

A Centre to revolutionise wood processing

The Minister for State and Regional Development, **John Brumby**, today opened the **Australian Centre for Advanced Wood Processing** at Creswick.

"This Centre has the potential to revolutionise wood processing in this country" said Mr Brumby. "It brings together innovation and regional development, and will make a strong contribution to new technologies with widespread application for developing exciting new wood and forest-related products."

The Centre is set up to research and develop new wood processing technologies. The Centre is operated by the **Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Wood Innovations**, a partnership of Australian research institutions and companies. It was built with financial assistance from the Victorian Government under the **Regional Infrastructure Development Fund**, and equipped with the assistance of the **Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation (FWPRDC)** and **The University of Melbourne**.

"Microwave modification has the potential to radically cut down the drying time of the timber, improve timber preservation efficiency, and provide furniture manufacturers with quality bent wood components," said Mr Brumby.

CRC scientists use microwaves to rapidly heat wood and increase its permeability so that it can be processed more efficiently and cost-effectively. A number of

industry-driven research projects will be pursued at the Centre, with the collaboration of CRC industry partners.

The Centre houses three 100 kilowatt microwave generators, one 60 kW microwave generator, two 30 kW microwave generators, and research laboratories for timber preservation techniques and generation of bio-fuels and resins derived from wood and agricultural wastes.

The equipment and laboratories are presently being commissioned, and the Centre is expected to be operational early in 2006. The Centre facilities will be available to the timber industry for contract research projects.

Mr Thorry Gunnensen, Chairman of the CRC Board and Chair of the FWPRDC, said he welcomed the availability of the Centre facilities to the timber industry as an opportunity for timber processors to have "ground floor" access to some exciting new technologies.

"The CRC technologies make more of our available timber resource available for high value applications," he said. "I encourage local timber processors to investigate how these technologies might be used in their businesses."

"This project will also enable the use of local blue gum resource from plantations for solid wood processing rather than wood chips, facilitating new value-added industries while at the same time helping to conserve supplies of native timber," said Mr Brumby.

"Support for the Centre for Advanced Wood Processing builds on the Government's commitment to supporting projects aimed at stimulating growth in Victoria's timber communities," he said. -S-

Interlease turns 30

Leading commercial equipment financier **Interlease** turns 30 years old this year.

However, not only is Interlease 30 years old but it's staff retention and experience is second to none. All tallied up the Interlease staff have in excess of 100 years of commercial equipment finance behind them.

Why have they been so successful and continue to write over \$200 million dollars in business every year? Well Interlease director **Gary Wilkie** puts it down to three things.

Firstly that Interlease understand the industry and the application that equipment will be used for and therefore can practically assist a business owner on the return he should get from a purchase and over what time period.

Secondly, their financial independence which allows Interlease to work with a business owner and accountant if necessary to determine that finance that best fits the business need.

Thirdly, their size and professionalism see Interlease accredited by over 40 financial institutions which allows them to access the best finance quickly and efficiently. -S-

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So, take the time now to think about your brand, the image you want to portray, then talk with Mikomi Promotions and get your "show on the road". Contact www.mikomi.com.au -S-

Altendorf addition

Altendorf Australia would like to welcome **Michael Marks** to their company. Michael has spent the last few years travelling abroad and now has settled back in Australia. His appointment as a Territory Sales Manager for regions within New South Wales, means that Michael, who looks forward to meeting and getting to know all his customers, will still be travelling! -S-

