



Dieffenbacher, a manufacturer of plants for the wood based panel industry, has formed an alliance with **Holtec** to cover woodyard

technology. This new strategic alliance has been named the 'Logyard Alliance'.

With this step, Dieffenbacher extends its product portfolio and now offers complete system solutions for the wood-based panel industry from the log to the board. Holtec contributes many years of know-how in log handling.

"With the design and manufacturing of complete wood yards with log conditioning, debarking as well as strander and chippers, customers now get the complete solution from a single source," Holtec said of the merger. "Our individual strengths complete the planning of tailor-made solutions precisely to the customers' requirements.

"From the chipper line to the complete OSB wood yard, from the complete foundation plan to the safety systems."

The first projects under the

alliance have already started. The latest project in the new alliance is the supply of a complete frontend for the new Swedspan mill in Malacky (Slovakia). Dieffenbacher will supply the complete package, while Holtec supplies the log handling including debarker and handling system for feeding the strander.

Another large-scale project is the supply of a complete OSB plant for the Kronospan site Mogilev (Belarus). Dieffenbacher will supply a complete mill for producing OSB boards, while Holtec is tackling woodyard supply and is responsible for integrating the state-of-the-art log conditioning system.

Dieffenbacher is an international company developing and producing press systems and complete production systems for the wood-based panel industry, the automotive industry and industry suppliers. Meanwhile,

Holtec has had more than 40 years of experience in plant manufacturing for the wood industry. More than 300 log processing plants have been supplied to the timber industry and the wood-based panel industry over this period.

Meanwhile, Holtec is preparing to assist with the relocation of a sorting line that it has helped install over a series of steps starting back in 2007.

Five years ago, French wood products group, Seignol, was planning to build a new sawmill with a bar sorting line. Planning permission for the mill would not come through until 2012 but Seignol did not wait, in any case. Rather than wait for the green light from the planning committee, the company went ahead with its expansion using an old part of the sawmill. In 2010, some components of the sorting line were already being installed.

Holtec supplied a “highly flexible” bar sorting line for bars of pallet wood. The line included a debarker and measurement was realised as a partial investment. A sorting carriage from Baljer & Zembrod with enlarged cabine not only served to manipulate the bars to the sawmill infeed – the cabine acted as the control desk for the whole plant, central location for the electronic equipment and office building for the log yard.

The operator does not only reach the boxes with the gripper, but can also manipulate the separation, if necessary. The electronics from Jörg detects all the bars and sorts them according to certain criteria for the sawmill or respectively according to orders. Non-compliant bars are sorted out separately and listed.

“The problems when sorting freshly debarked pine bars are well known,” Holtec explained. “We delivered therefore variable steel boxes, which allow a quick and safe manipulation of the bars by the sorting carriage. The annual output is about 70,000 fm/day over 7 h/day. This results in a manipulation time of about 1.5 fm/minute at the logyard, and that includes the sawmill infeed.”

The infeed and separation is carried out traditionally using a cross conveyor and a step separator. The infeed conveyor to the debarker serves as a measuring conveyor as well and will also transfer the bars to the reducing by-pass in the second expansion stage. A sorting box before the debarker accepts the non-compliant bars.

Great diligence has been paid to the waste evacuation and residual separation at Seignol. The accruing bark, sand, limbs

and residuals from the separation are evacuated by a scraper conveyor below the conveying systems. The bark from the debarker is evacuated separately and finds another use.

The plant was in full operation for more than a year before the relocation to the approved site began this year. Despite incurring double the costs for foundations and dislocation, the investment in the new bar processing system has paid off. **F**



Holtec provided the bar sorting line for the expansion at Seignol