Forestry Corporation Annual Report

The 1989 annual report released in the middle of July showed that the New Zealand Forestry Corporation had increased their operating surplus by 19% over the previous year to $94.6 million. Sales were up 24% to $293 million. About $17 million was invested in silviculture and planting. However, the area of new forest planted decreased by 66% to only 3500 ha. The areas pruned and thinned to waste dropped by 18 and 47% respectively. The number of salaried employees has dropped from 649 to 519 in the past year, with 105 of these being shed from New Zealand Timberlands.

The Chairman, Mr A.T. Gibbs, noted that their studies indicated that within 20 years new processed products from the Corporation forests could provide exports of $5 billion annually. This is about 40% of the total value of all New Zealand's current exports. However, he argued that an investment of $6-7 billion in new industry requires the sale of the forests with secure property rights, etc. and that there should be no restraints on buyers.

SATELLITE CHIPPER AVAILABLE

A satellite chip mill, previously not available in New Zealand, is now being offered through the Auckland-based IST Engineering Limited. The mill is manufactured by Fulghum Industries Limited who are acknowledged as America's market leader in the supply of forest products equipment.

The system accepts tree-length logs and has applications as a cost-effective addition beside an existing chipping plant, or as a separate satellite unit erected close to a wood source. The complete system, or components of it, is now available through IST Engineering and according to sales manager Peter Cooper interest is extremely high.

The chip mill comprises a log crane, a debarker, a chipper and drum screen. The Fulghum radial log-handling crane, in addition to stacking wood in a circular pattern for efficient storage and processing, loads tree-length logs into the infeed chute of the debarker. After about 15 minutes the debarked stems are conveyed to the chipper, and onto the drum screen unit.

From an economic and process design standpoint, the satellite chip mill offers several manufacturing advantages. Operating costs are lower, installation is less capital intensive than traditional woodyards, maintenance is less of a problem, and the system is a highly viable back-up to major plants in the event of a breakdown. Additionally, the mill is operated by only two or three operators and the turnaround time for trucks is substantially reduced.

Mr Cooper said there are five Fulghum log-handling cranes available, ranging in size from 22 metres to 47 metres and with capacities from 9.5 tonnes to 45 tonnes. He said that complete specifications of all units were available for inspection at IST's Penrose Office.

New Zealand Forestry a teaching aid

In a letter to the NZ Institute of Forestry President, Ian Hutchinson from Turrialba in Costa Rica writes:

"...you would be surprised at the number of Latin American graduate students who, during my classes, see overhead transparencies of photographs and other information taken from the Journal."