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bill.willowe@gmail.com

INDUSTRIAL WOODWORKING & PANEL PROCESSING

SEPTEMBER 2023

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CONTROLLING EXPOSURE TO WOOD DUST

WOOD dust exposure is widespread within the woodworking industry, posing respiratory health risks to workers.

The implementation and monitoring of dust control measures required to prevent, or control exposure to wood dust is key to safeguarding the respiratory health of woodworkers.

In line with the hierarchy of controls methodology for reducing dust exposure, efforts are focussed on elimination and controls ahead of the use of PPE as the final option to protect against risks.

For well-controlled workplaces, real-time qualitative and indicative respirable dust monitors, such as the DustCanary TREND 420, can form part of the Engineering and Administrative Controls.

With continuous qualitative monitoring of respirable dust, data provides feedback that these controls, including local exhaust ventilation (LEV), are working as designed in between annual tests and reduces the risk of an undetected incident, which would otherwise increase the risk of dust exposure.

The recently announced nationwide woodworking inspection campaign by the Health and Safety Executive heightens the awareness of health risks from dust exposure.

Supported by HSE's "Dust Kills" campaign, HSE inspectors across Great Britain are visiting businesses in the woodworking industry focusing on

the dangers of respiratory risks from wood dust.

Useful guidance from the HSE referring to workplace exposure monitoring and controls, also mentions the use of real-time devices enabling "instantaneous" measurements of dust for identifying sources of high dust exposure for instance.



In addition to supporting dust control measures, the DustCanary TREND 420 wearable dust monitor provides visibility to hotspots and variability of wood dust exposure on a daily basis to increase confidence in what is happening between periodic compliance dust sampling of inhalable dust.

While compliance limits are focused on inhalable dust (particle size fraction which is caught in the throat and upper lungs), real time monitoring of respirable dust (smaller size fraction which passes deeper into the human lungs) provides a useful indicator of changes in process and exposure conditions.

With recent developments in real-time dust monitoring wearable technology, the practicality of daily dust monitoring is becoming easier, ensuring minimised risk of dust exposure to help create a safe and healthy working environment for woodworkers.

For further information tel DustCanary on 01223 979200.
Visit www.dustcanary.com

A NEW CRITERION - NESTRO DEDUSTERS

ACCORDING to the world-renowned extraction and filter technology specialists, Nestro Lufttechnik GmbH, the development of the company's new generation type - NE J - sets a new standard for the industry, claiming that is the first series of clean air dedusters equipped with IE5 reluctance motors and frequency converters (both made by ABB).

Nestro says that users can save up to 22 per cent on energy costs compared to those using IE3 motors in work places with a variety of processing machines. In this way, the German company is making a significant contribution to climate protection.

The new range features the well-established performance classes 250, 300 and 350 with an operating air volume of up to 9500m³/h and is based on decades of company experience in woodworking, in device technology and in the technology of high efficient fans.

The use of these dedusters for the extraction of various materials pays



off cost-wise for companies in many industries. Nestro says that the NE J verifiably saves:

- Investment costs through indoor installation close to the machine using short pipeline routes only with overall low line resistances.
- Operating costs, thanks to the frequency-controlled IE5 reluctance motor (efficiency above 90 per cent).
- Heating costs through circulating air operation with a guaranteed residual dust content of <0.1 mg/m³ and maintenance costs through an intelligent, certified automatic fire extinguishing system - with no water, or dry chemicals needed.
- The installation and base costs as a mobile plug-and-play device (requiring only power and compressed-air connection plus junction of the pipeline).

For further information visit www.nestro.de

WOODWASTE & DUST EXTRACTION FEATURE - PAGES 6 - 13

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Email us at: bill.willowe@gmail.com

Combined surface/thickness planer

T32

T32: Two in one

The T32 combined surface/thickness planer unites two important operations in one machine, saving space and budget. It offers maximum functionality in the smallest space. Short set-up times between operations make the T32 the ideal machine for users who have to contend with limited space but still expect solid performance from their machine. Whatever the requirements you have in your business, you'll find the perfect planer at MARTIN.



MARTIN

www.martin.info

England and Wales

MWM Markfield Woodworking Machinery Ltd. – www.mwmachinery.co.uk

Scotland

AWMS Engineering Ltd. – www.awmsltd.co.uk

WS Woodmachinery – www.wswoodmachinery.co.uk

Northern Ireland

Electro Tech Machinery Ltd. – www.electrotechmachinery.com

Republic of Ireland

HIGH-TECH MACHINERY Ltd. – www.high-tech.ie

PREMIER FOREST PRODUCTS SHORTLISTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS INDUSTRY AWARDS

LEADING timber supplier, Premier Forest Products is celebrating after being shortlisted within two categories of the annual Timber Trades Journal (TTJ) Awards: Panels Trader of the Year and Softwood Importer of the Year.

The TTJ Awards have been running since 1997 and the 2023 event will also celebrate the 150th anniversary. Winners will be announced in September.

Within the awards, there are voted for and judged categories – the first recognises service excellence and product quality across the timber industry.

Premier Forest's two nominations are voted for categories and voting is

open to customers throughout the supply chain who are invited to vote for up to two companies per category.

'We're very pleased to have been shortlisted for two categories at this year's TTJ Awards. These are the only industry awards voted for by customers, so to be nominated in two categories means a great deal to us as a business,' says Premier Forest Products co-founder and chief executive officer, Terry Edgell.

It shows that the emphasis we place on customer satisfaction is being recognised and the team's hard work and dedication is paying off,' concludes Mr Edgell.

For more information visit www.premierforest.co.uk



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INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW 8: TREND TOOL TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTIONARY ROUTER FOR THE WOODWORKING TRADE

TREND Tool Technology, a leading innovator in time-saving solutions – has announced the release of its latest breakthrough product – the T8 router.

Engineered with precision and designed specifically for tradespeople, the T8 sets a new standard in routing capabilities, providing superior functionality and performance.

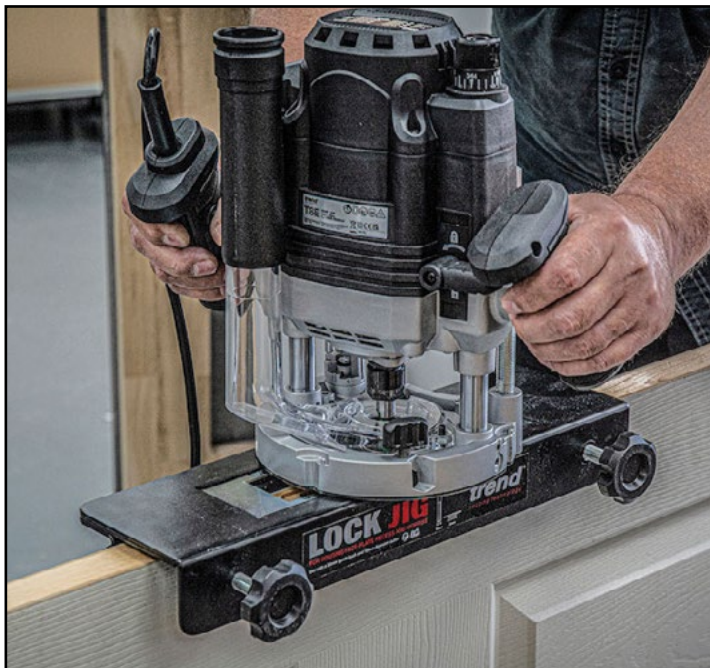
Designed to meet the diverse needs of professionals, the T8 boasts a range of exceptional features that make it the go-to choice for any routing task – whether hand-held, or table-mounted.

Detailed below are just a few of its outstanding attributes:

- 80mm plunge depth – allowing the T8 to excel in deep cutting applications, making it the ideal tool for tasks such as lock jigs, worktop joints and timber profiling.
- Precision Centring System – ensuring perfect concentricity between cutter and guide bush. This innovative technology guarantees pinpoint accuracy when using routing jigs.
- Router table compatibility – the T8 seamlessly integrates with router tables, thanks to its height adjuster that allows for easy and safe changes in cutting height from above the table. This feature enhances efficiency and convenience during routing operations.
- Constant Speed Control – which allows the T8 to continuously monitor the spindle speed and automatically adjusts to maintain optimal cutter speed. This results in smooth and consistent cuts, even in demanding applications.
- 11-level variable speed control feature – to deliver precise control over a wide range of cutters, materials and applications.

- Vertical extraction spout – designed to prevent extraction hoses from snagging on jigs and materials. This practical addition ensures uninterrupted workflow and efficient dust extraction.

- Twin LED work-lights – facilitate working in low-light conditions and illuminate the cutting area, which significantly improves safety and accuracy.
- Extra-wide 75mm base aperture – which allows oversized cutters, such as panel raisers, to be accommodated. This versatility allows for enhanced flexibility in a wide range of routing applications.
- 7-position rotating turret with pre-set plunge depth limits – an innovative design that enables fast, repeatable batch and stepped cutting, thus



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enhancing productivity when being used professionally, or for DIY.

- Micro-adjustable fence with extraction port for accurate edge rebating, grooving and moulding tasks – features adjustable facings and 0.1mm increments to ensure precision and consistency in every routing task. Additionally, the extraction port enhances dust collection efficiency.
- Fine height adjuster with easy-to-read display – allows for precision depth adjustments and offers 0.1mm increments, which guarantees optimal routing results. Every adjuster rotation equals a 2mm height adjustment.
- Trend Base Configuration – a standardised fixing pattern of holes that ensures that the router can be easily attached to a range of compatible router tables, jigs and accessories, thus enhancing its versatility and compatibility.
- Ergonomic inclined handles – which prioritises user comfort and convenience. Integrated with a power trigger and soft grip moulding, the handles offer a comfortable and secure grip during operation, minimising fatigue and maximising control.
- Double locking collet – putting safety at the forefront. This feature prevents accidental cutter ejection, while the multi-spline profile ensures concentric cutter shank clamping, which guarantees secure and reliable operation.

- Moulded carrying case – which provides secure storage for the router and its accessories. This durable case ensures portability and protects the tool during transportation and storage

- Cam-lock system compatible – which ensures quick and seamless transitions between hand-held and table routing. This convenient feature allows users to effortlessly switch between applications.

‘We’re thrilled to introduce the T8 router, which is a game-changer for tradespeople seeking exceptional precision, versatility and performance in their routing tasks,’ says product director at Trend Tool Technology, Andrew Trainer.

‘With its innovative features and superior build quality, the T8 empowers professionals to deliver an unparalleled range of projects, elevating their work to new levels,’ adds Mr Trainer.

The Trend T8 router is now available for purchase through authorised distributors and retailers.

For further information tel Trend on 01923 249911.
Visit www.trend-uk.com/t8-router.



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The Woodwork Dust Control Co Ltd

Leaders in Dust Control Technology

A Complete Wood Waste Extraction Service to all Timber Industries

- ★ Design, Manufacture, Installation
- ★ Large hopper filters, fans, cyclones
- ★ Small bag filters, rigid ductwork, flexible hose
- ★ LEV COSHH testing, assessment, service
- ★ EWI-THERM Wood burning stoves
- ★ Fast nationwide service



Contact us for our FREE product catalogue:

Tel: 01844 238833 Fax: 01844 238899

Email: enquiries@woodworkdustcontrol.co.uk

Web: www.woodworkdustcontrol.co.uk



DUST EXTRACTION WITH OPTIMAL ENERGY USE

ENERGY consumption is a big expense for any factory owner – now more than ever. The perfect dust extraction solution uses just the capacity that's needed in a specific moment, ensuring the lowest possible energy use. With a Modesta filter, this scenario is closer than you think.

In many factories, the biggest source of energy consumption is the dust extraction system. Most filter systems are suitable for the maximum volume required by the factory's machinery, but are not designed to use energy efficiently when the machines are not running at maximum capacity. Switching from a basic 'on and off' extraction system to a modular solution has a quicker return-on-investment than one might think.

Energy-efficiency, usability, safety

A modular system has many financial and technical advantages: for instance, better pressure at modern CNC machines, longer bag life and having all the controls and energy saving equipment in the same easy-to-use control panel as the filter.

A smart filter system will help you reduce energy bills dramatically and contribute to your net-zero energy management strategy. Air to cloth ratios are low, ensuring the lowest operational costs possible.

Furthermore, an energy-efficient system is more likely to qualify for grants. Although an initial investment is required, energy-saving technology results in lower total costs of ownership.

At Modesta, safety is a matter of the utmost concern. All Modesta systems have been designed to withstand explosion pressures of wood dust. Explosion burst panels are mounted clear of the filter bags and on the raw air side.

Optionally these can point upward to allow for a clear explosion zone. ATEX safety equipment like the rotary valve are certified. This means that in an emergency, the rest of the production facility is safe.

Overcoming challenges

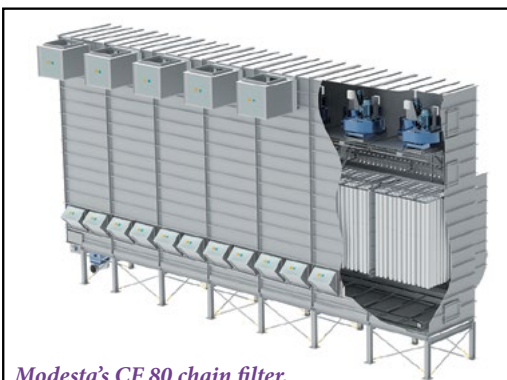
Admittedly, installing and putting to use a new dust extraction system has a big impact on a factory's infrastructure. Replacing, or adding capacity can be challenging. However, it can and should be painless.

At Modesta, working around existing ducting infrastructure to install multiple new main duct runs to machines and avoiding downtime are standard practice.

Modesta has plenty of experience with negative pressure built-in cascading fans. The Dutch clean air specialist has been building these energy-saving systems since the late 1990s and is claimed to be the first to introduce a chain filter with this



Modesta's CF 50 chain filter.



Modesta's CF 80 chain filter.



Multiple duct runs designed for optimum energy efficiency.



Brother and sister, Wyboud and Marianne Kloppenburg are the third generation to lead the Modesta family business.

technology. Modesta's team will gladly advise you on the different options available and tailor the solution to your specific business.

CF50 filter

This new model has been developed especially for medium-sized businesses. The system utilises multiple smaller fan sets (up to 7.5kW) installed on the clean side of the system.

This negative pressure filter is cleaned offline, for instance during breaks, with a shaker frame system. The square hopper and double Redler chain conveyor have been proven to be efficient since the 1960s.

The beauty of this system is that it has all the "cleverness" of the bigger, higher-pressure systems whilst keeping the investment lower.

The system operates with one control panel monitoring pressure. With the right ducting layout and installation of automatic, or manual dampers/blast gates, the system saves energy effortlessly.

When a machine is turned on, the damper will open and the pressure in the system will drop. The filter reacts accordingly and simply switches on an extra fan. This works the other way around too. Not running your edge-bander? The damper will close and fans will turn off, lowering the energy bill.

The CF50 is mostly suited for business requiring around 20,000 – 50,000m³/h. It only has one integrated control panel, so there's no need for complicated third-party control systems. Return air systems allow for the filtered air to be blown back into the building, making sure warm air is used to heat the factory.

CF80 filter

For higher pressure requirements with operating pressures between 4000 and 5000 pascals, the CF80 provides the right solution. Equipped with compressed air cleaning and fan options up to 37kW, these beasts will really blow you away while keeping an eye on your energy usage and wallet.

Specifically designed for longer duct runs and CNC machines with higher pressure and speed requirements, these systems will achieve what is necessary without breaking the bank on energy costs.

About Modesta

Modesta is a Dutch family business that has been serving some of the UK's biggest interior businesses for years. Run by brother and sister, Wyboud and Marianne Kloppenburg, the company has grown into a full-service business for the wood dust extraction industry.

Working together with family-owned Sheffield and Huddersfield-based partner Extraction Solutions, Modesta provides the best and most energy-efficient extraction possible in the UK.

For further information
visit www.modestafilters.com

FERCELL ENGINEERING PRESENTS “THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION FOR A QUIETER, CLEANER WORKSPACE”

Optimum dust extraction with the new COIMA MPT-Series

FERCELL is a leading supplier of industrial ventilation and recycling systems. With over 40 years' experience, thousands of its solutions are in use every day in the woodworking industry.

Continuously looking to improve and expand its product range, Ferrell presents the COIMA MPT-Series.

Step into the future of dust extraction with the WhisperFlow+ technology – “the ultimate solution for a quieter, cleaner workspace”.

Combining a compact modular design with whisper-quiet operation and inbuilt dust collection storage, this innovative series of dust extraction filter units sets new standards for efficiency and convenience.

Modular versatility

The MPT-Series is designed to adapt to customers' unique needs. Its modular system allows you to configure and expand the unit effortlessly, catering to the demands of a company's evolving projects and seamlessly integrating and delivering unparalleled performance wherever it is needed. Featuring a negative pressure filter, it is designed to run in constant operation.

Space-saving design

The MPT's sturdy construction guarantees long-lasting performance, whilst its space-saving design maximises workspace without sacrificing performance.

Its sleek and streamlined structure seamlessly integrates all proprietary parts into a single tower, freeing up valuable room. Customers' facilities can be kept organised and clutter-free, while they enjoy the benefits of optimum dust extraction.

Silent precision

Experience the power of quiet efficiency with WhisperFlow+ technology. Equipped with innovative noise reduction engineering, it operates at a very low sound output, eliminating noise pollution.

Eco-friendly

The MPT-Series puts you in control with its user-friendly interface, where the system performance can be quickly viewed and

settings can be easily adjusted by the operator in just a few moments.

The fan speed is automatically adjusted based upon system load, ramping up and down as and when machine tools come on and offline. Fan duty is seamlessly and automatically adjusted to minimise energy consumption, noise and maximise filter life.

Powerful dust extraction

Don't let its compact design fool you – the MPT-Series packs a punch when it comes to dust extraction. Equipped with powerful centrifugal fans, it's designed for the transport of clean air at high pressures.

Each fan is equipped with a highly efficient self-cleaning backward bladed impeller and aerodynamically designed inlet. The impellers are both statically and dynamically balanced to ensure very stable and vibration free performance.

Optimised filtration

Its advanced filtration system effectively captures both fine dust particles and larger chips. Removing airborne contaminants, it helps to establish a healthier, cleaner atmosphere.

The filter service life is extended, due to the inlet design, utilising the down flow principle to pre-treat contaminated air, promoting heavier particles to fall into the collection facility, whilst the finest particles are directed to the filter elements.

ATEX equipped

The MPT is fitted with approved explosion membranes, positioned to vent explosion pressure to a safe area, according to EN 14491.

It has been designed and constructed in harmony with EN 1127-1, both UKCA and CE marked to have an internal, dirty, Zone 21 and Zone 22, for the clean air side.

Inbuilt dust collection storage

The MPT features convenient inbuilt dust collection storage capacity, alleviating issues around secondary waste collection arrangements such as skips and trailers.

The storage facility eliminates the hassle of frequent emptying. This means that you can work for longer periods without interruption, boosting productivity and saving valuable time.

Flexible discharge

Each MPT module uses a left-sprung scraper bottom with material discharge to a maximum of three discharge points, providing options for various downstream material handling (trailer loading, or biomass silo loading).

Effortless set-up and maintenance

Setting up the MPT-Series is a breeze. With user-friendly instructions, it can be up and running in no time. Maintenance is equally straightforward, with accessible filters and quick-release couplings, ensuring a seamless experience from start to finish.

Elevate production

Embrace the quiet revolution of dust extraction with the MPT-series and WhisperFlow+ technology. With the perfect blend of modularity, quiet operation, and inbuilt collection capacity, the MPT-Series is designed to elevate customers' production to new heights of performance.



For further information tell Ferrell on 01622 791414.
Visit www.ferrell.com



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FURNITURE MANUFACTURER IS RECEIVING TRIPLE PAY-BACK FROM NEW WASTE EXTRACTION SYSTEM

OFFICE and educational furniture manufacturer, West Sussex Office Furniture has invested in a new waste extraction system from Wood Waste Control, which is instantly paying dividends in improved factory cleanliness, reduced waste and clear financial savings.

The company designs and manufactures ranges of "white label" office and educational furniture sold exclusively to a network of dealerships which apply their own branding. It has grown steadily since its formation in 2004 and last year was its best ever trading year.

West Sussex Office Furniture employs a total of 54 people at its 18,000ft² factory.

The production machinery in its woodworking plant includes two CNC machines, a flat-bed saw and two edge-banders. There is also a separate metal-working plant.

'We use only large sheets of chipboard in our woodworking plant and all items of machinery require dust extraction,' says West Sussex Office Furniture managing director, Ian Hamlett.

'We had a long-standing extraction system with wood burner, but the main burning chamber on the burner had rust holes in it, causing it to smoke excessively. Everywhere was covered in dust and we desperately needed a cleaner working environment,' adds Mr Hamlett.

The company turned to Wood Waste Control (Engineering) Ltd, which has hundreds of successful waste extraction, processing and heating equipment installations across the UK, in Europe, Russia and Africa.

Wood Waste Control specified a much larger extraction system, utilising its WFS 13-2J modular filter unit.

The collected waste is discharged through the filter unit via a rotary valve unit and dropped pressure-free directly into a silo feeding its WWH 25 automatic warm air heater.

In addition, a Reinbold Azr 600 18.5kW shredder chops chipboard off-cuts into small pieces ready for burning in the heater.

'They also added a separate small filter exclusively to extract the small plastic clippings cut off by the edge-bander into separate dust bags so they can go off to landfill,' says Ian Hamlett.

'The installation went very well and Wood Waste Control's installation team was tremendously knowledgeable and helpful.

'The extraction is much more efficient and the factory is now cleaner and tidier, creating a better place to work, which means happy staff and so a happy company. The new system demonstrates our professional approach to working and is also more environmentally friendly.

'Our investment in the new system, including various extras, was £150,000. However, we are now saving well over £30,000 each year on the cost of skips to landfill and forecast a three-to-five year pay-back on our investment, as well as the improvement in working conditions and



Dropping into place: the new Wood Waste Control dust extraction filter is hoisted on to site at West Sussex Office Furniture.

environmental benefits - something which is extremely important both now and in the future.

'We are delighted with the end result and with the work of Wood Waste Control, who did everything they said they would. I would recommend them to anyone,' concludes Mr Hamlett.

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

For further information tel Wood Waste Control Engineering on 01628 525290. Visit www.woodwastecontrol.co.uk

Wood Waste Control

Your complete extraction solution



- dust extraction systems •shredders
- chippers •briquette presses
- warm air heaters

01628 525290

info@woodwastecontrol.co.uk

W W C

WOOD WASTE CONTROL (ENG) LIMITED

www.woodwastecontrol.co.uk

NORDFAB PROVIDES DESIGN & ORDERING CAPABILITIES WITH A SERIES OF STRAIGHT-FORWARD ONLINE TOOLS

HERE Nordfab UK regional sales manager, Lee Darby discusses the company's current position in the very competitive ducting arena, as well as what news and ideas he can offer for customers looking to invest in an extraction system.

What is the company's position in the market and what is the outlook moving forward?

'Over the past 18 months, Nordfab as a company in the UK has gone from strength to strength. We've enjoyed solid growth of 58 per cent from 2021 to 2022.

'A key part of that was a substantial kitchen manufacturer project.

'We are a relatively young company and we are developing at a healthy and sustainable pace at the moment.

'Whilst not being complacent, we have a good number of projects coming up, so we are not seeing any decline, or any issues with Brexit at the moment. So everything's really positive at the minute.

What do Nordfab's online quoting tools mean for customers?

'We typically deal with people who know what they're doing in terms of understanding what they are looking for and how they want it to work – usually, they have hands-on experience.

'Many of the larger suppliers want to deal with a manufacturer direct, so we can speed the process quite a bit using this system.

'We're certainly finding that these online quoting tools have helped us free up some time and create additional efficiencies.

'We have recently introduced a new 3D design tool called the Quick Fit Visual Design Tool. This is available now for all of our buying customers in the UK and in the EU,' explains Lee.

'In simple terms, a customer makes a drawing and takes a PNG image



Managing director of Nordfab Europe, Peter Aberg.

file to it and uploads it to the webpage. Customers select the flow speed and then you can start to build the entire system.

'You just draw the lines using a mouse and then press the 3D button and you see it your drawing visualised in 3D in one minute.

'Then everything is calculated – entire bondings, air pressure losses, clamps, hangers and that is all directly fed into our system to create a bill of materials before an order.

'It's an amazing advantage for our customers to conceive, visualise and create a 3D plan for their ducting, saving time in the process.

'You don't have to have any AutoCAD experience, it creates pressure drops in the system and it then gives you a bill of materials that feeds the information to our online quoting tool.

So within 10-15 minutes customers can have a fully-detailed ducting quote in 3D. The Quick Fit Visual Design Tool is a game-changer and it's available for all of our buying customers in the UK and in the EU.

*For further information tel Nordfab on 0113 273 9400
Visit www.nordfab.com/en*



Nordfab UK regional sales manager Lee Darby, (third from the right), with the Nordfab team at LIGNA.

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RHI AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SOLUTIONS FOR ALL THOSE PRODUCING OF WASTE WOOD

ECS (Environmental Compliance Solutions), based in Staffordshire, offers compliance services specifically to waste wood and biomass boiler operators. Company founder and director, Amy Fielding (pictured) has been working within the waste to energy market since the mid 1990s.

The main focus of the company is supporting participants of the NDRHI (Non Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive), to ensure that they are meeting ongoing obligations to the scheme and relevant environmental regulations. The aim is to adopt a proactive approach and protect their biomass boiler investment.

There are a number of elements to take care of, some of which include: correct fuel reporting, BSL (Biomass Suppliers Listing), fuel quality and contamination, permitting and planning.

Ofgem, the administrators of the RHI scheme, is obliged to ensure that participants adhere to the regulations and ECS are best placed to help with this.

The regulatory requirements for the installation and operation of biomass boilers have tightened up significantly since they have become a popular investment to use on-site generated waste wood and produce energy, rather than sending to landfill. This is to ensure that the fuel used is suitable for the plant design and does not have a detrimental effect on air quality.

There are new fuel quality standards being introduced in April this year and it is essential that operators of biomass boilers can prove that they can meet them. This will either be by applying to Woodsure, who manage the BSL (Biomass Suppliers Listing), or self-reporting to Ofgem. ECS can also assist with waste wood classification.

If you are a participant of the RHI scheme and using waste wood as a fuel, it is important you can demonstrate to Ofgem that the fuel meets the regulations in terms of biogenic content and as listed on the RHI emissions certificate, or environmental permit. ECS works with a highly respected UKAS accredited fuels analysis company, complementing their compliance offering.

Amy Fielding is also part of the REA (Renewable Energy Association) Wood Heat Form Steering Group committee and the Woodsure (BSL) Fuel Quality and Waste Advisory Panel, meaning that she and her colleagues are kept abreast of RHI and environmental policy.

ECS offers a flexible and pragmatic approach towards helping operators of biomass and waste wood boilers, from ongoing support subscriptions to one-off compliance works.

*For further information tel; Amy Fielding on 01785 859225.
Visit www.envirocompliant.co.uk*



JAMES LATHAM CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT OF RYCOTEWOOD COLLEGE COMPETITION

James Latham empowers student creativity by supplying HIMACS and Valchromat for 2023 Rycotewood College competition on colour and curve.

SINCE first importing hardwoods into the UK in 1757, James Latham has been a long-time champion of the British furniture industry.

So, when Rycotewood College in Oxfordshire - one of the country's top institutions for furniture-making vocational training, approached James Latham to support its student competition for the second year running, the company was delighted to accept.

This year the competition challenged the students to focus on the captivating dual concepts of colour and curve within the overarching theme of storage.

In order to assist the students, James Latham donated a quantity of HIMACS and Valchromat, providing them with the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and initiative when working with these non-traditional materials to meet a challenging creative brief.

Following a 10-week entry period, in which 12 Rycotewood degree students participated, judging took place ahead of the college's end-of-year celebratory show in June, where the winning entries were announced.

This year's competition proved to be a showstopper, with a collection of remarkable pieces that perfectly showcased the students' ability to adapt, experiment and transcend traditional furniture design.

Creative Mastery with HIMACS

Joe Fortune, who won the HIMACS category, created a visually striking and artistically ingenious shelving unit for indoor plants.

Pushing the material to its limits, the smooth, delicate twists within the piece, seamlessly joined, demonstrate the thermo-formable nature of the solid surface and its ability to retain its original rigidity post-heating. He went further, using CNC facilities to cut out a series of holes within the curved pieces to evoke the cellular structure of a leaf.

The judges were particularly impressed with the range of different skills displayed. From the seamless curvature, invisible joints and extensive cut-outs, they felt that it demonstrated technical mastery without compromising structural integrity; a remarkable example of how HIMACS can surpass initial expectations, creating visually stunning and



*Benjamin Scott's Entry:
Valchromat storage cabinet.*

some extremely functional features.

'HIMACS's ability to be heated and twisted without visual, or structural compromise proved the perfect material to achieve what was, from the outset, a very ambitious design,' says Joe.

'The results speak for themselves. Personally, I was pleased with the seamless joins I was able to achieve, creating an appealing visual continuity within the finished piece,' he adds.

Unparalleled Versatility for Valchromat

Benjamin Scott was the competition's other winner, using Valchromat to breath-taking effect in a sophisticated storage cabinet.

A stunning fusion of yellow and grey Valchromat with oak, the modern day parquetry on the cabinet has over 1,000 precisely arranged, extensively sanded and polished Valchromat pieces, forming elegant herringbone-patterned panels, showcasing Ben's incredible attention to detail.

The judges felt that the piece truly exemplified the creative potential of Valchromat, representing a massive leap

forward compared to its use in the previous year's competition. Importantly, they also felt that it encapsulated Rycotewood's growing proficiency in working with the material.

'Valchromat's superior sanding and finishing capabilities are remarkable. It outshines alternative materials, effortlessly achieving a flawless surface. Additionally, it retains sharp edges when shaped by hand, offering a more refined look,' says Benjamin.

Raising the Bar

Emma Harris was also commended for her chic drinks cabinet, which combined black HIMACS and solid oak for a cool, contemporary piece of furniture. Attractive, yet eminently practical, the addition of a mirrored interior adds an extra touch of luxury.

The judges praised its refinement and harmonious combination of textures and colours to achieve a cohesive composition. They also felt that it demonstrated Emma's keen understanding of HIMACS' versatility and its ability to complement and enhance other materials.

'We're thrilled to witness the tremendous growth of the students in their ability to work with new materials, as demonstrated through the ambitious and captivating pieces submitted for this year's keenly-anticipated and hotly-contested competition,' says furniture lead at Rycotewood, Josh Hudson, commenting on the success of the competition.

'Partnering with James Latham has been fantastic and our ongoing collaboration allows the students to push their creative boundaries and showcase their talent to the full,' he adds.



Emma Harris' Entry: HIMACS drinks cabinet.

For further information tel James Latham on 01442 849000
Visit <https://www.lathamtimber.co.uk/>

Joe Fortune's Entry: HIMACS shelving unit.



AKZO NOBEL LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AIMED AT ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE CHOICES

Leading industrial wood coatings manufacturer makes it easier to make more sustainable choices

LEADING global industrial wood coatings manufacturer, AkzoNobel has launched a new campaign to help its EMEA customers strengthen their environmental performance and become more sustainable through their choice of wood finishes partner.

Covering the AkzoNobel Wood Coatings and Sikkens Wood Coatings brands, the campaign makes it easier for OEM customers to integrate conscious, sustainability-aware decisions into their businesses.

From better materials to long-lasting coating solutions and smart adjustments along the value chain, AkzoNobel aims to use its expertise and track record of innovation to help customers make the most of opportunities to reduce waste, save energy and reduce their carbon footprints.

'Sustainability is a key topic, but it can be hard to know where to start. Our message is about how we can support our customers to make their business more sustainable,' says regional commercial Director, Wood Finishes and Adhesives EMEA, Alan Hall.

'The campaign goes beyond just coatings. It's about driving change holistically and with accountability - from production to the products and services we offer,' adds Mr Hall.

The campaign is centred around the message that 'It all adds up,' meaning that when it comes to sustainability, every action counts, with actions and initiatives grouped under three key pillars:

- Taking the lead highlights AkzoNobel's own efforts to reduce its carbon footprint across its value chain by 50 per cent by 2030 and set the example to drive positive change.

- Exploring new options focuses on the business's ongoing investments in making its solutions more sustainable, by extending the life of products, reducing waste and maintenance needs and saving energy throughout the value chain. Its Wood Extralife warranty, for example, guarantees protection for up to 12 years for opaque systems and 7 years for translucent systems.

- Sharing responsibility, meanwhile, showcases AkzoNobel's value-led approach to helping customers identify opportunities to reduce their carbon foot-print and make their businesses more sustainable. For example, using LEDs instead of traditional lamps when curing wood coatings can reduce energy consumption by up to 50 per cent.

'When it comes to sustainability, we all have a part to play. As small as individual actions may seem, together they can lead to significant change.

That's why we are always exploring new ways to improve products, applications and processes, throughout the value chain,' says market segment director at Akzo Nobel, Sarah Skinner, speaking on behalf of the company.

'We want to work with our partners to make the wood coatings industry more sustainable for business, people and the planet,' she concludes.

For further information

visit: akzonobel-industrial-woodcoatings.com



To find all the latest news online go to www.industrialwoodworking.co.uk

Email us at: bill.willowe@gmail.com