

TIMBER PACKING

The enterprise was founded in 2003 as a 100% branch of maternal firm, which was founded in 1992. Annual turnover is approximately 165 000 000 Sk (EUR 5 477 000).

Main type of activities

Area preparation before afforestation; slash cleaning; forest establishment (afforestation); plantation protection -game, insect, weed, rodent, fungi etc. control; forest tending (decreasing the density of advance growth, cleaning and thinning); harvesting operations: with power saws, with harvesters; skidding: tractor skidding, UKT, LKT (Universal wheel tractor, logging tractor) , forwarding sets, cableways, timber hauling; advisory service, including the arrangement of the function of expert forest manager ; wood mass collection, including the purchase of the so-called standing wood ; natural and biological calamity consequences handling ; re-construction of forest stands ; purchase, sale and leasing of forest land; writing of forest management plan; planting stock delivery; forest trees; woody ornamentals; reclamation of industrial areas and dumps; projects of ecological constructions

Enterprise employs 36 employees, including 10 forest engineers. Fluctuation in staff is low. Although the enterprise is cooperating with few sole traders, it doesn't force their employees to turn into sole traders, like many other enterprises in Slovakia do.

Machinery

Technical equipment is modern and relatively new. There is a problem with finding effective personal for forest cableway.

- harvester VALMET 941 with forwarding set u
- VALMET 860.1,
- harvester JOHN DEERE 770D with forwarding set JOHN DEERE 810D
- harvester FMG 990 with forwarding set
- TIMBERJACK 1110 D,
- Forest cableway LARIX 3T.

All of these were bought as new; only harvester FMG 990 was rent from military forests and consequently bought.

Enterprise has clear interest to search for and receive innovations.

In the meaning that this firm is a branch of transnational enterprise, the capital cover is on high level. This shows that this firm has very good investment conditions. It is also still watching opportunities to get resources from subventions.

Policies which foster development

- Council Regulation (E.C.) No 1698/2005 (National strategic plan for rural development SR 2004-2006, axis 2.1)
- Act of National Council of the Slovak Republic No 239/2001 – red diesel oil – lower tax; red diesel oil could be used only by registered subject and only for machines working in agriculture and forestry. Lower expenses for fuelling (11, 5% cheaper whit comparison with normal diesel oil).

The Innovation

Brand new technology of timber conservation.

Innovation is based on foreign research and development (German foresters and others).

Enterprise is searching for new technologies.

The thought of innovation was initiated by mass of unmarketable timber after calamity. One of the possibilities was to conserve the timber.

The logs are packed air-tight in customary silage film. The yet alive wood cells use up the oxygen inside the package. Thus, an atmosphere poor in oxygen is created, in which neither wood destroying fungi nor insects can survive. To secure a successful conservation, the oxygen content within the packed stack has to be controlled regularly. After use, the silage film can be recycled or burned. This method is brand new in Slovakia. It was developed by German foresters after whirlwind "Lothar" in Germany in 1999. Customers are not used to pack timber for such a long time (to 4 years). Especially State forests are not very open-minded. In fact, firm hasn't done any log conservation in Slovakia (except its own timber for demonstration). This method is used for example in Czech Republic, or in Poland, where has this firm done few log conservations. Slovak market is still afraid of new things, such like this. Future will show, if this innovation will be accepted.

Maternal firm had experiences with this method. Director of this branch, who was inspired by its use in Czech republic, decided to buy this technology for Slovak market. The contact person for this technology is Dr. Christoph Hartebrodt from Freiburg. This innovation was realized from firm's own sources. Policies had no importance in this innovation.

The main and only impending factor is the mentality of customers. This innovation is maybe too progressive for Slovak market. There is reserve of timber in Slovakia after calamities and it should be better, to store timber and sell it in the future in better market conditions. But on the present, nobody has interest about this technology in Slovakia.