

# 'Sorted' – just in time

With the continuing strength of the kiwi dollar, many sawmills are recognising that, although market conditions are difficult, this is a good time to source new and used equipment from overseas. And, there are some bargains to be had – particularly in the United States where a weak dollar and hard times have forced many sawmills to contract or even close.

CNC Design has been involved in numerous upgrades of such second hand purchases and of bin sorters in particular. Whilst changing the controls and automation to suit specific installations, the company also recognised an opportunity to provide the mills with new and better software to give management and operators instant production data and to provide the flexibility and efficiency for 'just in time'

production of orders. This new software is suitable for use with all kinds of bin sorters.

After investing almost NZ\$100,000 in the development of the package (all the work was done in New Zealand), CNC Design has just sold the software to USNR to use and sell on to customers worldwide. Jon Marwick, managing director of CNC Design says, "As electrical automation engineers we are constantly involved in improving sawmill operational machines in order to increase performance and reliability. We identified a need for bin sorter management software utilising an open SQL data base and easy reporting system. The resulting product has recently been installed in three sawmills in New Zealand with performance meeting all expectations."

CNC Design's customers in New Zealand are equally pleased with the product. Tony Davies-Colley of TDC in Whangarei says, "The new bin sorter software and controls give us accurate data to measure our recovery from logs to lumber and downtime in the process. The software electronically measures length, thickness and width, giving us flexibility to change sorts easily. This provides us with a 'just in time' production planning capability that is fast and accurate."

Kent Gibbons of Waimea Sawmillers reports that, equipped with the new software, the bin sorter has reduced manual handling by 50-70% and raised production by 18%. What is more, the system is popular with employees. "The staff have learnt the new software easily, we now have better team management with a noticeable lift in moral."

## NEW BIN SORTER SOFTWARE release from CNC Design Ltd

- Direct and immediate access to Green Mill production statistics in terms of sizes, volumes, and grades.
- Accurate electronic methods of measuring length, thickness and width.
- Full control of single and multiple product allocation to bins.
- Individual or multiple lengths can be selected for each bin.
- Variable speed running of the Bin Sorter.
- Grade mark readers can be incorporated into the system.
- Open database format can be linked into higher level management software.
- Robust server architecture and redundant hard disks to minimise downtime.
- Easy report generator with crystal reports.
- Friendly operator interface.



CNC Design's state-of-the-art windows based Bin Sorter management software allows user friendly data input and flexible report generation for production staff. The open SQL Database means tally information can be easily exported to other applications such as Excel and Access. The integrated fault diagnostics reduce machine downtime during stoppages and breakdowns.

For further information  
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**CNCdesign**  
Machine Automation Solutions