

## PRESS RELEASE

### Swartland installs eco-friendly kilns

*Swartland's installation of four new energy-efficient kilns is set to greatly improve the company's already impressive green credentials as an environmentally responsible stalwart.*

*05 December 2014, Cape Town:* In July 2014, Swartland installed four new high-tech kilns that were specially imported from Germany. The new kilns have greatly increased the amount of timber that can be kiln-dried during any single drying cycle – increasing capacity from 75 cubic metres, to an impressive 400 cubic metres.

The kilns are able to achieve best-in-market energy efficiency through a built-in intelligent energy management system, which is able to allow for small fan adjustments to be made in order to reduce power grid loads during peak periods. Dylan Miller from Swartland explains further: “The additional energy management system allows operators to programme product priorities and considers the energy available from on-site heating plants in order to manage best possible productivity and product quality.”

Each kiln also boasts an eco vent that effectively recycles and reuses the heat that is generated during the drying process. This results in less energy being used, less fuel being burned and an overall reduction in CO2 emissions. In addition, the new kilns are exceptionally water efficient – almost 50% of all the water utilised in the kiln-drying process is recovered from the specialised heat exchange process, and then recycled and reused – saving masses of water over the long-term.

Every aspect of these kilns has been created to be as energy efficient as possible – even in their design. To this end, the motors and electronics have been positioned on the outside of each unit to ensure that they are protected from excessive humidity and heat, which serves to increase their longevity. By bettering the kiln's lifespan, the design also serves to decrease the kiln's overall carbon footprint and in so doing, improves its green credentials even further.

Compared to other market counterparts, the new kilns use a far gentler drying process in order to produce an end result of timber that boasts vastly improved strength and stability, and reduces defects. Swartland's flagship hardwood timber, Red Grandis, is dried to an EMC (equilibrium moisture content) of 11%, which is perfectly suited to South Africa's unique climatic conditions.

Dylan notes that the EMC of Swartland's selected Red Grandis hardwood improves its overall longevity, as well as its already impressive rankings as an environmentally-friendly building material: “Swartland responsibly sources all its Red Grandis (Eucalyptus) hardwood timber from sustainably-managed 100% FSC-approved plantations in Uruguay. Red Grandis is characterised by a warm, uniform colour, and boasts a remarkable level of structural stability. The timber grows extremely quickly and is ready to be harvested at 60cm in diameter after only 20 years, which ensures a sustainable continuity of supply.”

Never one to rest on its laurels, Dylan explains that the company's investment in the new kilns is a prime example of its ethos of always improving on its commitment to be as environmentally responsible as possible: “Swartland is proud of the way its products and practices reflect its vision to make a positive difference to people and the planet. At Swartland, we are aware that our own business sustainability is directly linked to the sustainability of the planet Earth, and in particular, to the sustainability of natural resources which forms such an important part of our existence as a company. It is just a matter of time until all organisations make the same realisation.”

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### **A snapshot of the ecological advantages of Swartland's newly installed kilns:**

- **Reduced water usage:** Fresh water usage has been reduced due to the collection of condensation that is extracted from the moisture inside the kiln. This is recycled and used to condition the wood.
- **Reduced CO2 emissions:** Not as much heat is required to dry the wood, and as consequence, the overall CO2 output during the drying process has been reduced.
- **Reduced gas and steam:** A notable reduction in the creation of exhaust process gas and steam due to more efficient processes being put into place.
- **Reduced noise levels:** Noise emissions have been notably reduced thanks to a new fan that is far more efficient, boasting impressively low RPM (rotations per minute).
- **Reduced energy consumption:** Drying times have been markedly decreased, and as consequence, there has been a reduction in electricity consumption required for the entire drying process to be successfully achieved.

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