



Beneath the harvester's efficient surface hides a smart heart

Within a modern harvester that can be seen hard at work in a forest with a harvesting head and a crane hides a quieter power: an advanced computer and 4G technology. With Trimble Forestry's WoodForce application, a harvesting company can prepare work-site plans at the level of forests, coupes, and smaller areas and can distribute this plan and work-site-specific instructions to the machines and workers.



Metsä-Multia Oy carries out work in cultivated forests in Central Finland and specializes in mechanical logging and transportation services. With an annual turnover of about 8.7 million euros, the company employs around 80 people. UPM, Metsä Group, forestry organization Metsänhoitoyhdistys Keski-Suomi, and Versowood number among its logging customers.

On Metsä Group's work sites, Metsä-Multia implemented WoodForce over a year ago, gradually expanding its use to cover the entire fleet that operates on these sites.

"Our customers include several forestry companies and organizations. For us, it's important that an application we use on a daily basis offer an easy-to-use, fast, and versatile tool. Companies were invited to get involved already at the system's specification stage, and we had an opportunity to present our wishes to Trimble," explains operation manager **Hannu Kumpula**.

According to Kumpula, participation in the pilot project provided the company with valuable experience. In the initial stages,

additional challenges were presented by the huge quantity of data needing to be transferred between WoodForce, the customer's forestry system, and the harvester's measurement software. The collaboration has become more seamless in the course of the project.

Trimble offered extensive user support, and even remote support was available on the work sites. In the forest, where work starts at 6am and continues until 10pm, it is important to have access to support throughout the work day.

"The application has functions that we haven't quite mastered yet and for which we need further training. Users may still need more experience before being able to get the most from all the features offered by WoodForce," says Kumpula.

THE BIG PICTURE AT A SINGLE GLANCE

Kumpula explains that WoodForce's real-time operations and graphical visualizations make day-to-day work easier and

Photos: Kaisu-Leena Pekkanen





“ Maps of the ground’s bearing capacity will be the next new feature of WoodForce, and we are looking forward to having those to make life that little bit easier for us.

Hannu Kumpula
Operation manager Metsä-Multia



enable both on-site workers and office personnel to gain a good overall picture of the situation. Also, customers’ monthly timber orders are all compiled in a single report. “Map functions and areas to be harvested can be viewed on the same screen. Another important improvement is that if and when there are changes to work-site-specific instructions, the workers see these in real time. Of course, there may be areas where network coverage is patchy, but where we work this hasn’t been a problem,” explains Kumpula.

In harvesting, weather conditions, terrain, and schedules all can throw a monkey wrench into the works. In actual harvesting operations as well as in planning, it is important to have a clear idea of the timber quantity to be delivered to each roadside storage location for a truck to pick up. WoodForce has a forest resource feature that enables harvesting contractors to select suitable harvesting sites independently.

Kumpula says, “Rapid changes are par for

the course in this work. If we realize that we won’t be able to harvest the required amount of fir from the forest, we can use WoodForce to identify additional harvesting sites. It is also easier to monitor orders now that the harvested logs are recorded in a report after each shift.”

BEARING-CAPACITY MAPS – THE NEXT STEP

Timber is regularly traded electronically without anyone inspecting the situation on the site. Particularly in the spring, the ground may give way, preventing the harvester from maneuvering in the forest.

“Maps of the ground’s bearing capacity will be the next new feature of WoodForce, and we are looking forward to having those to make life that little bit easier for us. It’s important to us to work in a way that protects the soil and forest. Also, forest owners appreciate neat harvesting operations,” stresses Kumpula.