

## IN BRIEF

**Bavarian style**

MAKA UK is holding a three-day open house on June 3-5, with the final two days devoted to the woodworking sector. The event will feature live demonstrations of the PE70 five-axis CNC router showing the machining of curved windows, handrails and stair components. A Bavarian theme will include sausage stalls, and women dressed in traditional costume serving beer.

**Stenner decision**

An announcement on the future of sawmill manufacturer Stenner is expected to be made following the Ligna woodworking show in Germany. Stenner has been in administration since March 16 after the business found itself with insufficient orders (TTJ March 21/28).

**Italian machinery**

The Italian woodworking machinery manufacturing industry suffered a 56% reverse in orders during the first quarter. Acimall (the Italian woodworking machinery and tools manufacturers' association) said the result, compared with a year earlier, confirms the negative trend seen during the course of 2008. Export orders were down 56% and domestic orders dipped by 50%.

**BASF earnings**

Profits at BASF, whose portfolio includes products for wood coatings and adhesives, more than halved to €958m in the first quarter. Sales dipped to €12.2bn due to persistently weak demand, while restructuring will result in 2,000 jobs cut by the end of 2009.

**Ligna 2009**

The world's leading fair for woodworking machinery and tools, Ligna will take place on May 18-22 in Hannover. TTJ will report the top news from the show in the May 30 issue, followed by a full review in a future publication.

**IMHX 2010**

So far 140 exhibitors have signed up for leading materials handling exhibition IMHX 2010 at Birmingham NEC. The March 2-5 event will also showcase racking and shelving, warehousing, pallet equipment and software solutions.

# Howie boosts kilning with £1.1m investment

HOWIE FOREST PRODUCTS has nearly doubled its kilning capacity thanks to a £1.1m investment in four new kilns at its Kenmuir Sawmills site.

The investment, part of an ongoing development programme at the mill, sees kilning capacity increase from 110,000m<sup>3</sup> to 200,000m<sup>3</sup> a year.

The Italian-made Mahild kilns, which are fired by Howie's own wood-fuelled boilers, give the company four new kilning chambers each with a capacity of 260m<sup>3</sup>.

They feature the "Ecovent 11" heat recovery system which, says Howie, transfers heat from exhausted warm air to incoming cold air, significantly cutting the energy they need.

They also include radio transmitting moisture sensors, which



Howie's new kilning technology at Kenmuir Sawmills

are claimed to be more reliable than the silicon cabled variety, and give consistent readings up to 85°C.

In a UK first, the kilns additionally have radio transmitting probes which monitor that core temperatures of the timber reach 56°C in line with the

ISPM 15 international plant health rules. In tests, says Howie, this has proved to be accurate to within +/-0.1°C.

Howie is also now installing a system to control all its existing equipment from one PC so that controlled heat can be delivered to each kiln as required.

## Dixon adds second Striebig

DIXON TIMBER PRODUCTS of Doncaster has added a second Striebig vertical panel saw to its workshop.

The company, which supplies panel-based furniture to hospi-

tals and primary care centres, bought an Evolution 6224 to replace an elderly Holz-Her saw.

Dixon managing director John Dixon said the older Holz-Her was getting less accurate

and was restricted in terms of what materials could be sawn.

Mr Dixon said another advantage of having two Striebig's operating side-by-side was familiarity, since operators could switch easily between machines to provide cover for sickness and holidays.

Both saws cut MFC, MDF and chipboard panels used as worktops, as well as laminates and solid surfaces.

Dixon increased turnover by 25% in 2008 and said its order book remained "remarkably healthy".



The two Striebig Evolutions operating side-by-side

## HSE clears air on dust issues

DUST EXTRACTION equipment suppliers to the woodworking industry are being given the opportunity to help "clear the air" by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE).

A seminar "Time to clear the air - dust extraction in the woodworking industry" is being held by the HSE in association with the Woodworking Machinery Suppliers' Association at

Uttoxter Racecourse on June 9.

The event is part of a wider HSE campaign; it is "determined" to cut the levels of wood dust which causes asthma by improving standards of dust control.

The HSE also says the campaign holds possible business opportunities for companies that supply LEV (local exhaust ventilation or extraction) machinery.

The seminar will cover basic principles of design for fans, ducting and hoods, the importance of airflow measurement and meters, what service and commissioning mean in practice, what's involved in a 14-monthly thorough examination and test, plus suppliers' legal duties.

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