



Photo: Kirsi Seppänen

A MAJOR STEP TOWARD MORE EFFICIENT OPERATIONS

The sawmill industry of the Åland Islands will be taking a giant step this summer. In connection with a merger between two significant operators, the sawmills' enterprise resource planning will undergo development and a more efficient models of operation will be created for the production units in Önningeby and Godby. This work will be carried out in collaboration with Savcor's experts.

Ålands Skogägarförbund, its subsidiary Ab Skogen, and competitor Carl Rundberg Ab merged at the beginning of June to form Ålands Skogsindustrier Ab. To kick off the project, the organizations met to discuss how to get the production units in various locations to work in concert in a way that maximizes efficiency and ensures seamless operations.

– At AB Skogen, we had previously used Savcor's MekaWood raw-material procurement application, but Carl Rundberg doesn't have experience with similar information systems. Because of the merger, we wanted to figure out how best to work together. We considered it important to obtain a joint enterprise resource management system in order to ensure that the operations of the two units mesh well. Both the Önningeby and the Godby unit produce sawn timber and



The Åland Islands are known for its rocky terrain and seashores.

//

We also looked at Sweden, to see whether the companies over there offered corresponding ERP systems for the sawmill industry. On the other hand, we were well aware that Savcor always delivers the service as promised and they also know the ins and outs of the sawmill business.

JOAKIM BLOM
Managing Director, Ålands Skogsindustrier AB



processed-timber products, but now we have to decide what product should be produced where. And for this we need the information systems, explains Ålands Skogsindustrier's Managing Director **Joakim Blom**.

WINDS OF CHANGE

One of the main goals is to take a close look at the work processes in order to find ways of improving their efficiency, rather than just continue to do things the way they have always been done. A central aspect of this is the monitoring of various processes and comparison of their efficiency. According to Blom, Savcor's ERP system is the most versatile and offers the greatest potential for customization of the central functions.

– We also looked at Sweden, to see whether the companies over there offered corresponding ERP systems for the sawmill industry. On the other hand, we were well aware that Savcor always delivers the service as promised and they also know the ins and outs of the sawmill business, says Blom.

MILK IN A CARTON MADE OF RAW MATERIAL FROM ÅLAND

In addition to sawmill-based production, the mainstays of the new company include biopower-plant operations and wood-chipping. The majority of the wood-chip material goes to BillerudKorsnäs's plant in Sweden, where it is used as raw material for recyclable packaging.

– Just under a fifth of the milk and sour-milk cartons found on Finnish dinner tables are made of raw material originating

in the Åland Islands. The proportion of logs in forest-industry operations performed on our island is low. Raw material for chipping is more abundant, explains Blom.

When Blom moved to the Åland Islands, nine years ago, he, along with many others, wondered how this island region known for its rocky terrain and seashores was able to produce enough wood. The Åland Islands, however, have 68 000 hectares of pine, fir, and deciduous forests.

– With the ERP system, we can take our sawmill operations to the next level. Half of our production is exported. Our main markets are Belgium, France, Italy, and northern Africa. The remainder is put to use on the Åland Islands. Wood is commonly used as a building material on the islands, and after the merger we will produce 23 000–30 000 cubic meters of sawn timber, more than half of which will undergo further processing, Blom says. ■

