

# Springer enhances Russian prospects

Austrian sawmill supplier, Springer Maschinenfabrik, has been awarded the GOST-R certification and, as from now, formally complies with Russian quality standards. The certification provides a boost for the company ahead of an expected surge in Russian sawmill investment brought on by Russia's decision to significantly increase the export levy on round wood.

The Russian GOST-R certification standard can be compared to CE qualification or other international identification and is an important quality designation within the Russian Federation.

"This certification of our enterprise is confirmation of our long and successful business activities in Russia", Springer Chairman Dr Hansjörg Springer said. Springer has already implemented a number of projects in Russia. The most recent example is a sawmill in Igrima, which was commissioned last month. Not long ago Springer was tasked with sequencing sorting for



*Springer will have better accessibility to the Russian market after receiving the GOST-R certification*

trimmed timber by the Jugorsky forest holding company. In the spring of 2009, in Vladivostok, the Plastun sawmill will start operation where Springer is general contractor.

Owing to the differences between European and Russian production and testing standards, the majority of goods exported to Russia must be tested for their conformity to

Russian norms and requirements by an independent and accredited board of experts whereby, for importation purposes, Russian customs is the controlling organ for wares requiring certification. Proof of conformity is provided by a GOST-R certificate (GOST-R = Certificate of Conformity).

Springer's main markets are Germany, Russia and Scandinavia but the company has representation in China and NZ, as well as an office in Moscow, to further strengthen the distribution network. At the moment, most of the major projects are being realised in Germany and Russia.