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Fire at Pollmeier Leimholz destroys production halls

A fire at the Pollmeier Leimholz GmbH works in Rietberg on February 21, 2008, destroyed most of the production halls, as well as the machines and the warehouse. Having started in the filter system of the lacquering hall, the fire spread to the adjacent halls after a partial collapse of the roof. Two of the four halls were completely destroyed, while in the remaining two halls the fire was brought under control; in this latter area, there was a solid-wood board production line which had only recently been commissioned and which survived the fire largely undamaged. The two halls which were completely burnt out housed, among other plant, the lacquering line, the sanding machine and new machinery for solid-wood flooring production which was still being set up. The warehouse stocks of raw and finished goods were also destroyed. Material damage is estimated at several million Euros. Nobody was injured in the fire.

Production in Rietberg is to be resumed as soon as possible. CEO Doris Tegelkamp reports that provisional partial operation is currently being considered. Insurance questions must first be clarified, for example questions of ownership of plant which had already been delivered but not yet put into service.

Pollmeier Leimholz is an independent company belonging to the Pollmeier family

and is therefore also independent of Pollmeier Massivholz GmbH, Creuzburg. Most recently, the company produced laminated wood boards and solid-wood flooring with about 85 employees and using only beech.

The range of laminated-wood board covers mainly board with continuous, but also partially finger-jointed top lamellas. The main buyers for these are from the European furniture industry. 95 % of solid-wood flooring production was most recently exported to North America. Other sales markets are Great Britain and Kuwait.

Production capacity was currently undergoing further expansion

Production capacity at Pollmeier Leimholz was recently expanded and was currently undergoing further expansion. The maximum annual laminated-wood board capacity in single-shift operation had already been raised by around 60 % to about 8,000 m³.

With the new machinery which has now been destroyed in the fire, solid-wood flooring production capacity was to have been expanded in single-shift operation from 1,000 m²/day to 3,000 m²/day. According to Tegelkamp, the investment volume for that capacity increase totalled around 3.5 million €. □

French company Sivalbp starts production

The newly formed French company Sivalbp SAS, Thônes, which specializes in the profiling and finishing of softwood, started regular production in January, 2008. Trial operation had already begun in October, 2007. Sivalbp is an industrial project set up by various local investors and set in motion in November 2006. An investment of 18 million € financed the construction of new works at the site in Thônes in the French Haute-Savoie region. The plant boasts a total area of 42,000 m², of which 15,000 m² is under cover, and about 40 people are currently employed there. The company aims to achieve a turnover of around 36 million € by 2010. Sivalbp's CEO is Didier Goy.

The company produces tongued and grooved profiled board for both inside and outside applications, using sawn timber from spruce, Douglas fir, larch and western red cedar. With the double-ended profiling line from the Italian manufacturer GMC Service s.r.l., S. Giorgio, the company can engineer board in widths up to 300 mm, with production capacity of around 60,000 m³ per annum. Apart from profiling, the works also deal with drying and steaming processes, as well as surface-treatment

processes such as planing, brushing and finishing with oil, wax, glaze or lacquer. In addition, the company boasts its own capacity for thermal modification. At the present time, Sivalbp has six kiln-drying chambers with a total capacity of 700 m³. The maximum annual drying capacity is therefore around 48,000 m³. Apart from this, there are two steaming chambers, each with a volume of 90 m³, providing an annual wood-steaming capacity of 2,000 to 3,000 m³. Thermal modification is carried out in two 80 m³ chambers in which a total of up to 26,000 m³ of wood can be thermally treated. Thermal, drying and steaming chambers were supplied by the Italian manufacturer Baschild Srl, Treviso. Sivalbp also operates two Luxscan scanners and a finger-jointing line with a capacity of about 4,800 running metres per hour.

Sales are processed through both the retail and wholesale trades. The main sales markets are France, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Italy and Germany. The specialist Dach+Holz International trade fair taking place from March 5 to 8, 2008, in Stuttgart, will see Sivalbp exhibiting publicly for the first time. □