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INSIDER

THE MAGAZINE FROM USNR | ISSUE 1 - 2012



PLYWOOD LOSES AN ICON

Former Coe owner Fred W. Fields leaves a rich legacy of achievements

SEIZING NEW OPPORTUNITY

D.R. Johnson Lumber takes on the latest scanning technology

USNR'S NEWNES SAWMILL SUITE

This strong contender is first for many processors

USNR



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Looking back and ahead

As 2011 ends and 2012 begins, thoughts turn to what has been accomplished and what is yet to come. USNR is proud of its many achievements over the past year and those of its customers.

3 D.R. Johnson Lumber was unfortunate to experience loss through fire early on in 2011, but managed to take the difficulty of this event and forge ahead with the latest technology. This mill is the first installation of USNR's BioLuma 2900L sensors. They chose the scanning system because they wanted to have the best technology to be the best for their customers.

6 Fred W. Fields, former owner of Coe Manufacturing and an icon in the plywood processing industry, passed away in December 2011. His legacy is rich with accomplishments and a life dedicated to the progression of the industry.

8 The Newnes Sawmill Suite is one of USNR's strongest optimization platforms for gangs, edgers and trimmers. Its features and functionality are proven in testimony from customers who consider it a must for their operations.

11 USNR continues its advancement of the Lineal High Grader with input from leading customers like West Fraser Timber. This technology has expanded to include the Transverse High Grader, for which West Fraser has also given its nod.

We are optimistic that, though 2012 will undoubtedly bring challenges, through hard work, sincere effort and teamwork we will continue to bring success to our operation, and to yours.

Sincerely,
Colleen Schonheiter
Editor

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Turning tragedy into opportunity

D.R. JOHNSON FIRES UP ITS EDGER LINE WITH CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

There are many reasons a mill decides to update its equipment and technology. Perhaps one of the least desirable reasons is when there is a fire. But tragedy can make way for good fortune, as it did for D.R. Johnson Lumber at Riddle, Oregon. Faced with the serious disabling of their edger system's infeed and scanner, mill management determined to not only replace what was damaged beyond repair, but also to take the opportunity to embrace the latest, cutting edge technology in the process. Hence the installation of USNR's BioLuma 2900L sensors combined with MillExpert optimization.

D.R. Johnson Lumber celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2011. It produces a wide range of lumber products from primarily Douglas Fir logs. The Riddle site comprises a sawmill, planer mill, dry kilns, laminating beam plant and cogeneration plant. The sawmill capacity is 100 mmbf, though it has been producing less than that in recent years, and is

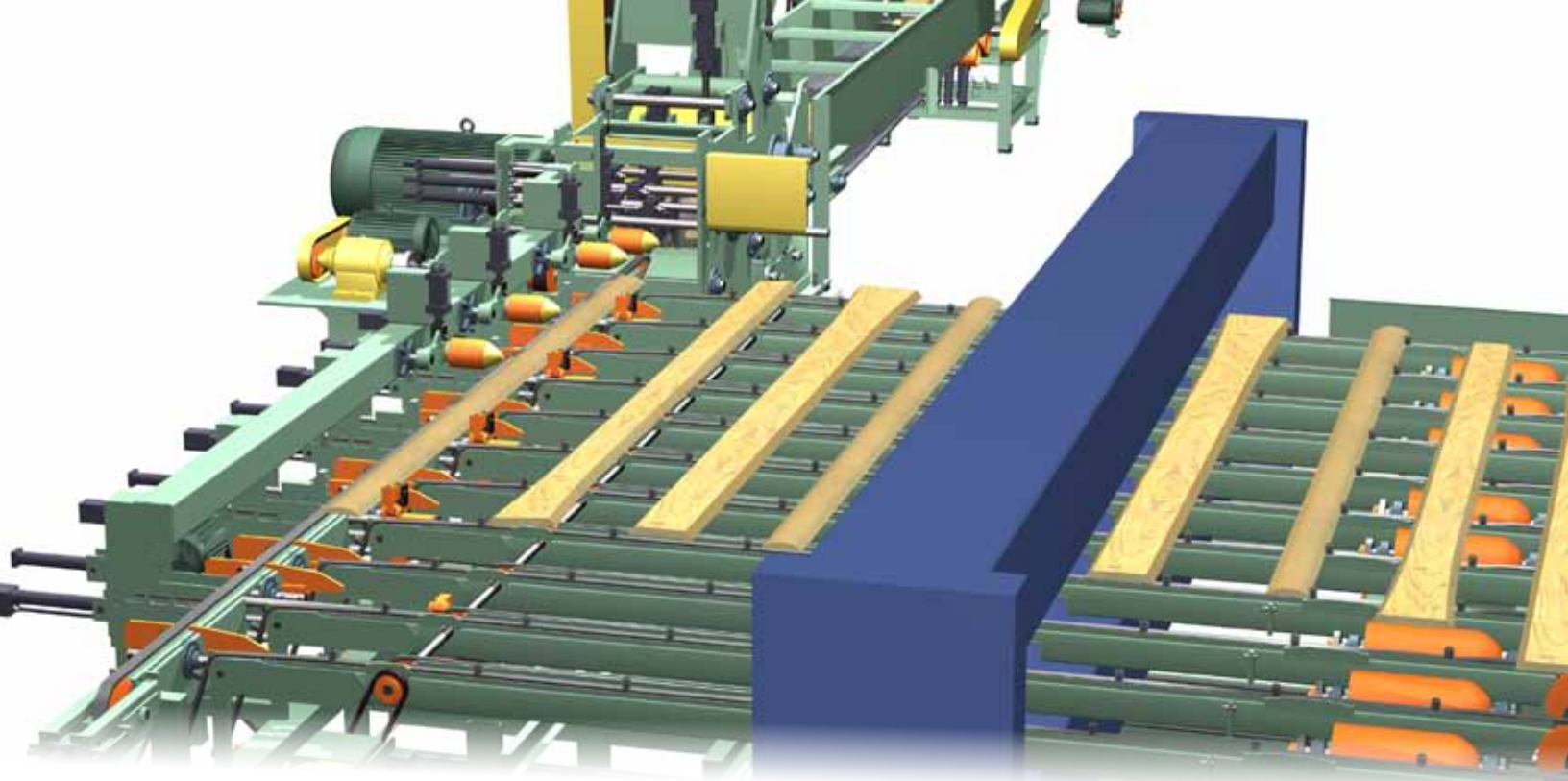
operated by a team of approximately 65 personnel.

In January 2011 a fire damaged much of the edger system from the infeed up to the edger. While the machine center itself was left intact, the scanning system and infeed table took the brunt of the fire damage. The optimizer was an Invec WaneMaster, and the scanning system was outfitted with DynaVision M6 heads that would all have needed to be sent to the factory for repair. After considering the options, mill management chose the combination of USNR's MillExpert optimization and the new BioLuma 2900L sensors.

The game plan

D.R. Johnson's C.O.O. John Redfield explained the thought process behind the decision. "We did our research on replacement systems, but we had done previous successful projects with USNR so it was first on the list." He went on to say that the edger

Fire is never a good thing in a mill. But for D.R. Johnson Lumber it presented an opportunity to improve its process with the latest and greatest technology. A very short turnaround ensured the mill was quickly back to the business of making lumber.



A FAST TURNAROUND PUTS THE MILL BACK IN THE GAME

Five weeks was the target for getting back to production. "We wanted to start-up March 1st, and we went into full production almost immediately."

is integral to the operation of the sawmill, and the biggest challenge they faced was delivering on customer orders while the edger system was out of commission. That being the case, the ability to expedite the project quickly was of paramount importance. While they needed to get the project going as soon as possible, they also recognized this was an opportunity to move their process forward technologically.

USNR's Chuck Blem was project manager, and explained some of the difficulties encountered in fitting the new sensors to the existing frame. "This

was the first site where we adapted an existing 24" scanning frame from M6 scan heads to be able to fit the BioLuma 2900L heads. Mill personnel had to adapt the frame quite a bit but were able to complete the work in quick order, and it saved a significant amount of money." He noted that keeping the existing scan frame also saved on installation time. The transfer did not have to be cut apart to make way for a new frame, and then welded back together. The existing PLC5 control system was also reused, with a new processor installed to communicate with the MillExpert software.

USNR's Tom Chambers was the technical specialist who performed the software upgrade, and oversaw the installation of the new BioLuma sensors. "Start-up went fairly well. The top scan heads went in easily, but there was more work to installing the bottom heads as the scan frame had to be cut to allow for the cables to pass through." He said he was on site for about 7 days, arriving on a Monday and by Thursday they were running pieces through the system.



Mill personnel made significant modifications to the scan frame so that it now accommodates the BioLuma 2900L sensors.

"We chose the BioLumas because they were leading edge technology. We wanted to have the best we could get, so we could be the best we could be for our customers."

The older M6 sensors had a scan density of about 4" while the BioLumas yield 0.3" by comparison, and with a sampling rate of 2500 Hz they collect an abundant grid of profile data for each piece.

Selecting the best

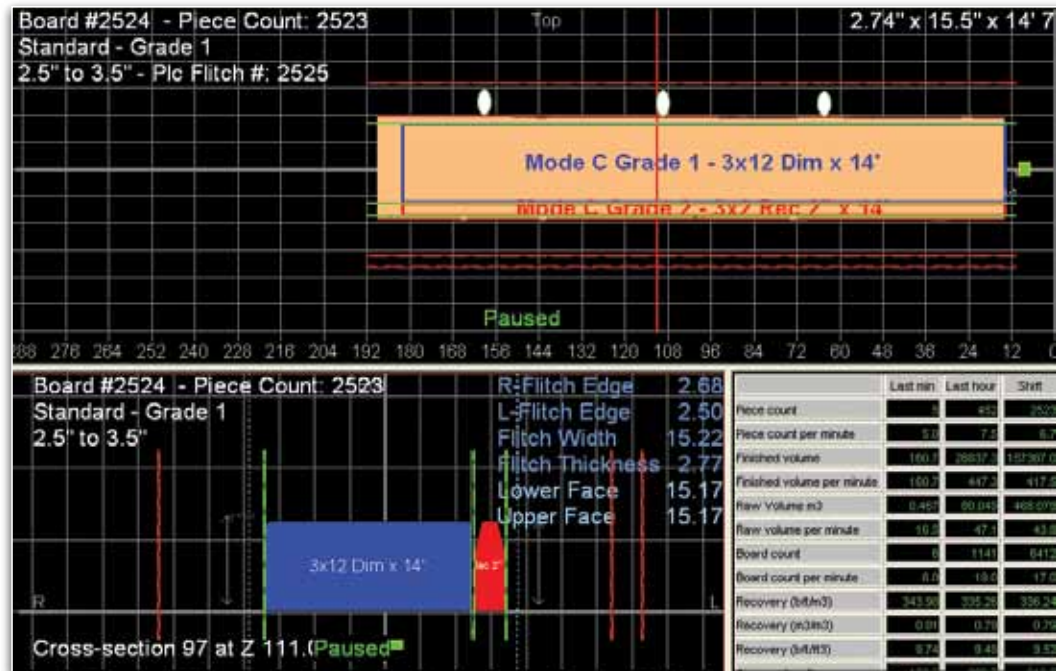
Redfield wanted to make sure they could get the best available technology, and he saw the new BioLuma sensors as delivering on that requirement. "We chose the BioLumas because they were leading edge technology. We wanted to have the best we could get, so we could be the best we could be for our customers." The older M6 sensors had a scan density of about 4" while the BioLumas yield 0.3" by comparison, and with a sampling rate of 2500 Hz they collect an abundant grid of profile data for each piece. The BioLuma sensors also offer spot-on accuracy featuring true differential profile measurements with alignment of the laser points, top

"We have seen significant increases in grade recovery which has increased the value of our lumber. We have also seen decreases in resaw material as a result of the better solutions this optimization system provides."

and bottom, as each piece is scanned transversely. John also said he is very satisfied with MillExpert optimization, this being their first experience with the platform. He said he arranged to have training occur prior to completing the installation, and sent a team to USNR's Eugene, Oregon facility. Then during start-up more hands-on training was performed. John was pleased with how well the project proceeded and how quickly USNR was able to expedite the installation. Five weeks was the target for getting back to production, and with clear communication and good teamwork this was accomplished. "We wanted to start-up March 1st, and we went into full production almost immediately."

Significant increases

The most telling feature of any project is when it comes time to analyze the cost/benefit ratio. John expressed, "We have seen significant increases in



John Redfield noted significant increases in grade recovery and value with reductions in resaw material, which he attributes to the new sensors and software platform.

grade recovery which has increased the value of our lumber. We have also seen decreases in resaw material as a result of the better solutions this optimization system provides."

John praised the support he received from USNR to make the transition happen so quickly. He also gives a great deal of credit to the mill's maintenance team who did the complete mechanical portion of the project from removing the damaged components to installation of the new materials.

John said the company is always looking ahead at new opportunities that may come their way. In spite of a difficult situation, D.R. Johnson turned it into a positive outcome that will pay dividends over and over again. That's exactly the kind of attitude that has sustained this company for 60 years, and will continue to keep it in good stead for the future. 🌐

Fred Fields: industry icon passes



Left to right:
Pete Volk, Fred Fields and
Alan Knokey in 2010.

A MAN OF VISION AND ACTION

Fred W. Fields passed away on December 13, 2011. At the time of his passing, Fred was 88 years old, and was predeceased by his wife, Suzanne. There are a few individuals who have shaped the wood processing industry, and Fred Fields undoubtedly holds a place among their number. He has been described by colleagues as a man of vision and of action, a task master, fair and honest, a man with drive and passion. Ultimately, he will be well remembered.

He was born in 1923 and raised on a farm in Alexandria, Indiana, along with 7 siblings. Like many from that era, the Great Depression colored his youth and he learned early the value of hard work as he watched his father struggle to make ends meet. In a book titled, *My Times With Coe*, Fred related that through the ensuing years he often looked back to those times of being fearful about going broke and being unsuccessful. And from the vantage point of

hindsight, it is easy to see how much of an impact those times had on his life and career.

Fred served in the US Air Force during World War II, then earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University. In 1947 he hired on as a junior engineer at a fiberboard plant that had purchased some Coe equipment. He got on well with the Coe personnel who were installing the equipment, and was offered a job as an engineer at Coe's facility in Painesville, Ohio. After a few years where he gained experience in field service and sales, he left the company to move from Ohio to Oregon. He became a partner in a business that sold forest products equipment for a number of manufacturers, including Coe, and subsequently their company joined Coe. In 1960 Fred took over general management of Coe's second manufacturing facility that was built at Tigard, Oregon, and for which he

was instrumental in bringing about the expansion. When the owners decided to sell the company in 1976, Fields bought it.

Expansion through acquisition

With Fred at the helm, Coe acquired several other wood processing equipment entities, and expanded its product lines into sawmill equipment, scanning and optimization, panel processing and engineered wood processing lines. In 1982 Coe bought Moore Dry Kiln and with it acquired Klamath Iron Works that manufactured headrigs and carriages. In 1984 Washington Iron Works was added to enter the emerging composite panel business. Ward Systems was bought the same year, bringing moisture detectors on board. Albany International's sawmill machinery line was added in 1985 along with Saab Systems and its scanning and optimization technology. In 1989 Mann-Russell was acquired, a pioneer in radio frequency gluing for engineered wood products. In 1992 more sawmill machinery was added to the portfolio with the purchase of Prescott Iron Works. And Pathex Ltd. came on board in 1997 with its line of presses for composite board and rubber materials.

In 2000 Fred sold the company and retired, though he remained close to many of the people he had come into contact with through his time at Coe.

Comments from colleagues

The overriding passion throughout much of his life was the forest products industry. He "came from the old school" and has been described as a task master. He expected others to have the same drive and passion he had. The best way he knew to succeed in business was to learn his customers' manufacturing requirements better than they themselves. Dave Roth, USNR service manager for the Coe line, worked with Fred for 32 years as a member of the engineering team. Dave explained that Fred spent much time with mill owners and senior executives talking about the operational challenges they faced, and he would take those challenges and the ideas they sparked back to the engineering staff at Coe to develop solutions. These sessions spawned innovations such as the very first computerized XY charger and a great many improvements to core drives, lathes, veneer dryers and more.

Tim Fisher, sales manager for USNR's Coe line, described Fred as being a private person who didn't seek recognition, but had a lot of accomplishments. "In his time he had some impact on every significant forest products company in North America, and on some worldwide. He knew or did business with all the major leaders, and those companies knew that if Fred Fields was involved in something that it was as good as gold and he would stand behind it until the end."

Pete Volk is an account manager at USNR for the Coe press lines, and worked with Fred from 1984

until 2000. He described Fred as, “probably the best boss I ever had. It was an exciting time to work at Coe. Fred was one who had vision and foresight, and he put his dreams into action. There wasn’t a day that I didn’t thoroughly look forward to working with him.” Pete was in charge of the machine shop at Painesville, Ohio during his time working with Fred. He also said Fred was very fair and very honest. He considered Fred to be a friend, and kept in contact with him up to the time of his passing.

USNR’s Alan Knokey is vice president for the Coe machinery products. He said Fred led by example and that his life was his work. He noted, “Fred was one of the most influential people in my life. He was pretty unique. He took the ideas he gleaned from listening to customers and turned them into action.” He described Fred as understanding the key to success was to become an innovator of the technology required by the industry he served. That was how he drove Coe to become a leader.

Alan, his father Eugene, and his grandfather were all involved in the forest products industry and all worked with Fred Fields. Eugene Knokey was Fred’s right hand man at Coe for many years after Fred bought the company in 1976. Eugene says, “He and I worked very closely together. He liked me and I liked him.” He commented that they worked very hard and described Fred as being a natural born leader with a driving spirit. It was clear that he thought a great deal of Fred Fields.

Fred served as a member and then chairman of the board of Lewis & Clark College at Portland,



Coe’s veneer dryer technology advanced along with its lathes under Fred’s leadership.

Oregon where he helped create the Morgan S. Odell Professorship in the Humanities in 1990 and financed construction of the Fred W. Fields Center for the Visual Arts in 1993. He was involved with and contributed to many industry associations throughout his life time.

The legacy of Fred W. Fields lives on in the technology that his vision and drive helped to create, the wood processors that his creations helped to succeed, and in the many, many people whose lives he touched. 🌐

Improve dryer operation

USNR’s variable speed independent deck drive tower eliminates the old gear box configuration that required costly custom-machined gears and hard-to-get components. Messy lubrication systems are no longer needed because each deck now uses a separate off-the-shelf gear box and motor. This upgrade enhances reliability and performance while significantly reducing routine maintenance.

- ▶ Significantly reduces maintenance time for chain repair and replacement
- ▶ Decreases downtime for clearing jams
- ▶ Allows fine tuning of individual decks to ensure correct product tracking on all dryer decks
- ▶ Easily available “off the shelf” components
- ▶ Improves maintenance accessibility
- ▶ Retrofits virtually all dryer configurations

The new drive tower is constructed using a heavy duty structural frame with substantial plate

reinforcement. Individual deck gearboxes have easy maintenance accessibility and external fill and drain piping. The brand and type of motors and gearboxes are per customer specification.

With decades of success in veneer drying, we know that uninterrupted performance and high quality veneer production is critical in today’s challenging environment. Get the most out of your system with unique and reliable upgrades designed by the people who understand veneer processing machinery better than anyone in the business. Contact us today at 800-BUY-USNR or e-mail info@usnr.com. 🌐



Newnes Sawmill Suite

A powerful force in USNR's arsenal of advanced software solutions, the Newnes Sawmill Suite optimization platform is continuing its progression with a new version set to release in early 2012. With over 600 Newnes optimizers installed globally, we continue to invest in improving the features and functionality of this winning line for optimized gangs, edgers and trimmers. Each new release is built on the strengths of its predecessors, and with regular input from users each release is truly 'new and improved'.

The latest version of the Newnes Sawmill Suite (NSS) is built on the Windows® 7 operating system, and effectively harnesses its power for faster processing and more time to examine each piece. The result is the very best value solution, more control of the overall appearance of the product, and better diagnostic tools to determine, "Why did it do that?" Some common features include the following.

- ▶ Decision processing with the Windows 7 operating system — make better decisions through increased processing power
- ▶ Sophisticated edger diagnostics: section-by-section analysis and scoring
- ▶ Risk tolerance: dictates how much a solution is able to shift without losing value
- ▶ Warp control: enhanced bow logic gives control over warp processing
- ▶ Planview defect controls: enhanced end defect qualification with the HDPV planview system
- ▶ Database upgrade to Microsoft SQL Server Express for improved database performance
- ▶ Advanced reporting features in a portable database format
- ▶ Updated mechanisms for faster reporting speeds
- ▶ User interface with configurable color schemes
- ▶ Reduced hardware required
- ▶ Expanded sensor compatibility

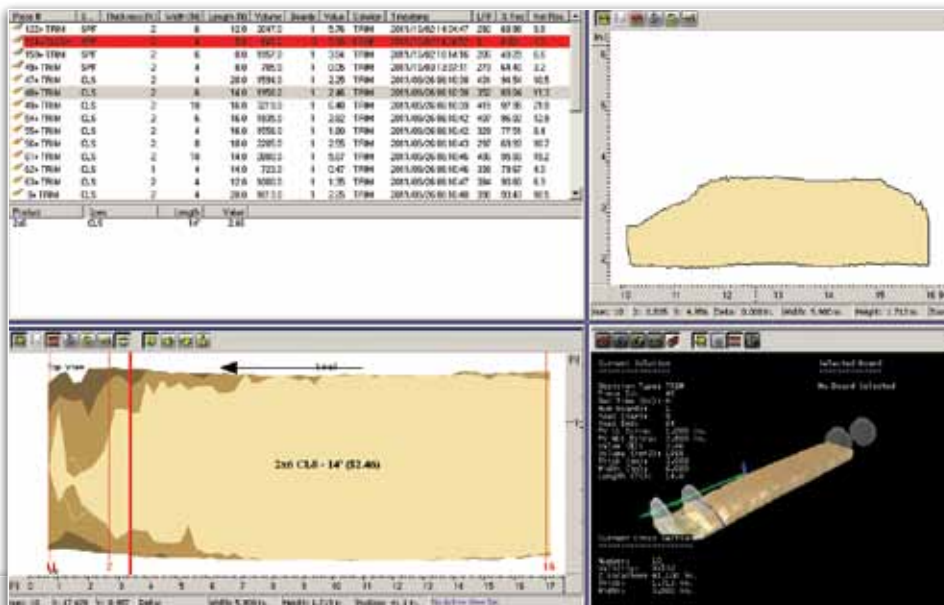
With the Windows 7 operating system, the decision processor shares the same computer as the network file server. As well, the system is compatible with sensors using Gig-E (ethernet) technology.

Trimmer optimizer: latest features

▶ **Control of warp defects in trim solutions**
The warp screen lets you define the parameters used to identify crook and excess bow in pieces. The crook sets specified are used to minimize lumber handling problems that may arise from excessively crooked pieces, while maintaining the highest possible value.

▶ **Planview defect depth calculation**
Improvements in the end defect detection logic enhances recovery by helping ensure irregular ends are correctly identified as such.

▶ **Enhanced bow evaluation**
Now the system will find multi-board solutions when allowing bow cross-sections to pass.



Trimmer optimizer solution graphics screen.

"We've heard from customers who were disappointed after switching to other platforms. Because of the limitations they were not always able to manufacture the products they require."

Edger optimizer: latest features

A good deal of emphasis has been placed on expanding the functionality of the edger optimizer.

► Ensure the edge solution you want is what you get

The new edger solution diagnostic tool sets up a cross section scoring screen similar to what is already built into the trimmer optimizer. The final solution for each decision is displayed in a full cross section scoring layout, allowing the user to see the passing and failing cross sections for all reasons. This feature allows accurate diagnosis of edger solutions and user intervention into the optimized solution. Using the rerun capability, a user will be able to define decision characteristics and see the detailed reasoning behind why certain solutions were not chosen over the winning solution.

► Edger repositioning with risk analysis

Version 7.1 includes parameters to drive decisions that will be implemented by the machine center. Risk Tolerance dictates, in inches, how much a solution must be able to shift within a decision location in the flitch without losing value. Risk Loss dictates the maximum loss allowed for the solution to drop down to a lesser value if Risk Tolerance is not met.

► Decision processing on a whole new platform

The Windows 7 operating system will lead to improved decisions through increased processing speed, improved processors and more supportable hardware.

► Planview defect depth calculations for the trimmer and edger

With the development of our high definition planview sensor (HDPV (0.1" length)) there has been renewed focus on the end defect qualification. Improved end defect logic ensures proper qualification and improved recovery.

Insider views

Rob Seaman is one of USNR's project managers whose focus has been embedded in the NSS for many years, and who helped to guide the evolution

The NSS also affords the ability to do single board solution diagnostics to a level where the user can analyse the optimizer's solution cross-section by cross-section, or region by region.

of the products. He says, "The Newnes suite is vastly tuneable – to the nth degree, and that stems from so much longevity focused on optimization for the back end mill processes. We've heard from customers who were disappointed after switching to other platforms. Because of the limitations they were not always able to manufacture the products they require." He explained that the NSS is a very sophisticated platform with a broad range of features and functionality. And much of that came about through listening to and addressing feedback from customers about their day-to-day needs. "Each version release or update is built on real solutions to everyday issues encountered in the mill."

Rob went on to say that diagnostics are a very important element in the platform, with the capability to do side-by-side full product run comparisons. The NSS also affords the ability to do single board solution diagnostics to a level where the user can analyse the optimizer's solution cross-section by cross-section, or region by region. He said, "As an example, if you are looking at wane parameters, you go into solution diagnostics and you can pinpoint exactly where it fails for that wane. You know it's directly related to a parameter you adjusted so you can go in and adjust it back." With this level of diagnostic capability a mill can rerun a batch of boards off-line, adjust parameters and try to improve on the value of the output for future runs.

Potent new combination with BioLuma

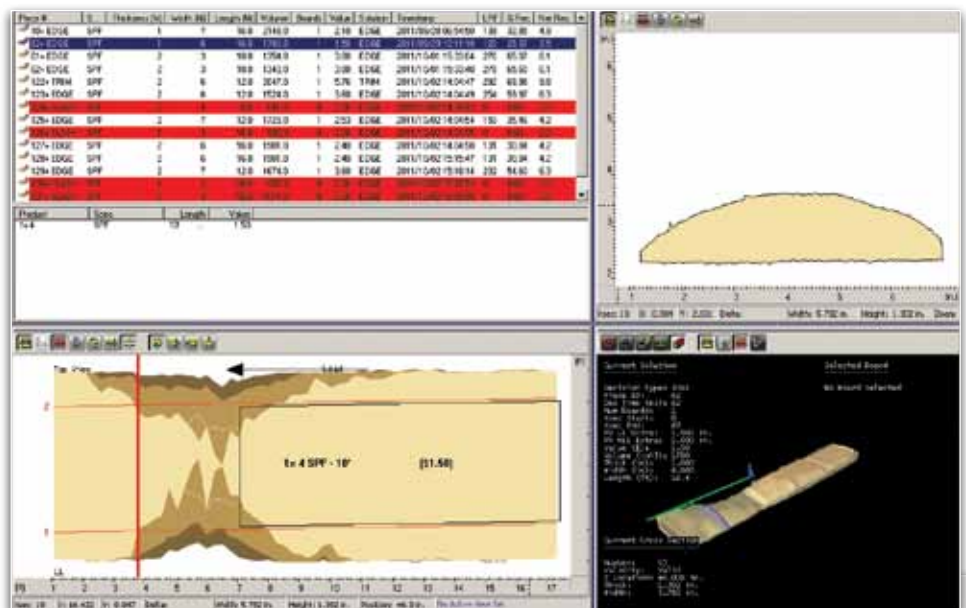
The NSS supports the application of vision technology, and is being integrated with USNR's BioLuma family of sensors. This potent new combination will see its first installation in a full-featured BioVision trimmer system early in 2012.

This system will employ the BioLuma 2900LVG sensors utilizing high density laser, high density

vision and GrainMap™ technologies in a sawmill environment. "The combination of NSS software with the BioLuma 2900LVG sensors will tie in much of the development we've already done for the Transverse High Grader (automated planer mill grading system). Though this will be a sawmill application, there are many similarities in the execution of detecting and identifying anomalies for grade and value," said Scott Norton, USNR's optimization manager. This first-of-its-kind system will feature the following among its key attributes.

- Fixed width / crook and bow control / fence and trim logic
- Cut-n-two: rip-board / split-board / trim-save / trim-block
- Marginal length feature: lumberline saw lift / send extra wood to the planer
- Wane control: equivalency or compound with three wane allowances
- Scant control / steep edge wane control
- Wane orientation marking to planer
- Up to 240 products (thickness by width combinations), and 28 separate nominal lengths
- Up to 8 product groupings (by species or visual grade classification)
- HMI interface to adjust specialty product setup characteristics

We know how well these products work for our customers, so we want you to hear it from them. See page 10 for feedback from some of those whose opinions tell the story through their experience with the Newnes Sawmill Suite.



Edger optimizer solution graphics screen.

WHAT DO USERS SAY ABOUT THE NEWNES SAWMILL SUITE?

West Fraser Timber

Gus Vandermeulen leads the quality control efforts for the West Fraser Timber organization, and is a very strong proponent of the Newnes Sawmill Suite. Gus says, "I love the complexity, yet the simplicity of it." He went on to explain that over the years West Fraser has asked for many new features to be integrated into the NSS system, and those efforts have demanded a high level of complexity built into its capability. He said that at the same time the system is simple for the user, providing flexibility to implement the level of product control that is desired.

Gus commented that the product parameters are easy to change and, in his opinion, the NSS board edger and trimmer optimizers are the best on the market. He said the strength of the diagnostic tools built into the NSS are of particular value. He also expressed how reliable the software is, "It never shuts down, it's rock solid."

The company has close to 60 sawmill machine centers operating with NSS optimization, and many planer mills with Lineal High Grader automated grading systems, so it has a lot riding on the continued progression of these platforms. And USNR is committed to meeting the challenge. With optimization engineering teams located at its facilities at Salmon Arm and Parksville, BC and at Eugene, OR, and technical support personnel situated throughout the US and Canada, USNR has the resources in place to ensure customers like West Fraser are not disappointed.

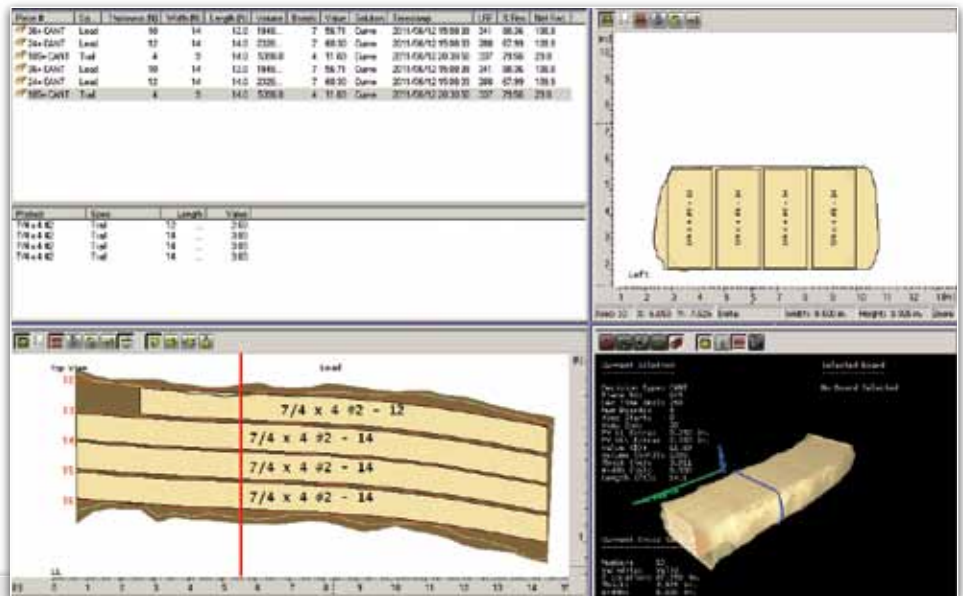
Gus and 15 personnel from West Fraser sites in Canada and the US, recently attended a focused training session at USNR's facility at Salmon Arm, BC. (See page 12 for more information.)

"I love its complexity, yet its simplicity. It never shuts down, it's rock solid."

Idaho Forest Products

The Idaho Forest Group's mill at Laclede, ID recently upgraded its Newnes trimmer optimizer to the latest version release. The mill also has Newnes lineal gang and transverse edgers, so personnel are well versed in the software platform.

Bill Bell, optimization technician for Idaho Forest Group's Laclede operation, is responsible for the optimization and scanning systems to ensure the machine centers are manufacturing the products that have the most value. Bill says he appreciates the similarity in the user interface from one machine



Gang optimizer solution graphics screen.

"The benefit of having access to the 24/7 phone service is huge."

center to another, and from one version release to the next. He says it makes it easy for diagnosing any issues that may arise. He explained, "They are all similar enough that I don't have to relearn it every time I need to make a change or set up a product."


He said the NSS is more user friendly compared with some other platforms on the market. Bill also expressed that he likes the way the help files are set up in that the terminology is very familiar and understandable from an operational perspective.

With respect to the latest version release that operates on the Windows 7 platform, he is particularly appreciative that the decision processor and network file server share one pc, with less computer hardware to purchase and maintain.

Random width shop logic is one feature that Bill especially wanted with the trimmer upgrade that is built into the newer versions. It wasn't available with the version he was running prior to the upgrade. The other reason the mill decided to upgrade was simply to stay current with technology and maintain the system's supportability.

Being on the System Maintenance Program, Bill says, "The benefit of having access to the 24/7 phone service is huge." Though he joked that they don't use it very often, he said, "When we do it is

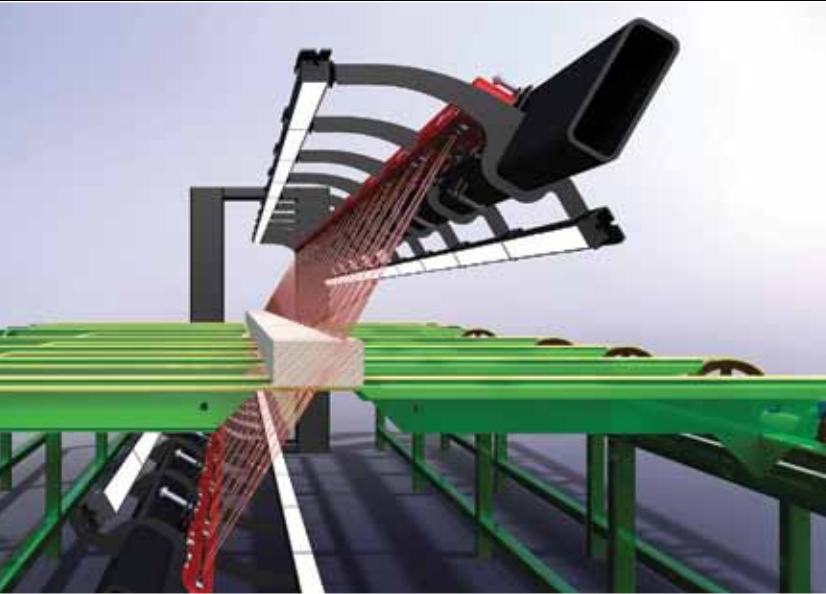
really nice to have. All the times I have called, the guys that were on the pager were very professional and have done a good job for me."

For more information about our Newnes Sawmill Suite or any other USNR product, please call us at 800.BUY.USNR or e-mail us at info@usnr.com. 

PLANER GRADING

Transverse or Lineal.

The most advanced grading systems, in any direction.



THG's flat transport easily installs in your mill

- ▶ Laser profile, color vision, GrainMap™, DataFusion™
- ▶ Single sensor design
- ▶ Unique angled **four-sided** scanning
- ▶ No elevation changes or hills to climb
- ▶ Graderless operation

LHG is the most accurate grading system available

- ▶ Laser profile, vision, X-Ray, GrainMap™, DataFusion™
- ▶ The **only** system with MSR/MEL grading capability
- ▶ Works with any planer at any speed
- ▶ Easily installs behind existing planer
- ▶ Graderless operation

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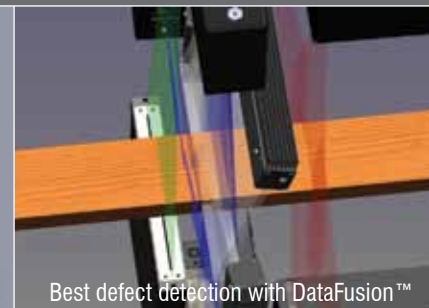
LHG platform in transverse package



Industry's most accurate grading system



Everything you need in a single sensor



Best defect detection with DataFusion™



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West Fraser trains for LHG

PROGRESSION CARRIES ON

USNR was very pleased to host a group from a variety of West Fraser Timber's sites during the first week of November for an intensive 2-1/2 days of training on the Lineal High Grader (LHG) automated planer mill grading system. The main focus for the session, as requested by West Fraser's Gus Vandermeulen, corporate QC, was to share procedures to reduce downtime and increase product value.

The West Fraser group comprised 16 personnel from 5 sites in the US southeast, and 7 sites in BC and Alberta including West Fraser's corporate office in Quesnel, BC. The group had a wide range of familiarity to the LHG. This presented the main challenge for USNR to develop a program that could encompass the level of experience of all members of the group. USNR's Richard Herring, LHG technical specialist, developed the content for the session. He related that the course covered the following topics.

- ▶ MSR set up and E-Valuator advancements
- ▶ X-ray calibration
- ▶ Sensor installation and alignment
- ▶ Vision technology part 1; in-depth theory on the 4 vision channels
- ▶ Vision technology part 2; calibrate the vision sensors for the 4 channels
- ▶ Troubleshoot decision processing; why did it make that decision?
- ▶ Fine-tuning; test for best value decisions
- ▶ Advanced use of the 3D model; connecting the 4 board faces
- ▶ ID reader tracking
- ▶ Character training; 1 vs. 2 character sequences
- ▶ User interface set up
- ▶ Sensor diagnostics
- ▶ Preventative maintenance
- ▶ Latest software features

Pictured left to right: Dave McFadden (USNR LHG specialist), Doug Staldeker, Paul Clayburn, Joe McNeil, Hank Doornbos, Barry Langford, Clay Bassendowski, Deon Blount, Jonathon Peters, Peter Douglas, Rob Horstman, Schea Pletzer, Richard Spears, Gus Vandermeulen, Bernie Jogola, Calvin Elliott, Doug Graves and Richard Herring (USNR LHG technical specialist).

USNR) team as the LHG's capability has evolved. He says, "The platform is sound. It's proven technology." And the testimony has spread, with 6 orders for new LHG systems in 2011. The LHG and its sibling, the Transverse High Grader (THG), are built on the same software platform and share similar technologies. West Fraser has extended its confidence in these systems by participating in a THG beta at its Quesnel, BC plant and with the first installation of a THG system in early 2012. We offer our sincere appreciation to West Fraser for its partnership in furthering this technology.

To learn more about USNR's automated grading systems, please contact us at 800.BUY.USNR or by e-mail at info@usnr.com. 

The training involved both theoretical sessions in a classroom setting, and hands-on sessions on an LHG unit that is set up for performing board tests at USNR's Salmon Arm, BC R&D facility (see photos below).

Gus Vandermeulen has had a lot of experience over many years working with the Newnes (now



6 LHG SYSTEMS SOLD IN 2011





USNR PARTS


USNR STOCKS THE PARTS YOU NEED SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO

Parts are the mainstay of most manufacturing operations. Without a reliable supply of parts your operation cannot stay in business. USNR stocks a wide assortment of parts that are manufactured to the unique specifications of your plant. When you go directly to your system's source of supply you know you will get the right part every time. You know it will fit. You know it is designed to integrate precisely into your system. And you know the quality will be the same – or better – than the original. You won't get a second-rate alternative.

With access to the original drawings and specifications, USNR is your best choice for parts for the following brands.

- ▶ Albany
- ▶ Applied Theory
- ▶ CAE
- ▶ Chip-N-Saw
- ▶ CM&E
- ▶ Coastal
- ▶ Coe
- ▶ CSMI
- ▶ Forano
- ▶ Hemco
- ▶ Inovec
- ▶ Irvington-Moore
- ▶ Klamath Iron Works
- ▶ Kockums CanCar
- ▶ L&B
- ▶ Log Boss
- ▶ LSI
- ▶ Lunden
- ▶ Mann-Russell
- ▶ McGehee
- ▶ Moore
- ▶ Newnes
- ▶ Perceptron
- ▶ Prescott
- ▶ Saab
- ▶ Schurman
- ▶ Skoog
- ▶ Ukiah Machine
- ▶ Washington Iron Works

USNR stocks nearly 20,000 unique part numbers for all manner of sawmill, planer mill, and plywood mill equipment at our six warehouses across North America. No other equipment manufacturer can come close to the breadth of product available to ship to you the same day.

With USNR's buying power, we can offer you the parts you need at a price you can afford. When you are looking for a reliable supply of parts, call us at 800.BUY.USNR, 360-225-8267 or e-mail us at info@usnr.com. 

NEW PROJECTS

Allegheny Wood Products – Carriage optimizer with LASAR

With results in from a similar successful project at its mill at Kingwood, West Virginia, Allegheny Wood Products has ordered a new carriage optimization system for its mill at Princeton, WV. This system will be equipped with 3D LASAR scanning and the MillExpert operating platform. The process controls system will also be updated with this project.

Alto Parana – Trimmer optimizer, WinTally, GMR

The Argentinian mill located at Misiones, is moving its Smart TriCam MillExpert trimmer optimizer system from its site at Puerto Bossetti, Argentina to this site for recommissioning. The WinTally system will be upgraded to V7 and the mill will install a dual grade mark reader system.

Carrier Lumber – LHG, Planer mill upgrades

The Carrier Lumber mill at Prince George, BC is investing in a major upgrade to its planer mill. Included is a full-featured Lineal High Grader with infeed and bridge, a Multi-Track Fence, grade mark reader, WinTally sorter management system, and a conversion of the existing bellcrank style stacker to high speed, low profile design. The controls system will be upgraded to the ControlLogix platform.

Forex Inc. – Curve Saw Gang opt. upgrade

The Forex mill at Ferme Neuve, Quebec is updating its lineal curve saw gang optimization system. The existing Newnes software platform will be updated to the latest version release, offering improved decision processing and curve control, and better supportability long term.

The mill has also elected to sign on to USNR's System Maintenance Program. The program is designed to give members access to optimizer software improvements as they become available. Phone and Emergency Hotline Service is included on the basis of 7 days/week, 24 hours/day. Sixty hours of onsite service is also included, with flat service rates and reduced costs for technical training classes.

Idaho Forest – DynaStar upgrade

The Lewiston, Idaho site of Idaho Forest Group will be implementing the DynaStar maintenance management system. The DynaStar system comes complete with modules for maintenance, inventory, purchasing, accounting, administration and reports. USNR has installed over 350 DynaStar systems since the mid 1980's.

Jordan Lumber – Log merchandising, log sorting

Jordan Lumber's Mt. Gilead, North Carolina mill is investing in a new log merchandising scanning system comprising of Smart TriCam lineal sensors configured in 3 scan zones, MillExpert optimization and the merchandiser's process controls.

The mill will also install a single zone log sorter optimizer, capable of sorting logs according to diameter and length breaks, grade breaks (sweep and taper), pattern fitting, full saw log breakdown, surface roughness, or a combination of these characteristics to calculate and report true log volumes.

Langdale Forest Products – Curve saw gang controls upgrade

This mill located at Valdosta, Georgia is upgrading its process controls from PLC5 to the ControlLogix platform. The new system will allow improvement in throughput and better control of the machine center for recovery and value of its products.



USNR's Bob Sunamoto (left) and Sam Pope attended the 63rd annual workshop on 'How To Dry Lumber for Quality and Profit' at Oregon State University, Portland, OR December 5-7, 2011. This conference is conducted by OSU's Forest Research Laboratory, and this year's event was attended by several of USNR's customers in the Pacific Northwest US region. Some of the key topics included the following.

- Drying degrade and stain control schedules
- Scheduling kilns
- Fan and controller maintenance
- Quality control
- Environmental aspects
- Air velocity and design
- Kiln history and design
- Moisture detection

UPDATE: M6/B800 upgrades



17 SOLD

Early in 2011 USNR launched its M6 and B800 scanning system upgrade to the MillExpert optimization platform. Now 17 systems have been upgraded, with impressive results.

"We're trimming better, and we're trimming smarter. The lumber coming out of the mill is better quality than what we were getting before. We're getting so much more information off of those laser heads, and we're also getting better length and width detection."
John Grigsby of H.G. Toler, Leola, AR

Whether you have an edger or trimmer system that is outdated and not doing the job you need it to, contact USNR and let's discuss your options for a quick payback and your best investment!

Upgrade benefits:

- ▶ Dramatically faster solution times, 100,000+ permutations per piece
- ▶ Overall better edger and trimmer solutions
- ▶ ALL the features of a new MillExpert optimizer, and lumber that's better centered for less wane
- ▶ Better diagnostics for troubleshooting, off-line simulation for 'what if' analysis
- ▶ Total product control; product-by-product, grade-by-grade parameters
- ▶ New optimization hardware: only sensors, cables and frame retained
- ▶ Modern, familiar Windows-based software, commercial grade computers
- ▶ SERVICE - 24/7! The largest, most experienced support staff in the industry

Join the growing number of mills who are utilizing MillExpert features and functionality with their existing M6 or B800 scanning systems. Contact your sales representative, email us at info@usnr.com or call 800-BUY-USNR today. ☎

Sign up today! Complimentary Subscription

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Sam Pope is a Regional Account Manager in the Pacific Northwest US, based at Woodland, WA.

Sam comes to USNR from the Coe organization, where he started in 1986 upon achieving a BSc degree from Lewis & Clark College at Portland, Oregon.

In the mid-1990's he led Coe's edger line team, launching its dual-fetching, high speed infeed and implementing its edger optimizer Windows® interface.

In 2000 he transitioned to sales, where he was a key contributor both before and during the Coe Newnes/McGehee era, and now for USNR.

Sam describes the USNR team as, "A great group of people with a commitment to doing things right." He has

a deep appreciation for the value a team approach brings to creating success. "I have been involved in numerous projects that have all benefited from team effort for successful implementation. Each customer has specific requirements, and each team member brings unique strengths."

Sam is an outdoorsy kind of guy who likes to ski, golf, fish and hike, but most of all, take his Harley out for a ride!

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB. 8-9
IHLA
Indianapolis, Indiana

MAR. 1-2
PELICE
Atlanta, Georgia

MAR. 14-16
HMA
New Orleans, Louisiana

MAR. 28-30
KFIA
London, Kentucky