

Get your teeth into this

A Romanian group building up its reputation for quality bandsaw blades heads this year's Saw Technology Review

They say Transylvanians have a close relationship to sharp teeth. In the case of **Metamob**, this may actually be so.

The company claims to be on a mission to “conquer Europe’s sawmills” with its bandsaw blades, which it stated were already recognised in the industry as delivering a “good price-performance ratio”. Some companies even took the trouble to travel to Romania and join Metamob for its anniversary celebration.

“That is something you would

not do if you were not satisfied,” chief executive István Hutton said.

With a history spanning over 15 years, Metamob is already regarded as a well established business in Romania. Metamob was founded in 1997 in Satu Mare/RO and “since then, the company has seen a great development and now 60 people are working for us,” Hutton said.

At the end of October, the family-owned and run company celebrated the 15th anniversary with friends of the company, customers and employees. “It

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it ourselves – István Hutton, Metamob ”

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goes without saying that the ‘who’s who’ of the Romanian sawmill industry was present at the event,” Hutton boasted. Even

Metamob customers from Germany took it upon themselves to make the exhausting journey.

What makes the Romanians different?

So much satisfaction is not commonplace among sawyers. “We do get the feeling that Metamob is really going out of their ways to support us,” Carl Leiße, a Sauerland-sawyer, said regarding his buying motives. The experienced sawyer has recently handed over his mill in Warstein/DE to his daughter.

On a Quattro bandsaw line, battens, boards and planks are mainly produced from spruce and fir – under difficult circumstances logs being regularly processed in bark and sometimes even frozen.



“Given this you are usually happy if the bandsaw blades hang on for an entire shift without interference,” Leiße admitted.

He had met Hutton at the Ligna trade fair and, the day after the fair, Hutton was standing beside him in the mill taking a close look at everything. “He then suggested we should try bandsaws with irregular spacing.” Leiße’s initial skepticism quickly turned into enthusiasm. Even with the very first set of blades, the running life doubled from eight to 16 hours.

“But Metamob was still not satisfied with that and kept on improving further,” he said. “Now the saws run up to 24 hours a day.”

With this, Leiße’s confidence grew: “Metamob is service-oriented. I’ve also seen suppliers acting different, believe me. But without much questioning, the Romanians produced and supplied a new blade [so] should there be any reason to complain?”

Optimised manufacturing methods

All this is not only the result many years of experience in the business or the fact that the

company ‘stellite’ its blades. Metamob also constantly optimises the production processes.

“There is nothing sacred to us,” Hutton said. “If the machine we need is not available on the market, we will design and build it ourselves. Just like our own CNC-controlled teeth-setting machine.”

In order to do that Hutton has employed two software developers and a mechanical engineer. Also more than 20 Iseli and Vollmer-production machines have been technically adjusted to suit the company specific requirements. Even though these units are known for their precision they have been modified in various ways: Metamob added fully automated, optical teeth measurement and computers that are seamlessly integrated into the in-house ERP-system. The ERP-software documents every step from raw material to the finished saw in compliance with ISO 9001 – and was also programmed in-house.

All this serves only one purpose: “We want to make bandsaws operate well as best we can and offer our customers a



helping hand when they need it,” Hutton said.

ISO certified quality

The complete documentation facilitated the certification process by ISO-standards – Metamob now holds ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certificates. Bandsaw blades are manufactured in widths from 8-420 mm. The selection of the blade steel may vary depending on the customer’s application. Most dimensions in stock are Sandvik, but also Bohler-Uddeholm, Forrestil, Martin Miller and various German brands are available.

Metamob does not only sell new devices but also repairs saws. “We have very experienced staff who have often wangled seemingly hopeless cases – at reasonable costs,” Hutton promised. As of last summer, Metamob has been offering to collect saws once a month from customers in Austria and deliver back the repaired product. With up to 50 blades in use at some businesses, this machine overhaul could actually save money, said Hutton.

“If the saw was not completely broken, the operating characteristics are then comparable with those of a new unit.”

Baker Products manufactures quality, durable and highly productive woodworking machinery. The company’s product list consists of resaws, scraggmills, sawmills, cut-off saws, notchers, edgers, and much more. Baker Products equipment is designed and produced at their US facility and has been proven easy to use, high quality, and long lasting, yet economically satisfying.

Within the last year, Baker continued to innovate and evolve several of its woodworking machines. Featured below are the details of each highly productive machine, including the Baker Double Notcher X2, the Baker BP Dominator Band Sawmill, and the Baker Groover I and II.

Baker Double Notcher X2

The Baker Double Notcher has always been a successful machine, however, demands for higher production rates were something that Baker Products analysed and wanted to take to the next level. In conclusion, a new design has been made – the Baker Double Notcher X2, which increases production rates by 30% and is now producing 5,600 stringers/h. This machine is powered by two 30 hp electric

