



Press release from SP Swedish National Testing and Research Institute

06-09-2006

Large EU project increases the value of forests and wood

Kick-off 2/10 in Mâcon for the EU project "INDISPUTABLE KEY"

Using advanced information technology, wood can carry its history with it on its path from the forest to the final wood product. This can be exploited to increase productivity considerably. Trees that are not suitable to be sawn will not end up in the sawmill and the properties of the timber in the trees that are sawn will be exploited to minimise waste.

– At present up to 20 percent of wood ends up as unnecessary waste, which at a European level corresponds to a value of several billion Euros, says Richard Uusijärvi at SP Wood Technology, the Swedish research institute coordinating the project.

Increased product quality at a lower environmental cost

The goals of the project are to develop systems and demonstrate the prerequisites for extracting as much as possible from the wood raw material at a lower environmental cost, and at the same time to raise the quality of the wood product. The chosen solution is called IAD - Individual Associated Data. It means that when the tree is felled and cut up into logs, each log is marked with a unique code for example, through an embedded micro chip connected to a database where information about the log, such as breast height diameter, type of log, felling location and time of felling, is stored. The information is used in subsequent stages of the production chain to optimise process exploitation.

The decision is already made in the forest

– Information about what the tree and its quality are suitable for can already be used in the forest for important decision-making, says Richard Uusijärvi. Instruments in vehicles and machines help to correctly direct and steer the timber, thereby improving both logistics and delivery precision.

The logs are usually sorted into saw classes based on dimension and often logs with different properties are mixed, reducing profits in the entire chain. With the new technology the quality of individual logs can be used to steer the wood correctly through the process.

– In order to influence processes within the industry we will be extending and developing further the results of an earlier EU project, [LINESET](#), and in addition efficiently adapting communications and data technology to the market with the assistance of the project's commercial partners, says Richard Uusijärvi.

Twenty-eight partners from five European countries (manufacturers and users of the technology as well as research) are participating in the three year project, [Indisputable key](#), which has a budget of some 12 million Euros.

For more information see www.sp.se