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For immediate release

Shaping the future for Victorian hardwood timber

Victorian Minister for Innovation and Acting Premier, The Hon John Brumby MP, has announced a grant of $1.1 million to establish a pilot production facility for rapid shaping of furniture components. The facility, a joint venture of Black Forest Timbers and the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Wood Innovations, will be set up in Woodend.

“The facility offers new opportunities for the Victorian hardwood timber industry, with the prospect of increased production efficiencies in usage of timber resources and a new high quality, value-added product,” said Diane Tregoning, general manager at Black Forest Timbers, welcoming the award of the grant from the Victorian Government’s Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Initiative.

“We hope it will demonstrate that high quality shaped hardwood furniture components can be produced at a very competitive price. The potential increase in production efficiency will significantly improve the sustainability of hardwood timber resources.”

“It is a welcome infrastructure boost to the regional Victorian timber industry,” she said. “Minister Brumby opened our new timber component production facility at Woodend on March 2 and this project allows us to capitalise on the good market acceptance we have seen for our components by expanding the range we offer.”

“Our technologies offer a means of getting the most out of each saw log resource, and converting it more efficiently into shaped components,” said Professor Peter Vinden, CEO of the CRC for Wood Innovations.

“Our researchers work closely with industrial designers to ensure that our technologies support innovative furniture design. This project has the potential to offer furniture manufacturers access to a new and exciting range of timber designs.”
“We look forward to testing and proving the technologies by working with Black Forest Timbers on this project.”

“If we can successfully demonstrate the technology using existing hardwood resources, we will investigate using blue gum in quality hardwood components,” Professor Vinden added. “This will open up the possibility of using plantation resources for quality high value furniture products.”

The new facility has a total value of over $2 million.

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