

Scott Timber group expands Wales with major £1m investment

The Scott Timber Group has teamed up with Associated British Ports (ABP) to announce plans to expand its operations in Wales with a major £1 million investment in new premises and state-of-the-art machinery.

A prime 50,000 sq ft (4,645 sq m) factory located at ABP's Port of Barry in South Wales will more than treble Scott Timber's production capacity in the area giving customers an enhanced quality of service.

As part of this major investment, which is set to give a valuable boost to the local economy, Scott Timber will spend £300,000 buying and installing a state-of-the-art pallet assembly line from Spain.

Capable of producing seven pallets a minute, the high speed machine has the potential to treble the sites output and drive further expansion in Wales.

This investment will more than treble capacity giving customers an enhanced quality of service

ABP, in its part, will invest nearly £800,000 as part of a major refurbishment programme to upgrade the port's Transit A Shed and improve cranes to accommodate Scott Timber's operation.

The new facility relocates and upgrades the company's current premises outside the port in Barry town, with all 90 staff moving to the new quayside location. John Scott, Managing Director of the Scott Timber Group, said: "Our new quayside premises at ABP Barry will allow us to duplicate our successful model at Rosyth in Fife. We expect to see the same benefits including reduced transportation costs and a large stock holding facility. "Our emphasis is always on



customer service and so having a large stock holding facility means we can reduce lead times and offer a fast efficient service which is essential for our volume customers."

He added, "This is a very significant development for us and will give us an important base from which to expand our services to new customers throughout Wales and

the South of England. Scott Timber's operations will result in increased timber throughput across the quayside at the Port of Barry and establish regular sailings from the Baltic states to Barry. Borba Majumdar, ABP Port Director, South Wales Ports, said: "The commitment shown by Scott Timber to expand its facilities at the Port of Barry, mirrors ABP's commitment to



John Scott, Managing Director of Scott Timber Group.

'CLIENT FIRST' PUTS SCOTT TIMBER CLOSER TO CUSTOMERS

Customers of the Scott Timber Group will now be able to enjoy an enhanced service with the announcement that the company has put in place a new Customer First system that allows enquiries and order processing to be dealt with more efficiently.

As part of moves to gain an even better understanding of customer needs, the improved service will now see the company's head office in Rosyth, Fife, handle calls that had previously been made to its

local sites at Grays in London, The Isle of Sheppey and Flint, North Wales.

Under the Customer First system, clients will have direct access to a wider range of expert advice meaning technical enquiries or detailed questions about raw materials or manufacturing capacity can be dealt with through a single point of access. With calls now being handled at head office, customers will also have a hotline to all the latest information including order status and delivery times.

Horatio Scott, Director of the Scott Timber Group, said: "We are always looking to improve our service to customers and to be in a position to deal with their needs more efficiently. The new service is a further extension to the system we have been successfully operating at Rosyth for the last three years.

"Our customers are busy people with precious time so we want to ensure that they get the information they require as quickly as possible. An

important feature of the new system is its flexibility so if a customer needs to speak to a specific person on one of the three sites they will be put through to this person in the normal fashion. The new system will also free up man-power enabling staff to get on with the business of fulfilling customer orders."

Due to its tightly defined geographical coverage the company's site at Barry, South Wales, will continue to handle local enquiries.



Abb. 1 Automatische Paletten-Nagelanlage im Testlauf

Das Familienunternehmen wird heute in zweiter Generation von Marc Pérez Tones (technischer Geschäftsführer) und seinem Bruder Joan Marzell (kaufmännischer Geschäftsführer) geleitet. Es beschäftigt 60 Mitarbeiter und widmet sich der Entwicklung und dem Bau von automatischen Schnittholz-Stapel- und -Paketieranlagen sowie Paletten-Nagelanlagen. Ein Rundgang durch das Werk (8000 m²) bestätigt die Worte von Marc Pérez Tones: „Das Unternehmen ist gut beschäftigt und liefert seine Anlagen in alle Welt. Der Exportanteil liegt bei über 80%.“ Allein in Frankreich wurden 150 Anlagen des Herstellers produziert.

Die Maschinenbauweise für beide Produktlinien beruht auf einem Basissystem, mit dem das Unternehmen flexibel auf die unterschiedlichsten Anforderungen der Anwender reagieren kann. Moderne Technik, wie beispielsweise speicherprogrammierbare Steuerungen und Schnittstellen für Wartungs- und Fehlerdiagnose via ISDN und Internet, ist integriert, um die Anlagen für den wirtschaftlichen Einsatz anzustimmen. Im Bau befinden sich Ende März zwei große Anlagen, die kurz vor der Abnahme stan-

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Stapeln, Paletten nageln

1967 gegründet, baut der Maschinenhersteller in Manlleu, nördlich von Barcelona, seit 1970 Schnittholz-Stapel- und Paketieranlagen sowie Paletten-Nagelanlagen.

den. Die automatische Paletten-Nagelanlage (Abb. 1) ist ausgelegt für die Produktion von sieben Paletten/min. Wie Marc Pérez Tones betont, arbeite sein Unternehmen an der Weiterentwicklung dieser Anlagen. Er sei bestrebt, zur Ligna in Hannover im kommenden Jahr ein neues Anlagenkonzept mit Scherwechsellagersystem für die Fertigung von Paletten vorzustellen.

Bei den Schnittholz-Stapel- und Paketieranlagen (Abb. 2) bietet das Unternehmen Bauweisen für das Sortieren und Stapeln von Brettern bis 2500 mm für Südamerika und bis 6000 m Länge für Nordeuropa, entsprechend den speziellen Anforderungen in diesen Ländern. Über Bodenspannel kann die abgetriggerte Anlage flexibel auf die entsprechenden Werksstückabmessungen und Stapelhöhe eingestellt werden. Im Vordergrund der Firmenaktivitäten stehen neben der erforderlichen Marktflexibilität in der Konzeption entsprechender Anlagen auch verstärkte Maßnahmen zur Qualitätssicherung sowie zur Verbesserung des weltweiten Kundenservices. Zur Xylexpo in Meland informiert das Unternehmen über das gesamte Produktionsprogramm. (F)

(Mecanica Cape SL, E-08560 Manlleu)



Abb. 2 Automatische Schnittholz-Stapel- und Paketieranlage vor der Abnahme im Herstellerwerk (Fotos: HK)

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A view of the complete installation

Unit Pallets invest in Mecanica Cape line

One of the UK's leading pallet manufacturers, Unit Pallets Limited, has invested in a fully automated pallet line from Mecanica Cape of Barcelona in Spain.

The new set up replaces one that had been running for over 25 years and is just one of a number of lines at the company's Golborne, Warrington base. It is designed to produce four-way perimeter base pallets, Euro and three leg types and also two way pallets. Productivity is around 300 pallets an hour up to 360 pallets per hour in full production, the line is operated by three to four men, depending on the pallet configuration.

The line was ordered through River Dee Machinery in October 2001. Company representatives inspected the assembled line in Barcelona in April 2002 and installation took place at Golborne in May. The line was up and running within two weeks and has continued without any major problems ever since.

The system in use at Unit Pallets includes a horizontal feed automatic block cutting station which can handle random lengths of 0.9 to 3.0 metres and which includes an optimising program to reduce waste. Also in the line, as an

alternative, is an automatic feed for palletised composite blocks.

The first nailing machine operates with an automatic hopper stringer feed but with the top deck boards being manually loaded. All nailing head alignment is automatic for stringers, boards and blocks. After the automated turnover station the board magazine aligns boards for the second nailing operation.

The line includes an in-line multifunction finishing system for chamfering, corner cutting and gas branding on up to two faces. After those operations the pallet is again turned over, passes through an automatic spray booth, goes on to a paint drying system and via a pallet stacker to a conveyor and thence to stock or to transport.

Unit Pallets Manufacturing Manager, Lol Johnston, commented that the line was very well constructed and produced an excellent quality finish end pallet. He also observed that line quality and product were impressive and with regard to installation Cape were a very good company with which to work.

Any specification of line is feasible from Cape as all stations are modular and easy to install. It is also possible to add other automatic modules



The tapered end of the Cape system, including block cutting at Unit Pallets



The turnover system in operation



Some manual laying up is still practised

at a later date, in Unit Pallets' case, possibly a top deck feeder. Latest innovations on this line are the touch screen control panels, which also include problem identification systems. The automatic block feed and vacuum destacker, which handles a complete layer of blocks at once, is probably the most advanced equipment available at the moment. Its reliability and effectiveness has proved to be a great asset to the line.

As with all Unit Pallets lines, the Cape set up is maintained by their own engineering

department. So far it has been trouble free, with a higher output than its predecessor, and with a significant saving in manpower. All in all the Unit Pallets line is a fine example of robust, technically advanced Spanish engineering and a good advertisement for Cape and their UK agent River Dee Machinery.
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