Solid as a rock

Industry shows its resilience at LIGNA 2009

LIGNA HANNOVER 2009 offered the forest and wood industries hope and direction in these troubled economic times. Boasting 1,757 exhibitors from 49 nations, the fair was once again a powerhouse of innovation that inspired cautious optimism. Stephan Kühne of Deutsche Messe AG’s Board of Management explains: “The show was a window on a flexible, adaptable industry that is embracing the future with innovative flair. The resource efficiency displays in particular provided a roadmap for a return to growth.” The German Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers’ Association (VDMA Fachverband Holzbearbeitungsmaschinen), which co-organizes LIGNA HANNOVER with Deutsche Messe, described the fair as rock-solid in these difficult times. “LIGNA remains in a league of its own in the global trade fair sector,” the association’s managing director, Dr. Bernhard Dirr, commented. The official motto “Making more out of wood – Technology for resource efficiency” was central to many of the exhibitors’ showcases, as evident from the array of expert forums and presentations dedicated to the efficient use of wood, energy and time as a means of lowering manufacturing costs.
Thank you and see you again in 2011!

We would like to express our sincerest thanks to everyone who contributed to the successful planning and running of LIGNA HANNOVER 2009. Our special thanks goes to the exhibitors, the participating service providers, and our partners in government and industry. Thanks also to the German Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers’ Association, the LIGNA Project Team and all participating departments of Deutsche Messe.

You all played a key part in making LIGNA HANNOVER 2009 an efficient and effective platform for quality contacts, business lead generation and competitive benchmarking. Given that expectations were understandably muted heading into the fair, we are absolutely delighted that the exhibitors and visitors have without exception rated their dialogue during the fair so positively. The post-fair exhibitor and visitor surveys show that we are on the right track. To ensure this continues to hold true, we welcome any suggestions and feedback that will make LIGNA 2011 a success for everyone involved.

Our preparations for the next LIGNA HANNOVER are already underway. We look forward to seeing you again in 2011!

Yours truly,
Katarina Rohrbach & the LIGNA Team
LIGNA HANNOVER 2009 exceeded the expectations of the 1,757 companies from 49 nations who mounted exhibits at the show. At the outset, many of these exhibitors were doubtful or even skeptical of the fair’s prospects, but by the final day the mood was decidedly positive. In their feedback to the organizers, several exhibitors spoke of “excellent dialogue and contacts with visitors, right from the start.” The biggest exhibitor, machinery manufacturer HOMAG Holzbearbeitungssysteme AG, commented that “Thanks to LIGNA, we all feel optimistic about the future.”

The innovative flair of the products and equipment on show, and the superior quality, international make-up and technical and decision-making credentials of the visitors confirmed LIGNA HANNOVER’s status as the world’s premier forestry and wood industry expo. At just on 80,000, the visitor turnout was, not unexpectedly, below that of 2007. “This reflects the difficult global economic situation and the associated cut-backs on business travel which, in some cases, have been quite drastic,” commented Deutsche Messe Board member Stephan Kühne. Despite these difficulties, well over a third of the visitors – some 27,300, or 34.2 percent – came from beyond Germany. This includes 19,400 visitors from other EU countries and the rest of Europe and some 7,900 from America, Asia, Africa and Australia. 61.0 percent of the 80,000 visitors were executives in charge of or with key input into their organizations’ capital spending decisions. A third were top-level executives. This year’s LIGNA saw a preponderance of visitors from the manufacturing (38.7 percent), interior finishing (22.8 percent) and building sectors (16.7 percent).
Innovations and trends
Resource efficiency drives product development

The dictates of greater productivity, shorter lead times and maximum rationalization and efficiency of machine and human resources pose major challenges. The exhibitors at LIGNA 2009 rose to these challenges with an all-out innovation offensive on the intelligent technology and services front. Machine and equipment energy optimization is only one aspect of this all-encompassing resource efficiency theme complex. The fair was a vast treasure trove of innovations and intelligent solutions for everything from increasing productivity and earnings, reducing machine throughput and setup times and minimizing wear to improving safety and ergonomic performance and saving space.

Hi-tech for industry and the skilled trades
The absolute feast of innovations in quality woodworking machinery technology at this year’s fair spanned the entire spectrum from entry-level models for the trades to industrial-scale plant. Among the big attention-grabbers were the ultra-flexible machine systems designed especially for small and medium-sized firms. These systems can handle both single-lot and serial production and require minimal or no retooling time. There was also plenty of genuine innovation to be seen on what might otherwise be considered tried and proven and fully mature machine types. A classic example is the use of laser technology in edge banding machines.

Versatile machines for complex tasks
The furniture industry displays featured live demonstrations of state-of-the-art plant and equipment for industrial furniture production. Recent developments in CNC machines and processing centers in particular have lead to previously unheard-of levels of diversity. Increasingly complex industrial furniture manufacturing requirements and the steady rise of short and micro-run production is driving demand for machine systems that offer maximum flexibility and fast retooling. Trade visitors looking for optimized CNC processing centers offering the greatly extended range of applications required to meet these challenges
were almost spoiled for choice at LIGNA. Big-name manufacturers like Weinig, HOMAG and SCM mounted displays of high-performance cells designed for the start-to-finish processing of highly diverse component variants. These attracted enormous visitor interest, as did the showcases of solutions for processing (thick-format) lightweight composite panels. Lightweight construction was, in fact, one of the big themes at LIGNA. Manufacturers of thick furniture panels can reduce their raw material consumption by 75 to 80 percent by substituting lightweight composite panels for solid-core engineered wood panels of the same thickness.

New machine designs for sawmills
In sawmilling, quality technical equipment is essential to profitability. An increase in timber yield of just one percent can translate into earnings increases of between 5 and 10 percent. The manufacturers of sawmilling plant understand this and have developed new, customer-focused machine designs that optimize yield, minimize energy consumption and reduce processing costs. The solid wood processing sector was also in innovation mode, with the displays in Halls 12 and 13 including a range of state-of-the-art systems for drying sawn timber and processing waste wood into fuel.

**Novelty Symposium**

The innovative power of the wood industry was on show at this year’s Novelty Symposium. Innovations from the fields of machine production, surface finishing, assembly, handling and logistics were showcased to around 200 trade visitors. The 17th Novelty Symposium was organized by Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences, SCHULER Business Solution AG and German trade journal publishers Holz-Zentralblatt. The 50 or so products profiled were selected on the basis of expert research conducted in the lead-up to LIGNA and on the first two days of the fair. The symposium was restricted to products that had been on the market for no longer than two years – and hence were new in the sense that they had not been showcased at LIGNA 2007. At the close of the symposium the attendees voted for the products they considered the most important innovations at LIGNA 2009. First prize went to HOMAG AG (Germany) for its LaserTec product. Second prize – and with it the special Resource Efficiency Award – went to Robert Bürkle GmbH (Germany) for its UV-LED drying system. Third prize went to Leuco Ledermann GmbH & Co. KG (Germany) for its innovative new solid carbide dowel drill bit.

**Export opportunities for bioenergy technology**

The current boom on the wood energy markets is opening up exciting export opportunities for manufacturers of leading-edge technology. These companies used the 2nd International BBE/VDMA Business and Export Forum for Wood Energy (staged at LIGNA) as a platform for building and maintaining key relationships with high-power delegates from Germany and beyond. The German Bioenergy Association (BBE) predicts that Germany’s bioenergy sector will have annual revenues of 20 billion euros and employ up to 200,000 people by 2020. According to the BBE, the key to securing international market and technology leadership is to have a solid domestic market characterized by stable, reliable fundamentals and high-level R&D.

**Wooden Surface Solutions initiative**

Wooden Surface Solutions featured the latest in a growing range of new technologies for applying liquid coatings and other custom finishes to wooden surfaces. Exhibitors from the surface finishing industry and researchers from Rosenheim University of Applied Sciences profiled systems and processes that yield high-value finishes while protecting the environment, saving on materials and delivering cost savings. The initiative is spearheaded by Deutsche Messe and the German Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers’ Association (VDMA Fachverband Holzbearbeitungs-maschinen).
For carpenters, joiners and cabinetmakers, Handwerk, Holz & mehr is more than just a LIGNA sideshow; it’s the main event, the biennial mega-convention they build their entire calendar around. This fair-within-a-fair once again gave the skilled woodworking trades a comprehensive overview of what the market has to offer in terms of machinery, tools and accessories, innovative processes, techniques and applications for natural and engineered woods, software solutions, services and training. All this plus an attractive supporting program packed with forums and special displays.

As elsewhere at LIGNA, the theme of resource efficiency had a ubiquitous presence at Handwerk, Holz & mehr. Carpenters, joiners and cabinetmakers flocked to the event’s exhibition area, which now spans more than five halls at LIGNA, to witness in action and ‘test-drive’ highly efficient new machines, equipment and tools whose many impressive benefits include reductions in energy and raw materials consumption, major savings in time and production costs, and lower noise and dust emissions.

The visitor profile also included considerable numbers of architects, interior designers, structural engineers and planning experts, who attended Handwerk, Holz & mehr to learn about wood as a building material, innovative wood-based construction solutions and techniques for modernizing home and building energy systems. This reflects the steadily growing interest in energy-efficient, eco-friendly construction and renovation methods.

Vector Forum

The exhibitors at the Vector Forum (“Aktionsforum vector”) were extremely pleased. And, with well attended demonstrations, a diverse program and a greatly enlarged presentation area at a new site in Hall 14, why wouldn’t they be? The forum’s new focus on larger stationary machines made for wall-to-wall action – there was always something being sawn, chopped, cut or glued. The largest exhibit, and an absolute people-magnet, was a live demonstration of a mobile log bandsaw. The Vector Forum was organized by the German Woodworking Machinery Manufacturers’ Association (VDMA Fachverband Holzbearbeitungsmaschinen).

German Timber Construction Award 2009

The ultimate expression of LIGNA’s tagline theme of “Making more out of wood” was the awards ceremony for the prestigious German Timber Construction Award 2009 at the VNZ pavilion. This year there were five winners. Among the three winners in the “New Buildings” category was Germany’s first ever timber-construction seven-storey apartment building. Designed by Berlin-based architects Kaden Klingbeil, the building was described by the jury as “setting a new trend in timber-based construction.” First prize in the “Components and Concepts” category went to a prototype Passive House low-energy building designed by a team of students from Darmstadt University of Technology (TU Darmstadt). Top honors as the best entry in the all-new third category, “Existing Buildings”, went to Assem Architects (Karlsruhe) for their refurbishment and extension of a school building.

The Award, which is offered by the Association of German Master Carpenters (BDZ) and carries a total prize pool of 25,000 euros, attracted some 214 entries.

www.bdz-holzbau.de (German only)
Carpenters celebrate LIGNA success
Bright future for timber construction

“Crowds of visitors, a conference supported by over 100 attendees, and keen visitor interest in the possibilities of wood-based construction – yes, LIGNA 2009 was a huge success for the Association of Lower Saxon Carpenters [VNZ].” That’s the VNZ verdict on LIGNA 2009 as expressed by its Managing Director, Wilhelm Reihl. A joint effort in partnership with carpentry and other firms, the VNZ pavilion spanned 3,500 sqm (37,670 sq. ft) of display space and was themed “Modernizing for the Future”. The displays included three demonstration projects: a 160 sqm (1,720 sq. ft) timber single-family home equipped with intelligent, low-energy heating, insulation and ventilation systems; a modular office building; and a multipurpose display pavilion. These projects demonstrated how timber construction in combination with innovative, low-energy building technical systems leads the way in comfort, climate control and resource efficiency. The displays included a wealth of timber façade solutions which, the LIGNA visitors were amazed to learn, are among the most effective means of improving the thermal performance of older buildings. Many architects who had never before worked with wood were enormously inspired by this and headed straight for the experts running the displays to find out more.

Playhouses for kindergartens

Lower Saxony’s young carpenters once again put their skills to work in grand style for the little ones. A team of vocational academy students, first-year apprentices and three journeymen built nine children’s playhouses live on site at the VNZ pavilion. Their creations included a boat, a timber-framed house and a firehouse. On the final day of the fair, the houses were handed over to a group of kindergartens by Dr. Stefan Birkner, State Secretary of Lower Saxony’s Ministry for the Environment.

Timber towers for wind turbines

The Ing.-Holzbau Cordes GmbH & Co. KG display stand in Hall 17 featured a world-first in efficiency and eco-protection: a timber tower for wind turbines, developed by TimberTower GmbH. What the visitors saw was a model; TimberTower and the Leibniz University of Hannover plan to build the actual prototype, a 100 m tower for a 1.5 MW turbine, in the Hanover region before the end of the year. According to the developer, the wooden tower design saves around 300 metric tons of steel plating and sequesters around 400 tons of CO2 over its 20-year lifespan.
This year’s LIGNA earned high praise from Günter Füllgraf, President of Germany’s Federal Association of Skilled Trades (BHKH): “For us, the fair was a fantastic forum for communicating key information face-to-face with our stakeholders. It just doesn’t get any better than this.” Trade visitors flocked to the pavilion to learn about the services the BHKH provides for its affiliated regional associations and trades firms. The big crowd-pleasers at the showcase were the awards ceremonies for the “Form & Function” competition and the 2009 Prize for “Service to the Joinery and Cabinetmaking Trades”. The traditional “Form & Function” exhibition alone drew visitors to the BHKH pavilion in their thousands. “It was a wonderful vehicle for recruiting young talent into the trades,” commented BHK President Günter Füllgraf. “Whole class groups of young people came to see us.” The public training sessions by Germany’s two entrants to the “WorldSkills Calgary 2009” competition were also a big hit with fairgoers. Cheered on by the crowds, the two young apprentices, Thorsten Kornmayer und Matthias Eugler, trained for the champs in a special workshop set up at the pavilion.

Form & Function: national winners chosen

The big highlights at the BHKH pavilion were the “Form & Function” exhibition, where 25 regional winners of Germany’s famous nationwide “Form & Function” joinery and cabinetmaking competition showcased their qualifying projects, and the awards ceremony for the three national-level winners. Based on criteria of “aesthetic and functional excellence”, the jury awarded first prize to Sonja Pietschmann, of Nieder-Olm (Rheinland-Pfalz), for her hall closet made of ebony, MDF and mirror glass. Second prize went to André Tüpker, of Westerkappeln (Nordrhein-Westfalen), for his sideboard made of walnut, MDF and glass, and third prize went to Peter Knöchel, of Trappstadt (Bavaria), for his sideboard made of cherry wood, chipboard and aluminum. The fair-going public gave their “best-liked” award to Moritz Köhn, of Senden (Bavaria), for his sideboard made of MDF, poplar bark and cherry wood. The winners were presented with prize money and trophies.

Premiere of Service Prize

First place in the inaugural “Service to the Joinery and Cabinetmaking Trades” competition went to Remmers Baustofftechnik, of Löningen, Germany. As its prize, Remmers has secured a 5,000-euro presentation slot at Handwerk, Holz & mehr 2011, courtesy of Deutsche Messe. Germany’s Federal Association of Skilled Trades (BHKH) and Deutsche Messe are offering the prize to “highlight the enormous importance to carpenters and cabinetmakers of quality service,” Andreas Züge (Deutsche Messe) and Günter Füllgraf (BHKH) said at the prize-giving ceremony. All ten finalists in the competition were given a special presentation area at LIGNA 2009.
Wonders in Wood

Original, exquisitely crafted creations in wood were exhibited to breathtaking effect at Wonders in Wood 2009. What made this year’s event different from its predecessors was the configuration of the exhibits, consisting of a central gallery-only area ringed by sales displays. The central gallery was home to a group of trainees from the Berchtesgaden Vocational School for Wood Carving, Sculpture and Carpentry. As well as showcasing past works, they worked away intently on their latest creations – sculptures and everyday items – while pausing happily to answer questions from LIGNA visitors. The surrounding sales exhibition zone featured sculptures, inlaid pieces, jewellery and toys by 23 artists, wood artisans and designers.

nanoTruck

The German education ministry’s nanoTruck roadshow was stationed on the open-air site for three days, bidding fairgoers welcome to a journey of discovery into the nano cosmos. Readily understandable and well supported by clear examples, the truck’s displays provided key insights into the principles, applications and potential of nanotechnology, a field of science that has been an important part of woodworking and wood processing for many years.

“Wood’s where it’s at!”

More than 500 school students from Lower Saxony between the ages of 6 and 14 took part in the “Wood’s where it’s at!” creativity competition run by the Climate Protection Agency for the Hannover Region. This year’s topic, “Wood as an Energy Source and CO₂ Sink”, sparked a wealth of highly imaginative entries – including essays, photo-essays, drawings, computer programs and models. At the awards ceremony at LIGNA, the two winning class groups found out what they’d won: a trip to a specially organized forest discovery day.

Careers in Wood

Interest in careers in wood among school students was stronger than ever before. This year’s “Careers in Wood” – an action-packed program of lectures on “wood-based” vocations, guided tours themed around forestry, energy production, furniture making and wood-based construction, plus workshop skills contests and interactive events – attracted some 1,300 bookings. Interest was in fact so strong that, for the very first time, the organizers had to turn some groups away. The stand-out favorite this year was a competition to build a Leonardo da Vinci self-supporting wooden bridge. It was a contest to see who could build the structure the fastest. “Some of them made quite a sport of it,” noted project leader Dennis Bieselt (VDMA). “Fascinating, educational, well run and informative!” is how one teacher described “Careers in Wood”, which was organized by the VDMA ProWood Foundation.

Teaching and Research

From forest to finished product: the wood value chain offers an enormous variety of careers. The “Teaching and Research” special display was used to powerful effect by universities, institutes of technology, polytechnics, trade schools and vocational academies as a platform for profiling their study and training offerings and specialist courses. Research institutes also used the display to showcase their current projects and research portfolios.
Making more out of wood

LIGNA HANNOVER’S tagline “Making more out of wood – Technology for resource efficiency” was as aptly descriptive of the fair’s forestry displays as it was of its wood processing displays. This is because efficient wood processing starts with efficient timber harvesting, as demonstrated by the big machines on the open-air site. Visitors looked on as raw logs were shifted, and cut blocks were lifted, transported, sawn up and even processed into tiny chips. The main focus amid all this technological innovation was on energy resource efficiency, especially energy conservation. The pavilions beneath the Expo canopy were likewise dedicated to carving out a more efficient wood future. The displays included new timber harvesting, logistics and storage technologies and processes plus a wealth of information on training and education, energy and raw material conservation, and leading-edge forestry IT and communication systems. This year, for the first time, the forestry section had a central information desk, providing detailed guidance on exhibitors, products and presentations.

The move to process chain integration

Process chain integration is vital to survival in today’s competitive forestry market. This message came across even more clearly this year than at LIGNA 2007. Forestry operators need to offer a full range of services, from planting and management to harvesting, including mechanized soil preparation, chipping and silviculture.

Energy is big news

The role of wood as an energy source is growing worldwide. This was reflected in the rich array of advanced wood-based energy technologies on show at the Energy from Wood presentation, organized by the Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture (LWK Niedersachsen), Deutsche Messe and selected partners. The event, comprising an exhibition zone, special displays and speaking events, was once again a major visitor-magnet.

A whole range of firewood production equipment and machinery, including various types and sizes of saws, hydraulic log-splitters, firewood processors and wood chippers, were on display around the timber Expo canopy on the open-air site.

**Chipwood production line**

At the heart of the wood-energy section was “From Tree to Fuel”, a display of the wood-fuel production chain. Wood chipper manufacturers such as Junkkari, Eschlböck, Heizomat, Bruks and Jenz profiled machines in a range of sizes, from small-scale trailer-mounted chippers for use with tractors to large-scale units for mounting on trucks or forwarders. Most of the machines featured in live demonstrations.

Of particular interest to heating fuel traders and operators of energy centers were the displays of downstream technology, which included demonstrations of how wood chips can be sieved, transported or dried in pump containers. The wood burner technology on display included energy-saving furnaces, log burners and open fires.

**New wood pellet burner from Wörle**

**Height-adjustable splitter from Posch**
IT solutions at KWF Entrepreneurial Expertise Center

The Entrepreneurial Expertise Center in pavilion 33 had a strong focus on IT solutions designed to optimize linkages in the timber supply chain. For instance, there was NavLog, which provides enhanced forest track navigation data, the ELDAT data exchange format, and the QS-Harvester quality assurance system for log harvesters. The special forestry displays in pavilions 33 (Expertise Center) and 34 (Hot Innovations) were organized by the German Forestry Council (KWF) and Deutsche Messe, who have been forestry-sector partners since 2008. The floor of the NavLog stand in Pavilion 33 was an oversized aerial photograph overlaid with standardized data on classified forest tracks. The display – the first-ever demonstration of NavLog’s online database in live mode – was very well received, with many visitors taking up the offer to test NavLog’s data via a trial membership.

Nearby, there was a Valmet harvester simulator, where visitors could fell a test log, digitally measure it, and feed the data into the simulator unit. In Pavilion 34, the German Forestry Council (KWF) demonstrated ideas for developing new business areas and growing and optimizing existing ones. These included bioenergy solutions, alternative drive technologies and solutions for reducing harvester tire damage to forest floors.

Strong interest among budding forestry professionals

The KWF’s offering was very popular with the upcoming generation of forestry professionals, with around ten groups of school and tertiary students turning to the KWF for careers information on every day of the fair. The premiere of the “Careers in the Forestry & Wood Industries” was an instant success.

Putting firewood processors through their paces

Among the big crowd-pleasers was the live demonstration of the KWF testing system for combined log sawing and splitting machines. This involved recently KWF-certified manufacturers putting their machines through their paces in front of Pavilion 33. The KWF had planned to run only four demonstrations per day, but had to switch to a continuous demonstration format in response to visitor demand. For the KWF, this is clear evidence of continued strong interest in bioenergy.

A walk in the virtual woods

North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), Germany’s ‘forest state’, put in a strong performance this year at its third LIGNA showcase. 21 companies and institutions from the state’s forestry and timber industries presented their products and services in Pavilion 35 (beneath the Expo canopy). One of the main attractions in the NRW pavilion was the “Virtual Forest” project, an innovative software system that uses advanced terrestrial sensors to enable more accurate, comprehensive remote sensing of forests and timber stocks. The displays included a 3-D movie showing how the software creates “digital business cards” for each tree, thereby generating data that can be used for forest and timber inventories as well as wood growth and timber yield simulations.

The pavilion also profiled sawmilling products, innovations in wood-based construction, the CO₂ Bank project, energy from wood, and GIS-based timber harvesting and transport logistics.

Key trends up close

One of the new attractions at this year’s LIGNA was the KWF Hot Innovations Pavilion (pavilion 24). Here, too, resource efficiency was high on the agenda. Participating manufacturers and research institutes profiled selected innovations and trends in a range of areas, including low-impact harvesting, new drive systems for large machines, new motor developments in power saws, IT solutions for timber identification and developments in wood-based heating technology.
The way forward out of the crisis
Forums explore topical issues

Networking and knowledge-transfer took center stage at the fair's conferences and symposiums dedicated to analysis of topical wood and forestry industry issues. Leading experts explored ways of using wood resources more efficiently, reducing production costs and saving energy and time. There were also presentations on current research projects on RFID in wood logistics.

The current economic crisis is having a profound effect on the forums' participants, as was clear from "Market bust! – How do we move beyond the crisis?”, the title given to a forum organized by the German Forestry Council (KWF) and the German Association of Forestry Contractors (AFL). The experts were generally of the view that the crisis would lead to a moderate market shakeout in which survival would be achieved by those forestry companies that were well organized and had good ideas and new business areas. The midterm outlook was unanimously rated as being good.

Forestry Benefit Evening

In keeping with tradition, the Forestry Benefit Evening was one of the big LIGNA highlights for the forestry industry. A check for 10,000 euros was handed over to Hans-Jürgen Narjes, Chairman of the German Forestry Companies Association (DFUV), as a donation to its forestry training fund for driver training.

Tree planting

In keeping with long-standing LIGNA tradition, the 2009 “Tree of the Year”, a sycamore, was planted during this year's show. The tree has been putting down its roots between Halls 17 and 26 since Ascension Day (21 May).

International visitor management

Deutsche Messe's enhanced visitor management program has also benefited international visitor groups, including a 30-strong customer delegation from Canada’s furniture industry, which was taken on a tour of major tradeshow highlights on the second day of the fair.

Deutsche Messe receives climate protection award

By building the wooden Expo canopy at the showgrounds, Deutsche Messe AG had made "...an exemplary and pro-active contribution to climate protection”, Markus Becker, Chairman of the NRW State Wood Advisory Council, said when he presented Deutsche Messe Management Board member Stephan Kühne with the CO₂ Bank certificate and plaque. In the long term, the Expo canopy would bind 4,238 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide, which is roughly the amount a car would emit if it drove 13.7 million miles or 700 times around the earth.

Strong media coverage

LIGNA HANNOVER, the leading trade fair for the forestry and wood industries, has always been a media favorite. This year, some 611 journalists from 36 countries were accredited. 199 came from outside Germany. The results speak for themselves: the press review folder compiled by Deutsche Messe for this year's event has over 1,000 pages.
Poetry in motion
Sports competitions draw big crowds

Ascension Day has traditionally been the day of crowd-pleasing competitions at LIGNA. Once again this year, the STIHL® TIMBERSPORTS® SERIES and the Lower Saxony Crane Driving Championships were the most popular events. Additional entertainment was provided by an unusual competition, the “Belt Sander Racing” championships.

2nd STIHL® TIMBERSPORTS® SERIES LIGNACup
Dirk Braun crowned overall champion lumberjack

The competitors unleashed a hail of sawdust and wood chips from dizzying heights. For the second time, professional lumberjacks fought it out with axe and saw for the coveted STIHL® TIMBERSPORTS® SERIES LIGNACup. This year there was even more at stake for the 19 entrants: the right to participate in the national German Championships in Frankfurt. The reigning European champion, Dirk Braun (Winterberg/Sauerland), emerged as the overall winner, but not until he had completed the last of the three axe and the three saw-based disciplines. Reigning German champion Robert Ebner (Ottelmannshausen/Bavaria) won silver and Sebastian Wappes (Weisbach/Bavaria) took the bronze.

8th Lower Saxony Crane Driving Championships
Steven Baker the new champion

It was neck and neck up until the final whistle. But eventually, after a tough struggle against top-notch competition, Steven Baker (photo, center) of forestry firm Küsselsmann in Walsrode emerged as this year’s Lower Saxony crane driving champion. Witalij Kainer (left) of the Seesen Forest Service came second, and Michael Ostendorf (right) of HSM in Neukupfer/Baden-Württemberg third.

Belt Sander Racing

Racing belt sanders around wooden tracks is a highly popular pastime in the USA. The offbeat competition made its German debut at LIGNA 2009. Vocational academy students, college teams and tradeshow visitors raced belt sanders in pairs down a 50 foot-long track. Prizes were awarded for the best times and the most appealing designs. The event was organized by Deutsche Messe in conjunction with the Ostwestfalen-Lippe University of Applied Sciences and the German Engineering Federation (VDMA).

www.beltsanderracing.de (German only)
Business during the day, showbiz in the evenings

Impressions of LIGNA HANNOVER 2009

The atmosphere was positive – despite the recession. LIGNA HANNOVER once more proved itself as a mainstay of the wood and forestry industries. The days were packed with business negotiations, networking activities and informative forums, while the evenings were all about relaxing and enjoying a range of events and top entertainment. As always, the Münchner Halle restaurant hosted an extremely lively exhibitors’ reception. We hope you’ll enjoy reminiscing on LIGNA HANNOVER 2009 as you look ahead to another great show in 2011!
The mood was positive throughout – during the day in the exhibition halls and the open-air exhibition areas as well as in the evenings. Attendees at the fair’s welcome event at the Hannover Zoo’s Jungle Palace were mesmerized by oriental-style performances. Guests at the Exhibitors’ Reception enjoyed the traditional Bavarian party atmosphere.
Book early and save money
Secure your loyalty bonus

Time is on your side – get in early and book your exhibition space at LIGNA HANNOVER 2011 (30 May to 3 June) now!
To secure your loyalty bonus and benefit from the best-possible stand rental rates, complete and send off your registration documentation by 31 December 2009.

Please note the stand rental price scale for the 2011-2013 multi-year agreement. Early bookings mean cost savings, as the following listing shows:

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* basic stand rental subject to surcharges
Companies booking display space in the forestry and energy sections of the pavilions and on the open-air sites will also receive discounts. For detailed information on stand rental rates, please refer to the Conditions of Participation. The Conditions of Participation and the registration forms are available online as “interactive” PDF files (visit www.ligna.de/60510).

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Published by: Deutsche Messe Press and Public Relations, LIGNA-Projekt
D-30521 Hannover, Germany
Responsible: Katarina Rohrbach
Photos: Brüggemann/Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen, Deutsche Messe, Holz Zentralblatt
Production: Schlütersche Verlagsgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG
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