



Media Release | 16th August 2010

Foresters and loggers combine for the first time to bring international conference to Australia

The Australian Forest Contractors' Association of Australia (AFCA) and the Institute of Foresters of Australia (IFA) will be collaborating to ensure the success of the AUSTimber 2012 'Precision Forestry' conference. This will be the first time the organisations have worked together, with both recognising the importance each other's membership bases bring to the sustainability and continuous improvement of the forestry industry in Australia.

The theme for the AUSTimber 2012 Conference will be 'Precision Forestry'. Precision Forestry is a term to describe the latest technology now used in the forestry and logging industries, which has increased safety and improved efficiencies for the industry.

The conference will be chaired by Stephen Midgley, Managing Director, Salwood Asia Pacific, ably assisted by recipients of the Gottstein Trust, a national education trust to promote the development of Australia's forest products industry.

Jim O'Hehir (ForestrySA) – Gottstein Fellowship
Cameron Dodson (Forests NSW) - Gottstein Travel Award
Adrian Marti (Elders Forestry) - Gottstein Travel Award
Gavin Matthew (A3P) - Gottstein Travel Award

Jim, Cameron, Adrian and Gavin have recently returned from South Africa where they attended the 4th Precision Forestry Symposium at Stellenbosch University. These symposia bring together an international audience of academics, students and practitioners developing and applying a range of precision forestry methods. Papers presented of particular interest included : integrating terrestrial laser scanning based inventory with sawing simulation; simulating wood harvest processes in a virtual forest; the accuracy of positioning forestry vehicles under canopy and the potential for RFID in round wood logistics.

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Dr Glen Murphy (from Oregon State University) spoke about the challenge for the forestry industry of the increasing global reliance on log supply from plantations to satisfy two thirds of the global demand and the part precision forestry must play. The group also had the opportunity to visits to SAPPI and MONDI where most striking was the use of clonal and species site matching.

“Learning about the latest science behind the technology and bringing the whole spectrum of users together in one place will allow IFA members to interact and collaborate on a much broader scale.

The joint program, in identifying and showcasing the latest technologies at the scale that we have seen at previous AUSTimber events, will give IFA members the resources and opportunity to integrate their participation with a practical hands on approach with prospective businesses, professional colleagues and Australia’s future foresters.” said Cassandra Spencer, CEO of the Institute.

David Quill, General Manager AUSTimber2012 said “with the combined efforts of both AFCA and IFA the 2012 conference will be of international standing, attracting an increase in delegates from throughout Australia and internationally.”

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About AUSTimber 2012 www.austimber2012.com.au

AUSTimber 2012 is the largest forestry and timber expo in the Southern Hemisphere, showcasing the latest in technology, machinery, products and services for the industry.

AUSTimber 2012 will be conducted in a single location in the forest, only 15kms from the city of Mount Gambier, the centre of the largest plantation forest area in Australia. The Expo will be held over two days 30th and 31st March 2012 delivering a dynamic environment to experience the latest in precision forestry technology with live demonstrations, indoor and outdoor displays.

The Conference will be held on Thursday 29th March 2012 in Mount Gambier city with the theme 'Precision Forestry'. The conference will provide an opportunity to hear from experts – Australian and international – on all issues facing the future of forestry from seed to end markets, the whole supply chain.

About IFA <http://www.forestry.org.au/default.asp>

Established in 1935, the Institute of Foresters of Australia is a professional body with over 1350 members engaged in all branches of forest management and conservation in Australia. The Institute is strongly committed to the principles of sustainable forest management and the processes and practices which translate these principles into outcomes.

The membership represents all segments of the forestry profession, including public and private practitioners engaged in many aspects of forestry, nature conservation, resource and land management, research, administration and education.

The main 'Objectives' for which the Institute is established are:

- i. To advance and protect the cause of forestry
- ii. To maintain a high standard of qualification in persons engaged in the practice of forestry
- iii. To promote professional standards and ethical practice among those engaged in forestry
- iv. To promote social intercourse between persons engaged in forestry
- v. To publish and make educational, marketing and other materials available to those engaged in forestry
- vi. To provide the services of the Institute to forestry organisations inside Australia and in overseas countries as the Board may deem appropriate.