Springer takes control

The brand new Terneyles mill installed by Springer in Russia

Springer Maschinenfabrik bears the responsibility for the construction of a major Russian sawmill as the chief supplier to local company, Terneyles

The Russian authorities have made no secret of the fact that they are keen to see more sawmill development in the country. Foreign investors are weighing up the opportunities available through expanding into Russia and, while the potential is undeniable, the risks involved as far as an opaque regulatory system and undeveloped infrastructure are concerned will continue to act as a barrier to investment. Despite the challenges, Austrian supplier Springer Maschinenfabrik is one company that feels the rewards are well worth any risks.

At the end of July this year and just 21 months after signing the contract, the Terneyles sawmill, in which the Japanese Sumitomo Concern is a major part, was officially commissioned in Plastun, far east Russia. Austrian enterprise Springer was installed as the overall sawmill deliverer and successfully implemented the construction of the factory, which has an annual cutting capacity of 350,000m³.

"Our experience over many years on the Russian market was most useful in the realisation of this complex project. Project organisation on the client's side was very well planned, which made the final transformation possible within a comparatively short period," states Heimo Huspek, who is responsible for the Russian market at Springer.

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The sawmill is located on ground owned by Terneyles, in Plastun, a harbour town with about 6,000 inhabitants 700 km northeast of Vladivostok, about 2 km away from the quay. The following facilities were shipped from Hamburg via Busan/South Korea to Plastun in some regular 140 containers and an extra five 'special' containers:

- Log sorting plant with 24 sorting boxes
- Sawmill in-feed system with a 2D measuring system from MiCRTOEC, log turning and a Nicholson debarking machine A5 22"
- Chipper sawing line with side product optimisation and a maximum speed of 90 m/minute
- Total waste wood disposal system on the saw in-feed, sawing line and sawn timber sorting plant
- Sharpening equipment for tools and sawing blades
- Springer sawn timber sorting plant for main and side products with 30 sorting bins with lifting forks and an automatic stacking and packaging plant with packet strapping.

Preparations began for the compilation of the above components in mid-October last year and, by December, the first plant – the log sorting plant – was accepted. At the height of plant installation and commissioning, seven different firms were in fact working under Springer's close guidance. Commissioning of the various sawmill components began in early February 2009 and

The box' n' sort system installed at Terneyles

Various components arrived at different times and were integrated efficiently into the sawmill construction

within two months (end of March) the plant was operating at capacity.

The sawmill plants are designed to achieve a cutting capacity of 300,000-350,000m³. Cutting material is Russian spruce, fir, pine and larch, which come from a hilly coastal strip of about 200 km from surrounding Plastun, delivered partly overland with some coming in as shipments.

The factory is designed for the processing of trunks with a diameter of 100 mm (top end) to 400 mm (butt) and a length of 2.8 m to 4 m. For the maintenance of the plants, consignment stores have been equipped with mechanical and spare parts due to the proximity of the supplier.

Possible problems in control technology will be adjusted online with MiCROTEC using remote maintenance.