

JULY 2023 furniture | JOURNAL

30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

ON THE COVER:

Steve Bulmer, MD of Biesse UK,
explains what's really behind
Biesse's rebranding and what it
means for you

**Omega launches a stunning
new kitchen and at its heart is
Vionaro V8 from Grass**

**Interprint: futuristic ideas and
décor designs**

**Inspiration from Interzum:
new décors and innovations**

**The latest from Ligna:
machinery, materials
and more**

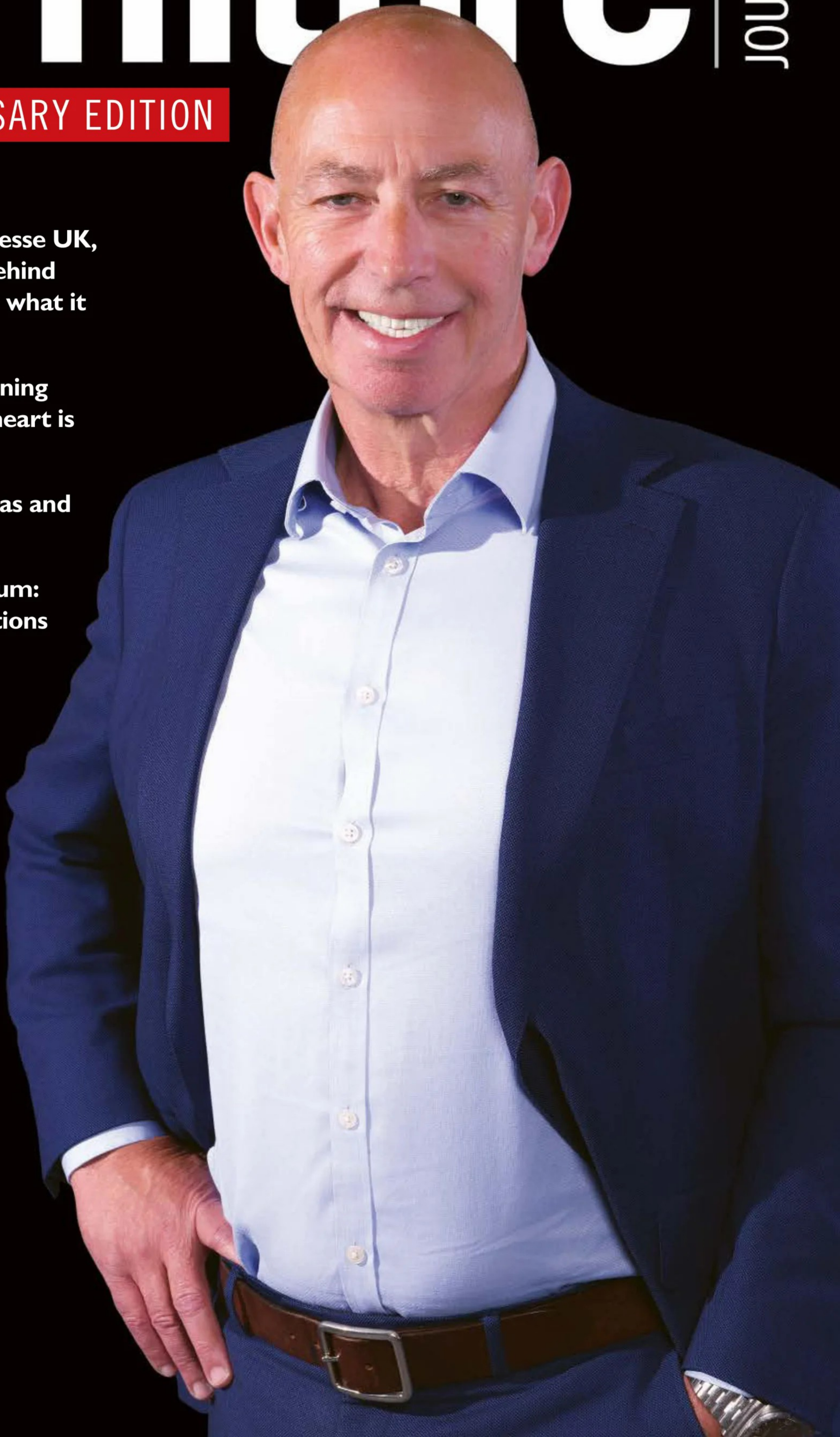
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Vionaro V8 Slim Drawer System.



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Until recently, the very idea of reducing a drawer side to 8 millimetres and, above all, making industrial production commercially viable would have been unthinkable. The new slim drawer system not only offers the only 8-millimetre one-piece steel drawer side in the world – Vionaro V8 is also the first pure-metal drawer side with no plastic elements. All parts are made of steel and joined using cutting-edge laser welding technology. That produces maximum stability plus longevity and ensures an almost 100 per cent recycling rate.

vionaro-v8.com

**GERMAN
DESIGN
AWARD
WINNER
2022**



On the Cover

Steve Bulmer, MD of Biesse UK, explains what's really behind Biesse's rebranding and what it means for you.
Story: pages 48-53

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Novus - Super Matt Jet with
Woodgrain Natural Oak

When less is more

Omega launches Novus, a contemporary kitchen brand, and at its heart are Vionaro V8 drawers from Grass.

Fresh, young, new, extraordinary... Just some of the definitions of *Novus*, a word of Latin origins and now the name that's been embraced for an appropriately fresh and exciting new brand from the Thorne-based kitchen manufacturer, Omega.

Just take a look at this beautiful new addition to Omega's kitchen collections:

Embracing everything that's good about contemporary British design, the clean, simple lines, uncluttered handle-less drawers, super-tall doors and pleasing proportions of *Novus* exude understated elegance. Look closer and you'll find flush-to-the-drawer-edge end panels on the island unit – a clever detail that works beautifully with the handle-less drawers and slimmed-down worksurface – and profiles with just enough contrast to accentuate an otherwise seamless, perfectly-proportioned drawer line.

Timeless, contemporary design has been carefully married with silky-soft painted finishes that add sensual pleasure to visual

spectacle. Be in no doubt, this is a sophisticated brand, an aspirational brand. And less is definitely more with *Novus*.

But Omega's designers were not content to create a brand that was beautiful only on the outside. They insisted *Novus* should be just as beautiful on the inside. And it had to be practical, maximising space availability and providing all the functionality inherent in a modern kitchen.

Complementing three cabinet colours – white, light grey and graphite – and working perfectly with the clean lines and slim-profile work surfaces, they chose the very latest super-smooth, 8mm Grass Vionaro V8 drawer system as standard and offered matching Sorto inserts from the renowned movement specialist, already a long-term partner of Omega's.

When David Shoebridge introduced Omega's designers and Head of Marketing, Steve Hazlehurst, to Vionaro V8, Steve remembers well his first impression: "The first time I saw V8 was on the Grass video,"



Steve Hazlehurst



Novus - Signature Painted Graphite with Setosa Painted Spitfire Blue

he recalls. “That was before we received the sample. The video in itself is a strong incentive that gets you involved with the product from the start because the presentation is exquisite. We were fascinated by it. It’s great to see something presented differently, something that doesn’t just dwell on function. This was theatre and it made you feel something for the product. You want that feeling all the way through the kitchen, not just from the outside because it’s a real driver for desire. The whole kitchen becomes an emotional purchase.

“Most people tend to take drawers for granted. They pull them out every day and think nothing more of them. They’re for storage and that’s it. How the team at Grass looked at it and what they wanted to do with the drawer, it was all about the aesthetics and how to deliver that. From a marketing perspective, that has to make an impact on how we perceive the product and how we use it in the kitchen.

“The way Grass marketed V8 made it a product we could see our customers

aspiring to and that’s something we felt we could also use in our marketing. It’s a really fantastic product to integrate into a new brand, one that matched our ideas for Novus perfectly because our aim was to create a new, modern, aesthetically-pleasing kitchen that fit exactly with today’s needs.”

The result of almost five years of intensive work by designers at Grass Movement Systems and an incredible 50 million Euros of investment at its factory in Goetzis, Vionaro V8 is a drawer system like no other. The drawer sides are just 8mm thick – the thickness of a pencil – and, incredibly, they’re made entirely from a single piece of steel. Not only do Vionaro V8’s slim lines look like they were shaped intentionally to be integrated seamlessly into design-led furniture, being made of steel they are 100% recyclable and represent a huge plus for any furniture manufacturer who wants to improve his green credentials and court the new generation of environmentally-concerned consumers. Even the back-panel clip and the front connection are steel.

Just as importantly, a Vionaro V8 drawer provides a significant increase in available internal space – a point that Omega’s designers recognised as a major advantage over drawers with a 13mm wall thickness:

“There’s no point in having a modern kitchen and not putting the most up-to-date drawers in it,” Steve told me. “Going to an 8mm drawer side and being able to offer 16% extra capacity, that’s something tangible you can take to consumers, something they need, something we can see will help our retailers sell the product.

“The first thing you see when you walk into a kitchen showroom isn’t the drawer but when we welcome people to our showroom, V8 becomes a talking point. It’s levitated discussions. It’s the latest generation. It’s aesthetically pleasing, simple, beautiful, really clean. The smoothness, the sweetness of V8 really adds something that enhances our offer. It complements Novus perfectly.”

Steve’s enthusiasm for Vionaro V8 and what it holds the potential to do for Omega



Novus drawer with Grass V8
in Omega's showroom



Omega's Novus drawer with
Grass V8 drawerbox and Grass
Sorto organiser insert



Novus - Super Matt
Jet Drawer



Novus - Setosa
Painted Pebble Drawer

are inescapable. At this stage in our interview I'm really curious to know the extent to which the marketing and the design of the Grass product might have influenced the design of *Novus*.

"Partnership is a big thing for us," Steve told me. "We always strive to have long-term partnerships. We were already working with Grass before they came to us with V8. The introduction of V8 was perfect timing for us. V8 was already there, where we were wanting to go."

"Did the Grass product have an influence on the design of *Novus*? I think so, yes. We've already got four very classic brands. We wanted to bring out a brand that was new and that's sometimes difficult because it's too easy to be swayed by what you already do. How we wanted to present that going forward and the vision for it are really important. The aesthetics that were delivered in the video and the promotional material from Grass helped us with the aesthetics of what we wanted to achieve. We've been able to look at everything from

naming the brand to the sleekness in a different way and that was really important for us. Like Grass, we've got rid of all the distractions in our design."

Although Steve confirms no changes were required to the manufacturing processes in order to integrate Vionaro V8 into Omega's manufacturing systems – a key advantage he was keen to point out – the technical service that the team at Omega has received from Grass throughout the process has been exceptional. "We have a great partnership with everyone at Grass," he says. "They've supported us from the beginning with ideas and technical information and their input was a terrific aid to us in manufacturing. That's something we're continuing to move forward with. But we're also utilising their videos in our training so our fitters understand how everything works."

"We have a brochure on *Novus* and we've worked closely with Grass to combine their photography and the way they present with our own photography.

The Grass marketing material is very strong – very strong. They worked with us and developed one of the key videos they made to introduce the product. It's shown on our website.

"It's really about that full partnership and emphasising a quality product with the quality tools that sit around it. Input from Grass helps us to enhance our message. We're not about hiding our partner, which is something a lot of people do, we're integrating their name and their message to support our own in our point of sale materials."

Novus made its official début on May 9th and while we were there, visitors continued to arrive in a steady stream to experience it for themselves in Omega's showroom. Visit www.omegaplc.co.uk/novus for more information on the *Novus* kitchen collection, or if you'd like to find out how Vionaro V8 could help increase the desirability of your products and drive sales for your company, call Grass on 0121 500 5824 or visit www.grass.eu/en/



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SICAM
2023

Sicam: register now!

Are you ready for Sicam? The list of exhibitors waiting for you from 17th to 20th October in Pordenone is available on the website as well as the registration form to receive your personal QR code in advance to access to the fair. Entrance, reserved to business operators, is free.

An exhibition with a unique and inimitable format, Sicam showcases the latest novelties in materials, design and technologies in an elegant and cosy environment. Each edition welcomes producers, interior designers, architects and furniture designers at an ideal time to make choices for the next season.

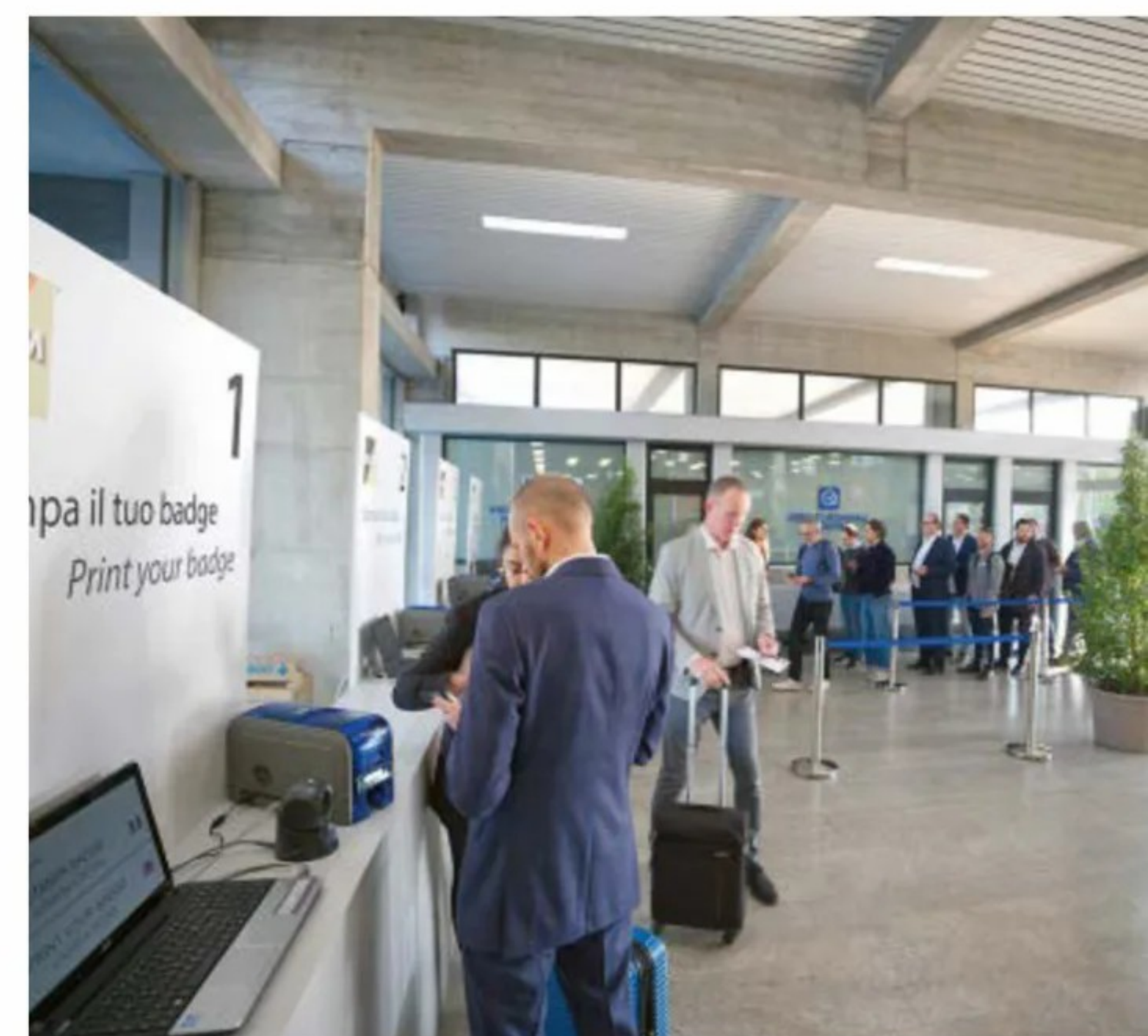
Visitors to this year's Sicam exhibition will find hall five of the Pordenone Exhibition Centre has been enlarged, with new direct connections to pavilions four and six and an additional café. There will be 3,000 square metres of additional space for stands and services will be available in the new structure. Although the layout of the hall will

be different to previous years, there will still be direct access from the central entrance of the Exhibition Centre.

The organisers confirm that this year there will be over 600 international exhibitors of components and accessories. More than 8,000 furniture companies from all over the world are expected to arrive at the exhibition ground over the four days of Sicam. It's a great place to develop ideas and projects, to cement business relationships and make new international partnerships.

With hotels always at a premium in Pordenone around the dates of Sicam, it's worth preparing your visit early. To receive your entrance badge, like last year, online registration is mandatory – simply complete the online registration form at www.exposicam2023.it/en/ and you will receive a personal code by email from which you can print your badge at the entrance. You'll find a full exhibitors list here: exposicam.it/en/p-647/exhibitors-list/

With hotels always at a premium in Pordenone around the dates of Sicam, it's worth preparing your visit early.





Talented under 35s wanted!

Amanda Waring

The Furniture Makers' Company is to celebrate its 60th anniversary by honouring emerging talent.

The Furniture Makers' Company is to honour 60 outstanding young people working in the furniture and furnishing industry in 2023 as part of the livery's 60th anniversary celebrations.

The '60 for 60' campaign will recognise 60 exceptional people – 35 years old or younger – who are exhibiting dedication to their careers and show promise as tomorrow's leaders. Starting in June 2023, the Company will call for nominations or self-entries for individuals working in any role within the industry. Expert judges will review the submissions and select the winners. These 60

outstanding individuals will be announced at a special awards ceremony in autumn 2023.

Amanda Waring, Master of The Furniture Makers' Company, said, "Instead of reflecting on past successes, we're shifting our focus to the future and honouring the incredible young individuals who will shape the furniture and furnishing industry. By acknowledging their talent, we hope to demonstrate that the furniture industry values their growth and offers a lifelong profession."

As part of the campaign, The Furniture Makers' Company wants to raise £60,000 in sponsorship, which will be used to give the winners an awards evening as well as fund events and initiatives to support their ongoing development throughout 2023 and beyond. Surplus funds will be used to drive forward the organisation's educational and

training strategy, which aims to reduce the industry skills gap. Businesses wishing to support the campaign can do so by becoming a sponsor or a principal partner.

The Master added: "I'm very excited about 60 for 60 as I think it's an excellent way of demonstrating to young people in our sector that we are an industry that cares about them and recognises the vital role they play. I hope you will consider supporting the initiative by becoming a sponsor or principal partner."

For more information about sponsoring 60 for 60, contact George Cooper by calling 020 7562 8522 or emailing george@furnituremakers.org.uk. If you are an exceptional under 35 who would like to apply, or you know one you'd like to nominate, here is the link: www.furnituremakers.org.uk/60for60

The logo for the Materials & Finishes Show 2024. It features a stylized yellow graphic on the left consisting of a semi-circle at the top and several curved lines below it, resembling a fan or a stylized 'M'. To the right of this graphic, the text 'materials & finishes' is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by 'SHOW' in a smaller, uppercase, sans-serif font, and '2024' in a large, bold, uppercase, sans-serif font.

materials & finishes SHOW 2024

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The power

Alby Blue from Serica is introduced to Decorative Panels' dp-specialist range.

Decorative Panels Lamination has introduced a brand-new Serica colour to its already extensive dp-specialist range. Alby Blue is a colour that brings energy, freshness and a breath of crispness to the collection.

Associated with peacefulness and security, this beautiful blue has a confident elegance that's ideal for modern interiors. Especially in combination with white it creates a contemporary, fresh, calming interior.

Serica is a market leading third generation super-matt PVC surface with all the latest technologies: silky touch,

anti-scratch, anti-fingerprint, super-matt and thermal healing. It can be easily repaired by simply using an iron or hair dryer to renovate the surface. The surface itself is extremely robust and sets new standards for the sector in terms of its super-matt technology. It is designed for a multitude of applications in home, office and retail environments and is an excellent choice for exhibition contractors and specialised projects.

The foil is laminated to both sides of the board – a feature that's not generally available on other super-matt boards in the market. The on-trend, contemporary colour



Alby Blue

Sage Green

Rusty Red

Monument Grey

Caramel

Deep Ocean



of colour

palette incorporates solid colour right through to the core, so there are no unsightly joint lines, just a real wow effect for the fingers and the eyes to enjoy.

To diversify and enrich their Serica offer, dp-lamination has introduced five more Serica colours to their development collection: Caramel, Sage Green, Rusty Red, Monument Grey, and Deep Ocean. The latest colour additions, all of which can be found in the dp-specialist range, reflect the latest trends in modern design and mark a pleasant diversion from the greys and beiges that have dominated our living spaces for many years. Perfect for creating an

atmosphere conducive to rest or work, these brighter colours can stimulate action or bring calmness, shaping the character of imaginative interiors. Lighter shades will optically enlarge the interior, while darker ones can create an extravagant effect.

Serica films are versatile in commercial and residential environments and offer excellent options for design variety, performance, and durability. All the new colours complement each other and work well together with the existing Serica collection.

Moreover, Serica surfaces have superior water, chemical and scratch resistance

properties and are often chosen for demanding applications where these performance qualities are needed.

Browse surface solutions, get inspired, learn about trends and more on Decorative Panels new and improved website. Book a visit to the dp-group Marketing Suite, where these and many more products are on permanent display – and keep an eye out for more development from dp. Innovative designs are being introduced all the time. For any sample from the Decorative Panels collection, contact Decorative Panels Lamination on 01484 658341 or visit www.decorativepanels.co.uk



Together with the company Meisterwerke, Interprint presented a fascinatingly-designed acoustic panel, as well as the world's longest floorboard

What? That long??

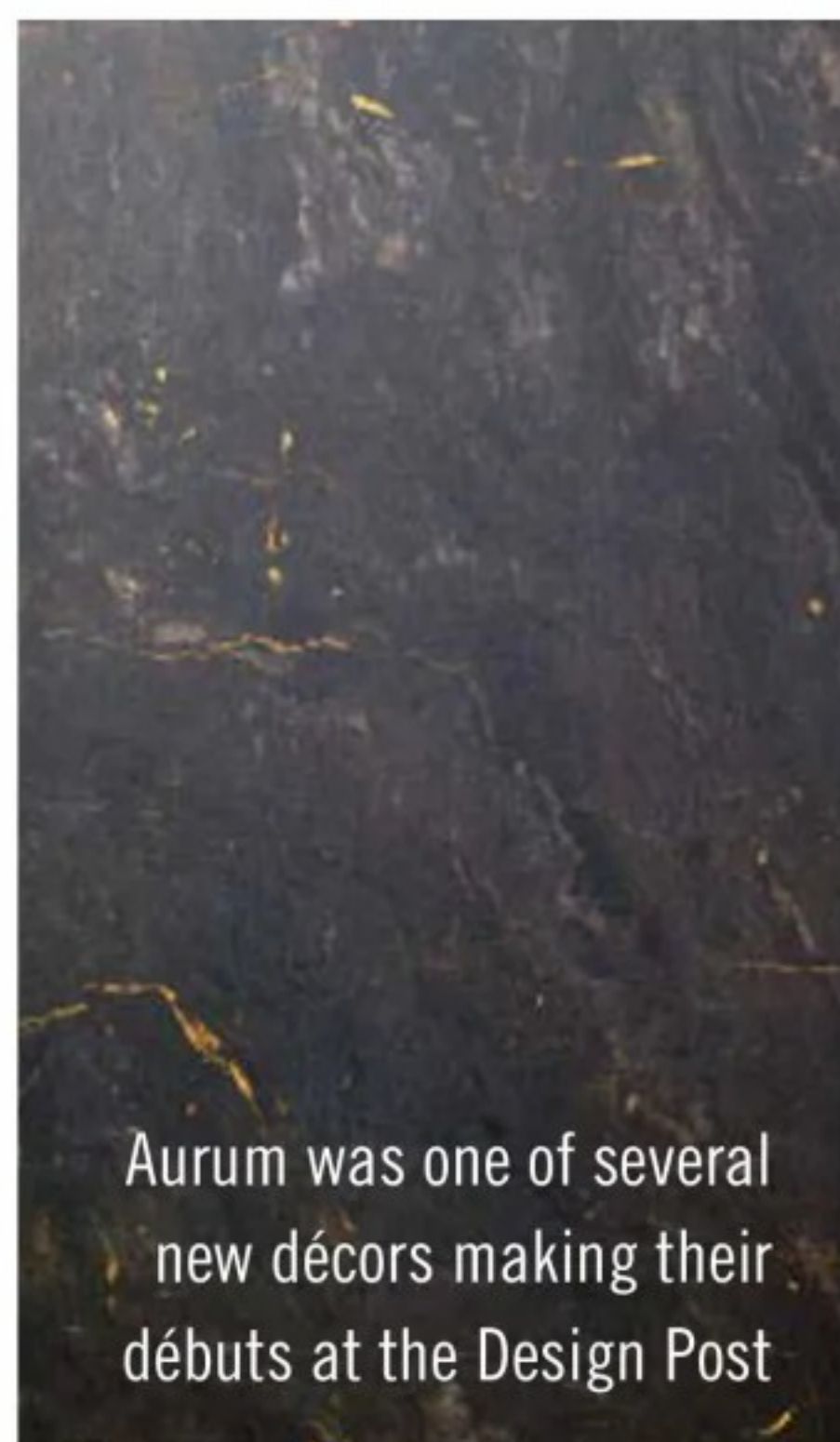
New décor designs for flooring and more

Interprint & Co

On-trend lifestyle products from Interprint and Toppan rubbed shoulders with the visionary products of partner companies in the Design Post.



Pescali



Aurum was one of several new décors making their débuts at the Design Post

Interprint, the Arnsberg-based décor printer, has a reputation for imaginative and inspiring presentations of its trend-setting products and this year's exhibition at the Design Post, which ran in parallel with Interzum, was no exception. Thought-provoking presentations combined with creative impulses in a dramatic setting that encompassed every aspect of contemporary interior design, combining trend-setting ideas for today with futuristic ideas for tomorrow and often rethinking the familiar.

For the first time, Interprint's 2023 presentation combined ideas from both the German company and its Japanese parent company, Toppan, and between them they further extended the cooperation to include pioneering and futuristic ideas from other partners – hence the title of the presentation, & Co – and taking a more holistic view of interior design.

Impressive, creative and as playful as it was trend-setting, Interprint's presentation included a combination of its latest décor ideas with futuristic eco-ideas on the first floor and a theatrical display that encouraged visitors to question the usual in the darkened basement of the Design Post. Here, the present was acknowledged and the future was unveiled. Innovative technologies and visionary thought experiments resulted in a mix that engaged, involved and captivated visitors, adding a fun element to the whole experience.

Complying with the status quo has never been Interprint's thing. Its designers continually question themselves where interior design is heading. It has to move and is constantly undergoing changes. To this end, Interprint explored areas of living, life, work and shopping with the & Co concept.

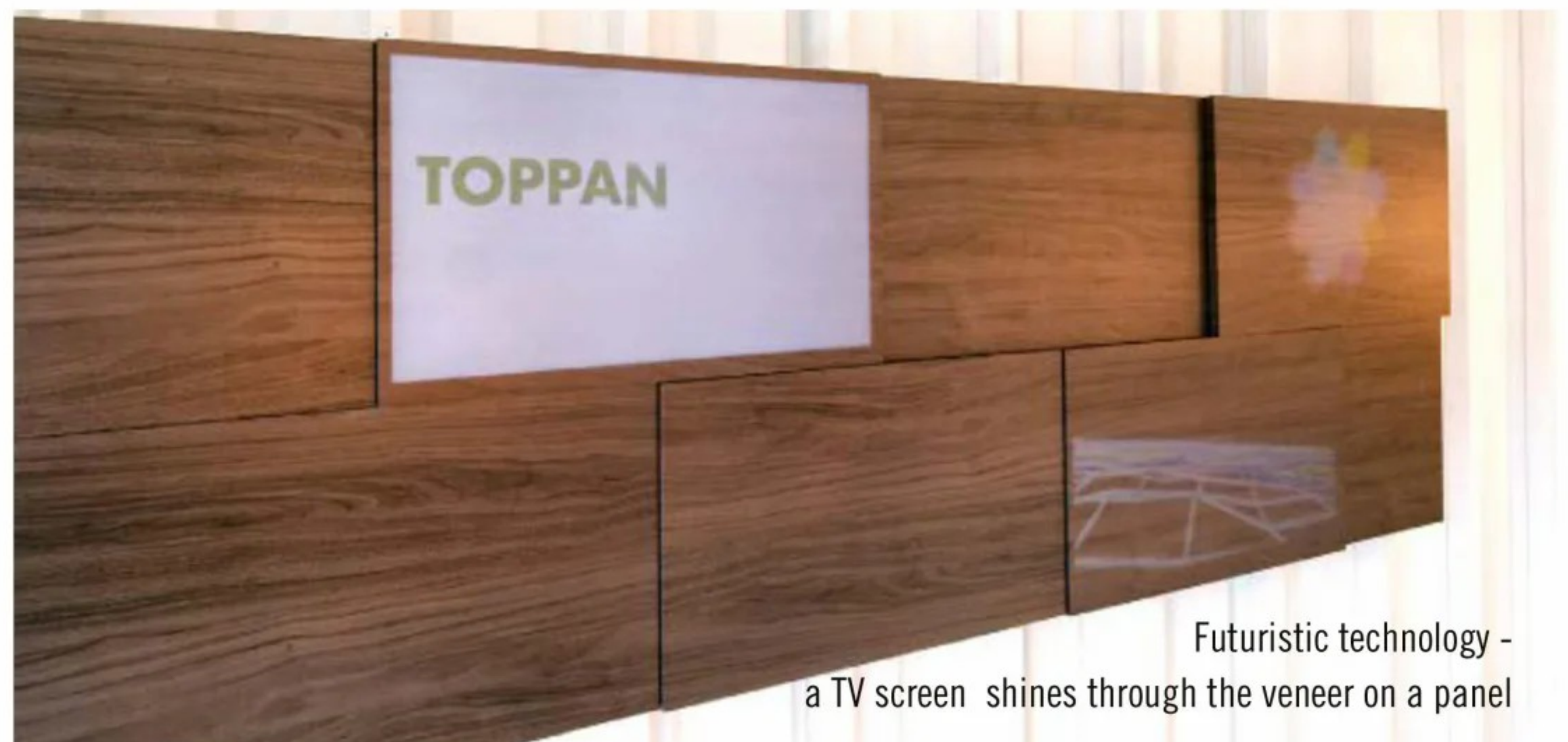
Co-working, co-creating and co-individualisation are the drivers of the



Digital printing - almost without limits



The Innovations area was full of futuristic ideas



Futuristic technology - a TV screen shines through the veneer on a panel



Modus and Second Harvest in the Innovation area

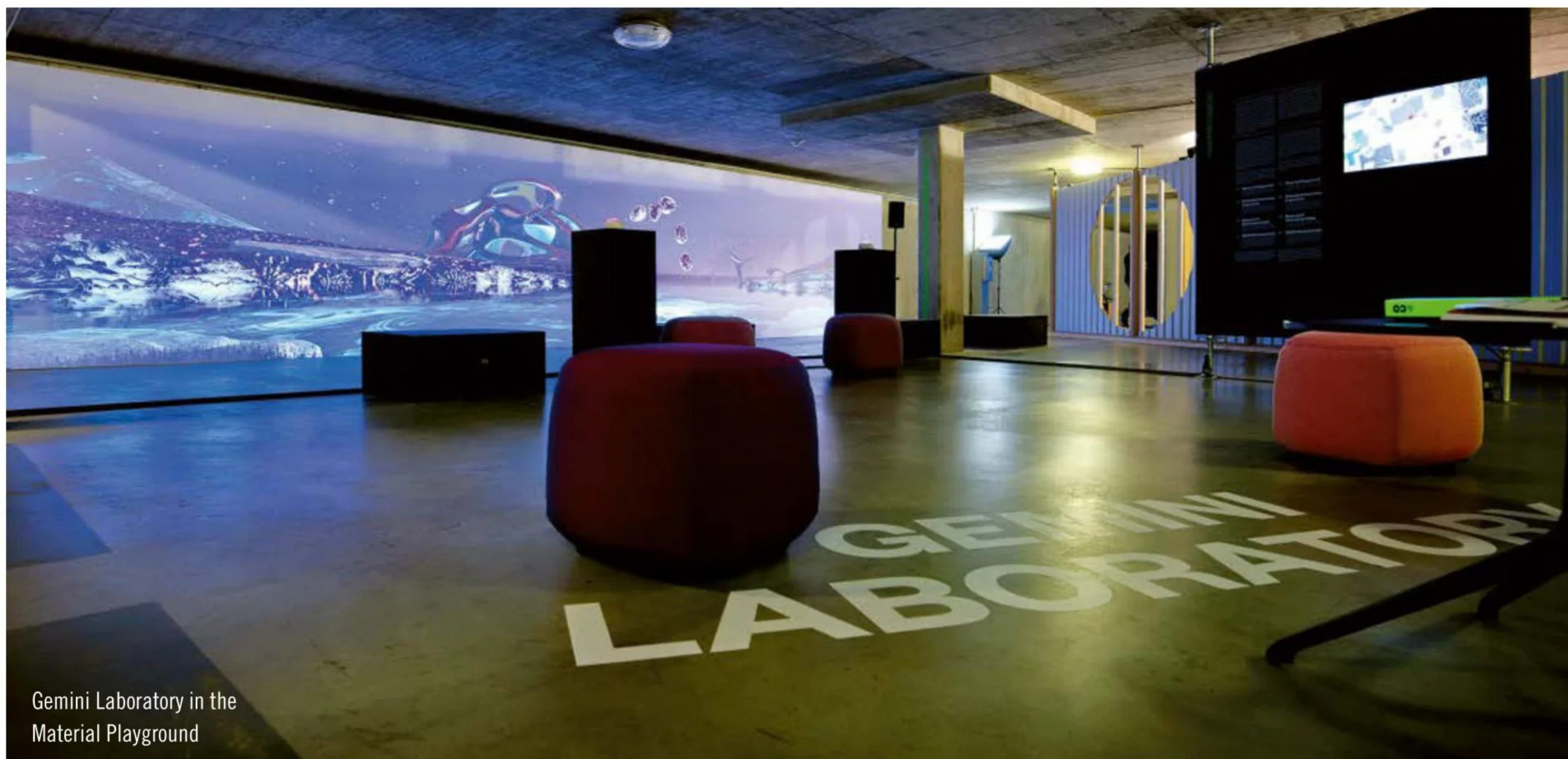
moment. Co-working is becoming more and more important. People with different needs and preferences live and work together. Rooms are losing their clearly-defined function. In future, furniture and surfaces will have to be thought of together. The idea behind & Co is to free the interior industry from classic patterns of thought and procedure, get everything moving, make it highly flexible but always authentic.

In the basement of the Design Post, Interprint translated the idea behind & Co into Connected Spaces. In an extraordinary, interactive experience comprising numerous 'possibility spaces', visitors could playfully experience how the boundaries between the interior areas are becoming increasingly blurred. Nothing was fixed. Everything remained undefined. The viewers decided for themselves and were prompted to question accepted norms: *do bathrooms always have to be tiled? Does being sustainable only mean relying on soft earth tones?* Old and new surfaces 'cooperated' in new and refreshingly different ways.

"I think it's exciting how we seem to be adjusting and re-examining our values as a society," commented Steffen



Digital printing meets mother-of-pearl



Gemini Laboratory in the Material Playground



Demonstrating the power of digital to visualise ideas



Augmented Nature - iPad to print

Fillibeck, Head of Marketing. “Everything is in motion. The pursuit of a better quality of life, protection in the community and the urge for freedom seem to be increasingly important to people than the expensive car.

“As Interprint, we want to offer our customers added value from the interaction of the different influences. The holistic approach is the key for us. What is really needed? What suits the customers best? We want to understand the changes, identify trends, determine styles.” He sees Interprint’s role as a trend pioneer and style advisor for future living and the world of interiors – and most of the trade visitors seemed happy to agree. Interprint became the instigator of the network; the one that attracted creative and innovative partners who, between them, facilitated the emergence of something new, something surprising.

The new Interprint décors were also surprising, encompassing wood, textile structures and stone through to plain colours – but always with a surprise. Oak is still one of the most popular woods. However, new wood décors such as chestnut, elm and coniferous wood immediately caught the eye. In particular, visitors to the Design Post were particularly enthusiastic about the beech décor Levo and the cedar décor Mayru. Stone décors such as Stan and Calia had an overwhelming effect, especially in combination with the wood décors. Expressive and full of character, naturally cosy, discreetly restrained, noble and elegant, these décors are as versatile as you want them to be, limited only by the imagination of the interior designer.

In order to prove how good large floor planks look in a bedroom, Interprint fitted an entire room with its Raya Oak décor. Planks

were simply printed in landscape format, creating completely new patterns.

On the topic of digital printing, especially for industrial production, Interprint had focussed on reducing waste as much as possible by optimising printing technology in an innovative way. Areas can now be used to the maximum.

When creation and technology work together, great things happen. Interprint calls this “The Power of We” and sought to prove it in the Design Post through the close and, in some areas, visionary cooperation with its parent company, Toppan, but also with projects that involved Interprint teaming up with other external specialists. Together with the company Meisterwerke, Interprint presented a fascinatingly-designed acoustic panel, as well as the world’s longest floorboard, which had been made possible by the seemingly endless



Digital ideas that transform the design behind



Experimenting with materials

Exploring alternative materials
décor papers from rice paste

Sustainability and responsibility

décor printing developed through close cooperation – a perfect example of & Co.

The products of the Research and Design Lab were also notable: the Portuguese group was given an exciting task as part of a research assignment by Interprint that posed the question, *how can new design objects be created from the fibres of paper scraps?* New design appeared from old design – a perfect example of future-orientated sustainability developed through a project that proves far more is possible with waste paper than simply recycling it.

With the Second Harvest décor print, Tensei, Felix Schöller and Interprint show that sustainable décor papers can be produced even from the harvest residues of rapidly renewable plants. In the past, this otherwise surplus material was mostly burned in a climate-damaging way.

Visitors were also able to marvel at technologies such as the new supermatt, scratch-resistant, anti-fingerprint surfaces, which had been produced in cooperation with Hans Schmid from Gronau.

Other highlights were mother-of-pearl coloured décor papers for digital printing and new thermoplastic films from Modus Film. Innovations were to be found in almost every corner of the Design Post.

Things became really futuristic when Toppan introduced the advanced Gemini lab. Through a combination of digital and analogue worlds, the concept went far beyond printing technology. Data and people form one unit and enable the connection of physical and virtual reality. Surface textures and multimodal materials create spaces that defy the usual way of seeing and experiencing. Time and again,

visitors could be seen immersing themselves in fantastic worlds, taking part in what felt like a science fiction movie with digitally controlled 3D and 4D meta-material prototypes. How much these technologies will influence interior design can only be imagined but the possibilities are promising. The ideas are inexhaustible.

Steffen Fillibeck draws a very positive conclusion from the presentation: "With & Co, Interprint is once again leading the way and shows the way from today into tomorrow," he says. "Together with strong, equally innovative and creative partners – and with the courage to determine change itself – we will continue to surprise the interior market again and again."

For more information, call Interprint on +49 2932 9500 or visit their website www.interprint.com/en

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Interzum Review

Not surprisingly, ecology was as high on the agenda of this year's Interzum as innovation and technical developments.



Interzum 2023 – what a show! Yes, the numbers were down a bit on 2019 but given the events in the world over the last few years, this year's 1,600 exhibitors from 59 countries compared well with the 1,806 exhibitors from 61 countries who showed in 2019, and 62,000 visitors came from 150 countries compared with the 74,000 who travelled from 152 countries to see the previous show. It's not hard to guess where some of those visitors might have been lost from.

For 23 years, technical developments, advanced materials and exciting product innovations and concepts have been the focal point of the Interzum award. There were many worthy winners in 2023. The ones that particularly caught my eye were the new Peanut Core® from Intelligent Fixings, a tool-free fixing for lightweight panels; the unique FurnSpin from Hettich, which allows the

interior of cabinets to be turned outwards around their own axis, providing access to the rear of the cabinet; Amperos, a safe and very simple solution for the electrification of furniture from Blum that makes manufacturing, assembly and installation really easy; and Nuo, a high quality veneer from Schorn & Groh that's as soft as leather and as supple as fabric.

There were plenty of fantastic innovations that should have won an Interzum award, among them a remarkable new version of the T-Type hinge from Titus that requires no tools or screws to attach it to the door – very neat and sleek (see pages 30-33) – and some exceptionally discreet sliding mechanisms from OPK that looked perfectly at home in the furniture of French designer-maker Luis Neves (see page 29).

This year, the main focus for exhibitors was on the environment and eco-friendly



Clockwise from top left:

Underscoring the company's sustainability strategy, the Vauth-Sagel stand had been transformed into an oasis that would have looked quite at home in Kew Gardens.

Egger's #ManyLivesForWood display - use the hashtag for a chance to be featured @eggergroup.

FurnSpin from Hettich uses sophisticated kinetics and ingenious engineering to turn the interiors of cabinets outwards, providing access to the rear of the cabinet as well as the front.

It's amazing what you can make out of Schorn & Groh's Nuo flexible wood.

products. At the entrance to the Saviola stand was a giant screen that drew attention to the company's recycling ethos and 100% recycled decorative boards. The Vauth-Sagel stand, in previous years bright blue and black, had been transformed into an oasis, underscoring the sustainability strategy it applied to the design, production and packaging of all its products. It would have looked quite at home in Kew Gardens.

For the first time, the topic of Neo Ecology had become a focal point for Interzum. In a specially created category, the search was on for pioneering, sustainable products, processes and concepts that would help drive a sustainable economy. Eight awards were made, including one 'Best of the Best' for the Vita First mattress, manufactured by The Vita Group from Great Britain. It's made from Orbis Plus MB reconstituted foam without adhesive and

uses innovative, sustainable technologies to simplify dismantling and recycling at the end of the product's life.

Hats off to the knitted and woven mattress fabric company, BekaertDeslee for figuring out how to make a mattress protector from recycled ocean plastics. Its SmartSleeve Circular comes with an NFC tag that provides both consumers and recycling operators with complete transparency about its material composition.

In the Materials & Nature category, one Best of the Best award went to Arfinio, a novel solid-surface technology by Covestro and Arcesso Dynamics, which enables the production of seamless solid surfaces. The other went to Nuo (Schorn & Groh). A permanent exhibition on the www.interzum.com/de/award website presents all the award-winning products and projects with accompanying text and images.

Even the Kölnmesse had taken eco-spirit to heart. ClimatePartner scrutinised the trade fair's own carbon dioxide emissions – ranging from event technology and energy to logistics, waste disposal and even the food service. Maybe it was their influence that saw all descending escalators switched off and the Press Office closed for the last day of the show.

All in all, Interzum 2023 seemed like a quieter show than in past years. Access to the show was easier in a morning, the Autobahn didn't turn into a car park as we neared Cologne and in general, exhibitors had time to explain their products to us. Nevertheless, most of those we talked to had seen good footfall and were pleased with both the quality and quantity of visitors they saw in the four days of the show.

The next Interzum will take place from 20-23rd May 2025.



A giant screen served as an inescapable reminder of the company's commitment to manufacturing products made from 100% recycled board.

Saviola's



Daniele Merla

Saviola presented its décor collections in a very different way at Interzum 2023 using room sets to emotionalise its ideas.

Occupying a commanding position close to the entrance of hall six at this year's Interzum, the new look Saviola stand was drawing huge crowds – and for good reason.

Gone was the emphasis on the introduction of individual décors and unusual textures for which Saviola has become especially well known. In its place was a brand new concept that placed the accent firmly on room sets and invited visitors to explore, discover and visualise how the rich

combination of texture and design, which is the hallmark of Saviola, could be incorporated into their own design.

“What we are doing here is presenting a new concept we call the Saviola Home,” Daniele Merla explained. “It is not necessarily about the new oak or the new stone, or the new marble; they are important but our Interzum presentation is much more about the Saviola brand as a whole rather than individual designs. We are emphasising *Made in Italy*: the culture, the feeling, everything that



The Red Area: "The different décors take that Matisse 'Red', which, combined with brown, grey and black, reinvent the elegance."



The Bedroom



new look

is connected with *Made in Italy*. That's why we have created a big area where, in a very simple way, we are focussing on different rooms."

This way of presenting designs and ideas marked a strong and refreshing departure for Saviola at the last Sicam exhibition, where the stand was divided into red, green and blue areas. At Interzum, the design team had taken the idea to the next level: "We have the living room, we have the kitchen, we have the bedroom. We are not building furniture, we are trying to create different places, combining materials and textures, emotionalising the product to inspire the imaginations of visitors to the stand.

"In terms of product, we are showing what we showed at the Sicam exhibition but now, of course, we have reached the next phase. We have production material and we have customer references. All the brand-new ideas can be found in our Saviolab and we are showing some interesting colours and textures at Interzum that we are going to develop ahead of the next Sicam."

All the products on Saviola's Interzum stand were in production, supported and available immediately, many through Saviola's UK distributor, Panelco.

Panelco had already established distribution of the Saviola brand by

introducing 26 décors in September 2020, all available nationwide on a next day delivery service, and following their Innovation Insight Event in January this year a further 18 décors were selected to add to the UK stock range. Included were three colours in the embossed-in-register design Baysen Oak; DZ2 Marshwood Eucalipto with the On Track texture and a silver and a graphite metallic, both with the On Track texture; Stripped Wood in three colourways with an EIR woodgrain overlaid with the 3D vertical effect texture, and a medium and light colour Intaglio wood design with the vertical Vetta texture: two new Terrazzo colours; two new



R48 Stripped Wood



R57 Baysen Oak



New décors on show in the Saviolab



concretes in the Accona design; Nero Marquina, a new marble with the unique Blunt texture; and two new embossed-in-register versions of Leonardo in grey and black.

“We have now increased the Panelco collection by a further three designs,” confirmed Daniele. “By the end of June, we will have an additional 21 colours and textures to add to those that were already available in the UK, so we will have in all 47 designs and colours in stock at Panelco and Timbmet.

“Panelco is making a big effort to push the Saviola brand. They really believe in it and they trust the brand and we are very happy about that.

“Distribution is very important to us, not just in the UK through Panelco, which is our flagship distributor in Europe, but also in the Benelux market, the German market and in the future, the French market. At the same time, we are talking to the big industry manufacturers directly. Several from the UK have already included Saviola designs in their latest offers. The furniture world is our core business but we are bringing products and ideas to market that will also appeal to architects for project work.”

No reference to Saviola’s Interzum stand would be complete without mention of the giant screen overlooking the hospitality area.

Imposing in its size and soothing in its presentation of images and sounds of nature, it served as an inescapable reminder of the company’s commitment to manufacturing products made from 100% recycled board. It’s an inescapable advantage for any furniture manufacturer in today’s increasingly competitive marketplace.

For more information about Saviola’s décor collections, or its eco-friendly, 100% recycled board, call Saviola’s UK agent, Barry Berman, on 07785 373118. Alternatively you can talk to Panelco on 01782 392100 or visit Saviola’s website at www.grupposaviola.com/en/



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 **saviola**

Custom printed
décors in PET are
new to Senoplast

Sustainable

It was a very different Senoplast at Interzum 2023 with PET, custom printed décors, sustainable bioplastics, recycled materials and a new metallic taking centre stage.



Sustainability was the buzzword on the Senoplast stand at this year's Interzum and Richard Cooper, Head of UK Sales was keen to introduce two new products: Eco B (the B stands for Bioplastics) and Eco Line.

"Eco B uses non oil-based renewable feedstock for making the polymer," Richard explained. "We can substitute a percentage of Eco B bioplastic materials, we then register what we buy from the bioplastic companies with the ISCC, the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification. We process the material as a percentage into people's product, improving their carbon footprint – depending on the percentage being used – but what you're selling them is the certification, much like when you buy electricity from photovoltaic, wind, or hydro energy. When you purchase TopMatt, for example, you can now specify that you want it with a percentage of sustainable material.

"With Eco line, we are taking back recycled material, so it's a completely

different angle. We've recycled material for years and in fact all our multilayer materials use the edge waste as we are producing it. We feed it back into the centre layer. With Eco Line, we take back post-consumer scrap, granulate it and put it through our cleaning line, which washes and cleans it and removes any dust and dirt. We then incorporate it into the centre of the material. Eco B will cost you an additional surcharge to get the ISCC Certificate over the standard product. We do not necessarily use the customer's own regrind in Eco Line, we only use selected quality regrind from the market. From a cost point of view, Eco Line is very efficient."

In order to get more recycled material and sustainable bioplastics into the product, Senoplast has invested 10 million Euros in a new line and has introduced a PET product.

PET is certainly cheaper than ABS and acrylic but is it as good? "PET is a cheaper raw material and gives us the opportunity to gain more selected regrind material from

Senoplast

the market – for example, RPet products demanded by big customers. The market requires PET mainly supplied in rolls, therefore it will be produced in thinner gauges. This, of course, influences the price level in a positive way but on the other hand, surface quality has a higher orange peel effect in comparison with acrylic films.”

In terms of UV resistance and chemical resistance, Senosan is setting new standards with the new PET films and has integrated the scratch-resistance, anti-fingerprint properties and high UV and chemical resistance surface properties of TOPX and TopMatt into its PET. “With the PET products, we can also offer custom printed décors – a combination of high gloss and matt lacquering.”

For an affordable surcharge, and based on a minimum order quantity, you can create your own design. The roller will be 1200mm wide and you can print onto it whatever you want. “We’re showing some random designs here,” said Richard. “Bolder

prints are quite nice but we’ve got wood grains as well. There’s an actual 3D texture to them as a result of the extra layer of matt or satin finish. If you’ve got gloss and matt, it can be too extreme in terms of contrast, but you can tone it down and soften it. The less gloss you show, the less fingerprinting you get. I see this being used in caravans, motor homes, static homes, bedrooms or maybe even behind a bar.”

Last but not least, Senoplast also launched a new fleck-free liquid metal décor for flat lamination. “We are calling it Titan Metallic Liquid Metal,” explained Richard. “It’s currently available in one colour but we can produce it in many more. “It is available in 0.5mm and is planned to be on stock in sheets after receiving market feedback”

Senoplast is also holding a stock of TopMatt AF 0.3mm in roll format in 600mm x 1250mm width. It’s available in four colours.

For more information on all new products launched at Interzum, call 01952 243999 or visit www.senoplast.com/en/



Richard Cooper unveils
Titan Metallic Liquid Metal

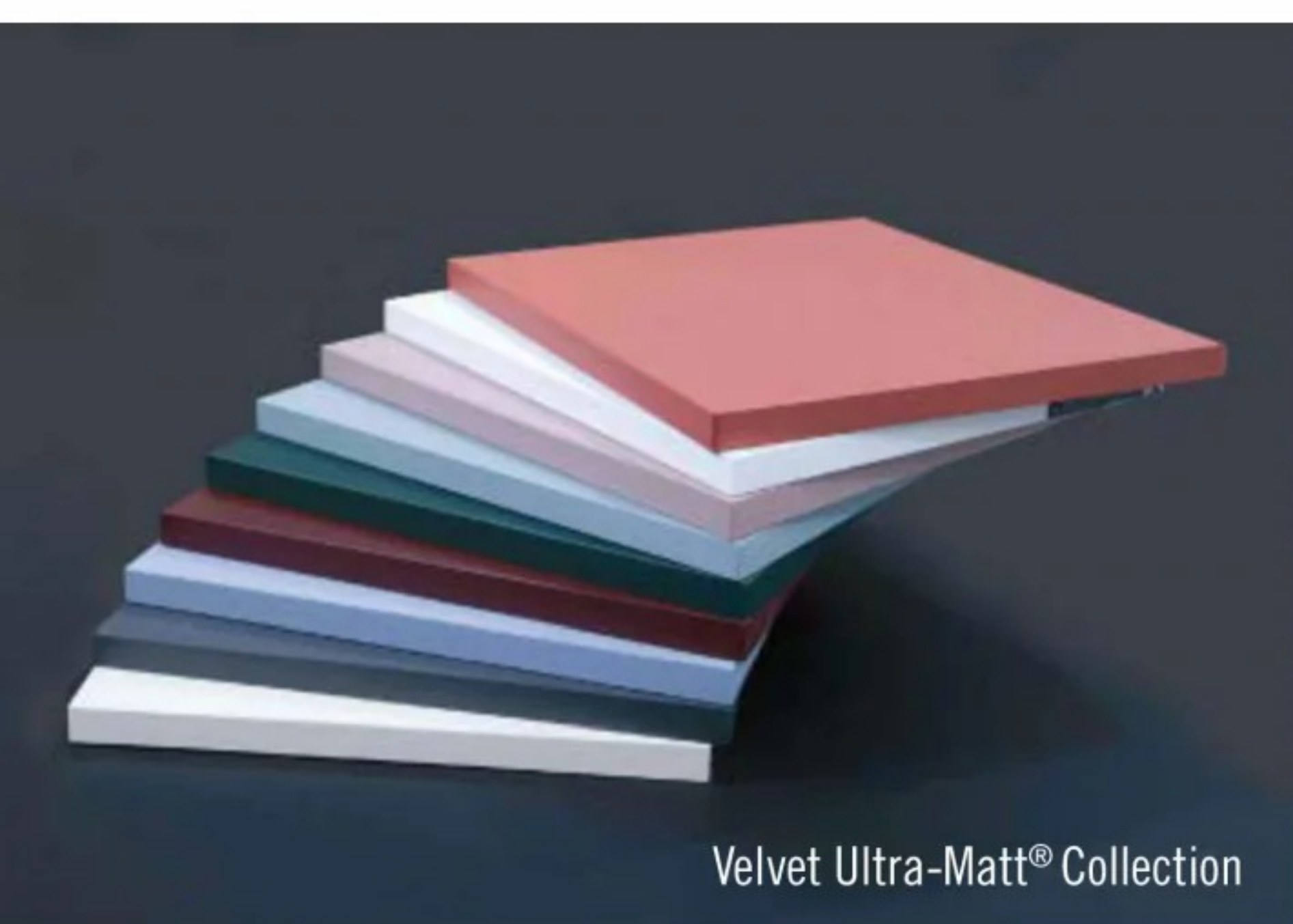


Samples from
Forner's Pearl Collection

interzum
REVIEW

Panels from Poland

Manufacturing since 2012, Lublin-based Forner showed a fantastic collection of super quality decorative boards at Interzum 2023.



Velvet Ultra-Matt® Collection

Forner is a name you might not know – but if you are looking for a new supplier with an offer that includes pearl, ultra-matt and super-gloss boards, this Polish family business from Lublin has a lot to offer, including a base in the UK.

Established in 2007 and manufacturing since 2012, Forner used Interzum 2023 to showcase a silky-soft pearl board collection with an alluring shimmer effect created by using advanced materials. In addition to appealing visual aesthetics, the Pearl Collection is extremely easy to maintain and is anti-fingerprint as well as resistant to UV, micro-scratches and moisture, making it suitable for practically any interior use. On-trend colours included a beautiful dark green, a personal favourite from all the décors I saw on the stand, and dark blue.

Alongside the Pearl Collection, Forner also showed its Velvet Ultra-Matt® Collection, which includes soft pastel shades through to deep greens, maroons and greys. Forner says

the longevity you can expect from its Velvet Ultra-Matt® surface technology is significantly greater than other materials on the market, so if your products include furniture for higher wear areas, this might be a product to investigate more closely.

There seems no end in sight to the ever-popular super-gloss trend and Forner's offer includes both super-gloss and super-matt. Super-gloss acrylic decorative panels are available in two versions, a Standard scratch resistance and a Top scratch resistance option for more challenging applications. The company's Super-Matt boards are also available with two grades of scratch resistance and come with anti-fingerprint properties as standard.

To find out more, talk to Maksym Bartkowiak at Forner Ltd in Poole, Dorset. His number is 07412 941195.

You can find more information at www.acrylic-boards.com email forner@forner.pl or call +48 81745 0670.

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A close-up, high-angle shot of a man with short brown hair and a beard, looking down intently at a piece of material he is holding. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or factory setting with various equipment and materials.

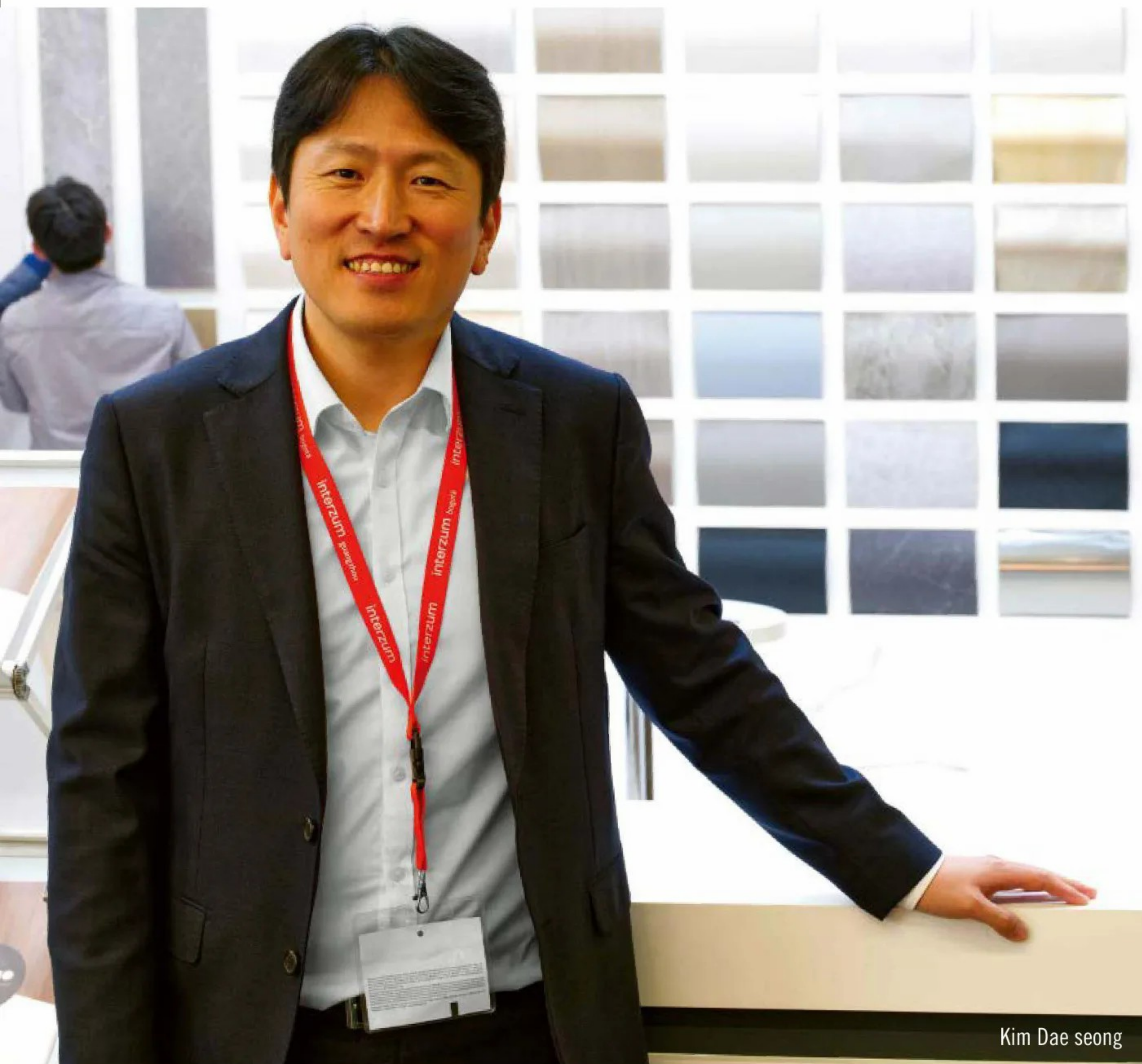
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Kim Dae seong



Korean décors

Gil Deco introduces PET, PP and PVC décor products at Interzum – and they're looking for partners in the UK.

Meet Mr Kim Dae seong, Managing Director and son of the owner of Gil Deco Co Ltd., South Korean manufacturers of PET, PP and PVC décor products for the furniture, tiling and flooring sectors.

Kim is very proud of his company, of its four manufacturing plants, two in Hwasung and two in Shihwa, and of its reputation for supplying larger manufacturers and laminators, as well as distributors around the world with decorative surfacing products. "We run a family business," he told me from a stand that was packed with interesting and unusual décor products, mostly for the furniture manufacturing sector. "We have been manufacturing decorative sheets and transferable printed

films since 1994, which we brand Adelio. Although we don't currently supply to the UK, we are able arrange container delivery in four to five weeks. In addition to any of the products you see on the stand, we will make products for you in PET, PP or PVC to suit exactly what your customers need."

On display at Interzum was a range of décor designs, many of which fit well with European taste with PET in matt and high gloss, some in solid colours, others with wood and marble-effect printing, deep embossing and metallic finishes.

There were also natural-look products in PP that included woven-effect designs as well as solid colours and wood-look décors and PVC décors in a variety of finishes, all with anti-scratch properties.

The company has been awarded numerous citations for its environmentally-friendly production, as well as recognition for the quality of its products by the Quality Research Centre and the Design Centre. It is flagged as an Eco Green Enterprise.

"We welcome enquiries from importers and distributors, larger manufacturers and trade laminators who want unique products and we particularly want contact from British companies."

If that sounds like you, Kim Dae seong can be contacted on +82 10 9180 7948 or by email at milk1215@hanmail.net and you will find more information in English at www.gil-ind.com/eng/index.php





New from Ostermann

On a new and much more open Interzum stand, Ostermann presented new products under the motto 'service, diversity and speed'.

On a newly-designed, open stand, Ostermann used Interzum to showcase the latest trends and its edging innovations as well as new products from a growing range.

The complete Ostermann edging range was presented at the rear of the stand and included were edgings to match the new Pfeleiderer collection as well as new Compact Style décors. There were also exclusive edgings to match Forbo's desktop surfaces as well as concrete, marble, oak and dark wood décors and veneer and real wood edgings.

LED profiles were shown with matching LED strips in different luminous colours alongside classic and modern furniture handles, recessed handles and a variety of technical profiles. New arrivals were LED profiles and recessed handles with trend surfaces in black as well as solid recessed handles in oak and walnut.

With furniture linoleum from Forbo, design boards from Sibü and the flexible Rollbeton (concrete on a roll) and Rollrost (rust on a roll) surfaces, Ostermann showed some of the breadth of a range that's now been increased with the arrival of the new, flexible, light-weight RollMokutan surface. With RollMokutan, you can easily bring the look of burnt wood to walls or furniture. The new surface had been applied to a large area of the back wall of the stand and served as a backdrop, highlighting the Ostermann logo.

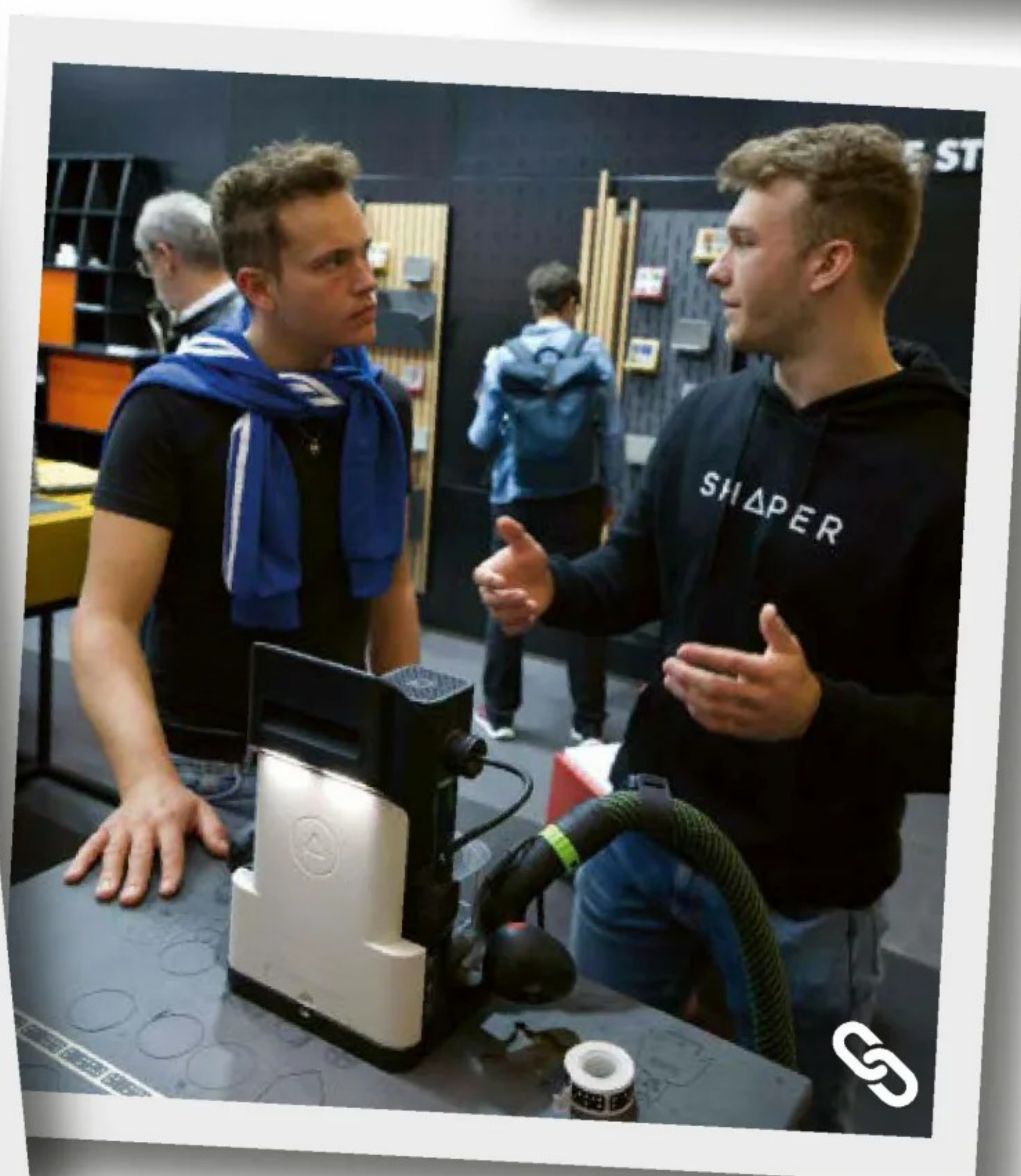
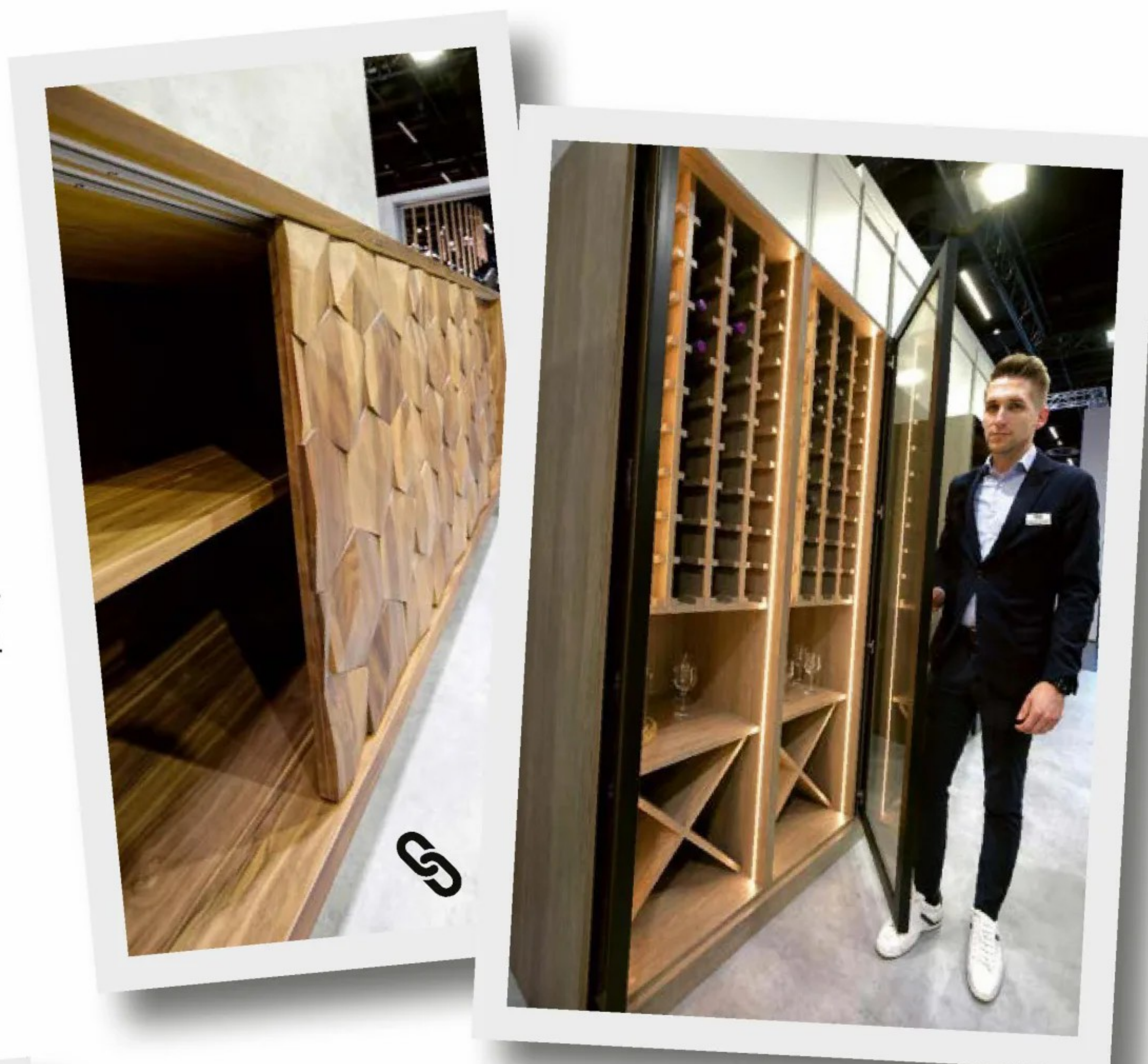
While visitors explored, Ostermann's experts presented the latest in a growing collection of application videos that underline the diverse collection of glues and cleaners and the extensive product knowledge available through Ostermann.

For more information on the latest products, call Ostermann on 01905 793550 or visit www.ostermann.eu/en_GB



Luminous colours
- new handles
from Ostermann

Right: OPK proved there really is a place for cleverly designed, discreet sliding mechanisms in beautiful, contemporary furniture. Sebastian Krames demonstrated a very neat pocket door mechanism incorporated discreetly into a contemporary drinks cabinet – and who could not have been impressed by the almost invisible sliding system used on the stylish cabinet by French designer-maker Luis Neves? For more information, visit www.opkeurope.com or call 49 7451 622640.



Left: It's incredible what you can do with a CNC Shaper router and some moisture-resistant Forescolor MDF. Around 25% denser than MDF and through-coloured, it can be shaped, pierced and cut easily and can be finished with wax, oil, lacquer or varnish without the need for edge finishing. Organic dyes in the wood fibre mean all nine colours and four textures are uniform in colour throughout. Learn more about Shaper at www.axminstertools.com/shaper or email Forescolor@forescolor.co.kr phone +82 32 584 9800 or visit www.forescolor.com/ We understand Forescolor is looking for distribution in the UK.

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Highlights



Totally tool-

From a stand that teemed with visitors, Titus celebrated its 50th anniversary with the launch of new additions to its hinge, connector, push-latch and sliding mechanism ranges.



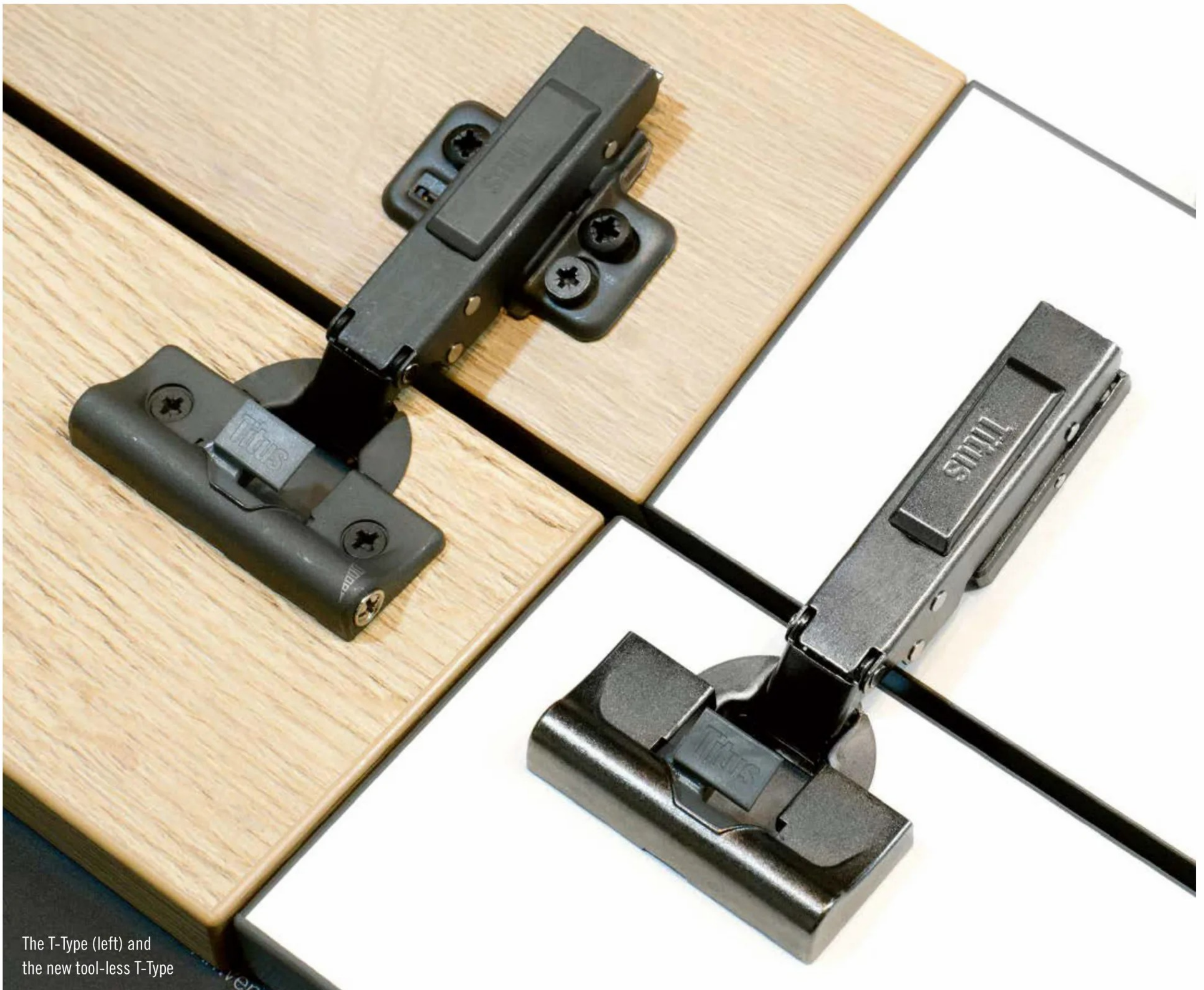
Gary McMahon

There's no doubt in my mind, the Titus stand was one of the busiest I visited at this year's Interzum. It positively heaved with visitors, all eager to see the latest developments in hinges, fixings and slides from this quintessentially British but very international company.

For many years, Titus has championed the cause of CAF (Consumer Assembly Friendliness), which scores fittings according

to the number of actions required to assemble a piece of furniture. With the latest version of its familiar T-Type hinge, Titus made a giant leap forward when it launched a brand-new, totally tool-free T-Type at Interzum.

"This is the first change we've made to the T-type hinge since it was launched," Titus UK's Gary McMahon told me. "It is now a fully tool-less version. What we've done is



The T-Type (left) and
the new tool-less T-Type

less Titus

incorporated a mechanism within the cup of the hinge where it attaches to the door that expands within the cup when you press down on the cover. One press and it attaches itself firmly to the door, no screws, no tools. The T-Type can be attached to the cabinet in any of three ways: you simply click the hinge from the top, from the back or from the front and there you have a hinge, fully installed without any tools. Even tall doors can be installed simply and easily by one person.

“The speed of installation is much enhanced with the new T-Type. There’s no drilling, no screwing in, you simply drop the

hinge in place, clip it down and it’s attached. It’s as simple as that. Then you clip the door onto the cabinet wall, and you’ve got a fully finished kitchen cabinet.

“For fitters who have the carcasses either made up on site or delivered fully rigid, it’s ideal because nothing needs to be pre-fitted to the doors that could damage them in transit. Doors remain fully protected until they’re ready to be installed.”

The official launch of the tool-less T-Type will take place later this year, probably in the autumn, and the intention is to introduce it in two colours: the now-familiar Nickel finish and a dark, almost black finish called

Noir, which is different from the Terra Black Titus introduced a couple of years ago. “Particularly on modern cabinets where you get different internal colours, the darker version fits in with a multitude of different fascia designs very well. It works well with both light and dark furniture designs.” Matching accessories will be also available.

Demonstrated with the tool-less T-Type hinge but suitable for use with any of Titus hinges, was a new push-latch mechanism. “The new Push Latch has a smoother and more controlled mechanism inside,” explained Gary. “With the current version, you press it and it forces out the door with



Gary McMahon demonstrates PushPlus for pocket doors



Tekform Slimline Drawers - now part of the Titus range

a slight jolt. On the new version, we've modified the mechanism so when you press it, it has a much smoother transition from being closed to being slightly ajar.

"You can use it with either damped or undamped hinges but it will also work with our S-type range, which is a model below the T-type. It's very versatile. You can even retrofit it on cabinets. It's just a really nice touch to finish off the look and the feel of the complete kitchen, bathroom or bedroom. It is resistant to dust and moisture because the finish is smooth and there are no external mechanisms. Everything is inside."

The new Push Latch was being shown in a standard Nickel finish but Titus is considering the *Noir* finish as an option for later.

Alongside the Push Latch for static furniture, Titus also introduced new products

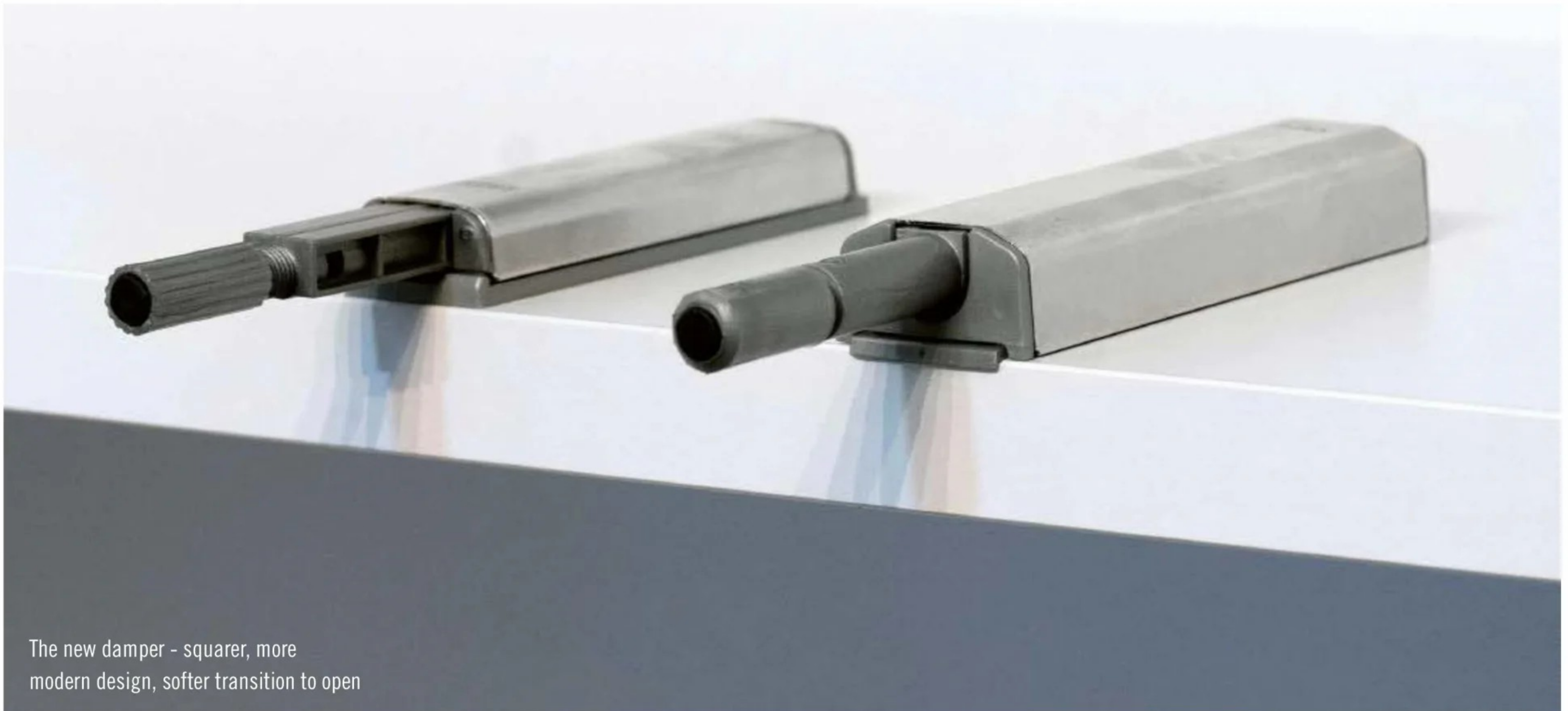
in to its RV range – new push latches and new locks for caravans, motor homes, yachts and applications where the kitchen or the bedroom furniture is on the move. "While you're moving, you don't want the doors to swing open and have things coming out," Gary told me. "The new range of products we're introducing really comes out of the acquisition we made of Simon Kinetics three years ago. What we've done is develop those products further using their expertise and ideas and now we're launching a new range onto the market, which will be available throughout Europe, Australasia and the UK."

Simon Kinetics has also been central to the development of the Slidix product range, which was also shown prominently at Interzum. "We've taken all of the Slidix technology and the design expertise and

incorporated our damper system into it," said Gary. "Because we design and manufacture the damper system ourselves and we've had many years' experience of building dampers, we've been able to incorporate a number of key features that give much more accurate control over the movement of doors, closing them softly."

"We have a new three-way mechanism for sliding wardrobe doors where you have three doors with a centre door that moves. The system automatically centres the centre door for you so you don't have it offset or adjust manually. Particularly in the UK market, that will open new opportunities outside of the KBB market and take us into more commercial applications and offices."

"We also have a new pocket door system with a much more controlled movement that



The new damper - squarer, more modern design, softer transition to open



The new 8mm TL full metal jacket connector (right) with the 5mm version

has a nice, damped, engineered feel to it. Once it's installed, it's very straightforward and simple to use."

If there is one product for which Titus has become particularly well-known it's connectors and no Interzum would be complete without a new introduction. The brand new System Six, due to be launched later this year, was available as a prototype on the stand for visitors to see. It has a pleasing squared-off design on the surface but a round internal hole, which will fit a face-drilled hole. It comes either with or without a cover cap and there are two colour options that give a nice finish and a nice look and feel to the product. Gary confirms it also has improved internal rigidity, so when you're tightening it up, it stays in position and makes for much stronger joints.

"We've got a couple of new shelf supports, which share the new squared-off design and bevelled edge. These are really tiny incremental improvements to the design but I think when they're actually installed, they just finish it off so much nicer. You haven't got a screw or something very industrial-looking to hide; it looks as if it's meant to be there."

Observant visitors may also have noticed a new 8mm version of the full metal jacket connector at Interzum – another product that will be formally introduced later this year. "The 8mm TL – a full metal jacket connector – has been enlarged to fit 8mm holes, where currently the one we have is 5mm. With an 8mm connector you get an even stronger connection between the two surfaces. The TL product covers most applications in wood, MDF and chipboard."

Interzum 2023 marks the 50th anniversary for Titus and the company celebrated in style with on-stand hospitality and evening events adding to its many new introductions. "We are a very British company," Gary reminded me. "We're very proud of that. We are looking to the future with great optimism. We've been very encouraged by the reception from visitors here. We've had many visitors from the UK, which is absolutely incredible. It's really encouraging to see that the industry is coming together once more. There's a sense of optimism going forward and we are really delighted with the way our latest products have been received."

For more information on all the latest cabinet hardware introductions from Titus, call 01977 682582 or visit online at uk.titusplus.com



One-stop Hranipex

From a very different Hranipex stand, Petr Zmatlo outlined some of the new directions the company is embarking upon.



If anyone had asked me four or five years ago which products came to mind when the name Hranipex was mentioned, I'd have answered without hesitation: edgebandings. With a little prompting, I might have taken a guess at glues and cleaners – a logical extension to a well-understood product line. But in the last couple of years, Hranipex has broadened its offer and its appeal, especially to small and medium-sized furniture manufacturers who want a personalised service and value for money products, and gradually introduced a wider portfolio that adds to the edgebandings, glues and cleaners the company launched with. The range now includes a growing collection of available-on-demand fittings.

When I first reported on the new warehouse and offices at Hranipex UK in the November 2021 edition of Furniture Journal,

the reasons for taking on such a large building were not immediately clear. At Interzum, on a very different Hranipex stand, Petr Zmatlo, who heads up international sales from the Czech Republic, put everything into perspective:

"The whole company is going through a change," he told me. "In the last four years, we have been making a lot of changes internally. The management team has been changed as well. It is still a family-owned company but it's basically led by a new team.

"We are looking for new opportunities and one of those opportunities is to build a bigger, wider product portfolio. The logical step for us to take was into fittings, which includes a lot of different products – everything you need to produce furniture. Our product portfolio today is very broad. The only thing we don't supply is the boards,



so if you want to produce kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms or furniture for the living room, basically everything you need you can get from Hranipex.”

By the summer of 2022, Hranipex UK was already stocking a range of drawer slides, hinges, push-to-open mechanisms, lift mechanisms and gas springs. Alongside these was a huge range of handles, knobs, profiles and hooks and supplementing these were office furniture items and table legs, castors, glides, locks, magnets, cable management systems, push-to-open plug sockets and more. Many were presented at Interzum.

Hranipex also used Interzum to show its slim double-wall drawer offer, the RiexTrack Slim drawer box system, which has integrated brackets in the side panels to connect the drawer and slides as well as back panel holders for quick and easy assembly – and two slide options: the Riex NU80 Concealed Slide, a full extension 300mm, soft-close synchro for all-wood drawers of up to 40 kg; and the Riex NB55 Ball Bearing Slide, a full extension 45mm ball-bearing slide with 45kg and 24kg options.

In November 2022, we reported on a brand new Riex hinge offer that had just been brought into stock at Hranipex UK. At Interzum, Hranipex showed an entire wall of Riex NC20, NC40 and top-of-the-range NC70 hinges covering opening angles from 30° to 155° and providing numerous fixing methods. The NC70 range includes 155° hinges with zero protrusion, inset, overlay, 30°, 45° and more with various different mounting plates and covers for the arm and cup. You can buy the hinge with the mounting plate, screws and covers all in one pack, or each of the components separately and the minimum order from Hranipex UK is one item. Everything is available on next day delivery if you order by 5pm the day before.

By January 2023, Hranipex UK had started stocking newly-introduced collections from the brand Citterio Giulio, adding Italian flair and style to a growing range of own-brand Riex handles and knobs. A large range is available with centres from 32mm to 1794mm and matching knobs can also be purchased in various dimensions and metals, including stainless steel, nickel,



Petr Zmatlo



Hranipex used Interzum to show its slim double-wall drawer offer, the RiexTrack Slim drawer box system.



bronze and aluminium as well as plastics and woods. On show at Interzum was a complete range, including the square-edged classic look XH60, and XH62 in patinated French bronze, matt black, matt gold, and matt silver. From Hranipex UK you can order 50 boxes at a time, or only a few to suit your needs.

March 2023 saw the addition of an entire range of kitchen storage solutions, including full height larder units, corner cabinets, base units and organisers with accessories such as e-touch opening and closing, as well as additional baskets. A major part of the offer comes from the range of Kesseböhmer kitchen storage solutions but Hranipex UK is also offering the Riex brand alternatives – a more cost-effective solution that still has the functionality you would expect.

“In the last year we have introduced fittings to 13 countries,” continued Petr. “We started last year and the last two countries added to the portfolio were Germany and Austria. That’s only since April. Everything we

are showing at Interzum is relatively new but it is the fittings I really want to highlight.

“We have always been a company that can supply anything to anyone. The market is constantly changing but for us the small and medium-size manufacturers are still our main focus. We do work with distribution and we are working with some very big customers as well but it’s the small and medium-size businesses we can really help and that’s where we can grow.

“We never have been a ‘cheap selling’ company; we have always stayed focussed on delivering good service and quality products at a good price. We are not at the very top, the best level; the quality we offer is mid and higher level but if a customer wants something from a lower segment, we can still offer it.

“The UK always was a different market. It’s a very good country to launch new products. After Brexit, there were some changes in logistics, export and import regulations but for me, the UK is still part of the European



Union. It’s a very important market for us. What I really like about the UK is that customers are keen to explore new things. They want quality for a reasonable price but they are willing to open new gates and they are receptive to good ideas. I have seen a lot of investment in technical improvements to improve the quality of the furniture and this is precisely what we are there for. It’s where we can really help the most.

“My team in UK is one of the best sales teams I have. They are always keen to take on new products, accept a challenge and introduce new ideas. For sure, the UK is one of my best and most important markets and we want to go further in the future and add more products to our portfolio. The aim is to be a one-stop shop where furniture producers can get anything they need for producing furniture.”

For more information on all the new products available at Interzum 2023, call Hranipex UK, visit www.hranipex.co.uk/en or call 0121 767 9180.

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Moving ideas



Ben Muirhead

The latest developments from Blum encompassed sustainability and urbanisation to personalisation and digitalisation.

On a very different stand with five giant screens at its heart, Blum presented new ideas alongside the latest versions of well-proven product lines – and among them, once again, was an Interzum Award winner: Amperos.

Amperos is a safe and simple solution for the electrification of furniture, which makes manufacturing, assembly and installation an easy, electrician-free process. There are no hanging cables to drawers or pull-out shelves, so lighting, chargers and other electrical appliances can all be incorporated into moving furniture parts.

“We’re showing two versions of Amperos: AC and DC,” Blum’s Ben Muirhead told me from a packed stand. “It’s all about being able to plug whatever you want into furniture,

illuminating the drawer when you open it. Amperos is central to the Digitalisation theme on the stand.

“Another new product on the stand is Aventos HKi. Aventos is the name of our lift-up family. Any wall cabinet where the door is lifted away from the actual cabinet (as opposed to being hinged like a cupboard) is where you’ll find Aventos. We offer different styles of lift opening but HKi is the newest version. It’s actually milled into the cabinet side panel rather than being screwed to it. Being integrated, you don’t see any fixing method. If you don’t have the facility to mill into the side panel of the cabinet, you can route out the side and put a thin cover cap on it, which provides very little intrusion into the inside of the cabinet. It’s about making



Amperos won an Interzum Innovation Award



Function & Components

AMPEROS

Elektronische Systeme | electronic systems
Julius Blum GmbH, Höchst, Österreich | Austria
Werksdesign | in-house design
www.blum.com

AMPEROS ist die einfache und sichere Blum-Lösung zur Elektrifizierung von Möbeln. Verarbeitung, Montage und Inbetriebnahme sind einfach gestaltet und erfordern keine Expertise eines Elektrikers. Strom wird sicher und ohne freihängende oder sichtbare Kabel in Schubkästen oder auf Ablageauszügen geführt und ermöglicht somit Licht, Ladefunktion und die Verwendung von elektronischen Geräten in und auf beweglichen Möbelteilen. AMPEROS bildet die Grundlage für eine Vielzahl kreativer Anwendungen, die Design und Funktionalität vereinen, den Kundennutzen und die Wohnqualität steigern.

AMPEROS is the safe and simple solution from Blum for the electrification of furniture. Manufacturing, assembly and installation are extremely easy and do not require any assistance from an electrician. Power is safely supplied to drawers or pull-out shelves without any free-hanging cables, allowing lighting, chargers and other electrical appliances to be used in and on moving furniture parts. Blum's solution AMPEROS also provides the basis for a variety of creative applications that will be made possible in the future. Combining design with functionality, AMPEROS generates customer benefits and improves quality of living.

Sie finden den Hersteller am Stand | You can find the manufacturer at booth: 21 A-018-A-021 & B-014



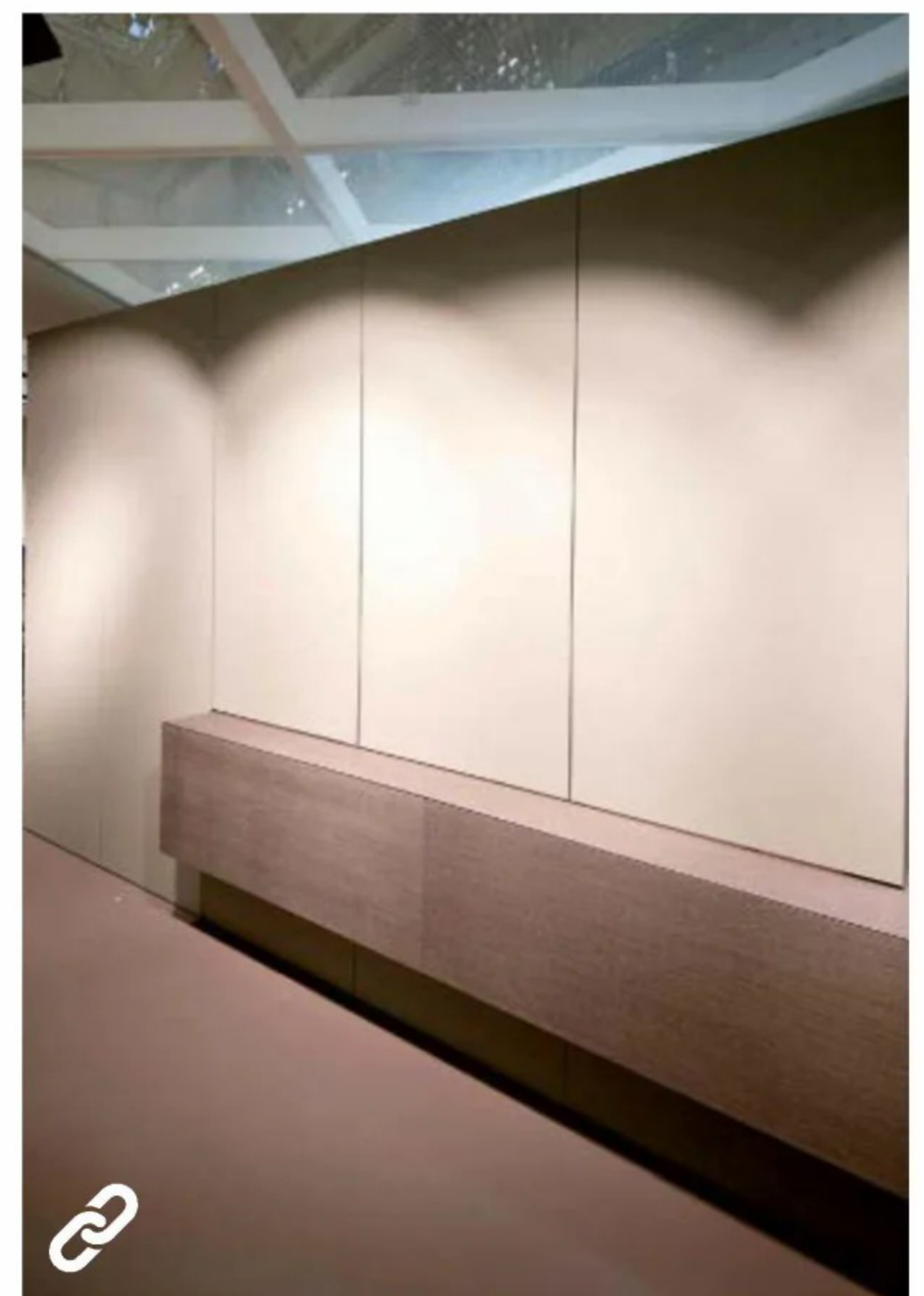
The new Aventos HKi



Admiration for Aventos Top



Ben Muirhead with Revego



cabinets more aesthetically pleasing whilst staying functional."

Ben confirms Aventos HKi will be available in the UK in the first quarter of 2024.

"When Aventos was first launched, it needed an internal depth of 278mm. Typically, cabinets in the UK, especially 10 years ago, are 300mm deep. Once you add your void and 18mm, there's not a lot to play with. The latest versions at Interzum have been reduced to 264mm, giving you a lot more room to play with."

Also making its début at Interzum 2023 was Revego, a new pocket door system. "There are two versions," Ben told me. "Uno is for one single door and Duo is for a double door opening. Revego been soft launched in the UK during the show and, although prototypes have been show at various exhibitions, we have just received the very first order. It will be delivered by June.

"What we're showing at Interzum is how Revego can be used in different applications. Originally, doors could be up to 2.5m tall. It can in the future be supplied for doors of 3m, which, for the UK market, is really good because around 50% of our housing stock in the UK is still pre-World War II. We've got a lot of Georgian, Edwardian and Victoria properties with 12-foot high ceilings and that's where Revego could work especially well.

"Lighting is a big feature on the stand. There's lots of lighting being added to cabinets these days, so we're trying to take it to a new level by building it into the cabinet along with the drawers themselves. It's controlled by an app, so what we're showing is aluminium-framed doors where you can see whatever's behind. We can control the lighting so it stays on, so when you're looking through the glass door, you're still seeing everything illuminated. You can change the colour temperature to a

warm, or low level light, then when the door is opened, the lighting will change to a cool bright light, or whatever you prefer. It's about changing the whole ambience of the unit. You can play around with it as much as you want to. Lighting is a really good way to add value to a product."

A section of Blum's stand was dedicated to e-services – everything you can do from a laptop or computer. "What we're showing takes you all the way from design to ordering and even exporting. There's a whole catalogue with CAD data that allows you to design a cabinet and put all our products in that you want. It will present the cutting list for you, or it will give you a .dwd or .dxf file for your nesting machine and it's all free of charge to Blum customers."

For more information on all the latest products from Blum, call 01908 285700 or visit www.blum.com/gb/en/



Takeaway from Ninka

Take a look at Taska, a new and very versatile bag from Ninka that also doubles as a bin.

Is it a bag? Is it a bin? Actually, Taska – a new addition to Ninka’s product portfolio that some of you may have seen in prototype form at Sicam last year – is both.

“In wider pull-out drawers there is often space on the right-hand side, or on the left-hand side of the waste bins, which is sometimes unused or is not organised,” Jens Ruthe explained. “We have created a bag, which you can put into the drawer that you can use for glass, newspapers, cardboard or

whatever. It’s perfect for the things you often don’t know exactly where to put. When it’s full, you simply lift the handles, take it outside to the recycling bin, or put it in the car where you can take it to the recycling centre.”

Called Taska, the new addition to Ninka’s product portfolio is the latest addition to the popular ‘one2four’ collection and having the same height as other components in ‘one2four’ means it fits perfectly alongside,



Klaus Henning Wulf, Managing Director of Ninkaplast GmbH, shows how Taska can be used inside the one2four system



whatever configuration is included in the drawer. It can be placed directly on the base of the drawer without the need for a bottom base plate.

“We decided to start with a dark grey, which matches our waste bins, and a red, which was very popular during our first presentations at Sicam. Because Taska can also be used as a bag that you could take to the market and fill with vegetables, for example, we thought bright colours might also prove popular. We are showing these at Interzum to gauge reaction but with our material we have unbelievable colour

possibilities. If a customer wanted special colours we could make them. Taska is not only for waste separation, it's a bag for the whole day, so we want it to be as functional outside as it is when it's in your kitchen drawer, your utility room drawer or your office drawer.

“Normally we resell products to our kitchen industry customers but this is a product we can sell separately to anybody. It will be available in the UK from late September, or early October.”

Taska was not the only new product on the Ninka stand at Interzum. The company

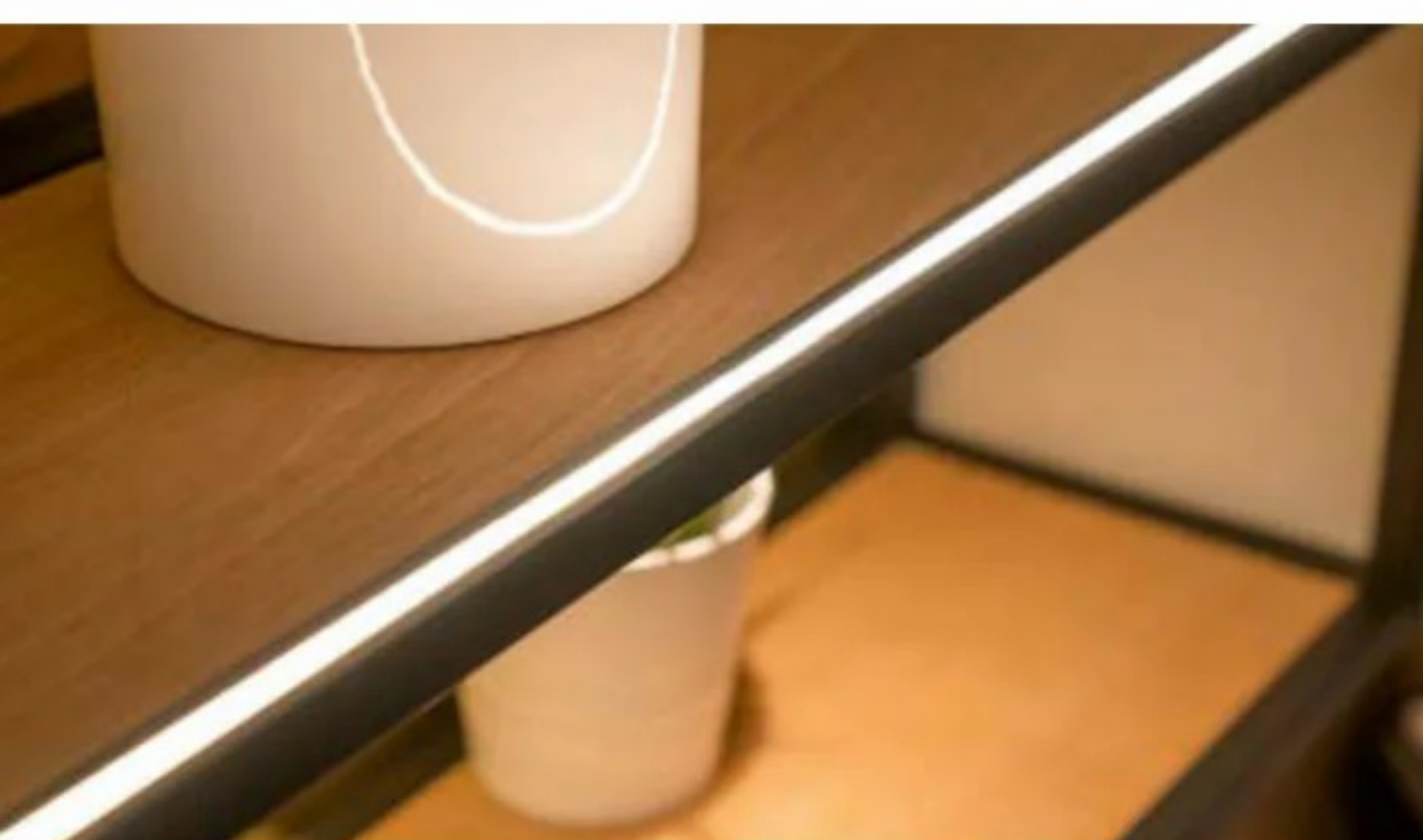
also showed a new black edition of Qanto, the vertical rising storage unit that rises out of the worksurface and makes fantastic use of the space in square corners. The black version of the cutlery insert Cuisio proved to be quite popular when it was shown at Sicam last October but at Interzum, it was also being offered with gold profiles.

For more information email Mark Batchelor at mark.batchelor@atrium.uk.com or visit www.ninka.com/en/ You'll find an inspiring video on Qanto at youtube.com/watch?v=aUJh5JE9zAc&t=24s



Häfele illuminates

Among a wealth of innovations on the Häfele stand were two new ideas for illuminating furniture.



Among the latest additions from Häfele on an Interzum stand that brimmed with ideas were the new Flex lighting system and Modu3.

Flex promises to put an end to the complex and time-consuming process of installing kitchen and furniture lighting. The lighting system has a silicon-based ribbon, which can be bent to almost any angle and radius. Designed as a single light solution it's suitable for multiple applications and integrates seamlessly with a brand-new selection of push-fit profiles for plinth, handle-less and splashback applications. Select the profile required, push the LED ribbon into position and with no more effort, you have the desired effect. The profiles can be cut to suit a multiple of applications.

The Flex lighting system, available in two lighting colours – cool white and warm white – can be controlled in many ways, from standard to smart switch or even remotely by an app on the user's phone.

Another new introduction for Interzum was Häfele's Modu3, an entirely customisable and modular shelving system that can be used as a standalone product or in

combination with the Flex lighting system. Combining chipboard or MDF panels (available in five different finishes) with aluminium profiles, various shelving designs can be created using any of the three standard sizes available – 600mm, 900mm and 1200mm.

Häfele has created a range of different assembly packages to choose from: there is a 'ready to be assembled' pack, which includes a finishing trim to cover rebate; a second 'ready to be assembled' pack, which also includes a complementary shelf; a 'part assembled pack', which can be adapted to a bespoke design submitted by the customer, before being flat-packed via Häfele to Order (Häfele's free cutting and packing service designed to improve efficiency and cut down on waste; or, as a fourth option, Modu3 can be delivered built and ready to fit. All of the above can be combined with the Flex lighting system already integrated, offering you the first Häfele customised, modular shelving solution with integrated illumination.

For more information on Flex or Modu3, call Häfele on 01788 542020 or visit www.hafele.co.uk

NEW

NEW: FLEX LIGHTING SYSTEM FROM HÄFELE

ONE LIGHT FOR MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

The plug-and-play Flex Lighting System from Häfele, integrates seamlessly with a patent-pending selection of angled, push-fit profiles. These make for a quick and easy to install and maximise the lighting effect of any design.

With plinth, handleless and splashback profiles, you can finally give lighting the freedom to bend round corners and over splashbacks with or without wall cabinets, all without adhesive, reducing installation time whilst increasing its longevity in the consumer's home.

It can be simply cut on site to suit a multiple of applications or shipped to you ready-cut and tested to your design using the Häfele to Order service, reducing time and waste.

Order the Flex System in cool or warm white to give any kitchen or furniture design the 'Wow' factor.

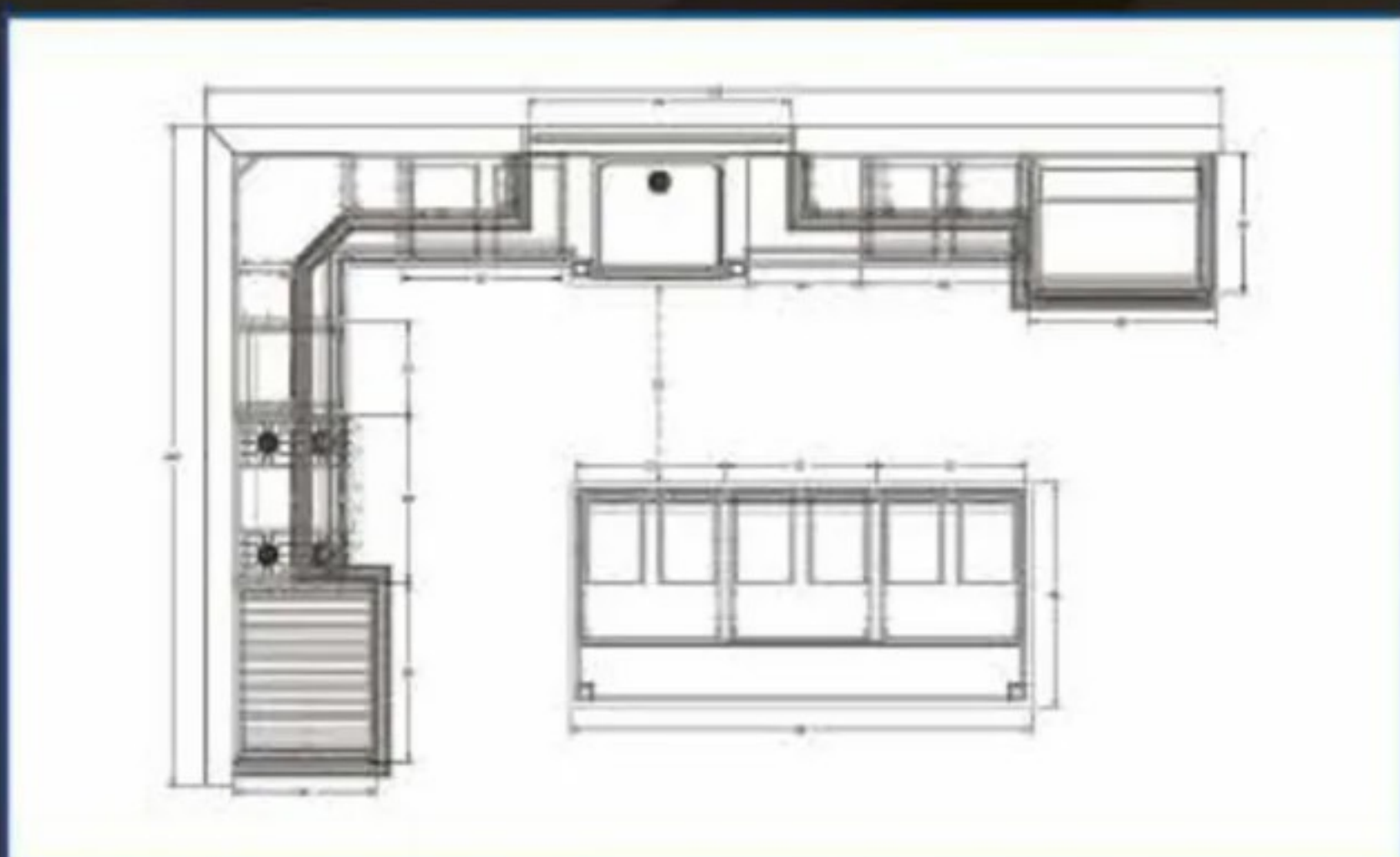
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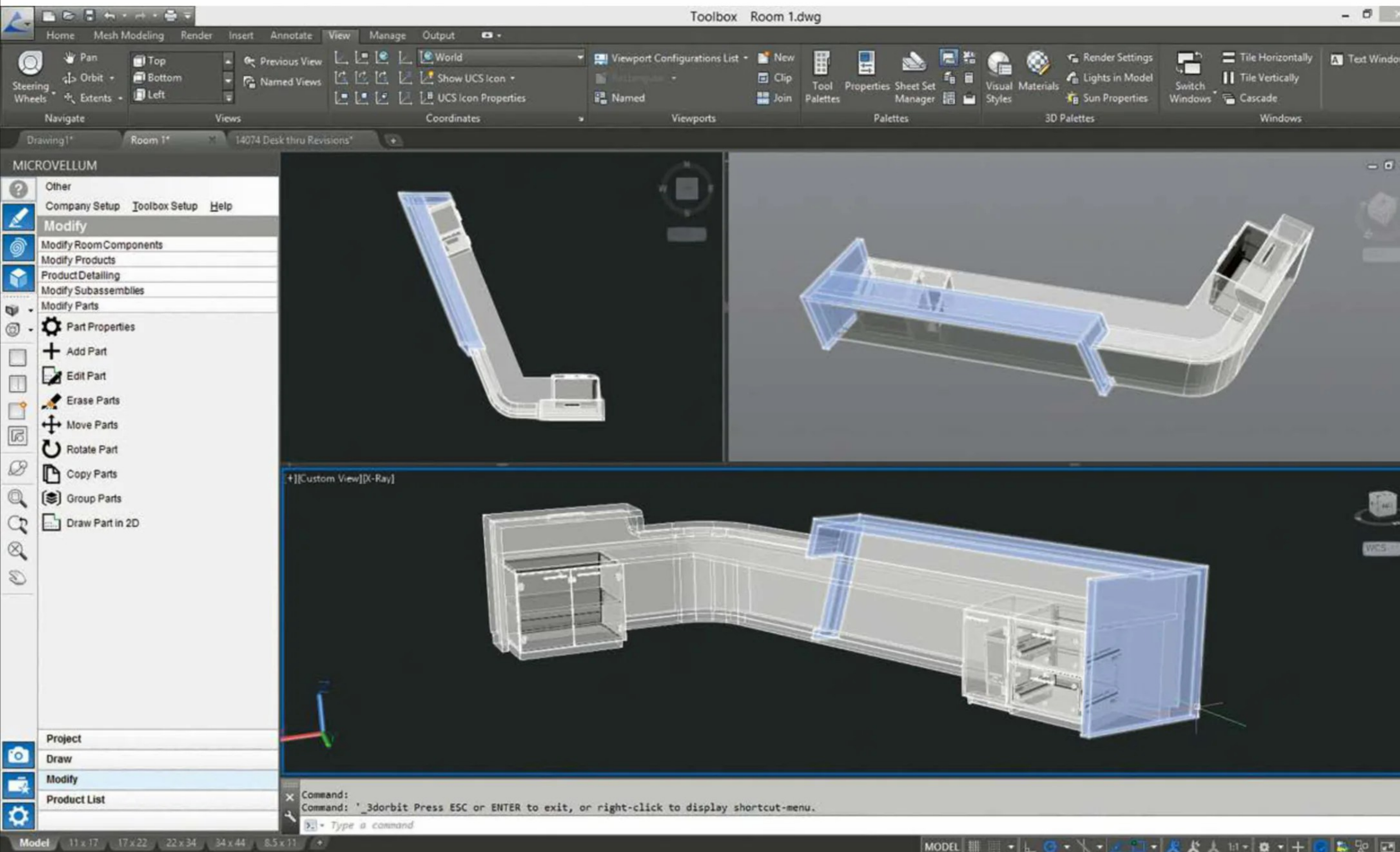
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Customisable software

For more than twenty years, the CAD/CAM/CIM technology specialists at Microvellum have been dedicated to improving efficiencies and expanding capabilities for woodworkers utilising their highly customisable, AutoCAD-based software and at Interzum, they put on a show in the boulevard.

The open-architecture platform has been developed to optimise the workflows between estimators, designers, drafters, engineers, and production teams, reducing redundancies and maximising efficiencies for wood product manufacturing. 2D & 3D architectural drawings created with the system include embedded production data, allowing for the seamless creation of manufacturing reports and programs for automated machinery.

Typical users of Microvellum's software include companies that manufacture architectural joinery, residential cabinetry including kitchens, bathrooms, and bedroom furniture, as well as commercial interior fit-outs for office, hospitality, education, and healthcare environments.

The platform includes built-in toolsets and algorithms that can help eliminate the need for secondary CAM software for part programming, tool-pathing, scrap management, part labelling and other related manufacturing activities.

The Microvellum team includes specialists with deep roots in the wood industry, many of whom have extensive woodworking experience and are former end-users of the software. They are dedicated to equipping people with the tools and knowledge to streamline the way they work.

With its headquarters in Central Point, Oregon USA, Microvellum currently boasts 6,500+ users worldwide with the majority located in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, The United States and United Kingdom.

To learn more about Microvellum and how it can help you create a competitive advantage within your business utilising customisable woodworking platform, or to request a free assessment of your business, visit www.Microvellum.com

Microvellum demonstrates its software solutions at Interzum 2023.





A shift in emphasis throughout the industry made for a very different Ligna 2023 but the outlook was positive and optimistic.



As the much-anticipated 2023 edition of Europe's largest and most impressive wood and panel processing machinery show closed its doors and the final visitor numbers were counted, there must have been a smile on the faces of the organisers. Post-Covid, with a war raging between the Ukraine and Russia, and with 200 exhibitors fewer than in 2019, Ligna 2023 still managed to put on an impressive show for the 80,000 visitors who travelled from 160 countries.

Visitor numbers were down by around 10,000 on 2019 but on the stands of Homag, SCM, Biesse, Felder, Weinig and other big players, there was no hint of the reduced numbers passing through the turnstiles. They were busy – seriously busy – and that's a good sign following a record year in 2022. But did that translate into the volume of orders exhibitors wanted from Ligna 2023? It's hard to know with any certainty until the dust settles and that won't be for a while yet

but, despite concerns over tightening of monetary policy, widespread inflation, increasing interest rates and some disruption to supply chains still remaining from the Covid era and Brexit, the indications at Ligna were certainly positive and the outlook optimistic.

What was very different about Ligna 2023 was the shift in emphasis away from new models of machines by many companies. The shortage of skilled labour was on everyone's lips and machinery manufacturers had devoted significantly more of their resources to developing simple-to-operate programs and systems that deskilled the operation of complex machinery. Automated and robot-assisted solutions reduced reliance on operators and clever software saved time and materials, shaving precious minutes off production and utilising resources to the full.

Software producers showed full factory solutions that de-skilled and automated



Kleiberit's Leonhard Ritzhaupt (left) with Bradly Larkan



processes to an even higher level – and on the CAD+T stand, even the need to scan barcodes had become a thing of the past, replaced by fully-customisable, contactless RFID parts tracking and real-time workflow with no manual intervention.

At the Ligna Stage in Hall 12, around 90 speakers presented the latest market developments and trends. The shortage of skilled workers and issues of recruiting were addressed in a dedicated area promoting networking between skilled workers and potential future employers.

The two blossoming mega trends – digitalisation and sustainability – provided a focus for many, in parallel with batch-size-one, ultra-flexible production. Smart machines, space-saving machines, resource-saving production processes and power-saving solutions were everywhere.

Homag had set itself the goal of 2030 to reduce its ecological footprint still further and allow even more sustainability to be

incorporated into its production and that of its customers. Working under the motto 'Homag Cares', the company declared Ligna 2023 to be its most sustainable trade fair appearance ever.

Across on the Biesse stand, pride of place was given to a Stream MDS edgbander equipped with a Hydrogen Force System – the first such machine to be presented at a major international show. An HFS-equipped Stream MDS will apply one and a half kilometres of edging using just one litre of water, representing a 70% decrease in the power that's needed to edge panels. Now that's eco-friendly!

Eco-friendliness and sustainability have become more important to consumers and many of the producers of materials at Ligna 2023 had risen to the challenge, driving change in key areas to make their products more sustainable and recyclable. Nowhere was this more apparent than in the adhesives sector. Adhesives manufacturers

across the board were offering safer, more environmentally-friendly solutions at Ligna ranging from micro-emissions formulations to bio-based PURs.

In the outdoor area, which seemed to occupy around half the space this year compared with Ligna 2023, the emphasis had shifted from diesel power to electric. On the Combilift stand, the all-electric Combi-CB 70E made its début but, interestingly, while many manufacturers have switched to Lithium-based batteries, there remain issues over just how recyclable these really are. It's a point that's clearly not been overlooked by the Irish handling specialist, as their forklifts – at least until Lithium technology or its replacement come of age – were all equipped with lead-acid batteries.

In the following pages you'll find many of the highlights of Ligna 2023 in detail. The next edition of Ligna will be from 26-30th May 2025.



"The new logo represents the essence of what we do: to subtract matter from a whole, creating shapes that did not exist before."



Steve Bulmer



Biesse's

Ligna 2023 saw a very different presentation from Biesse with a new, unified global focus as Biesse UK prepared to celebrate its 30-year anniversary.

Anyone who runs a business will tell you that achieving growth never comes without challenges. Jump the first hurdles, achieve success and more will follow. But take the next step and acquire an already successful company that has the right synergies with your own and those challenges multiply as different working practices, different marketing strategies and different aims and objectives emerge. Multiply that several times

over with more acquisitions and begin taking your brands to a global market and you're in an entirely new dimension. Without very careful attention and the determination to get them all singing from the same song sheet, you risk losing competitiveness and confusing customers when it becomes difficult to understand what the group is capable of, who is responsible for this or that, or who does what within it. And very likely you could miss opportunities to explore synergies, streamline costs and rationalise production along the way.

Edge

Multi



Renaissance

If you visited Ligna this year, you must have noticed the corporate changes that had been introduced on the Biesse stand: the brand new logo replacing the familiar square with diagonal blocks; the sophisticated shade of dark turquoise, called Biesse Wonder, replacing bright green in the hospitality and other key areas of the stand; four new colours covering Wood, Glass, Stone and Materia – all reflected in a newly-designed website at www.biesse.com/uk/ – and a new slogan: *We simplify your manufacturing process to make the potential of any material shine.*

A couple of weeks before Ligna opened its doors, I caught up with Steve Bulmer, Managing Director of Biesse UK, to get a heads-up on the changes that were taking

place within Biesse at Group level and get an idea of what they meant for customers.

“If we think about the history of Biesse, it all started with drilling machines in 1969,” he explained. “The company became successful, it grew, it acquired other quality Italian manufacturers. But growth sometimes doesn’t follow a defined plan. If you acquire a company, that company has its own identity and its own systems. The group grew to be very successful but it became increasingly complex with each acquisition.

“Biesse’s joint CEO, Roberto Selci, always wanted it to be one company, an integrated company that instead of working in individual business units could be simplified into a much more homogenous organisation. Roberto’s vision was a complex task that

involved changing the shape of the business from an Italian manufacturer working in a global market to a true global company. The new joint CEO who was appointed in 2020, Massimo Potenza, had the right experience and capability to make that happen.

“The reorganisation of the company will enable Biesse to be increasingly competitive in the markets in which it operates, against an international backdrop that is evolving at growing speed. The focus is to get closer to customers and respond to their needs in line with their expectations. We have a new logo and a new identity but this isn’t a simple rebranding exercise; it is really an outward sign that Biesse has become a very different company.



“The company is going through a massive transformation, most of it behind closed doors. Among other things, the changes will ensure high-end technology filters down the machine range but they are also intended to simplify the shape of the business, make efficiency gains and cost savings we can pass on to our customers and make us more responsive to changes in the market.

“The market is becoming increasingly competitive and complex. As a group, we can work any material. We have solutions for wood, glass, stone and other materials and with more and more customers crossing material barriers, it’s become less important to show individual brands within the company and more important to show flexibility and efficiency across everything we do. That’s what’s really behind the new branding. It goes hand in hand with overcoming vertical divisions.

“Biesse is well-known in the market and our customers understand the quality and

efficiency of our machines and what Biesse is about. But there is a completely new audience that doesn’t know Biesse at all and we wanted a more cohesive image for them that gives a clearer picture of the strength of the group and what we can do.”

Biesse’s presentation at Ligna was certainly very different to anything we’ve seen in previous years. The company was presented as one unified brand, the aim of which was to free the creative imaginations of its customers by demonstrating the multitude of materials that can be worked on Biesse machines. During our interview in Daventry, Steve predicted, “Without having a crystal ball, will we see a machine from the group that can work any material in the coming years.” While there was no sign of this at Ligna, there was still plenty of new technology to see, albeit mostly additions and increased functionality to existing models.

The ‘Next’ area was a presentation of what the future is expected to look like for

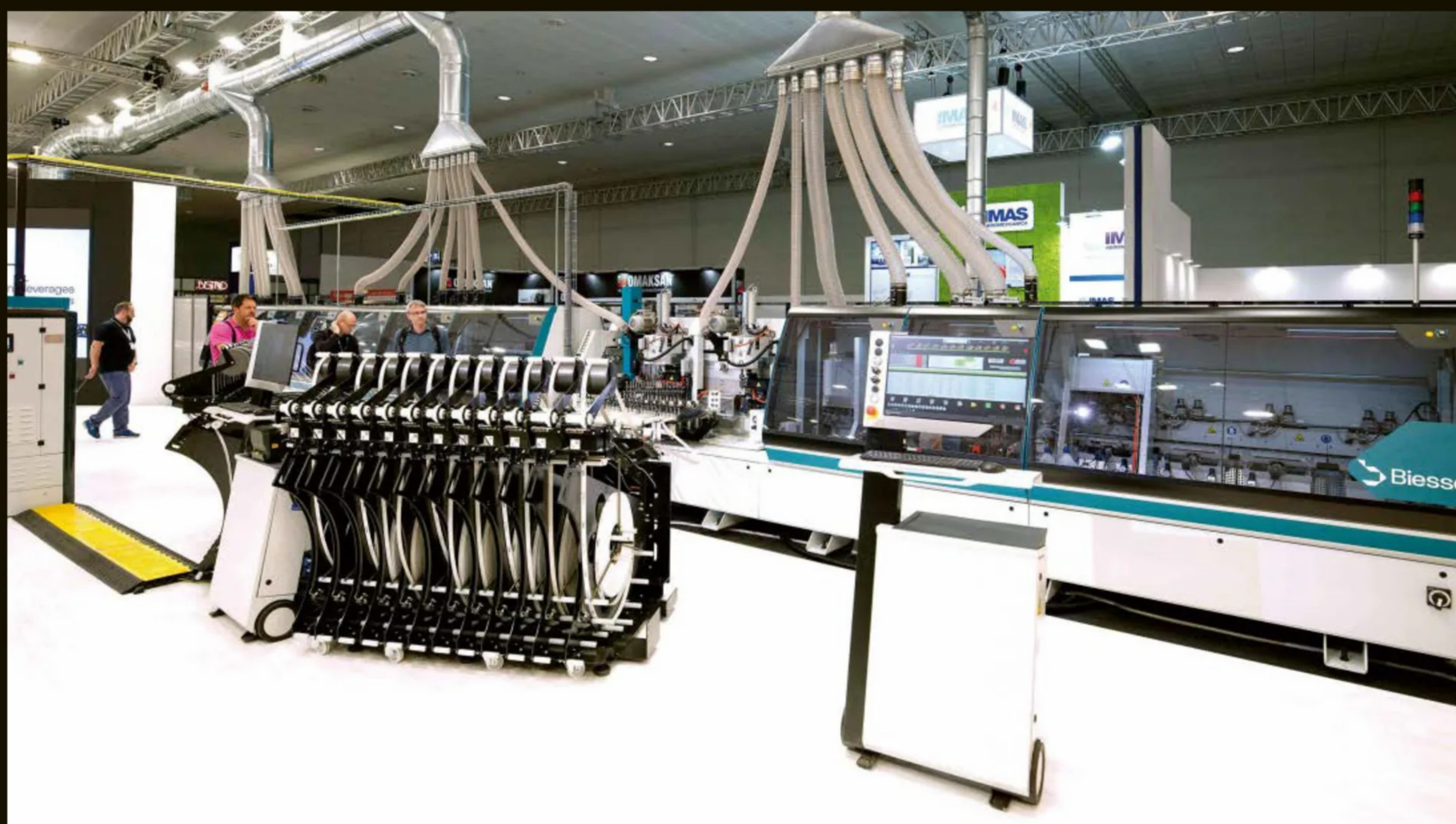
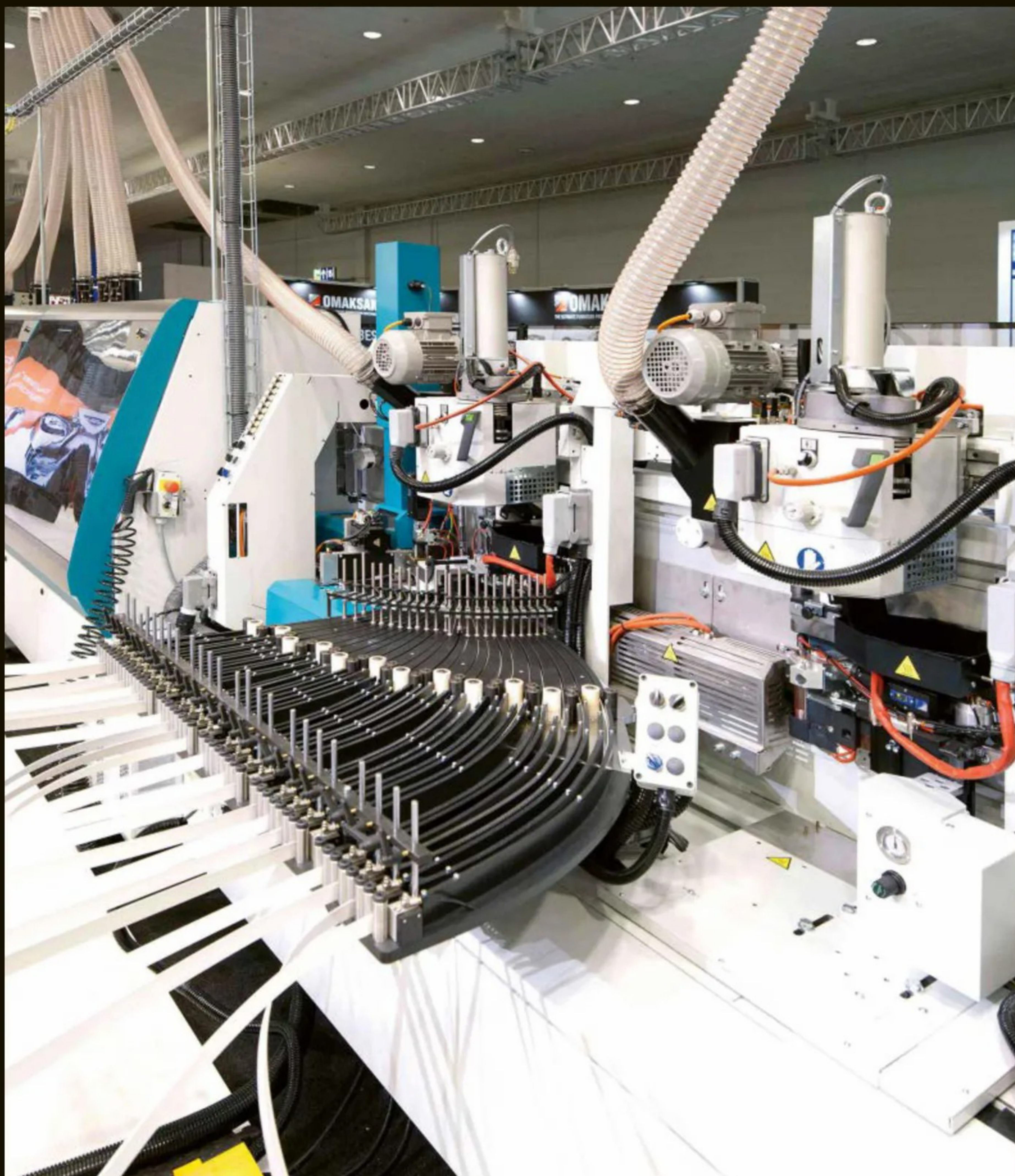
Biesse and pride of place was given to a brand new Stream MDS, which was shown with a new zero glue-line system called HFS.

Biesse has had zero glue-line technology to rival laser edging with its AirForce for several years but HFS takes it to the next level. HFS stands for Hydrogen Force System and it’s an innovation in the field of edgebanding, designed with sustainable production in mind, that combines technological innovation and environmental performance. By using hydrogen, an HFS equipped Stream MDS will apply one and a half kilometres of edging using just one litre of water, representing a 70% decrease in the power that’s needed to edge panels. We will bring you more details as they are released.

While there were new features on some machines, the emphasis on Biesse’s Ligna 2023 stand was firmly on automation and technology that had been purpose-designed to make life easier for you, the customer – the result, Steve says, of Biesse listening to customers’ needs and proactively seeking out

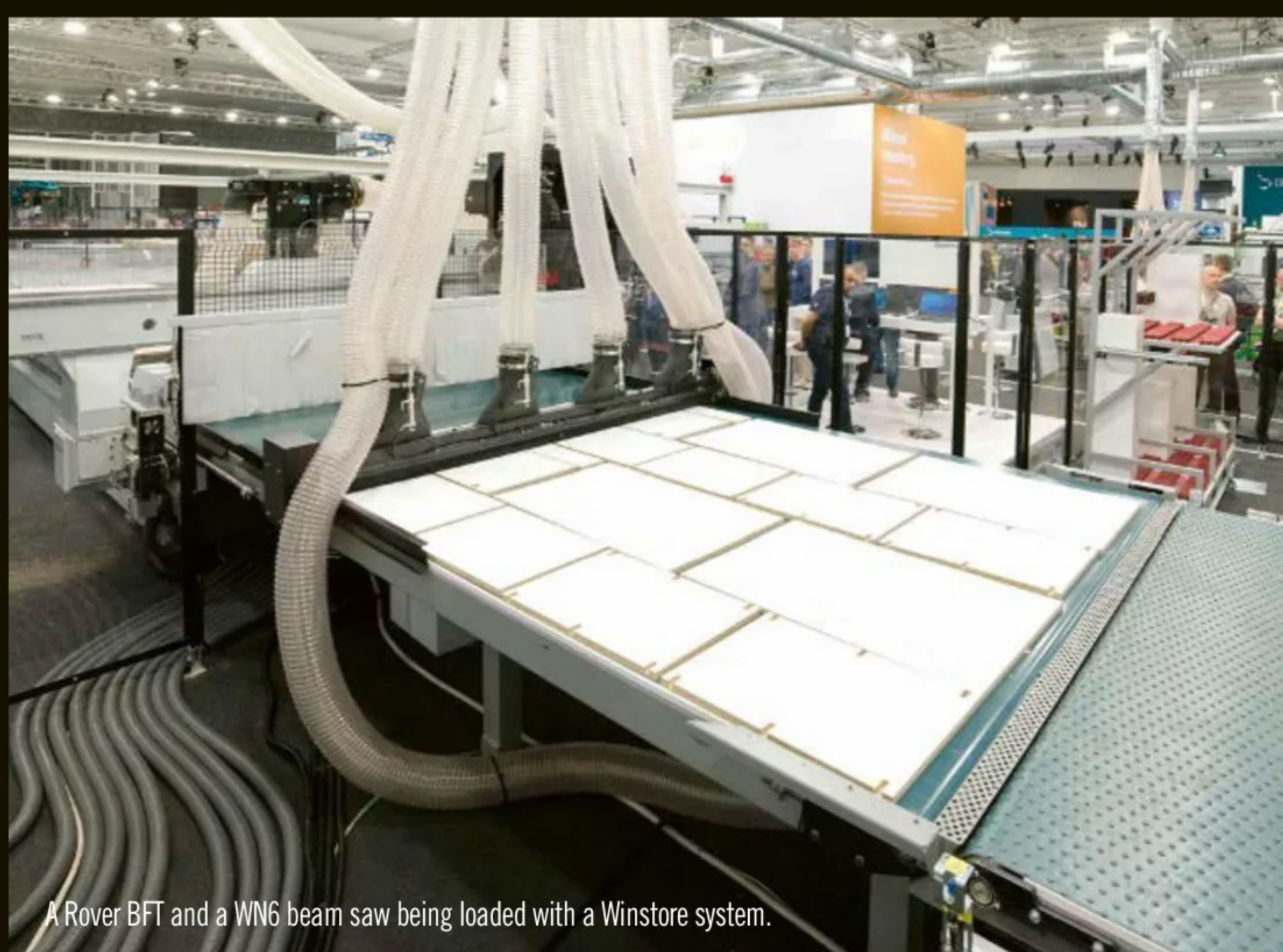


The brand new Stream MDS with Hydrogen Force System





The new Rover A 16 Plus



A Rover BFT and a WN6 beam saw being loaded with a Winstore system.



The new roller hold-down unit on the Rover BHD

new solutions that help them cope better with today's rapidly evolving market. You can expect to see some of those innovations filter through to Biesse UK's Tech Centre in Daventry in the coming months.

The newest entrant to the Rover A range was the new Rover A 16 Plus, a CNC machining centre with two Y-axes. One of the Y-axes is equipped with a spindle, the other with additional features like a drilling block, a horizontal router, or a saw unit that will help you achieve faster overall processing. It's a heavier duty machine that's really aimed at the doors and windows market.

An interesting feature of the software means it's designed to proactively adjust the tool to suit the work list for the day, so the machine will actually understand the tools that are required and it'll place them in the most efficient way within the tool-changers around the machine to provide the fastest

pickup. Over the course of a shift, it can shave quite a bit off normal production times.

Biesse also showed a complete cell with a Rover BFT and a WN6 beam saw being loaded with a Winstore system. The Rover BFT was being unloaded automatically with a robot (ROS), making it more efficient for the user while providing the peace of mind that comes from knowing you can achieve your production targets and expect a significant reduction in handling damage.

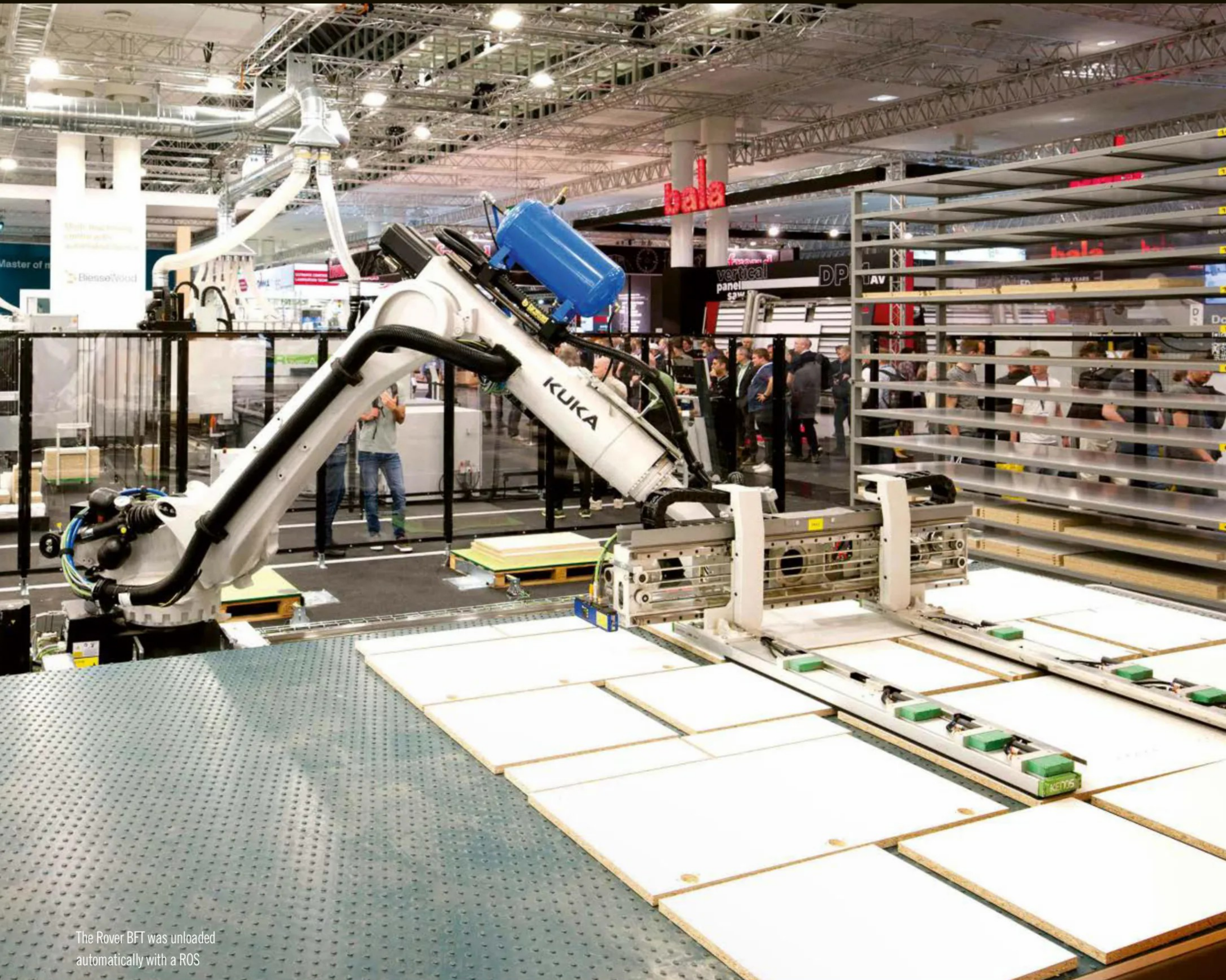
Some of the options on show were quite novel – for example the new roller hold-down unit on the Rover BHD. It's designed to help with the nesting of panels. With a hold-down unit, it's possible to stack panels ready for machining, enhancing production.

Biesse also debuted its new dynamic vacuum system. The vacuum is highlighted where the spindle is actually cutting and to show where the real benefit was, it was

demonstrated using a jumbo sheet that had been cut into squares of 100 x 100. Not one of them was moving on the sheet. It is quite revolutionary.

For drilling, Biesse showed its vertical Brema Vector, which is one level up from the Brema Eko 2.2. It was presented with a Biesse-patented insertion unit that was inserting hinge plates into panels, although it is capable of inserting anything from hinge plates to hinges, bushes and dowels, all with automatic swap-over. The insertion unit is a patented design that uses a robot to insert as the panel comes off the back of the machine. The Vector is claimed to have the quickest tool-change in the industry.

All the edgebanders at Ligna were equipped with new units, such as the AR70 corner rounder we highlighted in an earlier edition of Furniture Journal – but on the Stream MDS we found the next level up: the



The Rover BFT was unloaded automatically with a ROS

AR90. The AR90 is all about improved flexibility during the machining of small batches. With an AR90 you can change from one edge to another and use up to six different profiles within an 800mm panel gap when the machine's running in real time. You can do that with the AR70 as well but the panel gap is larger. It is all about small batch flexibility, making it easier for you to change rapidly from one style to the next and respond rapidly to changes within your production.

Biesse's bSolid 4.I was also demonstrated, running off a 64-bit system rather than a 32-bit system. It's claimed to provide a 100 percent increase in the speed of the software and, we understand, switching to 64-bit has made it a lot more stable. There are enhancements within the bNest software, too, so users can choose which panels they want to machine first.

As part of the global reorganisation, it wasn't just the new presentation at Ligna, or the new colours and new logo that signalled a wind of change in the company. Well ahead of the exhibition, there had already been a root and branch review of what customers need most – and that will mean benefits moving forward for UK customers as well as in markets further afield.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Biesse UK and alongside its new brand image there will be changes to the way in which Biesse UK services its customers. Says Steve Bulmer, "Over the years, as we have grown, there has been a focus on service processes and systems aimed at providing specialist technical support. We have realised through feedback from the market that in some ways it had made us more difficult to deal with.

"Business is all about relationships and close communication. Unfortunately,

sometimes systems and processes focussed on operational efficiency lose sight of this fundamental need. Without wanting to go into detail, we can promise that our new service model will deliver this.

"Customers will have fewer points of contact within our organisation and a simplified process. This will deliver a more personal service and the teams will have more autonomy in delivering a satisfactory resolution. In turn, this will enable us to build closer relationships and, ultimately, react faster.

"We know what the challenge is and we have a plan. We are currently testing it discreetly and I can say the results look promising. We hope to finalise the complete roll-out in the coming weeks."

For more information on all the new developments at Biesse, call 01327 300366 or visit Biesse UK's new website at www.biesse.com/uk/

IMA Schelling Combima
N1/R75/1420 single-
sided sizing and
edgebanding machine

Meet aimi

IMA Schelling Group used Ligna to demonstrate its new software at work in a production environment and unveil next generation technologies in edge handling and drilling.

LIGNA
REVIEW

IMA Schelling Group chose Ligna 2023 to unveil the first production lines to be equipped with its new software, aimi.

Developed in-house, aimi enables visualisation and control of machines and entire plants and includes three basic modules: aimi.Do – the software directly on the machine, which takes care of the actual machine control; aimi.Talk, which is responsible for communication between the machines and with the customer using publish-subscribe services and web services for data exchange; and aimi.Think, which includes all preparatory and planning services such as order planning, optimisation methods and FLS functionalities for overall transparency of processes related to the machines.

The aimi.Do module will be rolled out gradually for all machine types and will soon be available for saws, edge processing machines, drilling machines and storage systems. It is expected that the IPC.NET

control system, which is currently used to network machines, will eventually be replaced with aimi.

The new aimi.Talk communication module is already being used in initial pilot projects. Depending on customer requirements, IMA Schelling will offer different communication technologies, including a special interface directly to SAP.

The aimi.Think module contains important planning and optimisation functions, including the primary production control module, FLS. This visualises the production process with all preparatory and production-related work steps, enabling complete traceability of each individual order and allowing for intervention right down to single component level. When aimi is rolled out in full, this information and the intervention options will be accessible from a central computer in the office as well as on any individual machine in the plant.



System for automatic needs-based supply and processing of material in the edge joining area



Occupying almost the whole of one edge of the IMA Schelling Group stand, one of the production lines at Ligna to be equipped with aimi was a highly efficient edgebanding line equipped with a brand-new automated edge handling system – a system that can be used for single machines through to batch-size-one production lines. Although the automatic edge handling machine is designed for use with edgebanders that provide a processing speed of up to 45m/min, and it is modular, scalable and can be tailored to suit production requirements, it was demonstrated at Ligna with a Combima N//R75/I420 single-sided sizing and edgebanding machine with a maximum processing speed of just over 32.4m/min.

The edgebander itself was equipped with an advanced servo infeed and a stop system for both panel feeding and the production of dimensionally-accurate and angular panels in a random longitudinal and transverse order. The edge-joining area had

been designed for automatic changeover between adhesive and diode laser application. The new automatic edge handling machine to one side of it included a fully-automatic feeding unit, an edge dispenser, a cassette sorter, cassette storage and edge cassettes that put an incredible 102 different edges within easy reach.

Controlled with aimi, the edge handling machine consisted of three components: the cassette tower, inside of which were cassettes containing all the different types of edging material ready for application; three magazine towers, which held up to 90 cassettes; and the control unit, which provided the link between the cassette tower and magazine towers and fed the cassette tower with cassettes as required, removing those that were not needed.

The edge handling system supplies the edgebander with the necessary edges on demand using a fully-automatic feed track to transport the material from the dispenser to

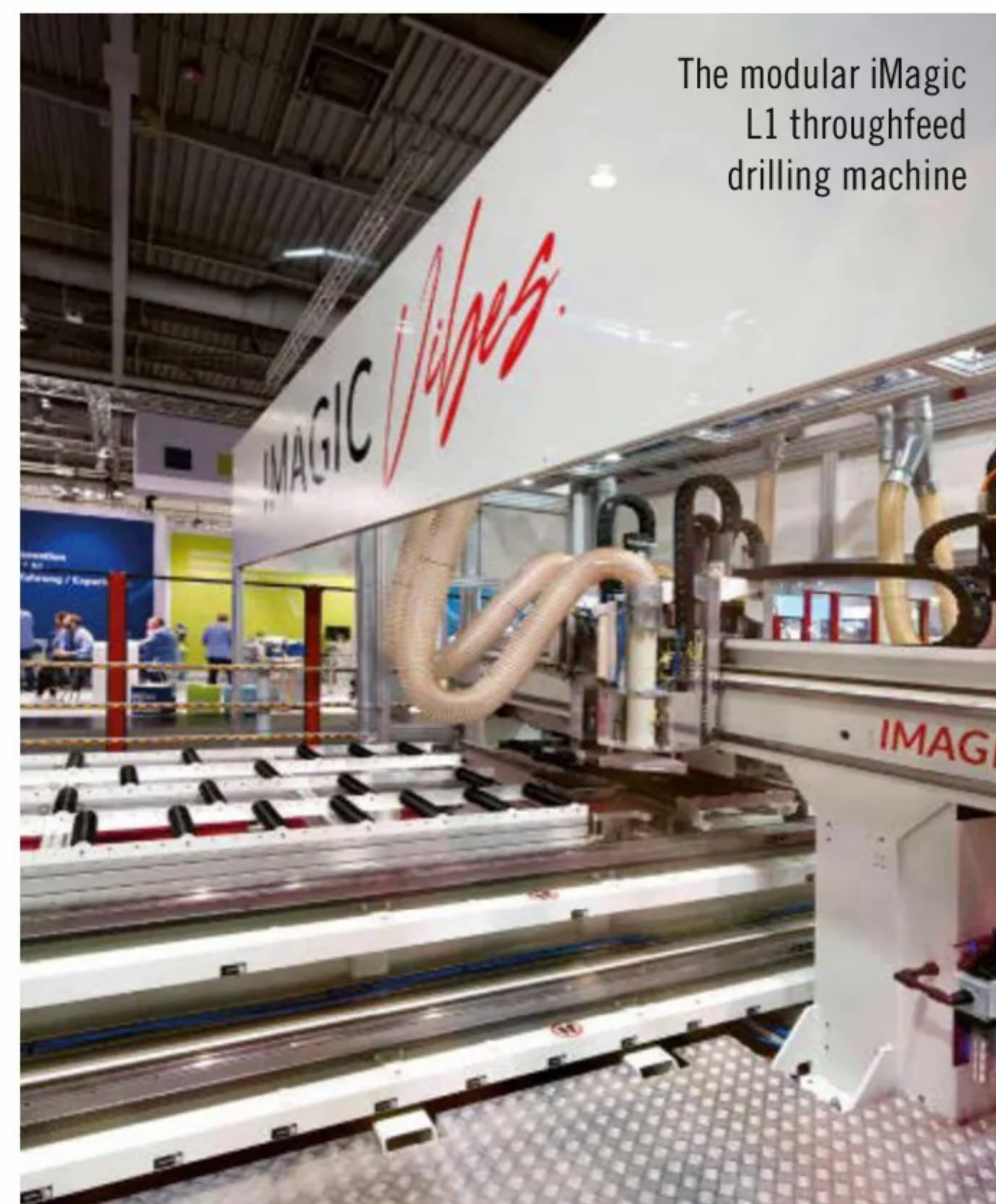
the panel. The edge dispenser holds 12 cassettes and makes it possible to swap between 12 different edging types within the panel gap. Cassette sorting and exchange takes place within the edge dispenser and has no influence on production.

Designed to increase process reliability and availability of the edge-joining area, the edge handling machine provides a significant contribution to overall plant performance. Continuous process monitoring makes unique identification and inventory management of the edge materials possible at any time.

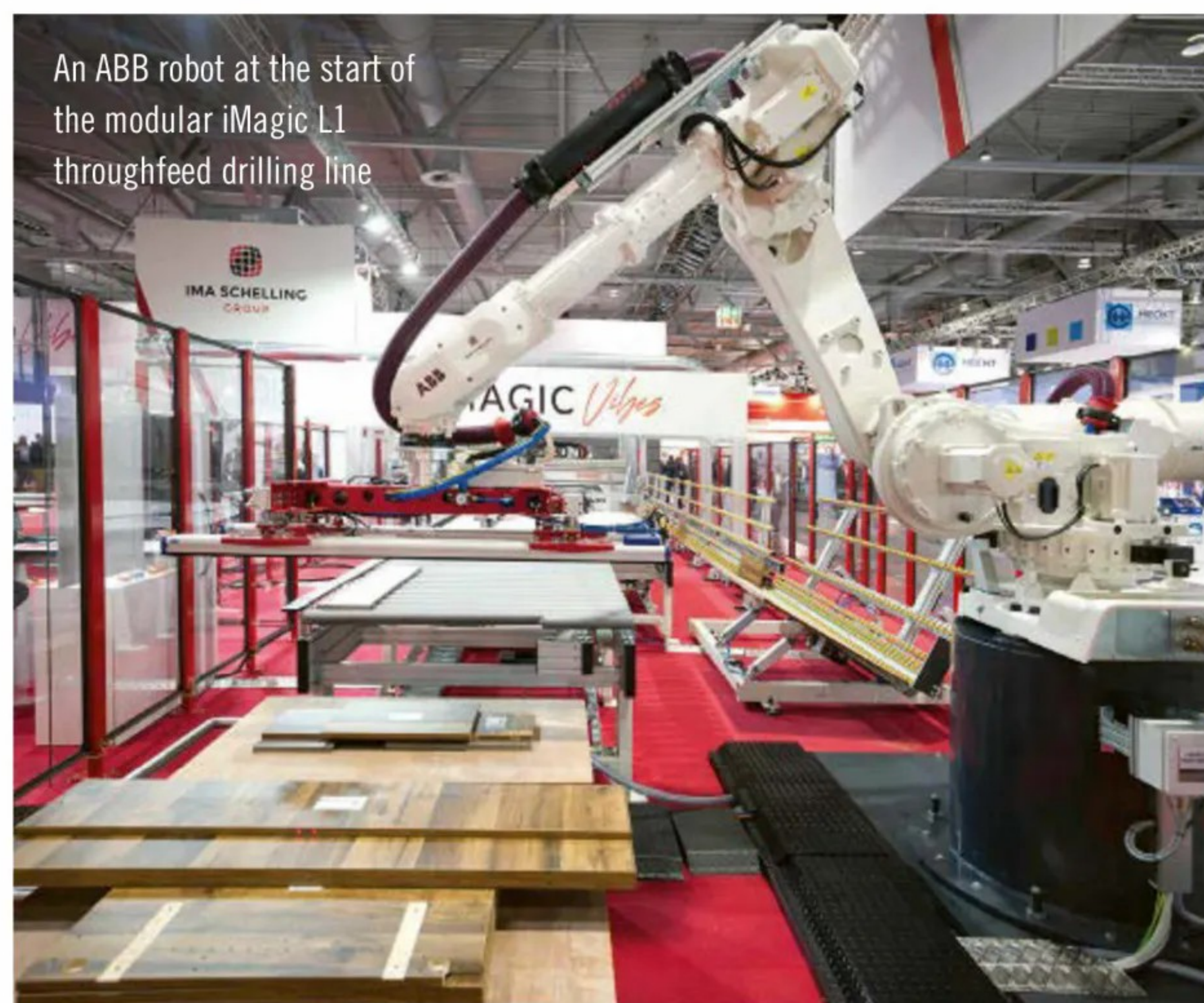
Taking this to the next stage, IMA Schelling also has concepts for fully-automated feeding of the edge cassettes. With the line buffer model, for example, the cassettes are stored above the production line. Storage capacity is accessed with the central warehouse option and the AGV concept uses driverless transport systems for the stacking of edge cassettes.



X30 servo infeed and stop system for pass-through edge processing machines



The modular iMagic L1 throughfeed drilling machine



An ABB robot at the start of the modular iMagic L1 throughfeed drilling line

The good news for existing customers is that it's not only new machines that can be equipped with the edge handling system. It can also be integrated into existing machines if you want to streamline and simplify your edge delivery system.

Although not a new machine for Ligna 2023, IMA Schelling had made various adjustments to its X30 servo infeed and stop system for pass-through edge processing machines that make it worthy of mention. Designed to ensure optimised parts flow and provide greater convenience when it comes to operation and maintenance, the X30 now aligns workpieces much more precisely. Together with adjustments to the insertion cams and the counter holders, the result is an increase in the accuracy of machined components. Cycle times have also been reduced, increasing productivity, while improved operation and maintenance options and reduced noise emissions produce a more

pleasant working environment for the machine operator. The stop system has also been optimised.

At the far end of the IMA Schelling Group stand, and already sold to a UK customer, was an impressive iMagic L1 throughfeed drilling line. Designed for automated, setup-free machining – even for batch-size-one production – the iMagic L1 can be tailored to all individual customer requirements with regard to the type of machining, scope of machining and required power and will take on drilling, milling, grooving or mounting of fittings. This is made possible by standard modules that can be assembled and expanded over a length of up to three machining bridges.

The diverse mounting options on both sides of the machining supports allow for optimum cutting to size of workpieces and, depending on the components, even parallel machining on the front and rear of the support. Whatever the task required of it,

the iMagic L1 can be adapted for drilling or any desired combination of milling, drilling, dowel fitting and mounting of fittings.

Three machining supports can be installed on one machine, making integration of a milling spindle with a stationary tool-changer possible as an option. Appropriate parking and maintenance positions of the units ensure easy drill bit changes and good accessibility for maintenance purposes.

The ABB IRB6650S robot at the head of the line picks panels from the stack and feeds them into the iMagic L1 in the correct orientation. It will also flip the panels and stack finished parts. Equipped with foam pads for delicate surfaces, the robot can handle a minimum panel size of 120 x 240 x 10mm right up to 1300 x 2800 x 40mm, or heavy panels weighing up to 50kg.

The iMagic L1 was developed in collaboration with IMA Schelling's technology partner, Rheinau-based Zimmer Group and it uses the patented

IMA Schelling fh5
with robot



Zimmer transport system with circulating clamping grippers that convey workpieces through the system in a permanent, fixed clamp, even when using several machining supports. This provides several benefits at once: the clamping means that workpiece gaps and chip-to-chip times can be reduced to a minimum; together with the high dynamics of the entire system, this leads to greater plant availability and increased machine performance.

Thanks to its modular design, the iMagic LI can be configured as either a manual or an automated drilling cell. It can also be integrated into complex production lines with ease.

No IMA Schelling Group presentation would be complete without a demonstration

of the company's cut-to-size technology. The Ligna 2023 stand included an fh5 beam saw equipped with a robot, which also demonstrated IMA Schelling's increased emphasis on the integration of robots into production. Although working in tandem with the fh5 at the show, robots are now commonly being used as a retro-fittable, stand-alone solution for destacking onto lifting tables, or pallets. Equipped with vacuum pick-up, the robot was capable lifting different panel formats, thicknesses and weights and even moving off-cuts into a chute ahead of the air tables.

For more information on the Ligna highlights from IMA Schelling Group, call IMA Schelling UK on 01937 586340 or visit www.schelling-solutions.co.uk





Solving the skill shortage

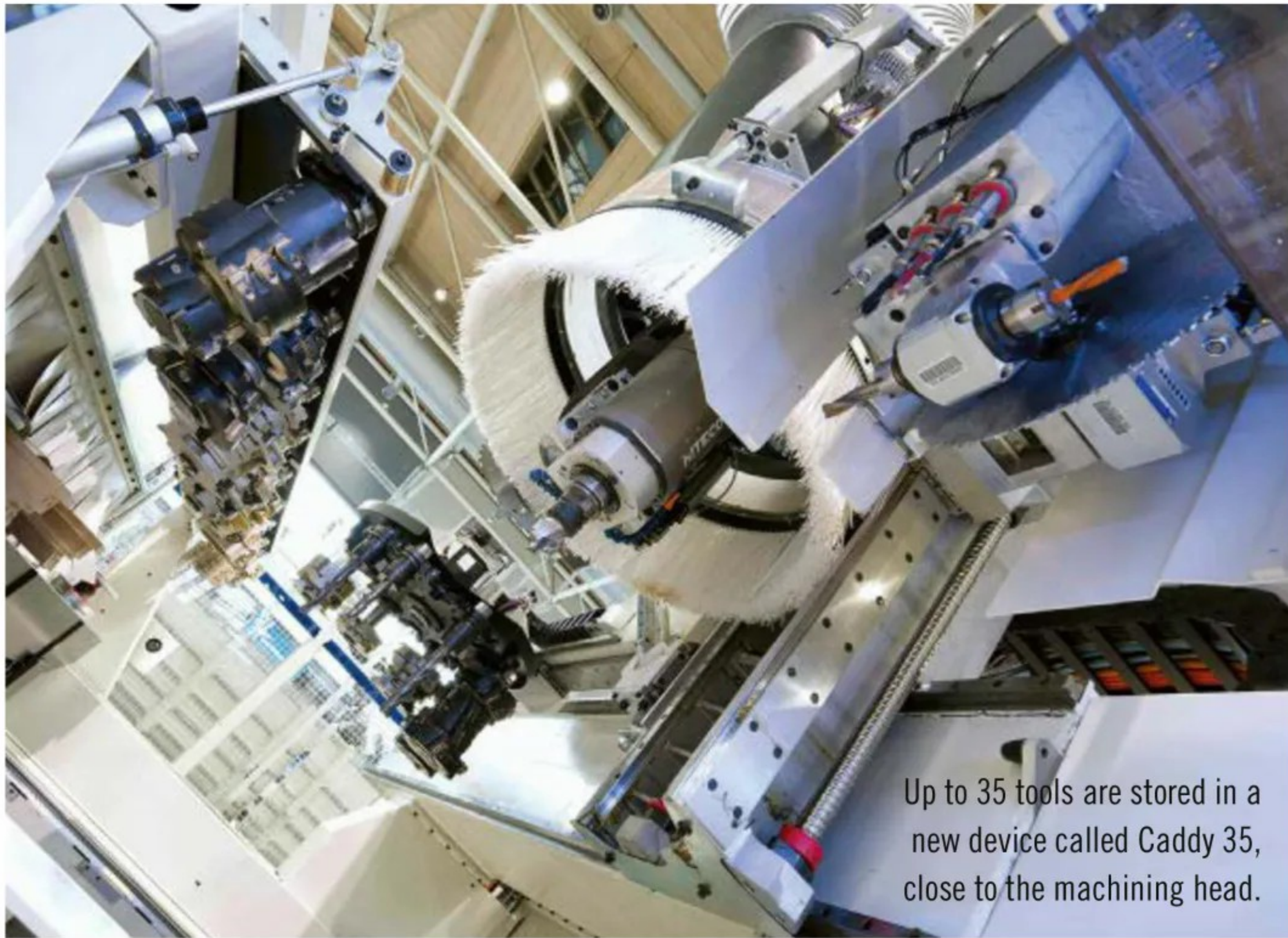
Bruno Di Napoli outlines some of the latest developments to three of SCM's tried and trusted machining centres that were on show at Ligna.

In the last edition of Furniture Journal, we brought you an overview of all the technology SCM would be showing on its 3000 square metre Ligna stand. In this edition, we're going to focus on just one aspect: the latest innovations to be added to three of SCM's CNC machining centres – the top-of-the-range Accord 500, the Morbidelli m100 and the Morbidelli x200.

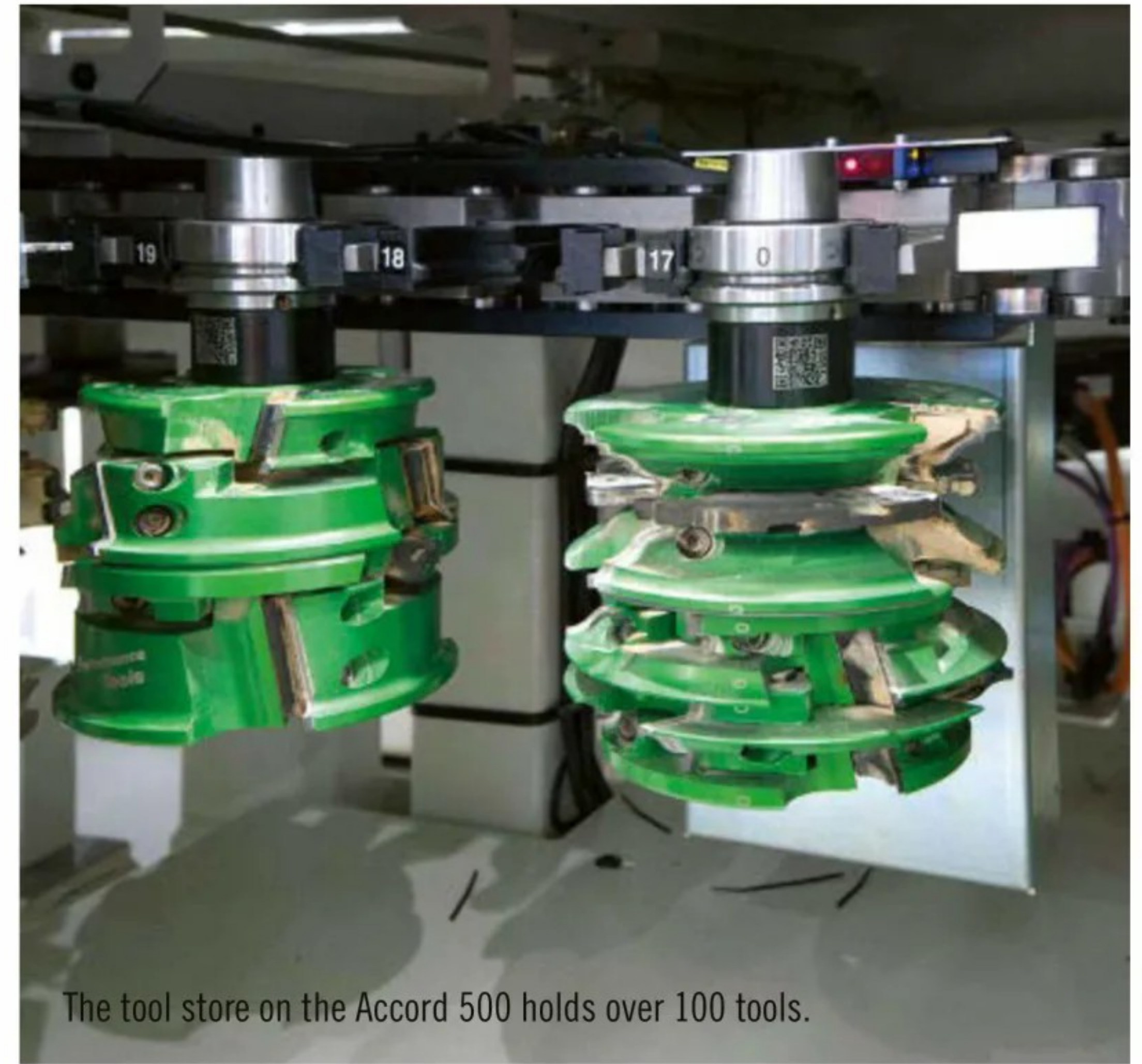
Across the board, SCM's focus has been on two aspects: on making machines greener, reducing power consumption and improving dust removal; and making machines easier to use so less-skilled staff can operate them. "It's no longer about having a bigger electro spindle, a bigger boring head, or five meters faster in travelling," Bruno Di Napoli, Business Unit

Manager for CNC Machining and Drilling, told me from a packed stand. "These are still important but when you go to buy a car, you don't ask if it will take you to the supermarket. You know it will do everything. It's like that with a machine. The concern now is to find good operators. Even operators with moderate skill levels are difficult to find, so we have to anticipate that the operator will not be skilled. Because of this, our focus has moved to developing better software that will make it easy for operators with very little training to use.

"We are also making our machines very practical to use, so the operator has no need to concern himself with mounting the wrong panel, the wrong tool, or putting the tool in the wrong position.



Up to 35 tools are stored in a new device called Caddy 35, close to the machining head.



The tool store on the Accord 500 holds over 100 tools.



“For the Accord 500, a machine designed for working solid wood, we have developed a software program called Maestro power TMS. It has grown out of our experience of drilling machines but we have merged our experience of several sectors into one, taking the concept of optimisation in drilling machines into routing where many different tools are needed. This is what we are demonstrating at Ligna.

“If you are working solid wood, such as in window frame manufacturing, you need maybe 20, 30, sometimes 50 different kinds of tools because of the combination required to produce different designs, although for individual windows, you may only need two or three tools. This means you need a machine with a big capacity for

tool storage but you don’t want them all in one place because that would make the machine slow. With the new Accord 500 we can store over 100 tools and in a new device we call Caddy 35, we can store 35 tools and a 400mm saw-blade pick up close to the machining head where they can be accessed quickly. The Caddy 35 serves the machine like a caddy in golf and by separating it from the main tool storage, the operator can access the larger tool store in total security while the machine is running.

“When you have 50 tools, your first problem is to put all of them in the right position – a position that allows tools of different dimensions to be placed next to each other so they save space. Some of these tools will be very complicated, very



Bruno Di Napoli



Morbidelli m100



Morbidelli x200

big, so to mix differently-shaped tools along the whole tool-changer you need special software. You can go to your supplier and get a good result. Then you put all the tools on the machine and for you, the job is finished. But what happens then? You have all those tools positioned without any relation to the kind of job you have to do.

"If you have to make window type A, it might be that the tools are all far away, so every time you have to travel. You have bought an advanced machine but still you are working in exactly the same way as your grandfather, losing time retrieving the tools you need. With Maestro power TMS, the evening before or even the week before we can optimise the space and prioritise tools so they are perfectly positioned to work at their most efficient with the kind of program you are going to run the day after. If tomorrow you need to make window type B, you tell the machine and it will move the tools you want to the fastest tool

changer so they are always ready on the rack where you really need them.

"In addition to big site storage, there are another two storage points that are right next to the head. By having tools close to the operating head, tool change time takes five seconds instead of 20 or more, so machining time is reduced and the final cost of your piece is less. The big advantage is you don't lose time – not because the machine is running five or ten metres faster but because we have reduced the time it takes to find and change tools."

SCM's Morbidelli m100 drilling and routing machine has been on the market since 2018 and, typically, on this type of machine, you'll find either manual tables that you have to set, or automatic tables. At Ligna 2023, SCM showed a new automatic/manual variant with a new system for guided work table, called FlexDrive.

"The machine and the software select the kind of cups that you need automatically

and determine where the cups must be located," Bruno told me. "To position them, the operator uses a system of lights: green for correct, red for incorrect. You see it on the bar and you position each cup in the right place until only green lights are shown. The software recognises when everything is correctly placed and only then will it allow you to work."

You might be thinking this isn't very new and it's absolutely true, there are other machines on the market with similar positioning systems. However, where SCM has made a real difference is in the use of a Bluetooth system that checks – cup by cup – to make sure each one is the correct cup and it's been positioned in the right place for the job. "It's like every single cup has a different name," says Bruno. "It's not only *this is a rectangular cup and this is a square cup*, it provides all necessary details, eliminating any risk of the operator positioning the wrong cup the wrong way



Morbidelli m100

around on the wrong bar. As soon as you put the cup on the bar, the Bluetooth sensor communicates with the machine, confirming the name, family, street address and postal code of that cup so the operator knows exactly if the cup is the right one or not. This is a big step ahead. With our solution, there is no risk for the operator. He has a very easy job. Feedback from customers at the show has been really good.”

The third machine to see changes at Ligna was the Morbidelli x200 for nesting, presented with a new automatic in-cab labeller that allows the elimination of any possible kind of human error and an uninterrupted and continuous work cycle. What is new is also the software.

“The essence of a good nesting machine is to save material, get the best possible yield out of a large panel, reduce the waste to a bare minimum, then be as fast as possible in doing the job,” Bruno explained.

“If you want to work moderately large pieces, everybody’s machines are pretty good but when you need to work small pieces, such as rails in a piece of furniture, or drawers, the machine is running quite fast and it’s easy for pieces to move. To reduce the risk, typically you need to locate the smaller pieces towards the centre of the panel and start machining from there. Starting in the middle means you lose time because you have to jump to the left, jump to the right. To stop the panel from moving you also have to limit the speed.”

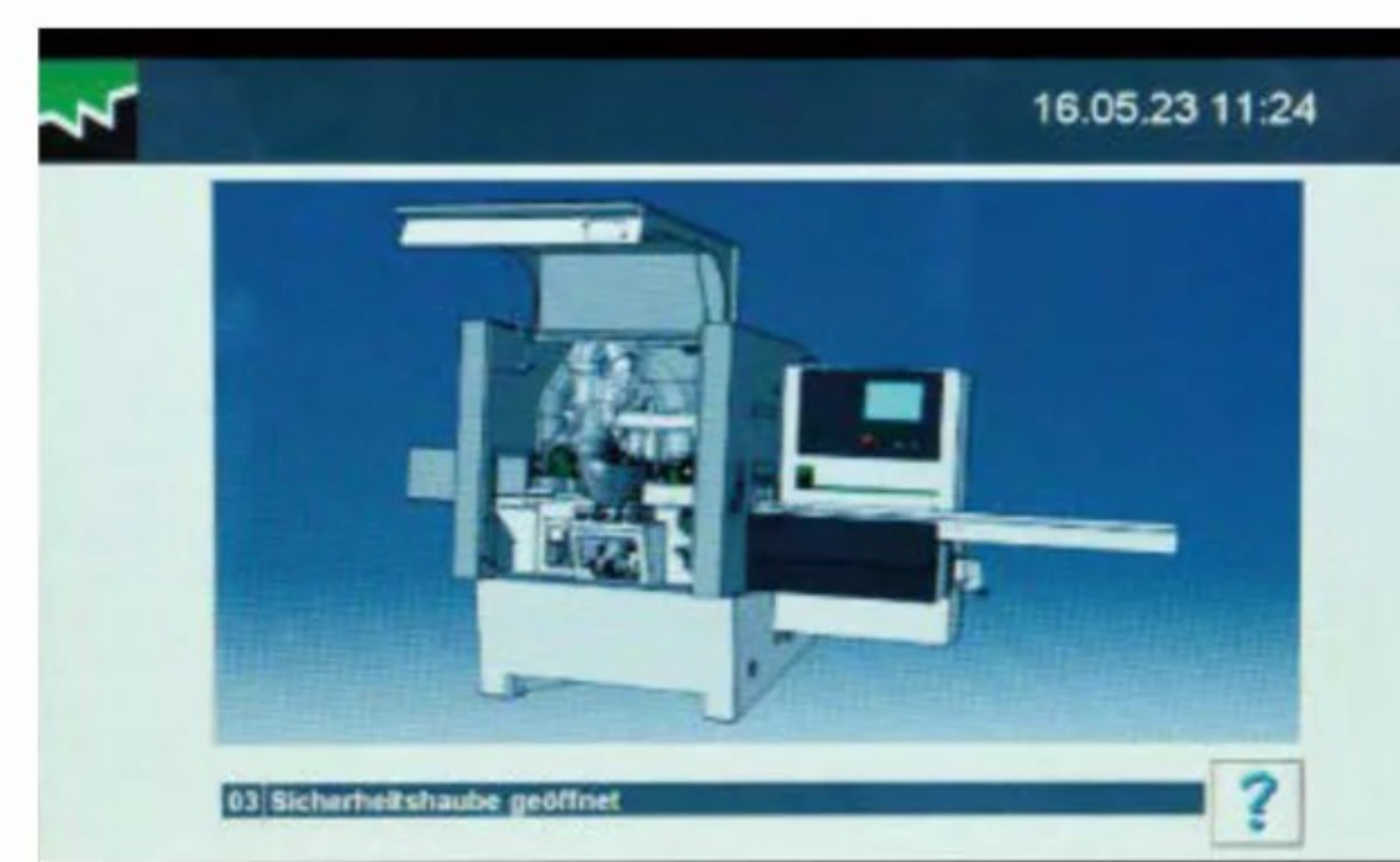
Enter Smart Cut, a new algorithm developed by SCM that adjusts the behaviour of the machine to suit the nest you’ve created.

“We began by creating a crazy pattern with very small pieces that was impossible to clamp in normal conditions. Almost 90% of them moved during machining. We made a lot of tests with dynamic vacuum, changing to different speeds, and we

managed to reduce movement to 20%. With Smart Cut, we reduced it again, achieving between zero and 1%.

“The operator needs no previous experience and doesn’t need to run test panels and modify how the machine works. The software does everything, coping with small batches, deciding by itself the best speed to access the panel, the best path, the acceleration and deceleration. It determines a starting point that will prevent the panel from moving throughout the entire cutting operation – and we have achieved this without reducing the overall cutting speed and without having to accept an increase in the waste material.

If you’d like to know more about the most recent developments, call SCM on 01 15 977 0044, visit www.scmgroup.com/en_GB/scmwood or keep an eye out for SCM’s open house in September where the focus will be on software, handling issues and sustainability.



Combating challenges



Malcolm Cuthbertson

The latest introductions from Weinig at Ligna 2023 have all been designed to combat the shortage in skilled labour.

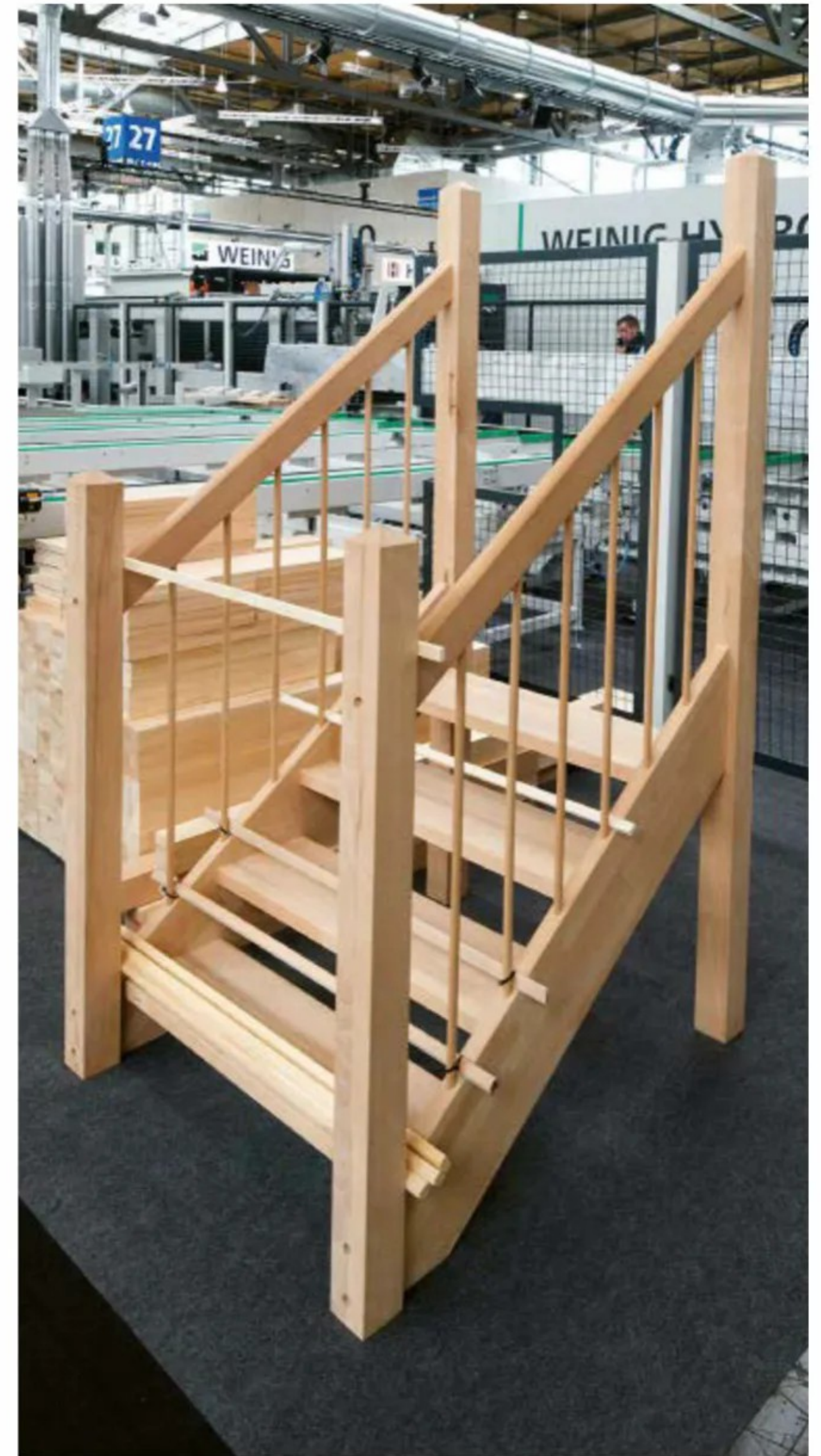
Weinig's stand at Ligna 2023 focussed on the industry's skills and labour shortage. Presenting over 50 machines in 5,000m², visitors were able to see a wealth of innovations designed to combat the challenges facing today's industry and solutions to future-proof their production.

"With visitors embracing the power of automation and digitalisation, the Conturex range has certainly caught the attention of window and door manufacturers at Ligna

thanks to its unwavering speed and flexibility," says Malcolm Cuthbertson, Managing Director of Weinig UK. "Due to its size and ability to manufacture virtually unlimited window styles, the UK market has seen growing interest in the smaller Conturex Artis+ model, with impressive sales forecast over the next 12 months. Why? Because the flexible CNC system is really only constrained by the physical working envelope of lengths from 175-3500 mm, widths from 40-260 mm and thickness



The Conturex Vario shown at Ligna is the big brother to the Conturex Artis+ model



of 25-150 mm – and the tools available.”

It's capacity to run true batch-size-one production is clear: “As the Conturex does not rely on any jigs or fixtures, it can go from one window component to another without downtime. This doesn't just refer to end or length profiles. It includes all the other ancillary operations like mortising or dowelling for mullions/transoms, hinge recesses, vent slots and many more.”

As well as offering compressive machining, the Conturex's office-based programming software eradicates the need for machine programming on site, reducing the need for skilled labour. Malcolm says, “The operator is really only responsible for making sure the correct piece of timber is loaded onto the machine and the tooling is maintained. What's more, if the component isn't within tolerance, it won't be machined, leaving no space for human error. Even the basic Conturex Artis is equipped so that it can typically run for 20-30 minutes without any human intervention or, on larger models, up to three hours when equipped with an automatic loading system. From our real-world experience, it is realistic to say the machine can be used for over 90% of the working day compared to machine averages of 50-80%. This impacts hugely on production efficiency and profitability.”

Continuing its push on the benefits of automation, Weinig's Opticut S90 cross cut saw, which offers flexibility from single-item batches and reduced unit costs through one-person operation, was demonstrated at Ligna with automation on the in-feed and robotic stacking on the out-feed. “This is the first time we've presented this degree of automation on this model. It offers a cost-effective solution for those looking to automate their processes further.

“Whereas the Conturex virtually becomes an un-manned machine cell, the universal Opticut S90 cross-cut saw optimises material waste and reduces cutting times, regardless of whether you're cutting a single board, board packages or profiles from solid wood, panels or other materials. With a very extensive range of options available for the S90 it can be tailored to virtually any application that requires cross cutting.”

Similarly, the newly launched Cube 3 four-sided planer was also presented with an RFC 15 return conveyor. “This year, the Cube has turned 10 and to mark the occasion Weinig has launched the new Cube 3,” says Malcolm. “Now in its third generation, the compact planer continues to be hugely popular with smaller workshop and large timber merchants alike thanks to its one-man operation and simple ‘plug and play’ concept.

“Since it was launched, we have easily sold nearly 250 Cube's in the UK alone. This is because of its impressive working dimensions that allow workpieces to be planed perfectly on four sides in a single pass and its proven ability to be ten times faster than conventional machines. With the addition of the RFC 15 return conveyor, operation and handling has been simplified even more, allowing companies to realistically see a payback on their investment in less than one year.”

Malcolm adds, “Ligna 2023 gave us a platform to showcase our growing range of products to the woodworking industry. We took this opportunity to present solutions that will help combat the skills and labour shortage and with high numbers of visitors from the UK and Ireland on our stand and quality leads to follow-up, there was no better place to do this. From the Conturex Artis, which offers the benefits of five machines in one, to the compact Cube 3 that continues to champion the smaller workshop, our forward-thinking machinery ranges are being designed and developed to future-proof your production processes. That's why you should always Think Weinig.”

For more information on any of the products shown on Weinig's Ligna 2023 stand visit www.weinig.co.uk



LIGNA
REVIEW

The Evolution 7405 PinJet,
loaded with a robot

Easier with

Ligna saw Holz-Her present machinery that offered simple and efficient machining solutions with reduced reliance on skilled operators.

Welcoming over 8,000 visitors to its sprawling 5,000m² stand at Ligna, Holz-Her showcased a range of new panel processing machines set to launch in the UK this summer. With a clear focus on speed, precision and simplicity, we take a closer look at the models entering the UK market...

"After a four-year hiatus, Holz-Her has a lot to talk about," begins Paul Nightingale, National Sales Manager at Holz-Her UK. "The stand was populated with a variety of machines suitable for large and small-scale

production but our continual focus has been on crunching time and de-skilling production from concept to manufacture. We want our customers to be able to run high-quality, batch-size-one production without lengthy set-up times or complicated operating systems."

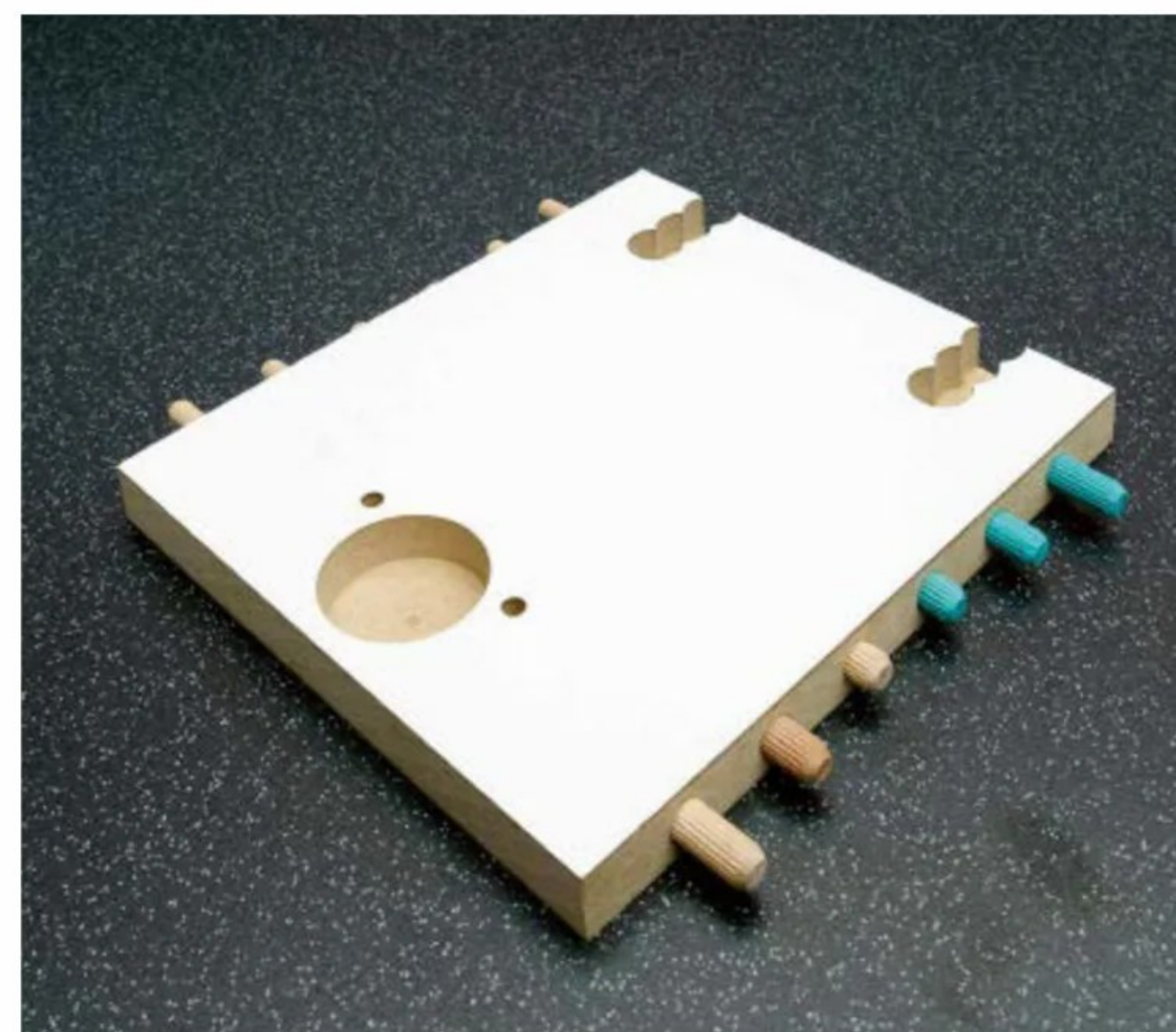
Launched at Ligna, the Evolution 7405 PinJet – part of the existing Evolution range of vertical CNC machine centres – features automatic drilling and dowel insertion, allowing pre-glued dowels with a diameter of 8mm and length of 30-40mm to be



PinJet unit in the
Evolution 7405



The PowerPin 7605



Paul Nightingale with the PowerPin 7605

Holz-Her

inserted in the +/- X direction from both sides. Paul explains, "With a push of a button, the new PinJet automatically drills, cleans and applies a mist to activate the pre-glued dowel before insertion. It really is that quick and easy to operate. Plus, with its extreme machining dimensions and compact footprint requiring less than 5m² of floor space, it offers much needed versatility for small to medium-sized workshops looking to streamline production."

Alternatively, for those incorporating nesting into their production cycle, Holz-Her's newly launched PowerPin drilling and dowel insertion machine – which is available in the UK this summer – offers huge time-saving credentials. Paul says, "Operators can

use the PowerPin 7605 Classic or Dynamic to drive in wooden dowels automatically, making it an ideal complement to nesting. It also completely eliminates the need for manual dowel insertion after CNC machining – saving time and labour costs."

Paul continues, "Depending on the application, either pre-coated or standard wooden dowels with glue application can be processed. The large-surface support table allows multi-field loading which allows for several workpieces to be efficiently processed side by side, whilst the intuitive clamping concept ensures safe and rapid loading or unloading."

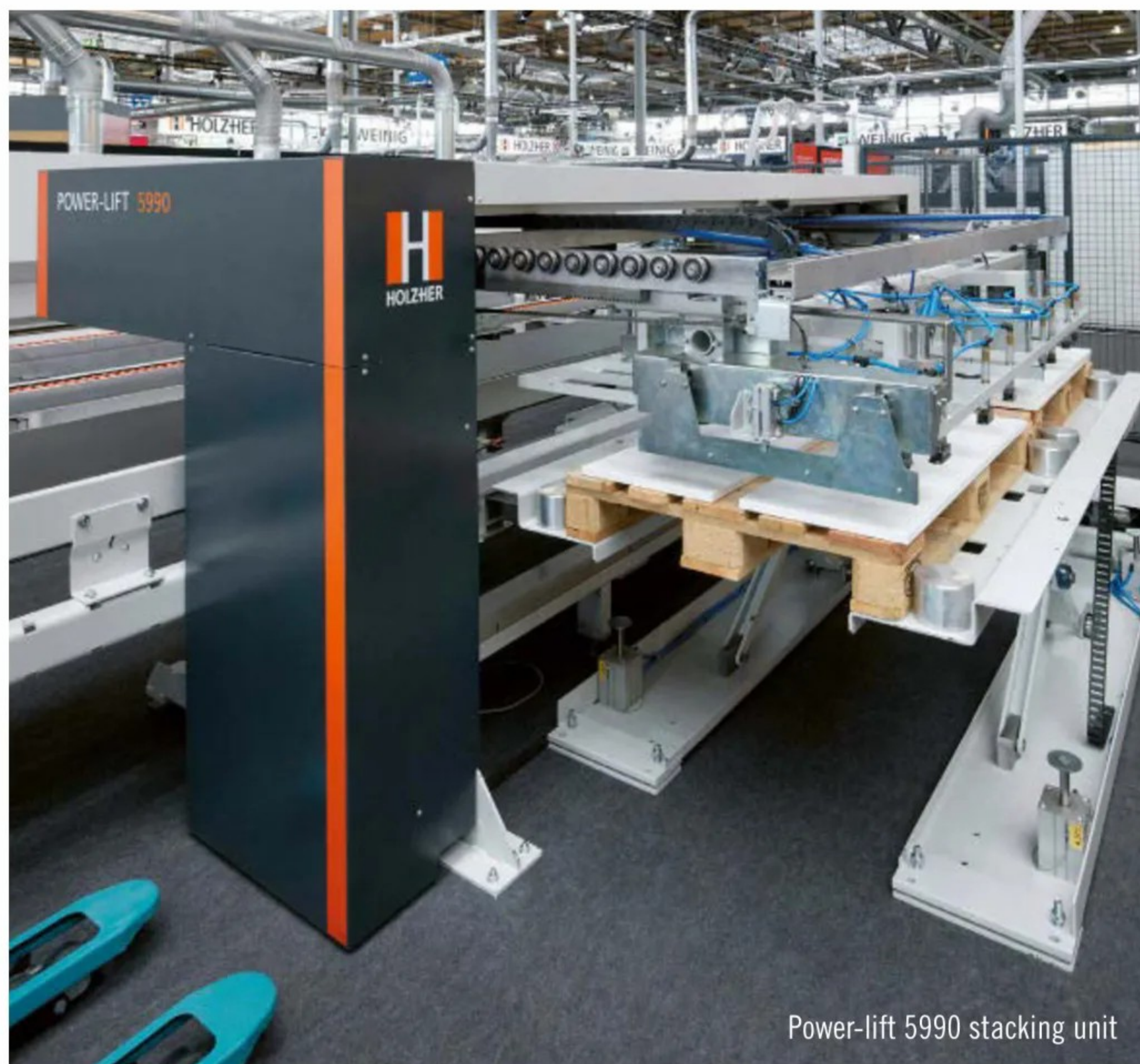
"In addition to this, the operation can be simplified further on the Dynamic thanks to

the automatic adjustment of the pressure bars and material thicknesses. It also boasts VISE LED position indicators and additional horizontal drills."

Newly-launched intelligent operating features don't stop there. The Streamer edgebander series has grown to include the Streamer 1057 XL Power. "This model introduces servo adjustment to the fine trim unit and the profile scrapers, bridging the gap between the existing Streamer 1057 XL and Augria 1308 XL," says Paul. It's six NC servo axes allow the machining process to be selected at the touch of a button, whilst the rest is set via the intelligent VISE system – a digital logbook providing all setting values for



Streamer 1057 XL Power



Power-lift 5990 stacking unit



The Return-Master 5940 with stacking unit

the digital counters and pressure gauges. This ensures quick, easy and safe set-up.” The new model also comes equipped with a 15.6” touch screen display for convenient operation and diamond tools with integrated chip guidance.

Demonstrated on the Lumina 1596, Holz-Her has also introduced the Return-Master 5940 with stacking unit – a new module for automated edge processing suitable for volume production or single-item batches. Fully integrated

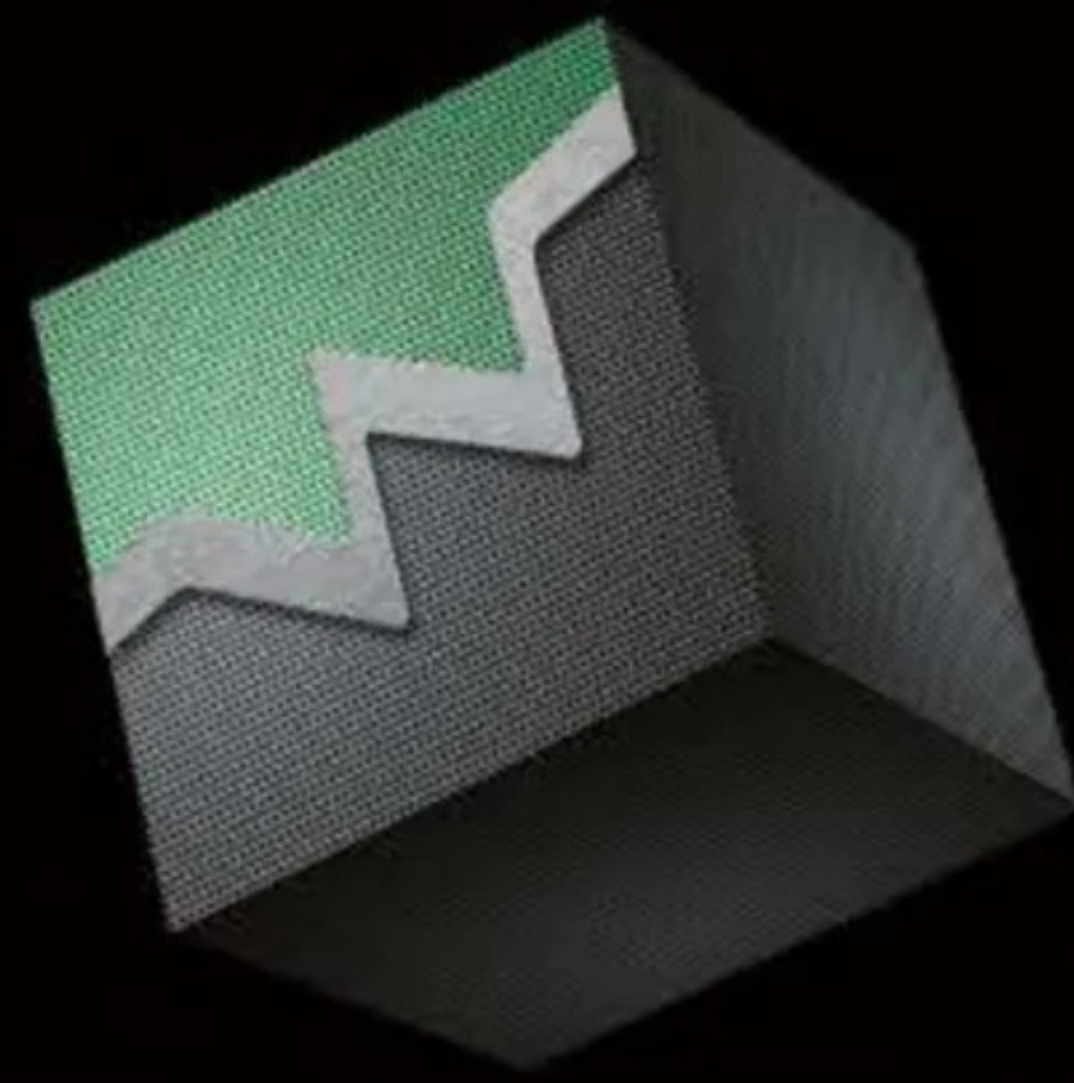
into the edgebander’s control system, it enables efficient single-operator use for increased productivity and maximum flexibility and benefits from workpiece dimensions being recorded in advance and returned intelligently. The Return-Master 5940 can also be equipped with an optional stacking device, allowing stacking directly from the return system, thus, reducing manual handling.

Paul adds, “The ongoing skills and labour shortage has influenced Holz-Her’s latest

developments greatly. The market needs machinery that offers simple and efficient machining solutions that don’t rely on a highly-skilled workforce to achieve results. That’s exactly what we presented at Ligna 2023. We look forward to presenting our latest innovations at our showroom in Abingdon.”

For a complete overview of Holz-Her’s Ligna 2023 stand, or to find out more about the latest additions to Holz-Her’s portfolio please visit www.holzher.co.uk

The brand new **Cube 3** compact four-sided planer is more affordable than ever thanks to Weinig's exclusive **CUBE Rental Plan**.



CUBE 3

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The low cost, risk free route to owning a **Weinig CUBE 3**
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WEINIG



Moving forward with Felder

Automation, safety and simplicity of operation were the key themes on a bustling Felder stand at Ligna 2023.

LIGNA
REVIEW

With labour shortages being felt across many markets and skilled operators at a premium, it's no surprise that automation was the buzzword on everyone's lips at Ligna 2023. Felder may only recently have branched out into robotics but its new Profit HI 50 nesting cell was one of several key developments that were drawing crowds on a busy stand.

Talking to Matthew Applegarth, Felder UK's Managing Director, he confirmed, "We're continuously being asked by our customers how they can produce their products in a less labour-intensive way. To illustrate what is now possible from Felder, we're showing the HI 50 with robotic offloading from our new department of robot motion. This is just one of the industrial solutions for panel processing we

offer. We've also got a creator cell on the stand, which provides a robotic drilling solution, automated solutions for joinery production and for window and door production and we're now able to provide complete window lines."

While Matthew's enthusiasm for automation is clear, he's mindful that too many manufacturers jump on the robot bandwagon before there's a real need for them to do so: "It's not just a case of sticking a robot in a factory," he told me. "You've got to think about how it is going to fit into your production long term and it has to fulfil a genuine need. It's about providing the right solutions for now and future-proofing your production. We're ready to go with automation solutions when you need them and we've got some very good reference



Matthew Applegarth



projects in Germany, Austria, Sweden, Norway and beyond.”

It’s not just the machining centres on the Felder stand that were drawing attention. Since acquiring the beam saw manufacturer, Mayer, Felder has extended its own range of cut-to-size machines as well as introducing bigger machines from the Mayer stable. “We have new beam saws – entry machines like the Kappa 85 and the Kappa 100 – which offer saw blade projections of 85mm and 100mm. These are Felder and Format 4 machines and they come with different levels of automation, various loading options, rear loading, side loading and also with adjustable height tables to load from the front. We’re keeping them separate from the Mayer machines – bigger machines like the Kappa 120 and Kappa 140 – which are capable of

greater automisation than our stand-alone beam saws.

“We also have a new wall saw that’s completely new to the Felder brand. It’s available with an improved manual vacuum lifting system, which works both horizontally and at 90 degrees and allows us into the entry market for manual handling.”

Several safety systems for sliding table panel saws that drop the blade before any contact with fingers have come to market in recent years. Matthew is adamant that Felder’s PCS makes saws like the Kappa 550 one of the safest on the market. “Other companies have brought out their solutions but we believe ours provides the greatest level of protection,” he told me. “It’s a solution that’s been approved by European Health and Safety. It is 100% effective and lots

and lots of UK customers are benefiting from that now. Major manufacturers are purchasing more and more PCS machines purely because of the safety they provide. That safety technology was originally put into our flagship Kappa 550 but it’s now coming down into the Kappa 450 and the Felder-branded saws like the Felder K 945s. That’s new for Ligna and it will continue to feed its way down into lower price point Felder machines. We want to make PCS available to all users with different budget requirements.”

“We also have new edgebanders on the stand, like our new G 580. The G 580 is going to be replacing the G 480 and it comes in two configurations, with or without corner rounding. This machine provides customers with an automated solution that will run at 10 meters a minute and produce a





Kappa 550 with PCS



high-quality edge for £26-27,000. This is not an NC-controlled machine, though. You still switch corner rounding on and off but you can't control the individual aggregates from the monitor. Instead, we have our Quick Set system."

Quick Set requires the operator to tear a small piece of edgbanding material off the coil and insert it into the various aggregates so he can measure exactly what the thickness of the edge is, allowing him to change from one to the next quickly. "It's a versatile machine, not for super-high volume production but for small businesses that need to use different types of edging during a working day and swap from one glue type to another.

"A really nice feature is the use of QR codes. If an operator wants to adjust an aggregate, an end trim unit, or the glue, he can use his mobile phone to scan the QR code and up comes a CGI video that tells him how to adjust everything. That's very useful because often you might have multiple operators and you might have new operators that aren't familiar with the machine. It's sometimes impractical to ask us to come and train every new operator, so we're providing customers with training solutions online and at the point of the machine to help them make any adjustments.

"We're also demonstrating our Glue Box, a PUR solution for edgbander customers

that requires no PUR granules and provides a super-clean alternative. You'll never need a glue pot again if you have a Glue Box, which is really helpful for smaller operators because the majority of problems generally start and finish with the glue pot and the ability of operators and maintenance technicians to keep it clean. Glue Box eliminates all those problems. And for small production companies that want to use PUR glue, it's simple to take a roll off the shelf and run it. There's nothing else to do."

For more information on all the latest developments from Felder, or to discuss any of the machines featured, call Felder UK on 01908 635000 or visit their website www.felder-group.com/en-gb

 LIGNA
REVIEW


 40S SALVADOR



Super Salvador

Salvador shows off its Superpush saws at Ligna and announces new software for the end of the year.



Alex Dalton

If you are in the market for a cross-cut saw, Salvador is a name you'll want to know more about. The Italian specialist in automatic cross-cut saws used Ligna to show its top-of-the-range Superpush 250 and Superpush 200 models in prominent positions at the edge of a stand that was drawing huge interest in hall 27.

Equipped with an original feeding and loading system with chain transmission and pneumatic lifting, the Superpush 250 is an automatic cutting centre that offers simplicity of operation, cost-effectiveness, precision and high performance in a well-engineered package. With pusher speeds as high as 180m/min, it's a capacious machine as well as a fast performer. The cutting unit is equipped with independent pneumatic adjustments to adapt

to different cutting tasks, while an integral Total Optic reading system (consisting of a laser photocell for detecting the length of the wood and a luminescence reader for defecting marks) takes care of adjustments. The numerical control, which works in a Windows environment, is easy to use, powerful and flexible – points which Alex Dalton, Managing Director of Nottingham-based Daltons Wadkin, Salvador's UK and Ireland agent, was keen to stress on the stand.

"The physical aspects of machines are not changing at the pace they used to," he confirmed. "Advancements nowadays are in the software and the user interface as workforces become less and less skilled. Skilled labour is much harder to find and much more expensive, so every opportunity



Salvador's top-of-the-range Superpush 250



Salvador Superpush 200

to make machines easier to use is being seized while, at the same time, manufacturers are trying to make sure that any product that goes through the machine is optimised to its fullest to reduce waste. And that's certainly what the entire Salvador ethos is about.

"Salvador is showing new software on the machines at Ligna, which is going to be ready for general release at the end of the year. It's a new development that is going to open a lot of opportunities for Salvador in terms of what can be exploited on the hardware side. The latest software will adapt much more readily to customers needs."

One thing that really impresses when you start to look closely at a Salvador machine is the overall build quality. "It is pretty evident when you see a Salvador in the flesh and it's a

great opportunity here at the show to see that and put these machines toe to toe with their competition.

"Salvador does have a very specific niche and when it comes to the cost-to-quality ratio, you do get a lot of value for money from Salvador. Buying a product like this through ourselves in the UK and Ireland, you also get the backup, which is as important, if not more so with a high production machine like this.

"If something does happen, you want to have boots on the ground and the technical support on the end of the phone. Being able to dial in remotely, diagnose problems, fix them there and then, or come out with the right part and fix it within 24 hours is key to keeping your production flowing. Having that

relationship with Salvador, they supplement our service with backup and full support. It's proved to be a winning formula.

"We've been selling Salvador machines for almost 15 years, so we have a very good idea of what components are needed. In the UK we carry stock of all wearable components. To support these, we can generally get parts from Italy within 24 hours. Sometimes that's not quick enough, so our service engineers also carry stock of common parts in their vans."

In Daltons' recently-expanded Nottingham showroom, you'll find the full range of Salvador products, and if you'd like to see the quality Salvador offers first hand, Alex Dalton extends a warm welcome. Call 0115 986 5201 or visit www.daltonswadkin.com



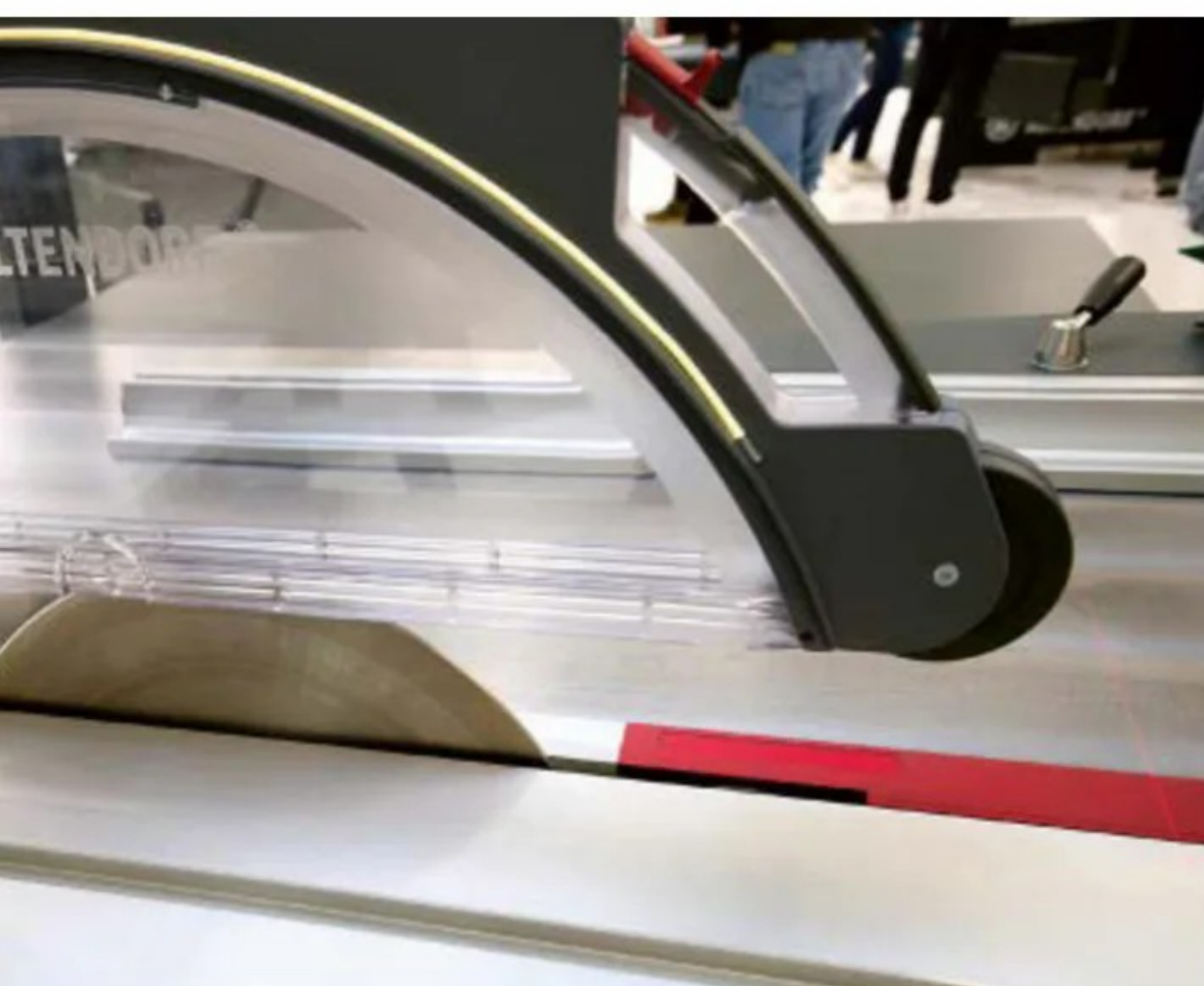
HEBROCK
ALTENDORF GROUP

LIGNA
REVIEW

Presentation of the
Hand Guard system

Make it an Altendorf

Accuracy, build quality, reliability, safety... There's no compromise with Altendorf.



Not everybody who buys a sliding table panel saw can aspire to an Altendorf but those who buy into the brand do so for very good reasons. Although the company has recently acquired Hebrock edgebanders and showed them alongside sliding table panel saws at Ligna 2023, Altendorf itself has been a specialist sliding table panel saw manufacturer since Wilhelm Altendorf made the first

System Altendorf model in 1906. And sliding table panel saws are all the company has ever made since. It stands to reason that after almost 120 years they've become pretty good at it.

To discerning craftsmen who will not compromise on accuracy, build quality, or reliability, it will come as no surprise to learn that Altendorf's no-compromise approach to building machines also applies to the safety



features it includes – and perhaps nowhere is that more apparent than on the Hand Guard model, which took pride of place on the Ligna stand.

But with so many blade-dropping systems on the market, why choose Altendorf?

Justin Inman, Managing Director of Altendorf's main agent in the UK, R&J Machinery, explains: "That's a very good question, and there are significant reasons to choose Altendorf's Hand Guard. Firstly, when you buy the Altendorf Hand Guard, you are still buying an Altendorf saw, with its proven history of quality and of being the market leading brand. Secondly, as you would expect from Altendorf, the Hand Guard system has been extensively developed and tested over the last three years at great cost to bring to the market the most advanced and safe system possible.

The AI technology used is not limited by factors such as material type, or moisture, as with other systems available which will not work with damp timber, aluminium, or plastics. Individual machine specifications and

bespoke requirements of the customer can still be met, as the Hand Guard can be specified to suit any requirements the customer may have. But perhaps the most significant reason is that the Hand Guard system is the only 'officially approved' system on the market. The German Wood and Metal Trade Association (BGHM) approved the Hand Guard, stating it redefines the safety standard for sliding table saws on the global market and awarded it the German "GS" seal of tested safety. Altendorf's two-camera, early recognition system monitors the operator's hands, keeping the operators safe, and work pieces un-damaged."

Down one side of the Ligna stand, adjacent to the Altendorf display, were four Hebrock edgebanders. It seemed a curious synergy but Justin explained: "Altendorf is a specialist in saws; Hebrock only makes edgebanders. We'd been selling Hebrock for years before Altendorf acquired the brand, so we know they are a quality machine.

"The acquisition has been good for Hebrock. Altendorf has really developed the

range. We are seeing the next generation of machines on the stand and they offer faster speeds. The F series is now running at 10m/min rather than seven and on the K series, speed is up to 15m/min from 10.

"The really good thing about Hebrock is these are robustly-built machines with good design. All the movements are very simple and the simpler an edgebander is, the more reliable it tends to be. The new generation now comes with larger 15" touchscreen controllers as well, making them more user-friendly."

All the machines on show at Ligna are available in R&J's Hinckley showroom and all models are in stock. "We've already got the latest machines in the showroom for UK customers to see. They can bring their own panels, we can do full demonstrations, and they can try the machines out on their own material."

To find out what an Altendorf or a Hebrock could do for you, call 01455 840224, or for more information visit the website www.rjmachinery.co.uk



The new AL-KO Clean Vac with suction power up to 25,000 Pa (250mbar)



Compact Clean Vac

More efficiency, more performance, more compact – key features of AL-KO's new Clean Vac.



Matthias Schalast

Calling all smaller workshops! If you're looking for a centralised dust extraction system that offers high vacuum dust extraction for up to 12 hand-held machines, AL-KO's new Clean Vac is a machine to take a closer look at.

Launched at Ligna 2023 and available exclusively in the UK from TM Machinery, the new AL-KO Clean Vac has been designed with the smaller workshop in mind. Available with a 8.5kw or 12.5kw motor and featuring effective pressurised filter cleaning, the system offers much needed flexibility and performance combined.

The new 25,000 Pa dust extraction system will provide enough suction to

extract dust from up to 12 hand-held machines. It not only eradicates the need for individual vacuum cleaners to be connected to each machine, it reduces on-going maintenance and repair costs on multiple machines and ensures clean air in the workplace. The adaptable design of Clean Vac also means it can also work effectively with smaller woodworking machines like spindle moulders and compact edgebanders.

Operation and maintenance of a Clean Vac couldn't be simpler either. Controlled via a wall-mounted control panel, the unit is fully automatic. The operator simply needs to empty a dust collection bin attached to the unit when it's full. As an optional extra,



Clean Vac will even remind you if it hasn't been emptied and will shut down completely to avoid any damage to the system if it reaches its maximum capacity.

If your workshop is short on space, the AL-KO Clean Vac has that covered, too: measuring 1,956 x 1,038 x 2,430mm, it is designed to be installed inside or outside, freeing up floor space where you need it most.

"Smaller manufacturing companies often find themselves having to balance performance and space," says Matthias Schalast, Area Sales Manager for AL-KO Extraction Technology, "But with the new AL-KO Clean Vac, you no longer need to. Specifically designed for the extraction of hand-held machines, which require a significantly higher vacuum than standard woodworking machines, users can incorporate a highly-efficient dust extraction system into their workshop that requires very little space and ensures a healthy workplace environment. The high vacuum of 25,000 Pa (250mbar) is achieved by an integrated side channel compressor. This allows for up to 12 handheld machines to be extracted simultaneously, making the Clean Vac a fantastic option for joinery workshops, woodworking classrooms in schools and colleges and larger outfits that require multiple hand-held machines to be running alongside other woodworking machinery."

For more information visit www.tmmachinery.co.uk



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LIGNA REVIEW



Shaye Chatfield



Clamex S-20 débuts

Lamello launches the Clamex S-20 at Interzum and Ligna.

Launched at Interzum and Ligna 2023, the Clamex S-20 is a detachable furniture connector that is based on the universally known 4mm installation principle – and it will help you create near-invisible furniture joints in material as thin as 8mm.

Shaye Chatfield, Lamello UK's Sales Manager says, "Like every Clamex connector from Lamello, the Clamex S-20 is detachable and is connected to the counterpart with a rotating lever that can be opened time and again. Using a biscuit joiner, the connector halves are anchored into the groove with two screws to ensure a strong hold, while the 6mm access for closing and opening the

connector offers a discreet finish on corner, surface or frame connections.

"The existing Clamex S-18 connector needs an 8mm cut to insert the fitting, but the new Clamex S-20 has been designed to work with a universal 4mm cut, making it even more versatile and quicker to use. Mitre joints are now possible on materials as thin as 14mm and butt joints with installation into the edges can measure as little as 8mm. The Clamex S-20 can also be used for angle connections from 30-180° and to make life even simpler, the system comes with its own drilling jig for precise positioning.

"What's more, the Clamex S-20 can be used with any biscuit-jointing machine that has a 4mm blade, not just Lamello's Classic X or Top 21. This makes it an affordable and

flexible option for those working on site who are yet to invest in Lamello's P-System but still want a strong and accurate solution to creating connections at all angles without the need for adhesives."

Typical furniture applications include wardrobes to fit sloping ceilings, cabinets, roof linings, thin surface connections and shelves as well as furniture joints for corner, surface and frame connections.

Available in the UK from the 4th of September 2023, customers can view and test the connector and its diverse application possibilities by contacting their local Lamello supplier.

For more information, visit www.lamello.co.uk or email s.chatfield@lamello.com



Out of REACH

Kleiberit has gone flat out to bring green products to the market in time for the REACH deadline as well as taking its hot coating technology to the next level.

If you think your business is too small to be affected by REACH regulations, come 24th August 2023 you could be in for a shock. Following a transition period of three years, the package of training requirements that has been developed by ISOPA, ALIPA and other industry associations make it mandatory for anyone working with diisocyanates to receive proper training with effect from 24th August.

Together with polyols, diisocyanates are the essential building blocks of polyurethanes and these can be found in a broad range of products ranging from adhesives and coatings to bedding and furniture. If you've been taking advantage of the not insubstantial benefits inherent in PUR adhesives, you'll

know the diisocyanates are responsible for the crosslinking reaction that provides unrivalled heat and moisture resistance and makes them ideal for use in kitchen and bathroom furniture.

With effect from 24th August 2023, you now have a straight choice: you can either prepare yourself for the cost of sending employees who interact directly with PUR on a mandatory training course that will inform them about the risks associated with handling the substance and train them in its use – a course that demands certification which has to be renewed every five years – or you can switch to an adhesive product that doesn't contain diisocyanates.



Fortunately, the PUR adhesive specialist, Kleiberit, saw this coming and almost a decade ago it set about developing formulations that reduced risk factors massively.

At Ligna, I caught up with Leonhard Ritzhaupt, Managing Director and CEO of Kleiberit, and Bradly Larkan, Kleiberit's General Manager for the UK, Ireland and South Africa and Vice President of North America to find out how Kleiberit had been preparing for the deadline.

"We've had **Micro Emissions** technology for almost a decade," Bradly explained, "Our ME products contain less than 0.1% of monomeric diisocyanates, which eliminates the need for training as well as the labelling

requirement, so I'd like to highlight Micro Emissions technology as a realistic solution.

"Every standard adhesive we make has a Micro Emission counterpart. We can offer a full range of ME adhesives for edgebanding, profile wrapping, flat lamination, or even PVC window profile wrapping and we can replace every old formulation with a new ME version. Everything is ready and in stock."

In the last edition of Furniture Journal, we brought you news of a brand new bio-based product that was set to take Micro Emissions technology to the next stage – bio-based PUR hotmelt – and, spearheading a drive towards greener, more environmentally-friendly, safer products, it made its official début at Ligna.

"There's a huge drive in the market for more sustainable products going forward," Leonhard told me. "We are moving away from the traditional petrochemical base for adhesives. The market is requiring more of these products to go down a sustainable bio-based route in the future. The bio-based content of our current products ranges from 5% up to 35% and that's meeting the sustainability and greener demands our customers are themselves trying to fulfil."

"We've already got a comprehensive range of **bio-based** offerings for edgebanding and for profile wrapping at this stage and these will be followed by flat lamination within the next year," added Bradly. "We have a smaller range



in bio-based but everything will eventually go down that road for sure. Our first offer is for edgebanding and we have a fantastic 35% bio-based Micro Emission hotmelt product that's immediately available. Some customers in the UK have already started to use it.

"It's running on the same machines as they used with traditional petrochemical-based PUR, it's having the same effect and it's providing the same quality of finished product, so this is a big advantage for customers when they decide to switch to Micro Emission products. Of course, they are a little more expensive but at the end of the day, when you don't have to train people, I think it's a very big advantage for any customer.

When any new product is launched, there is invariably a premium to pay until economies of scale kick in, as Leonhard explained: "When Micro Emissions were first launched a decade or more ago, the premium was over two Euros per kilogram more. Now, on average, the new sustainable Micro

Emission offer is less than a Euro per kilo more expensive across the full product range, so it is becoming more affordable and more accessible in the marketplace. It is not going to cost a manufacturer who is using it very much more in terms of cost per panel, cost per door, or cost per linear metre, regardless of what they are producing and the performance is identical after cross-linking because at the end of the day, it's still a cross-linkable reactive adhesive system. Once cross-linked and cured, you have the full performance of a standard cross-linked system – and you've saved the cost of training and certification.

"Customers are looking for sustainable goods much more than price at the moment but to be competitive, we need to have more of these bio-based materials to get lower pricing in the raw material. A lot of customers are moving in this direction, which will help us lower prices in the bio-based price sector."

"Together with these developments, we also have very new offerings in hot coating

technology," added Bradley. "These have taken us from the technology we've had within our organisation for many years to an extreme level that even allows us to use hot coating in external applications – for example, external facades and profile wrapping of outdoor flooring and furnishings for outdoor use. This has never been done before. We are the first to market with this type of performance level for a rapid decorative product on top of digital print."

Looking to the future, Leonhard concluded: "The next steps will be to develop our hot coating further so we have new kinds of surfaces for exterior use. Of course, we want to avoid using isocyanate in the future so we are already developing new bio-based formulations for other applications and other products that have no isocyanate content. This is what the industry needs, so these are our priorities for the immediate future."

For more information on Kleiberit's full adhesive range, call 01530 836699, or visit www.kleiberit.com/en/home

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LIGNA

REVIEW

Frost that gloss!

Riepe is a name that will be well known to anyone who uses an edgebander. Its fluids, like its spray technology, have been adopted universally as a benchmark in the edge finishing sector. But at Ligna, Riepe launched a brand-new addition to its range that will solve the irritating problem of edgebanders adding an unwanted gloss to the radius of matt edges.

Launched at Ligna, Frosted Edge Technology does away with the need for any rectification, or post-application varnishing. Introduced as the final process on the edgebanding machine, it involves applying an environmentally-friendly, specially-formulated, organic blasting material through a fine nozzle to the radius of the edgeband with pinpoint accuracy. The special blasting material is stored in a pressure tank, placed in close vicinity to the machine, which requires an electrical and compressed air connection. (24V/230V – 3 bar). An indicator light flashes to tell the operator when refilling of blasting material is required.

The application unit has a compact design and can usually be retrofitted even in the tightest spaces afforded on some edgebanders. The application unit is connected to the existing machine exhaust. Switching and workpiece detection are carried out using Riepe® electronics or via integration into the machine's PLC by the machine manufacturer.

One five-kilo filling of blasting material is sufficient to run up to 2,500 linear metres at a feed speed of 20m/min. Riepe confirms operating costs are low and Frosted Edge Technology comes with many tangible advantages – process stability and a reduction in the milling stroke adding to a perfectly finished frosted radius for a harmonious overall impression.

For more information contact Riepe on +49 5223 68 74 07-0, email info@riepe.eu or visit www.riepe.eu

Alternatively, call Riepe's UK partner, Jowat UK, on 01782 565265.

Tired of having to rectify matt edgebands that have turned glossy during processing? Riepe launched a solution at Ligna.



LIGNA
REVIEW



Eye in the sky

RFID from CAD+T provides parts tracking without barcodes, increasing efficiency and foreseeing problems before they strike.

It was an excited team that presented on the CAD+T stand at Ligna 2023 – and no wonder. The stand was absolutely brand new; a fresh, vibrant, open design that represented a significant departure from previous exhibitions stands.

Clustered around an impressive sculptured centrepiece that illustrated just some of the capabilities of CAD+T's software were demonstration areas where visitors could see and try out the latest developments, and on two corners of the stand, large screens flagged up the most significant introduction, launched at the show: a new solution that could herald the end of the barcode era and save you money on lost parts and incomplete orders.

If you are relying on barcodes to optimise your manufacturing processes, you

might want to take a closer look at CAD+T's fully-customisable RFID parts-tracking software solution, a system that offers contactless parts tracking and real-time workflow with no manual intervention.

Launched at Interzum and Ligna 2023, CAD+T's digital network lends itself to improving efficiencies across the board. Centred around strategically-placed gateways that track every item as it enters your production cycle, parts can be tracked from the moment they enter the factory to the moment they leave – offering you real-time access to your complete production line, its performance and the exact status of each part in the factory from your computer, laptop or mobile device.

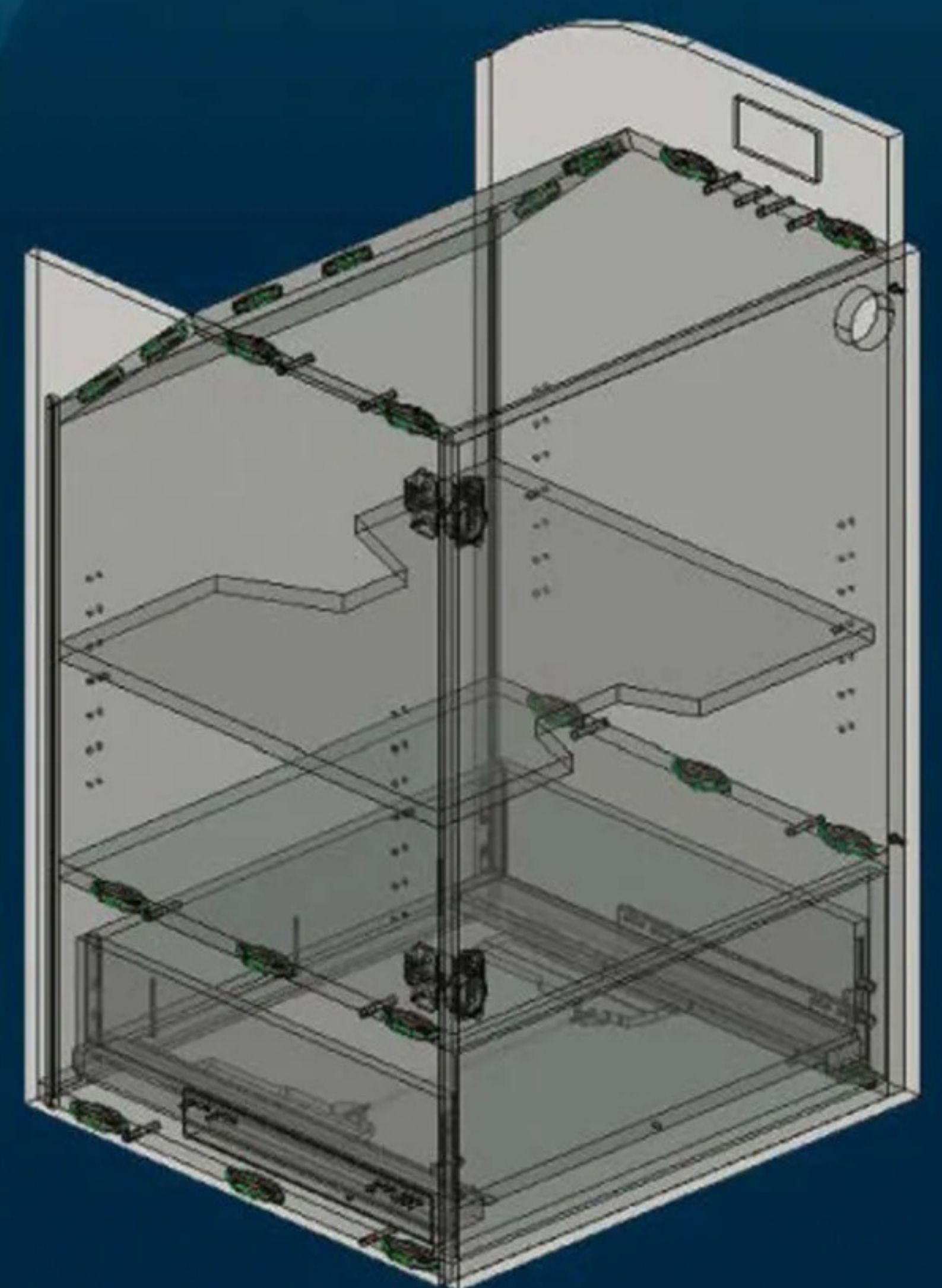
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is more



production lines, our RFID software tracks every part automatically, leaving no room for human error,” says Martina Schwarz, CEO of CAD+T. “In the past, barcodes were the go-to option when looking to track production parts but they still leave room for error. After all, if an operator scans 15 pieces but there are 16 that need to be machined, you will still only have 15 pieces on your system. This won’t happen when using our RFID software because it isn’t reliant on manual intervention. Instead, it uses antennas that are situated around the workshop to scan RFID tags or labels placed on each piece. Each time a part passes an antenna, its position is logged, allowing it to be tracked through the production cycle and other areas of the business. This takes away any human error or the possibility of lost items.

“It also offers a greater insight into the production’s efficiencies and can foresee production problems,” Martina explains. “Every aspect of the operation can be measured, from machinery running times to

material usage. The software gives you a live look into your company’s workflow, offering simple, measurable solutions to improve efficiencies. We also install quality control stations throughout the production line to guarantee no pieces fall below par. Inspections can either be completed manually or measured mechanically before being accepted or rejected and a replacement requested.”

Martina adds, “There are huge cost savings to be had when using our RFID system, especially when you consider the cost of shipping incorrect or incomplete orders, labour costs and missing parts. It quickly pays for itself. It’s also proven to reduce losses within the factory, simplify procurement and stock checks and improve customer service.

“Whether you want an all-encompassing tracking system that tracks parts throughout your entire production cycle, or you want to track specific areas within the business, CAD+T works with you to create the most effective solution. The level

of tracking is unique to you and CAD+T’s specialists are here to help you create a digital network that is specific to your production facility. To make it even simpler for you, we supply you the software and hardware.”

For further information, visit www.cadt-solutions.com



Martina Schwarz

LIGNA
REVIEW

Safe sounds

Ear protection and music on the move from Festool's new, rechargeable Bluetooth hearing protectors.



Cordless hand tools, battery packs, chargers, energy sets and the latest mobile extraction from Festool were all on show at Ligna 2023 but perhaps the most unusual addition to Festool's growing product offer was a new, multi-functional ear protection and wireless earplug set.

Small, light and convenient, Festool's cordless Bluetooth® GHS 25 I hearing protectors have been designed to reduce noise on site and in the workshop to a healthy level, protecting you from noise while simultaneously allowing you to make phone calls, or enjoy your favourite music via Bluetooth® 5.2 with true wireless technology.

Innovative noise-cancelling microphone technology means you hear only what you really want to hear. Conversation mode means ambient noises, such as speech, can be heard without a problem, so you don't have to remove the ear protection to speak to colleagues. Loud ambient noise outside the

safe sound level of 79 dB (corresponds to EU standard EN352) is blocked. Noise reduction is at 25 dB (NRR).

When making phone calls, the built-in microphone effectively suppresses disruptive background noise. The simple touch control operation directly on the ear protection is a convenient and thoughtful addition.

The GHS 25 I complies with the IP67 standard and is protected against dust, water and sweat. After the work is done, the earplugs can simply be recharged in the charging case supplied, which also acts as a power bank when on the move. Charging enables up to 13 hours of runtime. Recharging in the charging case can extend the runtime by a further 25 hours. The new GHS 25 I complies with EU standard EN352 and was launched through specialist traders immediately following Ligna.

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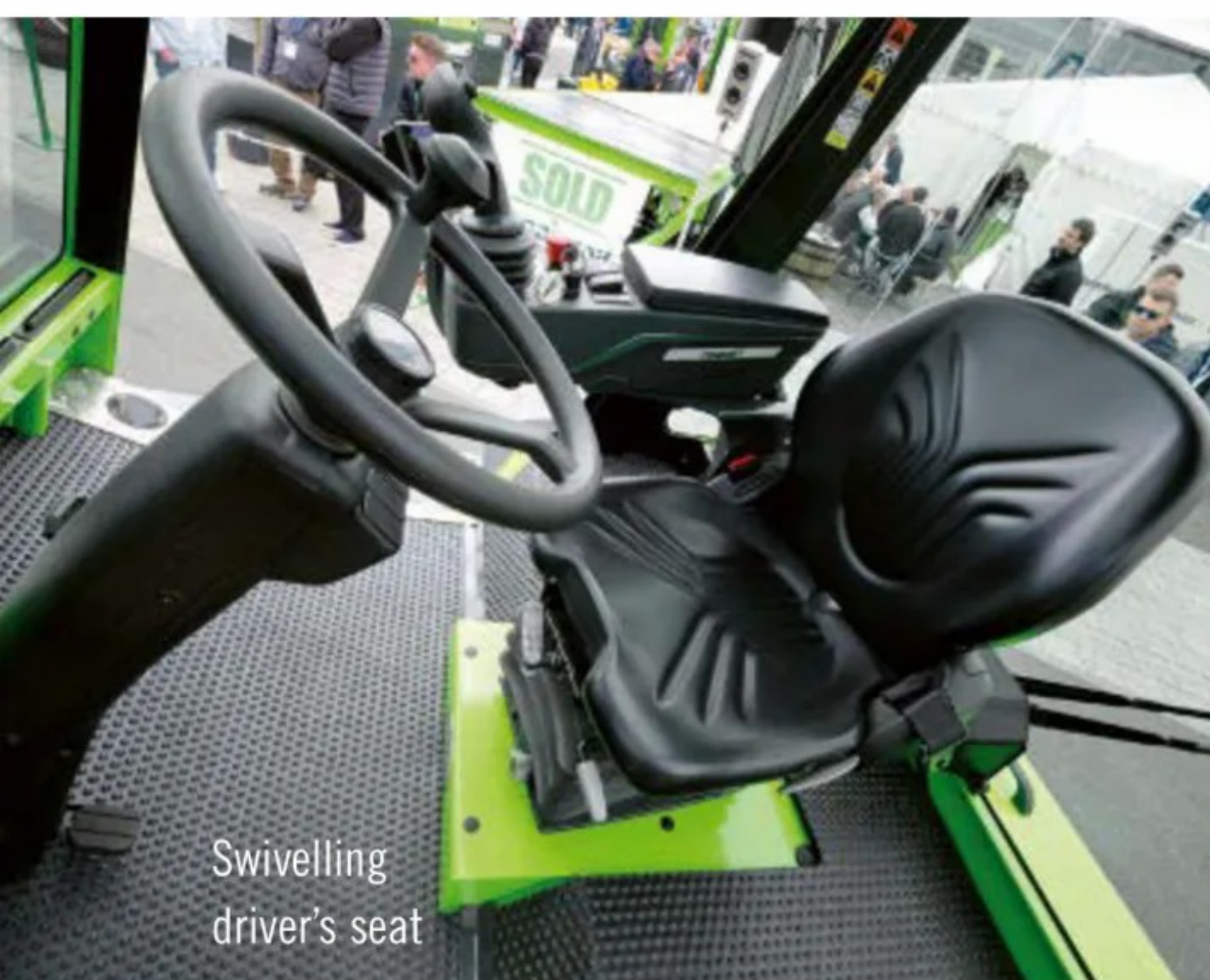


LIGNA
REVIEW



Combilift launches

Combilift marks 25 years in business with new trucks and new features.



Swivelling driver's seat

Combilift celebrated 25 years in business with the launch of two new fork-lift trucks at Ligna 2023: the Combi-CB70E and the Combi-Cube.

The Combi-CB70E the latest addition to Combilift's expanding range of electric models and it offers powerful performance, extensive battery life and unrivalled ergonomics. This model, in the vibrant Combi-green livery first seen on the recently launched Combi-Cube, is claimed to be the shortest seven-tonne capacity counterbalance truck on the market – and it has Combilift's multi-directional ability, enabling the versatile, space-saving handling of both long and bulky loads.

Aside from being electric, what sets the Combi-CB70E apart from other forklifts is its gas strut suspension cab, which uses components more commonly found in large scale industrial machinery with cab suspension. Combined with super-elastic tyres, this guarantees the smoothest of

rides over uneven or less than perfect ground conditions.

In addition to multi-directional travel, a key feature of most Combilift trucks, both new models employ an all-wheel drive system that calculates the speed of each wheel when cornering and programs it to ensure optimum traction without the tyres skidding during the turn, reducing wear.

A feature we particularly liked, which is also available on the Combi-Cube, was the newly-developed Auto Swivel Seat, premiered at the show. This optional feature automatically engages and swivels the seat and armrest 15° to the right or left in accordance with the direction of travel selected by the operator, reducing driver strain, particularly when travelling in reverse. It also improves visibility when driving sideways.

For more information on the latest additions to Combilift's range, call +353 47 80500 or visit www.combilift.com



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The new COMBi-CB70E electric multidirectional forklift is the most compact 7,000kg counterbalance truck on the market. Multidirectional ability enables the handling of both long and bulky loads, maximising the safety, storage & efficiency of your logistics.

The CB70E is loaded with a host of ergonomic features that greatly enhance operator comfort, including excellent all-round visibility, a spacious gas-strut suspension cab, independent electric traction and our newly developed Auto Swivel Seat which intelligently swivels 15° in the direction of travel.

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