panel saw and Smartek edge-bander were delivered and commissioned, and the factory was ready for production late last year. The heavy duty and accurate panel saw was supplied by CPB Import Export Woodworking Machinery, and the edge-bander by CMC Woodworking.

"Our customers are our first priority and we worked hard to ensure that the factory is operating smoothly and producing the high quality board components they expect," explains Melanie. "We are now busy with phase two, which is to design and manufacture our reception area and show room."

Rodwell is a qualified cabinet maker with many years’ experience in designing, specifying, making and installing solid wood furniture, cabinets and joinery of the highest quality. He is drawing on this expertise to design and build the reception area and show room.

"We want our clients to feel welcome and cared for when they enter our doors," he explains. "This means there will be no uninviting high counter acting as a barrier between the client and us. "We will offer an innovative space and professional service to conduct business," explains Rodwell.

The team that makes it possible, from left: The highly experienced operator of the Altendorf panel saw Mxolisi “Boy” Ndza, Jimmy Dola, Thembelani Kupiso, and Henry Arendse who operates the Smartek edge-bander.

Rodwell of Living Space puts the edge-bander through its paces in the well stocked and highly organised factory.
“Our competitive advantage is our technical and product knowledge, personalised service and ability to communicate with our clients to give them what they need. In addition, we have excellent lead times of between two and three days for most orders because of the attention to detail and passion for quality of our production team: Boy Ndzala, Henry Arendse, Thembelani Kupiso and Jimmy Dola.

Living Space was established in 2013 when Melanie and Rodwell applied to Furntech to join the incubation programme. Their application was successful and they were accepted on the programme in February 2013. For a percentage of their monthly turnover, Furntech provided Living Space with access to a fully equipped workshop, a private and lockable unit for storing boards and consumables, office space and a business coaching and technical mentoring service.

Their initial focus was on designing and manufacturing bespoke, high value solid wood furniture for up-market clients. By November that year Rodwell’s reputation for producing furniture of the uppermost quality was growing. However the unreliable availability of good quality wood, rising costs of raw materials and consumables, and the time it takes to make and finish high quality hand crafted solid wood furniture, took its toll.

Melanie explains that the biggest problem facing a start up business is cash-flow. “Rodwell and I are both risk averse and we did not want to fall into the trap of having to service loans while the business is in its infancy. Our philosophy is to always build good relationships with our suppliers and to keep all our accounts paid up."

The Walkers embarked on a plan of action to explore alternatives and test new value propositions. In February 2014 Living Space rebranded itself and entered the cut-and-edge board and cabinet supply market. Almost overnight their turnover increased markedly and within a month they employed full time staff members.

“We would not be where we are today if it was not for Furntech’s incubation programme and marketing assistance from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda). We are now ready to take our company and service to the next level.”
Growing local economies through incubation

The concept of wealth creation through incubation is an internationally recognised business support process that facilitates economic development by improving the entrepreneurial base.

This is achieved through the provision of infrastructure, a variety of business support services and networking opportunities. The seven – soon to be more - incubation centres for the furniture and wood products sector are managed nationally by the Furniture Technology Centre Trust (Furntech).

Chief executive of Furntech, Michael Reddy, says incubation is an excellent vehicle that serves as a catalyst for accelerating, nurturing, and growing new and existing small businesses by supporting them through the early stages of development and change.

“The primary goal of incubation centres is to facilitate economic development by improving the entrepreneurial base of a local area, town, province, country, or sector through the provision of infrastructure and a variety of business support services,” says Reddy.

“Furntech is more than just a protected environment or location for small and emerging entrepreneurs; we are also a professional school for woodworking artisans,” Reddy explains. “The organisation is supported by national and local government stakeholders to empower start up and emerging entrepreneurs who have a project idea or have created their own business.”

Furntech chief operating officer, Iegshaan Ariefdien, adds: “We provide individual and business coaching and mentoring that includes management guidance, technical assistance and business and entrepreneurial support tailored to the unique needs of each client in our programme. This is the main way to move an entrepreneur from an idea or start-up phase to an exit point where the business can survive in the open market.”

The emphasis is on developing previously disadvantaged individuals, youth and women owned enterprises. Reddy says the objective of incubation programmes the world over is to meet economic and socio-economic needs. This includes:
- Creating jobs and wealth;
- Poverty alleviation;
- Fostering a community’s entrepreneurial climate;
- Diversifying local economies;
- Building or accelerating growth of local industry clusters;
- Business creation and retention; and
- Revitalising local communities and neighbourhoods.

Furntech has grown exponentially since its establishment in 2000 and it has gained international recognition for its incubation programme. Ariefdien says that over the years Furntech has graduated more than 50 small businesses, and that since 2013 the following businesses have been among the most successful clients:

Successful Furntech Durban graduate: Glo-Sales Network specialises in upholstered furniture
M-Club Award

Furntech runs several incentive programmes for its clients, including the Furntech Client Recognition Initiative. In 2015, Furntech implemented the Millionaire Club (M-Club) Award to acknowledge its incubation clients that have achieved outstanding performance in their businesses and their turnover.

The initiative is based on a client’s turnover performance over a single financial year and is recognized according to the following tiers:

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<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Turnover of between R1-million – R1 999,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Turnover of between R2-million – R2 999,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Platinum</td>
<td>Turnover of R3-million plus</td>
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Clients that meet the requirements receive a certificate; trophy; and place on the Furntech Honours Board for five years.

The 2015 Inductees were:
1. Living Space Home Improvements cc
2. Glosales Network t/a NK Designs
3. V and H Bono Furniture

The 2016 Inductees were:
1. Gulp PTY Ltd
2. Living Space Home Improvements cc
3. Glosales Network t/a NK Designs

An example of work by Furntech graduate, Living Space
In 2016 both states' agriculture departments confirmed multiple incidents of two different species of Chinese bugs in rustic, whole-log furniture. The brown fir beetle was found in rustic pine log furniture imported from China, while the velvet long horned beetle was discovered in rustic walnut log furniture, wrongly described as hickory, also from China.

The problem appears to be that the log furniture was never properly treated before being shipped from China. Insects are unlikely to survive in treated lumber, boards or composite wood. But untreated whole logs are the perfect long-distance travel mode for the wood-boring beetles that can live for up to two years in the furniture.

John Myers a journalist at the Duluth News Tribune, wrote that the brown fir beetle was found in furniture purchased online in 40 different states, leading to a national effort by the US Department of Agriculture to track down the buyers – with hundreds, perhaps thousands of pieces of furniture potentially carrying the bug.

Rustic log furniture imported from China into the USA states of Minnesota and Wisconsin has been found to be infested with invasive insects that could damage native trees.

US consumers advised to be cautious when buying imported log furniture
The importing company cooperated and recalled the furniture, authorities made sure it was properly destroyed, and most consumers received a refund.

The velvet long horned beetle was found in tables, chairs, dressers and beds bought in Minnesota and Wisconsin but sold through multiple retailers, making it harder to round up all the potentially infested furniture. USDA officials intend to expand their authority to regulate log furniture as a potential high-risk invasive species pathway.

Both bug species have been found in multiple species of trees, making them potentially dangerous to Minnesota and Wisconsin forests and urban trees.

The brown fir beetle is believed to be a warmer-weather species and probably not as big a threat. But the velvet long horned beetle can withstand colder weather and already has been found on some wild trees in Minnesota, and appears to be able to live in many species of trees.

The bugs aren’t a threat to people but, if they escape, could begin to damage urban and forest trees much like the emerald ash borer, also a Chinese import believed to have arrived in Michigan via wooden packing crates more than a decade ago. That insect has since spread, mostly by people moving wood, to dozens of state and provinces and has killed millions of ash trees.

Like the emerald ash borer, the two new bugs start in the worm-like larval life stage, feeding under the bark and causing internal damage to trees. They emerge as adults to disperse and then lay more eggs on the bark of other trees. The eggs hatch, and the new larvae burrow under the bark to start the cycle again.

The Duluth News Tribune advised consumers who own imported rustic log furniture to look for signs of insect infestation and to report it to the authorities:

- Sawdust around the furniture, a sign that insects are active in the wood.
- Visible exit holes, especially small, round tunnels that suggest insects were in the furniture and have burrowed their way out.
- Damage to the wood, such as loose bark with tunnelling underneath, indicating the wood was infested at some time.
Festool launch new generation of compact sanders

Festool, the German manufacturer of power tools recently introduced three new hand-held pneumatic sanders for professional painters.

With their ergonomic design and weighing just 1.2kg, the RTS 400, DTS 400 and ETS 125, can be used to perform sanding tasks significantly faster and easily with minimal effort and with up to 25 per cent higher material removal capacity.

Greg de Villiers, product manager at Vermont Sales, says this improved efficiency is made possible by increasing the power of the tools, from 200 watts to 250 watts. The new connecting sleeve with integrated bayonet fitting can be attached to the extractor connector of the tool and tightened with ease. This enables a long-lasting, robust connection between the mobile dust extractor and the power tool to be established in an instant.

Within the new Airstream charging system, the Airstream SCA 8 rapid charger with integrated cooling function charges the Airstream battery packs significantly faster. It has a charging capacity up to 2,5 times higher than the previous TCL 3 generation of chargers, and informs the user of the remaining charging time via the integrated indicator.

Dust control is an integral part of the Festool system and design philosophy. All Festool products are matched with a comprehensive range of dust extractors. De Villiers says the dust extractors are among the best in the industry, with features not found on other vacuum systems.

“Festool is the only power tool manufacturer in the world with an extraction system that is perfectly adapted to the system tools,” says Greg De Villiers. “As part of their ‘dust-free initiative’ they focus on providing workshops and users with healthy workplaces for all woodworking, be it sanding, cutting, routing and sawing.”

ETS 125 random orbital finish sander

The versatile ETS 125 has a sanding stroke of 2mm, and is the ideal one-handed machine for maximum surface quality when finishing or pre-sanding. Ergonomically formed to fit comfortably in any size hand it is compact and light weight enough for extended vertical and overhead use.

Technical features such as the sanding pad brake and vibration-stop balancing puts the ETS 125 in a category of its own. The Jetstream design delivers highly efficient dust removal, resulting in cleaner air, better finishes, and longer abrasive and pad life.

DTS 400 orbital finish sander

A great all around sander, the DTS 400 is designed for fine sanding small, angular surfaces that are difficult to reach, such as corner and edge finishing. With a short 2mm stroke, this sander gives a super-fine finished surface. Both compact and light weight the DTS 400 is the ideal sander for working on vertical and overhead surfaces.

The true orbital sanding motion allows full pad contact and control to minimize swirl marks and produce smoother surfaces. The StickFix hook & loop design enables fast and easy abrasive changes between grits or to re-use abrasives.

RTS 400 orbital finish sander

A sander well-suited for a wide range of one-handed applications, the RTS 400 is ideal for working on flat, vertical, and overhead surfaces because of its compact design and weight. Like the DTS 400, the step-less variable speed improves working results, and vibration-stop balancing reduces fatigue during prolonged use.

The RTS 400 has a narrow rectangular pad that allows for sanding on edges and frame members. The true orbital sanding motion allows full pad contact and control to minimize swirl marks and produce smoother surfaces. The StickFix hook & loop design enables fast and easy abrasive changes between grits or to re-use abrasives.
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Cool battery system reduces charging time by 65%

Festool’s new and intelligent Airstream charging system reduces cordless tools downtime and allows work to resume 65 percent quicker than traditional battery pack chargers.

At installations sites, battery packs are generally used for various cordless power tools and they need to be ready for work in as short a time as possible. Unplanned for delays can happen if you do not have a spare battery ready and need to wait until the empty energy store is charged again.

Since batteries heat up during intensive use – particularly on hot summer days – they need to cool down before they can be recharged.

“Every minute a battery cannot be used at installation or construction sites is wasted time, and time is money. It also puts pressure on everyone, which can lead to mistakes on the job. With our new Airstream technology, our high-performance battery packs are ready to use again in a much shorter period, explains Festool product manager Jürgen Zehnder.

The new chargers can also charge the 12V, 15V and 18V Li-ion battery packs,” says Zehnder. “One particular benefit is that the new 5.2Ah Airstream Li-ion batteries fit all our current 18V products, including the powerful TSC 55 cordless plunge circular saw, the practical HKC 55 cordless circular saw, the extremely lightweight BHC 18 cordless hammer drill, the flexible T18+3 cordless drill and the powerful Quadrive PDC cordless percussion drill.”

Greg de Villiers, product manager at Festool’s local supplier, Vermont Sales, explains, “The rapid charging capacity is provided by an entirely new cooling concept developed by Festool: When the Li-ion battery is charging, cool surrounding air is sucked in by the air intakes on the side of the battery pack. The air flows through an encapsulated cooling channel and cools the batteries.”

There are flexible options to choose from:
- The Basic variant excludes the battery pack and charger
- The Energy variant lets users combine the new rapid chargers SCA8 or TCL6 with a battery pack, i.e. either the new 5.2Ah Airstream or the 2.6Ah Compact battery pack
- The Set variant is the complete package.

De Villiers explains that after purchasing and registering the tool, customers are automatically entitled to:
- Repairs carried out and wear parts replaced free of charge for the first 36 months,
- a new replacement tool in the event of theft for the first 36 months,
- a 15-day money-back guarantee and
- a 10-year guarantee of the availability of spare parts.
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