CablePrice adds to forestry line with Sisu Logging products

CablePrice aims to take a lead in providing safer and more environmentally friendly forestry equipment for use in New Zealand forests through a strategic alignment with one of the world’s leading timber-harvesting product groups.

Agreement has been reached for CablePrice to assume sole New Zealand rights for advanced forestry equipment from the Sisu Logging Group, which has headquarters in Finland but manufacturing bases around the world.

This will see CablePrice distribute the tracked Timbco “feller buncher” and Valmet multi-wheeled “forwarder” log transporter, plus the Australian-built Rosin processor head. These products will all be on display at the Forestry Exhibition in Rotorua in the New Year.

Emphasis on Safety

Increased mechanisation in harvesting of timber, with special emphasis on safety efficiency and improved environmental activities in the forest, are behind the CablePrice move.

David Wong, Marketing Manager for the CablePrice Equipment Division, says: “These concerns are figuring in many of the purchasing decisions by forestry contractors and through our new alliance with Sisu, CablePrice is in a good position to answer their needs.”

Safety and increased efficiency has seen a strong move towards excavator-type machines fitted with harvester heads that can fell a tree and strip branches in one operation, while the operator remains in the safety of a ROPS-equipped cab.

The 28-tonne Timbco “feller buncher” is not a converted excavator, however. It is a purpose-built harvester which is designed to operate in forest environments similar to those in New Zealand, where many plantations are on steep terrain.

Unique Tilting Cab

A key feature of the American-built Timbco is the unique four-way tilting cab, which automatically follows the terrain and keeps the operator level, even when on 51% slopes. This is safer and more productive. A compact cab, with no engine compartment overhang, enables the Timbco to operate in confined spaces. Engine options include Cummins, John Deere or Caterpillar power plants.

The Timbco can be equipped with familiar harvester heads, such as a Waratah, but CablePrice is also offering the option of the new Rosin processor head. Designed and built in Australia for similar types of timber and operating conditions to those found in New Zealand, the Rosin is ideally matched to the Timbco but can fit conventional excavators as well. Environmentally-conscious logging firms are expected to take considerable interest in the Valmet 6- and 8-wheeler “forwarder” log transporters.

Equipped with massive balloon tyres, the Swedish-built Valmet “forwarder” can use its loading arm to load up to 12 tonnes of standard cut logs on its generously-sized carrier and transport them through the forest with minimal disturbance to the ground and vegetation. Both versions of the Valmet are powered by the company’s own 6-cylinder turbo diesel engine, delivering 118kW and 630Nm outputs. All wheels are driven through a hydrostatic transmission, equipped with a high/low ratio transfer box.

Mr Wong says the new products from Sisu Logging will complement the existing logging products in the CablePrice stable, such as John Deere log skidders and Hitachi excavators and wheel loaders.

The Valmet log transporting forwarder is part of the Sisu Logging equipment range now handled by CablePrice.