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# INDUSTRIAL WOODWORKING

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2024

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## LINE UP FOR THE INAUGURAL MATERIALS & FINISHES SHOW GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

THE organisers of Materials & Finishes Show (formerly W Exhibition) have announced a number of new and exciting exhibitors and partnerships for its May 19-22, 2024 event at Birmingham's NEC.

The line-up for Materials & Finishes relaunch event continues to grow. The latest brands who have joined the line-up for the re-launch event include brands, such as AES, Woodmizer, Festool, Leitz Tooling and the Wagner Group.

Barbour ABI, a leading provider of construction intelligence services with over 80 years heritage, will partner with the UK's trade show for the furniture manufacturing and joinery industries this May.

AMA Research, part of the Barbour ABI Group, will produce a detailed KBB and worktops market intelligence report, of which Materials & Finishes Show visitors will be amongst the first to hear the key insights when it is delivered as part of the CPD certified learning programme at the show in May.

'We're excited to support the re-launched Materials & Finishes Show. Our AMA Research brand has delivered vital intelligence to KBB businesses through market reporting and bespoke consultancy for many years,' says Barbour ABI marketing manager, Peter Chesters.

'In this especially turbulent time, we're really pleased to be delivering data-driven insights straight to the businesses that want to ensure future growth at the Materials and Finishes Show,' adds Mr Chesters.

'The CPD certified learning programme is a brand new feature for Materials & Finishes Show 2024 and we are delighted to have the support of Barbour ABI as part of the programme to deliver content specifically targeted at the KBB and worktops segment of the show,' says Materials & Finishes Show event director, David Todd.

'Alongside a raft of legacy W Exhibition



*Materials & Finishes Show  
event director, David Todd.*

and new brands, our visitors will be the first to access the Barbour ABI/AMA Research KBB and worktops insight paper, as well as being able to hear the findings first hand from experts from Barbour ABI at the show. We're looking forward to sharing further details of the partnership in the run up to the event next May,' he adds.

Thousands of the latest products and innovations for the woodworking industry will be under one roof across the four days of Materials & Finishes Show 2024.

Alongside running woodworking machinery, components, materials and technology for the manufacturing and processing phases of materials, paints, coating and finishes will see greater representation at the show, with brands, such as Rubio Monocoat, Natura Onecoat, Amicus UK and UV Group all set to showcase their products in May.

All areas of the material journey, from the initial stages of raw processing through to finishing and component supply for completed products, will be represented at Materials & Finishes Show.

For further information tel Jess Hardisty on 07871 544330.  
Email: [jess.hardisty@montgomerygroup.com](mailto:jess.hardisty@montgomerygroup.com)



19 - 22 May | NEC Birmingham



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# WOOD AWARDS GOLD WINNER - NEW TEMPLE COMPLEX NAMED BEST NEW TIMBER BUILDING

A MULTI-FAITH community complex, designed by James Gorst Architects for White Eagle Lodge – has been announced as the UK's best new timber building, having won the Gold Award at the recently held 2023 Wood Awards presentation evening.

The New Temple Complex, located in Hampshire, is a triumph of sustainable design. Through a celebration of the natural materiality deeply embedded in the area's local history, New Temple Complex is forward looking, yet characterised by peaceful simplicity and serenity.

Open to the public, the building comprises orthogonal, timber-framed pavilions, connected by a cloistered walkway, while facing on to a central courtyard garden. The complex houses a temple, library, chapels, multi-use community hall, public foyer and catering kitchen.

Designed to welcome visitors from all faiths and corners of the world, New Temple Complex takes inspiration from the 16th century Sikh Golden Temple in Amritsar, which features a square plan with entrances on each of the cardinal points.

## A remarkable example of great architecture

An ancient pathway known as "The Shipwright's Way" runs beside the site, passing clay beds and chalk streams, following a Tudor pathway used to transport timber from ancient oak forests to the shipbuilding city of Portsmouth. The building makes use of each of these materials, including ash from the nearby New Forest.

Between engineered timber frames manufactured off-site, facing clay brickwork set within chalk lime mortar and re-use of the concrete



*1:20 section model.*

from the previous building's foundations, the New Temple Complex is a triumph of sustainable design that evokes quiet contemplation and a spiritual connection to the landscape.

Heating is provided by a ground source heat pump, buried in the landscape and powered from a photo-voltaic panel array located on

*A beautiful composition of material and colour - New Temple Complex was recently named best new timber building.*

*(Photograph courtesy of James Gorst Architects – © Rory Gardiner).*



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site, while an innovative raised floor slab provides passive cooling to the internal spaces with fresh air supplied by an underground labyrinth ventilation system.

New Temple Complex was built by Beard Construction with joinery from Kingstown Joinery and the assistance of quantity surveyors, Jackson Coles. The wood supplier was English Woodlands Timber while the structural frame was provided by Pacegrade.

‘On approach, the New Temple Complex is a beautiful composition of material and colour. It’s a remarkable example of great architecture with so many layers, within which timber is used exceptionally well – all with meticulous finishes,’ says principal of Hopkins Architects and lead buildings judge, Jim Greaves.

The glulam domed roof is effortlessly elegant, while the connection to nature is continually considered,’ adds Mr Greaves.

#### Other winners

The Wood Awards building judges – a team of world-leading professionals led by Jim Greaves of Hopkins Architects – visited all 20 buildings shortlisted in the Wood Awards before deciding on the winner, in one of the UK’s most rigorous assessments for any competition.

New Temple Complex beat more than 150 buildings in the UK to claim the Gold Award, as well as winning the Education and Public Sector category.

Other entries including Spruce House & Studio, The Black & White Building, Westminster Hall roof and lantern, the Boathouse, Benenden School, Centenary Hall & Music School, Dragon Flat and Field Station all won their categories and showcased the diverse use of timber, from large commercial offices through to intimate private homes.

‘Congratulations to all the 2023 entrants, especially the team behind New Temple Complex. At Timber Development UK, we spend a great deal of time campaigning, promoting and educating about the role of timber in decarbonising construction, but there’s no substitute for



*The building comprises of orthogonal, timber-framed pavilions, connected by a cloistered walkway.*

showing such wonderful live examples in practice,’ says chief executive officer of Timber Development UK, David Hopkins, whose company organised the Wood Awards.

‘All of the winners and the shortlisted projects exemplify the crème de la crème of British architecture and design. They demonstrate what can be achieved in terms of carbon reduction and design, with no need for compromise when using timber as the main structural material.

‘We hope that this year’s entrants will inspire more designers to work with wood as their primary material and look forward to seeing more entries come forward next year,’ concludes Mr Hopkins.

*For further information visit [www.woodawards.com](http://www.woodawards.com).*

## THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR A CHANGE

**READERS** may have noticed on our Front Page that the title of this magazine has changed from the rather wordy “Industrial Woodworking & Panel Processing” to a snappy replacement title of the more simple “Industrial Woodworking”.

**As is the case with other trade journals the amount of news which filters through to us each month is nothing like the vast volumes that we would receive in previous years.**

**It is for this reason that, with effect from 2024, the magazine will be going bi-monthly, producing 6 issues a year instead of the normal 12 which we have previously been in the habit of producing.**

**Readers and advertisers alike are nevertheless still guaranteed of an excellent content.**

**The publisher himself has notched up his “three score years and 10”. Moving to a bi-monthly format will provide a gradual easing into an active retirement.**

**Readers are assured that the magazine will prevail and will continue to provide them with all the most important news and views from the industry.**

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# PIONEERING EDGE-BANDING MANUFACTURER, CANTISA LAUNCHES DIGITAL EDGE-BANDS EMBRACING ALL THE VERY LATEST TRENDS AND CREATIVITY IN DIGITAL PRINTING

CANTISA'S dedication to innovation and quality has positioned it as an industry leader in edge-band manufacturing. The company proudly claims to be the "pioneering edge-band manufacturer in Spain to adopt digital printing technology" – a milestone that fortifies its status as a leading provider of high-quality edge-bands and further enhances its customer service.

According to Cantisa, in an ever-evolving market, board manufacturers continuously create increasingly complex designs that follow interior design trends, mimicking organic materials and three-dimensional effects on flat melamine. Developing matching edge-bands without digital printing technology would be challenging.

While Cantisa continues to utilise the traditional printing method, which involves cylinders transferring ink to the edge-band, it has also introduced a more streamlined process through digital printing.

With digital technology, the surface is simply scanned and the design is replicated on the edge-band, akin to making a photocopy. This not only reduces production times, but also enhances the quality and fidelity of the final product.

The edge-bands not only mirror the visual appearance of the boards, but also faithfully recreate their texture and level of gloss. This is achieved by configuring the printing process to create reliefs using a cluster of ink droplets. As a result, the relief synchronises perfectly with the design, producing a highly realistic appearance.

Digital printing enables the attainment of a true "perfect match" between the edge-band and the board and all in record time! This agility is crucial for keeping pace with the rapid emergence of new market trends.

Yet, the benefits of digital edge-band printing go beyond matching edge-bands to boards. One of its most remarkable advantages is the ability to print any custom image, or design.

This unleashes a world of creative possibilities. Edge-bands can now feature brand logos, custom drawings, motifs, or replicate various materials with exceptional print quality at 720dpi and full colour.

This technology opens the door to a realm of creativity for designers, allowing them to imbue every piece of furniture and space they create with a unique and distinctive touch, using these digital edge-bands.

In order to further enhance the customer experience and facilitate the creative process, Cantisa stands as the only edge-band manufacturer with a Virtual Edge-band Customiser.

This invaluable tool allows the user to visualise how its edge-bands combine with hundreds of boards from leading manufacturers, enabling the user to explore countless design possibilities.

Additionally, Cantisa offers its convenient Equivalence Search Engine, making it effortless to identify the edge-bands available in stock for each specific board reference.

For further information visit [www.cantisa.es/en](http://www.cantisa.es/en)



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# AXYZ PROVIDES THE ROAD AHEAD FOR EXPANSION AT RC MOTORHOMES LTD

FORMED by Ricard Churchill, RC Motorhomes Ltd is a renowned manufacturer and supplier of luxury motorhomes, catering to the needs of discerning travellers seeking comfort and style on the road.

In order to meet the demands of their highly specialised industry, RC Motorhomes has turned to AXYZ - a leading provider of CNC routers and cutting solutions. This case study delves into how AXYZ's routers have revolutionised RC Motorhomes' manufacturing processes and improved the company's position in the market.

'In 2017, I was keen to improve production of our motorhomes interior fixings and furniture using newer "digital" technology and remove many of the issues/inconsistencies that occurred from cutting and routing materials by hand,' explains Richard Churchill.

'My first machine the 4008 series with a processing area of 1.5m x 2.4m was therefore introduced. Realising, the benefits that I had anticipated; I took the decision to take on a larger machine capable of enhancing production of our larger exterior materials in 2022, which was the 8022 Infinite with a processing area of 2.6m x 3m. Both have helped to "future-proof" production moving forward,' adds Mr Churchill.

Before integrating AXYZ Ltd routers, RC Motorhomes faced several manufacturing challenges:

**Precision Cutting:** Crafting intricate interior and exterior components for motorhomes requires a high degree of precision and accuracy, which was difficult to achieve with manual methods.

AXYZ routers are equipped with state-of-the-art technology, ensuring precise and consistent cuts even for complex designs.

**Inefficiency:** The traditional manual cutting and routing methods were time-consuming, labour-intensive and hindered the company's production capacity. By automating the cutting and routing processes, AXYZ routers significantly reduced production times and labour costs, resulting in a vast increase in efficiency.

**Material Waste:** Inefficient cutting methods resulted in higher material wastage, affecting both costs and sustainability efforts.

The routers' intelligent nesting and programming capabilities minimised material wastage resulting in material optimisation, contributing to cost

savings and helping to enhance environmental sustainability.

**Customisation:** RC Motorhomes struggled to efficiently produce customised components for individual clients. AXYZ routers allow for quick and easy adaptation to custom designs and specifications, enabling RC Motorhomes to meet individual client needs efficiently.

AXYZ provided RC Motorhomes with a customised CNC router solution that addressed these challenges effectively:

'I use the machines to cut all of my interior and exterior materials, including fixings, furniture, main body panels, partitions/walls etc. The use of the machines has enhanced production in all of these areas with the result that much less time is taken and consistency is at a much higher level.

'I am able to store all of my design/material dimension detail digitally and recycle it as and when required cutting/routing is more accurate with minimal error, resulting in less needing to be "re-done" and a reduction in waste material,' says Richard Churchill.

With the introduction of the of AXYZ routers, RC Motorhomes harnessed the capabilities of AXYZ routers in various applications including:

**Interior Components:** The routers were instrumental in shaping and cutting interior components, such as cabinetry, countertops and wall panels to precision, thus ensuring a luxurious and well-finished interior.

**Exterior Panels:** AXYZ routers helped craft exterior panels, awnings and other components with consistent quality and accuracy.

**Customisation:** The routers facilitated rapid customisation, allowing RC Motorhomes to offer tailor-made solutions for customers with customisation capability: RC Motorhomes can now efficiently cater to the unique requirements of individual clients enabling the company to expand its market reach.

## Results and benefits of implementing AXYZ routers:

The implementation of AXYZ routers has brought about a series of remarkable outcomes for RC Motorhomes. Improvement in areas of production has increased by approximately 50 per cent when compared to previous "hand-based" tooling methods used pre-2017. This has enabled the company to re-direct/re-invest resources to positively impact other areas of the business, such as new design, fit-out, servicing and retro-fit.

The efficiency the machines offer has greatly reduced many of the variables the company had little control over. Error rates were reduced and, coupled with the natural time saving, there has been a large positive impact.

In addition, reduced labour costs and material wastage contributed to cost savings, boosting the company's bottom line and the minimised material wastage aligned with RC Motorhomes' sustainability goals.

Increased efficiency, via automating processes, has enabled RC Motorhomes to significantly reduce production time, allowing the company to fulfil orders more swiftly, resulting in shorter lead times and, thereby, increasing production capacity.

The enhanced precision cutting of the components exhibited by AXYZ routers, resulted in improving the overall quality of RC Motorhomes' motorhomes.

Errors and imperfections have been greatly reduced enabling the company to work inside much smaller



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tolerances, due to the accuracy and precision of the machines which, in turn, has reduced time spent re-working, or performing corrections.

More complex working has become easier and more time efficient, as they have been able to reduce some of the variables and risks present in their previous working, mainly due to less “human” involvement.

The purchasing of the larger router meant that RC Motorhomes moved to a larger site to incorporate the machine with the 7m bed - a commitment that was a challenge across the business, due to the wealth of changes that it brought to everyone involved.

The physical size of the machine and size of materials it can cut/route has meant that the company had to modify the methods/techniques it uses, with some designs changing, due to the capabilities of the new technology.

RC Motorhomes continues to try and optimise as much as they can by constantly looking for improvements and new processes. This has included increasing their workforce and putting some of those employees through training to operate/maintain the machines correctly.

RC Motorhomes has had to reprioritise some aspects of production in line with the speeds that the new machine offers and, therefore, certain aspects of production processes have also had to change, which has had an impact on other areas, such as supply.

When asked how do employees at RC Motorhomes adapt to working alongside the XYZ machines and what additional training, or skill development was necessary Richard said:

‘All those who I had planned to operate the machines initially were present during the installations and received training/instruction from the XYZ representative present at the time.

‘Seemingly this has been enough for us to utilise the machinery to meet our needs and since then I have ensured that any knowledge is given to anyone else who requires it.

‘XYZ after sales teams have been on hand to help when contacted, but this has been minimal, with appropriate advice/resolution received each time. I currently have no outstanding issues, or needs in order to operate machinery as required.’

The INFINITE router is a highly configurable CNC machine that is suitable for one-off, small batch production, as well as high volume and high productivity applications, including woodworking, plastic fabrication, engineering plastic machining and so much more.

For a wide range of routing operations, one can choose from high-speed spindles ranging from 5HP to 15HP. For knife cutting, choose from a tangential knife, which can be used for creasing and folding applications, or an oscillating knife, which can be used to process soft goods material.

Looking to the future RC Motorhomes is currently more than satisfied with the benefits from its current machines/set-up offers and is constantly working to optimise the use of machinery to its full potential.

There are no immediate plans to automate further, due to the bespoke “coach-built” nature of the product. However, they wouldn’t rule out the possibility if more “mainstream” builds were required in the future and/or if their production line was expanded.

#### Conclusion:

The integration of XYZ Ltd routers into RC Motorhomes’ manufacturing processes has proved to be a game-changer, enabling precision, efficiency, cost savings and customisation that have elevated the company’s position in the luxury motorhome industry.

XYZ Ltd routers have become an indispensable tool in their quest to provide top-quality, customised motorhomes to the clientele of RC Motorhomes Ltd.

*For further information tel XYZ on 01952 291600.  
Visit [www.xyz.com](http://www.xyz.com)*



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# WOOD-MIZER MS750 PANEL SAW DESIGNED FOR PROFESSIONAL PANEL SIZING AND WOOD CUTTING

WOOD-MIZER is expanding its woodworking range with an advanced panel saw designed for cutting various panels, wood sheets and solid wood slabs.

The MS750 features a robust cast-iron cutting unit, a scoring saw blade and an aluminium sliding table. The machine has been developed for carpentry workshops and furniture manufacturers who search for more effective ways of precise sizing and cutting various wood materials.

It has been designed by European engineers using the knowledge and experience of carpenters and woodworkers using various types of panel and format saws daily.

The machine is built around an integrated cast-iron cutting unit with a 6 kW main motor and a separate 0.75 kW motor for undercutting. It has a convenient aluminium sliding table, allowing all standard operations to cut full-size panels.

The cutting unit is installed on two cast-iron slides of the machine's steel body, allowing for accurate cutting height and angle adjustment. The construction of the cutting unit is based on a short main spindle and a belt transmission.

Replacing the circular saw blade with a maximum diameter of 400mm is quick and easy, due to the tool-less mounting system "Rapid."

The MS750 panel saw with a solid steel body is highly rigid and resistant to vibration and deformation. The sliding table system is fixed permanently to the machine's body with four nabs allowing for stable operation.

The cast-iron work-table is mounted on four supports for easy adjustment against the aluminium sliding table. At the bottom of the steel body is a mechanism for levelling the machine and installing the anchors.

Cast iron used for manufacturing Wood-Mizer MS750 is forged and machined in Europe. It is an ideal material for building worktables, cutting units and woodworking machinery. It increases the construction's stability and rigidity and resistance to vibrations during operation.

The design of the sliding table is set on a highly rigid multi-chamber anodised profile. The table is stabilised by means of 12 guiding rollers. The table moves on four ultra-hard steel rods, with the fifth additional rod strengthening the construction from the outside and providing the mount

with a cross ruler. Covers and sweepers are installed on the sliding track to secure it from sawdust and debris.

Precise cutting measuring is possible with electronic readers mounted on vertical and horizontal rulers. The readers allow for highly accurate and consistent material sizing and cutting; additionally, they feature a function of absolute measurement.

From the control panel of the MS750 panel saw, the operator can access the main saw blade switch (also accessible from the trim panel placed on the edge of the table, next to the operator's hand), the scoring blade switch, the slow/fast main blade pull-up, the switch for electric adjustment of cutting height and saw blade tilt, LED lights indicating the operating speed and the emergency stop button.

For the operator's increased safety, the MS750 panel saw has been fitted with the central saw blade shield made of high-performance plastic, rollers for feeding the material and a height adjustment mechanism with a small shock absorber. The guard also protects the operator with the blade tilted at 45 degrees.

There are two extraction ports for efficient sawdust removal – the first is 125mm wide and located directly in the cutting unit. The other is 100mm wide and placed on the shield arm. It is recommended to use a Wood-Mizer MES dust collection system for increased performance with all woodworking machines.

The Wood-Mizer MS750 is manufactured entirely from premium quality materials and components by European factories—the original design and advanced production process guarantee trouble-free operation.

For the highest efficiency and best performance in cutting various panels, MDF boards, wood sheets and solid wood slabs choose the circular saw blade from the Wood-Mizer Tools catalogue.

The catalogue offers a wide selection of professional saw blades for panel sizing and scoring, solid wood ripping and crosscutting, perfectly complementing the woodworking range.

For further information tel Wood-Mizer on 01622 813201.  
Visit <https://woodmizer.co.uk>



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# MADE SMARTER-BACKED ENGINEERING FIRM HAILS PHENOMENAL IMPACT AFTER SMART FACTORY SUCCESS

*Beverston Engineering has invested in technology and skills to boost productivity by 20 per cent*

AN INNOVATIVE engineering firm has hailed Made Smarter's "phenomenal" support to deliver its smart factory.

Beverston Engineering, based in Knowsley, invested £173,000 in sensor technology and software to connect all 20 machines across its factory to provide real-time visibility of its manufacturing.

As a result, the specialist component manufacturer for safety-critical industries has increased productivity by 20 per cent, increased profitability, won new business and reduced carbon emissions by 10 per cent.

Made Smarter, the North West adoption programme helping SME manufacturing invest in new technology and digital skills has also supported Beverston's efforts to recruit and train the next generation of digital engineers to accelerate data-led decision-making.

Managing director of Beverston, Rod Wah believes that his smart factory proves what can be achieved with targeted support.

'Made Smarter has had such a phenomenal impact on the business,' says Rod.

'I'm recruiting the next generation of engineers, a new technology which enables unmanned machining, plans for £2m investment and a healthy order book,' he adds.

Beverston Engineering is celebrating its 50th anniversary next year.

It began working with Made Smarter in 2019 to develop a digital adoption roadmap. A first project in 2020 laid the foundations for the smart factory

by enabling connectivity and upgrading IT infrastructure with a dedicated machine data server. The firm also installed sensors to monitor its machines and factory assets.

Beverston Engineering then created a "productivity control room" - a bank of 18 big screens in the centre of the factory displaying real-time factory analytics, such as machine downtime events, availability and performance metrics to the workforce.

A second project in 2022 created a platform, which integrated all 20 machines and operators with its ERP and third-party systems, giving Beverston Engineering further real-time insight and analytics, enabling the business to react quickly to challenges and opportunities.

The investment came during a tricky time for the business, which had been heavily impacted by the economic shocks of the pandemic, supply chain challenges and energy crisis.

'The past three years were incredibly challenging, but we remained committed to our long-term vision for digital transformation,' explains Rod.

'Our customers such as Rolls Royce and Collins Aerospace have been blown away by what we've achieved. While our competition went backwards, we have progressed. Our commitment to the vision has helped us win more business and gives us a great opportunity,' says Rod.

Made Smarter also supported Beverston Engineering to develop new talent.

... CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



*Components manufactured by Beverston Engineering.*

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*Rod Wah of Beverston Engineering.*



*Left to right, Will Kinghorn of Made Smarter handing Oliver Miller and Rod Wah of Beaverton Engineering a gold Made Smarter award.*



*An engineer at Beverston Engineering.*



Oliver Miller, an Aerospace Engineering graduate who began working with the business via Made Smarter's digital technology internship programme, is now an Industry 4.0 project manager responsible for digital transformation projects. He has also just completed the Made Smarter Leading Digital Transformation programme.

Earlier this year, Beverston Engineering was named among 19 recipients of the "gold" Made Smarter Award for demonstrating excellence in manufacturing.

'It has been fantastic to have played a part in Beverston's digital transformation,' says director of Made Smarter's North West Adoption programme, Donna Edwards.

'Rod and the team have been enthusiastic programme participants right from the beginning. We have supported them to create a digital roadmap and backed them to invest in the right technologies at the right time.

'We have also supported Beverston Engineering to invest in its people, through the funding of Oliver's digital internship, which secured him a job, and a step further with our Leading Digital Transformation programme.

'Our partnership has helped the business weather a turbulent period and come out of it stronger and more resilient,' she concludes.

The Liverpool City Region has shown a great appetite for digital transformation through Made Smarter. Manufacturers have invested £4.3m in new technology, are forecast to create 385 jobs, upskill more than 375 roles and boost the city economy by £52m.

Launched in 2019, 2,500 manufacturers have

engaged with the programme, with hundreds receiving support through grant funding, impartial technology advice, leadership and skills training to help transform their businesses.

The programme has delivered 334 technology projects in the North West, which are forecast to create 1,550 jobs, upskill 2,772 existing roles and increase North West GVA by £242m.

For further information visit: <https://www.madesmarter.uk/resources/case-study-beverston-engineering-revisit/>



*Beverston Engineering's factory in Knowsley*



*Beverston Engineering's Smart factory.*

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# PREMIER FOREST PRODUCTS STRENGTHENS ITS PORTFOLIO WITH ANOTHER ACQUISITION

PREMIER Forest Products, a leader in the UK's timber and timber products industry, has announced its latest acquisition with the purchase of a specialist fire door manufacturing business.

Established in 1996 and based in Newport, Paul White Ironmongery, Doors and Fixings (PWIDF), is a renowned specialist door manufacturer with a strong reputation for precision and quality. The business is based on Langland Way, Newport, just a short distance away from Premier Forest's head office and employs 22 staff.

PWIDF is known locally and nationally for its craftsmanship in manufacturing fully compliant, precision fit fire doors – a growing market.

The company also distributes a range of accompanying ironmongery, such as hinges and locks, further enhancing the security and functionality of its products, as well as providing a solutions-based design service for its clients.

'The acquisition of PWIDF is the perfect fit for Premier Forest Products, as we continue to expand our presence in the contract joinery sector, particularly in South Wales and the team's bespoke fire door offering fits seamlessly alongside our existing timber-based fire protection products,' says co-founder and chief executive officer of Premier Forest Products, Terry Edgell.

'We're confident that this partnership will drive our business forward and close a gap in our current offering, further enhancing the product range available to customers,' adds Mr Edgell.

'All 22 highly skilled PWIDF employees will be retained, ensuring a smooth transition and preserving the expertise and craftsmanship that we have made the company successful. These dedicated professionals will play a vital role in driving the business forward and contributing to its continued success,' he adds.

'I'm extremely proud of the niche we've carved in the highly specialised door market and look forward to growing even further as part of Premier Forest in our new chapter,' says founder of PWIDF, Paul White

'I believe that our business

will flourish under the Premier Forest family. Together we'll have the resources and support to take our products to the next level, adds Mr White.

The deal was structured and completed with the support of Acuity Law providing legal counsel, Gambit Corporate Finance who supported the Premier Forest team throughout the deal process and Kilsby Williams accountants, who conducted financial due diligence.

Premier Forest Products is a vertically integrated timber operation engaged in the importation, sawmilling, processing, merchanting, and wholesale distribution of timber and timber products from its multiple sites in the UK.

For further information visit [www.premierforest.co.uk](http://www.premierforest.co.uk).



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# PRECISION TOOL MAKER, LENA RISSE, IS THE FIRST EVER WINNER IN ANCA'S INAUGURAL FEMALE MACHINIST AWARD

PRECISION tool-maker at Risse Werkzeugtechnik, Lena Risse is the first ever winner in ANCA's inaugural female machinist award.

A precision tool mechanic master craftsperson to be, Lena is the first female at her school to undertake this prestigious degree.

As part of their esteemed Tool of the Year event, ANCA introduced an exclusive new category for female machinists. A panel of experienced professionals evaluated submissions using the following criteria:

Exceptional problem-solving skills to overcome challenges or obstacles during projects.

## Innovative and effective tool design.

Strategy and communications manager at Anca, Johanna Boland expressed her pride on introducing the first ever female machinist of the Year award for ANCA.

'Since joining this industry I have met and worked with some truly intelligent, driven female leaders. However, female machinists are not that common and encouraging diversity can only make our sector stronger and more successful.

'Women considering a career in our industry need to see there are real and exciting pathways open to them. All the entrants are fantastic examples that Anca has been proud to showcase and celebrate, taking step further to increase the visibility of female machinists!

The winner, Lena Risse from Risse Werkzeugtechnik in Germany, demonstrates the passion and dedication of women in the industry.

Having completed an apprenticeship as a precision tool mechanic, she is the first female in a decade in her region to pursue a specialist master's degree in the field.

Lena advocates for process optimisation in production and hopes to inspire more women to enter this profession by setting a positive example of how women can excel in precision tool manufacturing.

'I think it's very important to give women a stage in our industry. Of course, it's great to win this competition, but I am also grateful that this platform now exists,' says Lena.

'I enjoy showing with my work that not only men can grind top tools but, in some situations it's women who find the best solutions.

'I am the first woman to take up the Master's degree as a precision tool mechanic at my university. Even in training, female classmates are a rarity and I am fighting to break down typical gender stereotypes in the industry.

'Through my work, I hope to encourage many women to dare to undertake an apprenticeship in the skilled trades, so that the industry will continue to develop in the coming years thanks to the clever ideas of courageous women,' concludes Lena.

Lena has completed an apprenticeship as a precision tool mechanic immediately after her high school graduation and is pursuing her master's degree.

She is particularly interested in the optimisation of production processes and hopes to inspire even more women to enter precision tool manufacturing.

ANCA is a market leading manufacturer of CNC grinding machines. It was founded in 1974 in Melbourne, Australia where the company still has its global headquarters.

Anca Europe has its main technology centre in Weinheim, Germany and a smaller facility in Coventry, UK with expert teams covering service and sales, applications, customer training, operations, engineering, finance and administration.

For further information tel Joachim Jäckl on 00 49 620 184 669 14 E-Mail: [joachim.jaeckl@anca.com](mailto:joachim.jaeckl@anca.com)



*Lena Risse won the first ever Female Machinist of the Year Award.*



*The winners and finalists of the Tool of the Year categories and Female machinist of the Year were celebrated by a big crowd at EMO Hannover.*

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# MDF SUPPLIER W. HOWARD GROUP IS CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF TRADING

MDF profile supplier, W.Howard Group has just celebrated the company's 65th anniversary last month. On December 4 1958 William Howard created the business, which began as a traditional timber merchant, serving local farmers and joiners in and around Manchester.

Over the decades that followed, W.Howard expanded to become a manufacturer and distributor of timber products, with Alan Grant joining the business in 1970.

65 years later the company is proud to still be a family-run business, with Alan's son, Jonathan now group chief executive of a company that employs 165 people in five sites across England, Wales and Ireland.

W.Howard Group offers Europe's widest range of MDF profiles and skirting products and continues to expand its portfolio with new ranges. Its most recent launches include wall panelling kits, wide window boards, door linings and other bespoke products.

The company's longevity is bolstered by a dedication to outstanding

customer service. Putting customers first and always going the extra mile to provide the support required to grow their business is at the heart of W.Howard's ethos.

'To be celebrating W.Howard's 65th anniversary is a fantastic achievement for everyone who works – and has worked – in the business over those years,' says Jonathan Grant.

'It's been an incredible journey and I'm delighted to have been part of W.Howard for over 35 years. We certainly have no plans to retire at 65!' he adds.

'I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the entire W.Howard team for their continued hard work and dedication and also a huge thank you to all our customers and suppliers for continuing to support us,' he concludes.

For further information visit [www.whoard.co.uk](http://www.whoard.co.uk).



**W.HOWARD**  
**OUR FIRST**  
**65 YEARS**  
**1958-2023**

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# NEW YEAR MARKS CHANGES AT THE LONG-ESTABLISHED LAMELLO GROUP

ON 1 January 2024, Marco Schweizer assumes the operational management of the international family business, Lamello. He succeeds Susanne Affolter, who will continue to chair the board of directors and help shape the strategic direction of this long-established company.

Born in Switzerland, Marco Schweizer was previously managing director of FrymaKoruma – the premium supplier of machines and process systems – from 2020 - 2023.

Marco started his career in 1998 as a designer at the company, where he gained expertise in manufacturing processes, process flows and the associated challenges in the international mechanical engineering industry over 25 years

'It's always about the people. This applies both to the collegiality within the Lamello workforce, as well as our valuable and first-class business and customer relationships,' says Marco, speaking about his new position as Lamella group managing director.

'We want to cultivate and expand these relationships together, so that we can continue to develop pragmatic and pioneering solutions for our customers in the future,' he adds.

Susanne Affolter is the grand-daughter of the inventor. She completed her apprenticeship at the family business and took on the responsibility for human resources in the 1990s.

She can look back on many eventful and successful years as HR manager, a member of the management board and, ultimately, acting as managing director.

'With Marco Schweizer, the Lamello Group gains a top manager with more than 16 years' management experience. He has what it takes to move Lamello to the next stage. We look forward to our strong and successful co-operation,' says Susanne.

Lamello is a family business and a leading manufacturer of joining systems for woodworking companies. Through a constant alignment with practical innovations and specialisation in high-quality premium solutions for furniture connection technology, Lamello has assumed an excellent position in markets around the world.

*For further information visit [www.lamello.com](http://www.lamello.com)*



*Marco Schweizer and Susanne Affolter.*

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*Materials & Finishes Show was formerly known as W Exhibition.*





# MAKITA ADDS HEATED BASE LAYER SHIRTS TO ITS JOB SITE RANGE

IN ADDITION to powering the expanding line-up of cordless tools and accessories, Makita has introduced two new heated base layers to its job site apparel range.

Powered either with Makita's 18V LXT, or the 12Vmax CXT battery, professionals can stay warm when working in cold, harsh job site conditions with the new DCX200 and DCX201 heated base layer shirts.

With four dedicated heat zones – front waist, both forearms and back – for optimum heat distribution and three heat settings to adjust to changing weather conditions, these new garments can provide continuous heat for up to 33 hours – when used on the low setting with the BL1860B 6Ah LXT battery, which is sold separately.

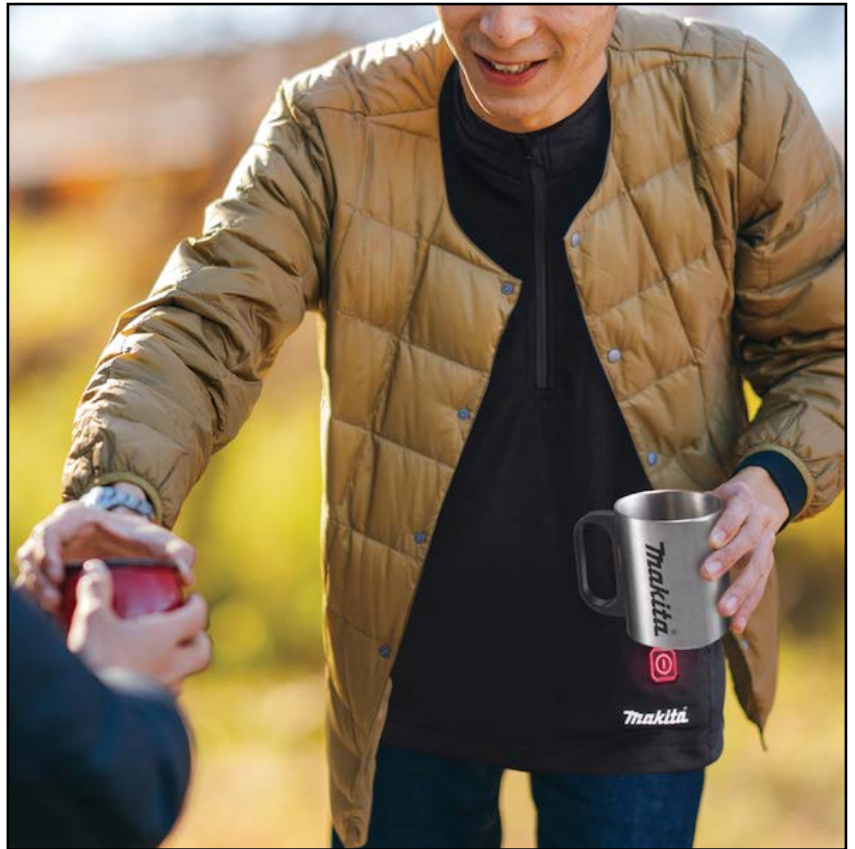
Both base layers are made from elasticated fabric to allow unrestricted movement. They are machine washable and have a simple switch on/off button, which is easily accessible at the front.

The key difference between the two products is the style – the DCX200 is a simple pullover style shirt with a round neck, whilst the slip on DCX201 features a half zip with a stand-up collar.

The new long-sleeved base layers can be powered by Makita's 18V LXT, or 12Vmax CXT batteries, which can be placed in a battery holder attached to the waist belt.

'Our heated base layers are perfect for anyone who works in cold conditions – whether outdoors or indoors,' says marketing manager at Makita UK, Kevin Brannigan.

For further information visit [www.makitauk.com](http://www.makitauk.com).



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# NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT MASTERWOOD

MASTERWOOD provides outstanding furniture and joinery production CNC machines, which it has developed over many years.

'Masterwood now offers a full range for the efficient manufacturing of windows of any shape and size, including traditional box windows, along with timber framed doors and solid core doors,' says sales director, Dave Kennard.

'These production methods can also be moved up to automated systems for higher capacities.

'Since woodworking machines were first introduced, one of the major uses has always been the production of windows and doors; timber frame doors and, in later years, solid core doors,' adds Dave.

'The procedure to make a timber window, or door with traditional methods has not changed – once you have your material prepared you need to draw on the timber cut-off lines, mortise and tenon positions etc. It is a time-consuming process.

'Then setting and using each machine; the X-Cut, a mortiser, a tenoner, a spindle moulder and maybe an overhead router. Assembly follows and adjustments to make everything fit together, including cutting out haunches on the band saw and using hand routers for ironmongery.

'Today, a CNC machine can make things so much easier with just one machine. Such a machine can produce the same work more accurately and in a fraction of the time,' explains Dave.

## Masterwood developments

For the past 25 years, Masterwood has evolved its machines to suit today's demands for bespoke solid timber joinery.

An impressive roster of developments includes: the use of large diameter tooling, allowing full length mortise and tenon joints production; higher powered router motors, allowing stack tooling to be used; heavy duty clamps to ensure components are held rigid on the machine bed; more tooling positions to cover the extra tools required for window and door production; automatic bed positioning to speed up production times and reduce set up times and specialised software, to ensure the minimum time from design to production.

Keeping with tradition, Masterwood continues to develop bespoke and dedicated solutions for the solid timber industry. A recent introduction of the Teknoline, a CNC for high levels of door frame production, which bolsters the innovative machining options Masterwood offers.

The Teknoline offers a high-quality finished product, due to the elimination of mechanical vibrations, thanks to its highly rigid structure. The automatic positioning clamps provide high accuracy with repetitive machining.

Masterwood can supply a full range of solutions to suit any customer's manufacturing requirements, from an entry level Project 250, through to the top end Project 565 – a five-axis machine with all possible options for multi-routers, tooling and clamping.

## Traditional sliding sash windows

Traditional box windows can be seen in all major towns and cities and are a traditional part of joinery history. They are, however, notorious for being difficult to produce with traditional methods.

'Today we have a number of customers who have produced traditional sliding sash windows on their CNCs where the machining time for one complete frame and a pair of sashes is under two man-hours,' explains Dave.

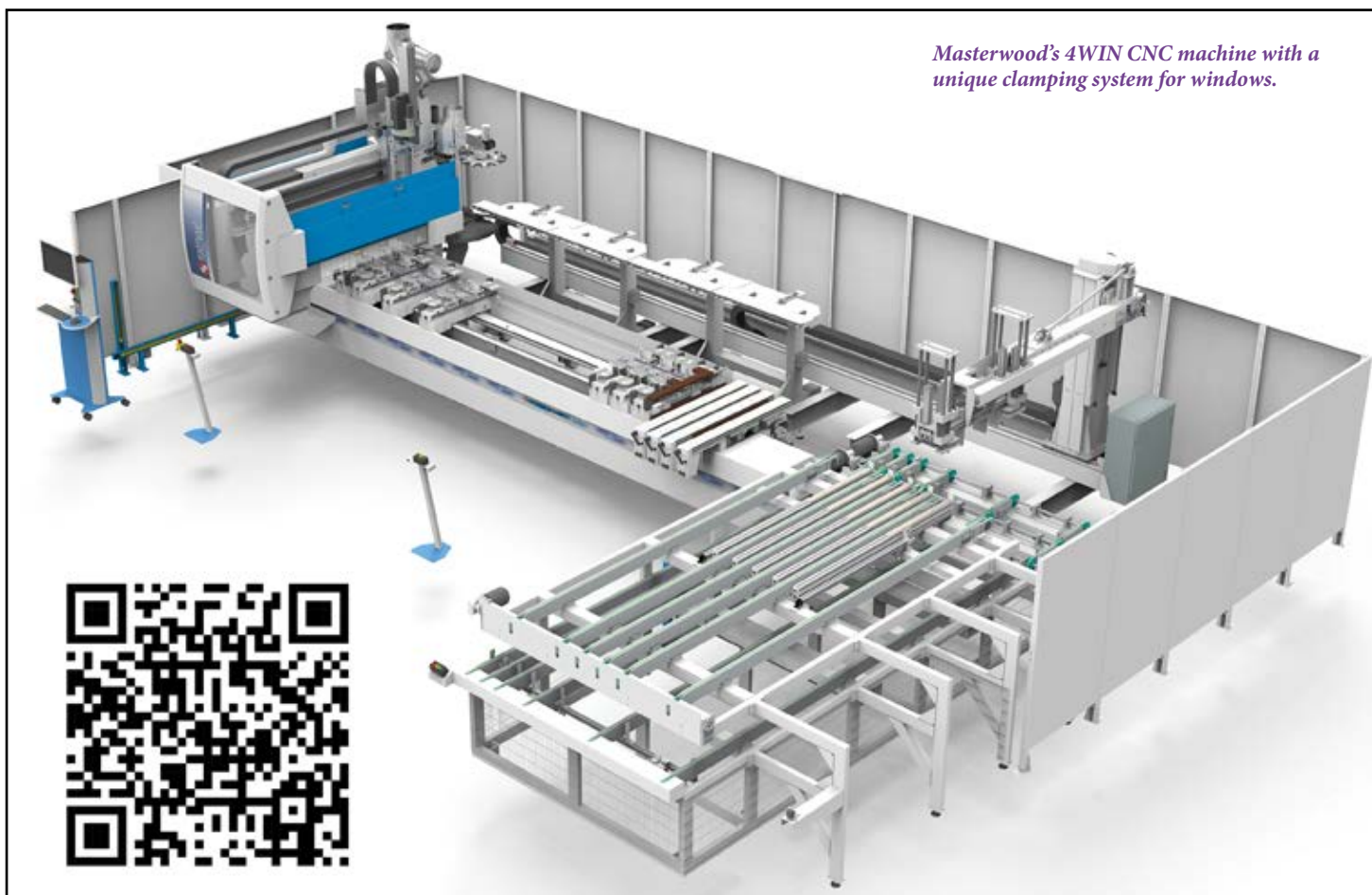
'The parts all then fit together with practically no bench, or hand work. Using traditional methods this same job could take a full day with only limited work being possible on traditional woodworking machines.

'We have found that customers with CNC machines can now produce batches, or one-off windows and doors, in a fraction of the time that is needed with traditional woodworking machines,' concludes Dave.

## Timber frame doors

Timber frame doors are the same. As opposed to multiple operations using a number of classic machines, Masterwood's CNC machines allow everything to be undertaken in one big operation.

*For further information tel Masterwood on 01293 402700.  
Visit [www.masterwood.com](http://www.masterwood.com)*



*Masterwood's 4WIN CNC machine with a unique clamping system for windows.*

# WINNERS OF THE 2023 BWF AWARDS

WINNERS of the prestigious British Woodworking Federation (BWF) Awards 2023 were recently revealed at an evening of celebration held at the five-star Langham hotel in London.

This was the perfect setting for an evening of celebration, which recognised the people, projects and processes that have made a significant impact on the woodworking and joinery manufacturing sector over the past year.

The 15th anniversary of the annual awards saw a record number of entries and an exceptionally high calibre of finalists in each category. The seven categories and winners were as follows:

## **BWF Health and Safety Award – in memory of Jon Gibson**

Midland Mouldings Ltd for its collective efforts to overhaul and transform Health and Safety throughout the business. The judges commended Midland Mouldings for making “an ambitious commitment to adopt a cultural shift in how Health and Safety is viewed and actioned across the business”.

## **BWF Apprentice of the Year Award – sponsored by CITB**

Harrison Blackham – a young apprentice who’s been working at Houghtons of York alongside his studies. According to Harrison’s employer, he’s “an outstanding, committed, hardworking member of our team who possesses a natural talent for his chosen craft”.

## **BWF Heritage Project of the Year Award – sponsored by Remmers**

Corbel Conservation Ltd for its complex repair and consolidation project at Toneworks – an industrial textile mill in Wellington in Somerset. The judges praised the “high quality and complex restoration project carried out under challenging conditions”.

## **BWF Innovation Award – sponsored by Anker Stuy**

Handrail Creations for its innovative timber hand-rail system, which allows the manufacture of timber hand-rails without the need for unwieldy metal core rails.

The judges celebrated the way the system “overcomes all challenging aspects of design and installation, while maintaining a beautiful flowing single timber line”.

## **BWF Process and Resource Efficiency Award – sponsored by Materials and Finishes Show 2024**

Central Joinery Group for the implementation of an extraction system that not only improved the reduction of wood dust, but demonstrates significant environmental and sustainability benefits by reducing energy consumption and CO2.

The judges commended the project as “an initiative with clear goals and objectives to improve Health and Safety within the workshop and reduce the amount of CO2 emission”.

## **BWF Rising Star Award – sponsored by ASSA ABLOY**

Richard Kowalski – technical manager for Doors at Stairways Midlands Ltd. According to his employer, “Richard is well respected and liked by all. Wherever he sees a need, he’ll address it, whether that’s through product innovation, creating training tools, streamlining processes or supporting colleagues – his passion for the industry is infectious”.

## **BWF Woodworking Project of the Year Award – sponsored by Impra Wood Protection Limited**

NBJ London Ltd for the complex design, refurbishment and redevelopment of the Inner

Temple’s new library and educational facilities. The judges praised the project’s “many facets and wide range of skills to effectively manage the refurbishment of the original elements”.

“The number of entries and extremely high standard this year made it even more difficult than usual to choose our winners and I want to applaud all the finalists of year’s awards,” said BWF chief executive. Helen Hewitt.

“The BWF Awards allow us to come together and take pride in all that’s been achieved over the past year. With our sector having overcome a great deal this year – such as supply chain disruptions as a result of increased costs and a continued skills shortage – it’s been incredible to see all the impressive work and individuals who’ve made an impact on the industry.

“The awards provide a welcome opportunity to celebrate the hard-earned achievements of the past year and showcase the skill and technical expertise in the sector”.

For further information visit [www.bwf.org.uk/awards-2023](http://www.bwf.org.uk/awards-2023).



Winner of the 2023 BWF Apprentice of the Year Award, Harrison Blackham.



Winner of the 2023 BWF Heritage Project of the Year Award, Corbel Conservation Ltd.

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*Winner of the 2023 BWF Woodworking Project of the Year Award, NBJ London Ltd.*



*The BWF Awards 2023 recognise people, projects and processes that have made a significant impact on the woodworking and joinery manufacturing sector throughout the previous year.*

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# LAUNCHING A NEW GENERATION OF ELECTRONIC ROBUST AND PRECISE SPIRIT LEVELS AND WITH ABSOLUTELY NO CALIBRATION REQUIRED

STABILA, the leading designers and manufacturers of exceptionally high-quality precision measuring equipment, has launched two new electronic spirit levels – the TECH 196 DL and the TECH 196M DL.

Highly efficient, extremely precise, easy to handle and robust, the new generation of electronic spirit levels from Stabila are fit for all challenges faced every day on building sites and in assembly practices and can easily withstand contact with water, dirt and vibration.

Both models have two digital displays that can be read off perfectly in any situation, promptly showing the measurements of inclinations, slopes and angles. Numerous improvements on the previous generation mean that it can complete common measurements particularly quickly and efficiently.

- Ideal for measurements for inclinations, slopes and angles.
- A model with a rare-earth magnet system.
- High measurement accuracy, many functions.
- Extra-compact design for short building components.

#### Broad range of applications

The new electronic spirit levels from Stabila are designed for a wide range of measurement tasks.

The Tech 196 DL model is particularly suitable for taking exact measurements in carpentry, joinery, kitchen installation, stair installation and civil engineering. It is also ideal for architects to check completed work, for example when reviewing the slope of a balcony.

The Tech 196M DL model has an extra strong rare-earth magnet, making it especially suitable for metal construction, metalwork and concrete formwork. The user thus always has free hands to align and adjust the relevant parts, pillars and supports.

#### Optimal protection and no calibration required

The new electronic spirit levels are protected to IP 67 against dust and water - so well that they can even be temporarily submerged – for up to 30 minutes at a depth of 1m (ULTRA-PROTECT).

Another plus point is that dirty buttons can be easily cleaned after work is complete, thanks to the robust membrane keyboard.

They are CAL-FREE to make it as easy as possible for the professional to use the electronic measuring tools. This means that it is not necessary to calibrate the electronics during every day use, thanks to the high-quality sensors and advanced production process, even if the product is dropped, or subjected to temperature fluctuations.

#### Higher measurement accuracy, many electronics functions

Whilst the previous generation of electronic spirit levels stood out for its

high measurement accuracy, this has been improved even further.

The electronics module is equipped with a wide range of functions and is perfectly tailored to the challenging requirements. This means that acoustic guidance with two different audible signals enables components to be aligned more quickly, without having to look at the spirit level.

For work in poor light conditions, both displays are illuminated to two levels, at the push of a button. The light settings remain even when it is switched off and on again.

Another helpful feature is that the digital display automatically turns to the reverse position, enabling it to be read off easily at all times.

Thanks to reference angle mode, an angle measurement can also be accepted, saved and transferred to other components.

The “HOLD” function saves a measured value so that it can be transferred quickly, even to areas with poor accessibility, whilst the “KEY-LOCK” function also prevents accidental entries.

#### Proven spirit level technology

Both new models contain proven spirit level technology from Stabila. The most important factor for long-term precision is quality vials, which are connected to and cannot be removed from the aluminium rectangular profile, as part of a special installation process (LOCKED VIALS).

This also prevents the vials from detaching if the spirit level is dropped. The shock-absorbing end caps absorb energy effectively upon impact, protecting the profile.

At the same time, the slip stoppers on the end caps guarantee a firm seat when marking, without allowing the spirit level to slip. The caps can be removed, so that exact positioning and marking is possible right into the corners. The large finger-grip opening also ensures ease of use and a secure hold during all work.

#### Different lengths and designs

Both of the new electronic spirit levels from Stabila are available in different lengths. The Tech 196 DL is also available in a new short version of just 23cm, without vials, in a completely digital design, which is particularly suited to aligning short building elements, or for tight spaces.

The scope of delivery of all models/designs includes a practical spirit level case for transporting it. All lengths, except the 23cm and 40cm variants, come with a shoulder bag.

For further information visit [www.stabila.com](http://www.stabila.com).



*The new TECH 196 DL electronic spirit level from Stabila with two digital displays is ideal for prompt measurements of inclinations, slopes and angles.*

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*The new TECH 196M DL electronic spirit level from Stabila is equipped with an extra-strong rare-earth magnet system, which keeps the hands free for aligning and adjusting pillars and supports.*

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