

INDUSTRY NEWS

NORTH AMERICA

MILLS AND CONVERTERS

UNITED STATES

Austell Boxboard Corp.'s Mill No. 2 selected Lawton Co. to design and manufacture new taper cone pulleys to upgrade the speed potential of its paper machine at Austell, GA.

Boise Cascade's Paper Division ordered a Core Link CL4090 automated core cutter with notching for its Wallula, WA, plant. The new system, designed to produce 1700 cores/day, is scheduled to start up in the fall of 1999.

Bowater Inc. announced that, to correct an order book imbalance, it curtailed production during April at its paper mills in Maine and Dalhousie, NB, Canada. Approximately 25,000 metric tons of production, primarily newsprint, was curtailed.

Bowater/GNP upgraded to Andritz RTS technology at its East Millinocket, ME, mill. When completed in 2000, this installation will include two 2-stage refining lines, with separate rejects refining.

Bowater Newsprint purchased an Andritz RTS™ TMP system for its Calhoun, TN, mill expansion. The system will be capable of producing 815 a.d. tons/day of newsprint.

Camden Paperboard contracted with Lawton Co. to supply new gearing for PM No. 3 at the company's Camden, NJ, mill.

Consolidated Papers started up its rebuilt PM No. 25 on March 14, following 56 days of downtime. As part of the

rebuild, the off-machine blade coater serving the paper machine was replaced, and the new unit went into operation on March 8. The paper machine and coater are located at the company's Biron Division in Biron, WI.

Crown Vantage contracted with Lawton Co. to design and manufacture a new taper cone pulley to upgrade the speed potential of the P&J paper machine at its Parchment, MI, mill.

Fraser Papers, Madawaska, ME, ordered a Carotek ECS™ system to allow mill personnel to capture randomly occurring events on high-resolution digital video. At the heart of this system are four digital cameras that can capture video images in up to 16.7 million colors.

Georgia-Pacific Corp. selected VortX United to furnish and install a VortX PLUS automatic mixing system for its Kansas City, MO, and Bradford, PA, facilities. Both systems were scheduled to start up in April.

International Paper ordered replacement paper machine drying cylinders for its Bastrop, LA, mill from VanTek, Inc. for delivery last month.

Recycled Paperboard ordered Lawton Co. dryer heads for the paper machine at its Clifton, NJ, mill.

Seaman Paper selected Lawton Co. to design and manufacture new taper cone pulleys to upgrade the speed potential of the paper machine at its Otter River, MA, mill.

Wausau-Mosinee Paper Corp. purchased two Voith Sulzer deflakers for its Appleton, WI, mill. Installation was scheduled for the first quarter of 1999.

CANADA

Abitibi-Consolidated in March permanently shut down one of its three paper machines at Iroquois Falls, ON, in light of poor market conditions. As a result, mill and company capacity was reduced by 58,000 metric tons/year.

Fletcher Challenge is upgrading PM No. 3 at Crofton, BC, to improve lightweight runnability. As part of this project, the company is enhancing its seven existing pressure screens with Andritz components, including wedgewire slotted screens. System startup is scheduled for this month.

Lake Utopia installed a Carotek ECS™ (event capturing system) at New Brunswick, NF, to reduce downtime caused by randomly occurring process events. The system is a self-contained mobile unit with four cameras.



The rebuilt PM No. 25 at Consolidated Papers' Biron Division manufactures lightweight coated printing papers for catalogs, magazines, and newspaper advertising inserts.

LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

NEWS FROM CELSO FOELKEL PLANTATIONS: THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR

FORESTRY AND WOOD PRODUCTION IN LATIN AMERICA

People are demanding increased volumes of wood. Most of the world's wood is used as an energy source or for industrial purposes (e.g., saw timber, plywood, panels,

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LATIN AMERICA CONTINUED

roundwood, furniture, and pulp and paper). The world demand for wood products is expected to significantly increase in the years to come. The population growth and improved living standards in the South Hemisphere and Asia will surely require additional volumes of wood to supply this extra demand. To this point, mankind has specifically agreed to use most of its wood from sources such as natural forests. However, in recent years, strong opposition from NGOs, as well as new strict regulations, are forcing the wood-based industry to search for other ways to supply its needs for wood and fibers.

Plantation forests and, more recently, the cloning of trees are breakthroughs to the forest industry. The wood grown on plantations is one of the best choices in saving the remaining natural forests from being harvested to supply raw material to industry. However, the pulp and paper industry faces the dilemma of being opposed to plantations.

Plantations are not to be seen as simply a military parade of trees. They fulfill many roles other than wood production, such as soil conservation, climate stabilization, carbon storage, and social benefits.

In general, the pulp and paper industry must keep the following points in mind regarding forest plantations:

- Plantations are to be planted in exhausted and already-used soils, preferably those degraded by agriculture. The planted forests should not replace natural forests after clear-cutting them. Natural forests deserve other types of sustainable forest

management; they may be economically used, but with a completely different approach.

- Plantations must be managed in a sustainable way, being integrated with other environmental sites and agricultural activities in the area. They should never be seen as the only player in this natural and social environment.
- Plantations are to be seen as promoters of social development in the region, not only as a source of industrial wood or an agriculture crop in the short term.
- The forest industry does not need to own the plantations to be self-sufficient in wood. Local farmers may also benefit from plantation forests. A program dedicated to promoting plantation forestry by local farmers is fundamental to guaranteeing the community's respect.
- The forest-breeding programs being implemented by the industry must lead to continually improved trees. Therefore, offering or selling clonal seedlings and improved seeds to be planted by the local community is helpful to all. It should not be seen as a way of losing intellectual property or competitiveness. On the contrary, it is a way to gain wood productivity.

—Foelkel is a consultant at Celsius Degree, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

ASIA PACIFIC

MILLS AND CONVERTERS

KOREA

Dae Han Pulp Mills selected Voith Sulzer to provide a four-line stock preparation system for PM No. 3 at Cheong-Ju. The order includes complete rejects handling and process water treatment systems.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

APRIL Group announced that its joint venture with UPM-Kymmene, APRIL Fine Paper Changshu mill, started up its paper machine in China on March 13. The mill, with an annual capacity of 350,000 metric tons, produces uncoated wood-free printing and office papers.

Black Dragon Group selected Valmet to supply an OptiConcept newsprint production line to be built at Qiqihar, in northern China. Startup of the 625-metric tons/day line is scheduled for late 2000.

AUSTRALIA

NEWS FROM HUNTLY G. HIGGINS CONSUMPTION FORECASTS

Forecasts for paper consumption in Australia for the next 5 years have been extracted from information in *Australian Commodities* [6(1): March 1999], published by ABARE, a professionally independent government economic research agency. Interesting predictions relating to the paper industry include the following:

- Relatively strong growth is expected in the consumption of tissues.
- Australian export wood chips are expected to maintain price competitiveness against the United States and other sources. (However, in the short term, the Japanese economic downturn has resulted in substantial price cuts for wood chips from North and South America and Australia.)
- Despite the development of forest plantations in