

## NEW OPTIMISED EDGER DEBUTS IN THE USA

A newly formed partnership between Windsor Technology Inc and WPS Industries has resulted in the development of an all-new Crosby Compact Hardwood Edger-Optimizer.

The collaboration of WPS Industries, manufacturer of the well known Crosby sawmill machinery, and Windsor Technology, with its innovative and proven computer-based scanning and optimization systems, has resulted in the Compact infeed system. This can easily be fitted into new and existing sawmill machine layouts, takes up a minimal amount of space, and has the added advantage of accommodating mills that infeed boards from either side.

**The Compact infeed system will give mills the maximum benefit from optimization, at a competitive price.**

Algoma Lumber, a hardwood mill in Algoma, Wisconsin, commissioned the first of these new Crosby machines in its sawmill at the end of last year. Windsor Technology's Brian Smith says Algoma contacted the Louisiana-based Crosby Sawmill Machines towards the middle of last year, with a view to replacing its manual secondary infeed with a new edger incorporating both computerised scanning and an optimization system.

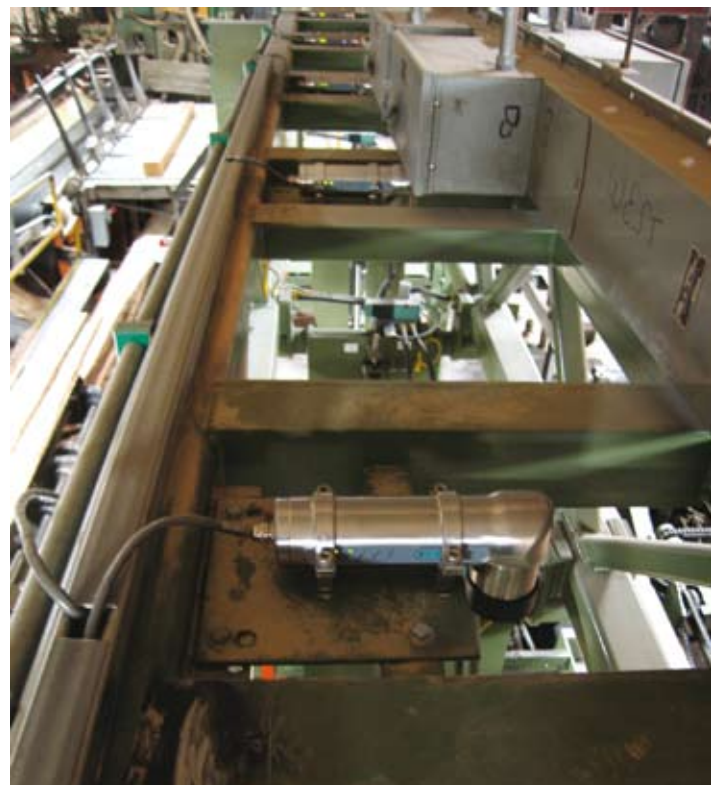
The Crosby edger-optimizer is fitted with Windsor Technology's system of smart cameras and software, providing operator control, board scanning and optimization. It utilises multiplexed industrial cameras which capture images profiled by infrared beams and invisible lasers, and new high-level scanning and optimization software. This provides the operator with a real image of the actual board and solution rather than the graphical animation offered in previous systems. It allows the operator the opportunity to manually override a grade related solution when required.

The cameras send the board-wane profile data through an Ethernet interface to a high-speed Pentium processor, sitting next to the sawmill operator. The software then utilises this data to evaluate the board and calculate the optimum sawing solution. The board algorithms and sawing solutions are in turn based on data that has been pre-entered into the processor by the sawmiller. These values and dimensions reflect any volume or dollar value desired.

It then displays a high-resolution board image on the computer screen, showing the optimised board with computer-generated overlaying saw lines. The optimization software, via the Ethernet and the edger PLC, then automatically orientates and skews the boards to the set sawing solution.



Infeed of the Crosby edger showing the holddown rolls, the dogs and the infrared profilers



The optimizer system features five cameras

The optimizer provides both an increased throughput and a higher value product. The automatic pre-positioning of boards at the edger dramatically reduces the cycle time and decreases operator error.

How robust is the system? The camera housings are compact, of stainless steel, and are both robust and fully IP67 rated. They are specifically designed for heavy-duty industrial applications, are shock and vibration proof, sealed against dust ingress and can even be hosed down if necessary.

The optimizer system was originally developed by the New Zealand company Automation & Electronics (A&E). Their experience with the development of smart cameras now extends over a decade and the capability of their optimizer systems rivals those of large global competitors, but at only a fraction of their costs.

