



# LogForce adds efficiency to timber transportation

Photos: Juha Käppi

For haulage contractors, planning timber-transportation operations is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. At the Hyvinkää-based transportation company Nousiainen, efficient planning operations are guaranteed with Trimble's software service LogForce, which makes sure that goods are always in the right place, at the right time.

"LogForce enabled us to operate a larger fleet of trucks. Without it, we wouldn't have been able to expand. I prepare daily schedules for the vehicles pretty much every day, and these also serve as our

drivers' work instructions," explains Managing Director **Antti Nousiainen**.

The company's trucks are equipped with the LogForce vehicle application and a separate GPS tracker, enabling tracking of the vehicles on a LogForce map. Nousiainen begins the planning of the daily schedules by checking train times and estimating how many of his vehicles are close to stations.

At the same time, he has to prepare a backup plan. After this, Nousiainen checks the possible return loads and



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 Managing Director  
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completes the haulage plans with timber loads located near sawmills. Any empty slots remaining in the schedule are filled with shorter-distance hauling. Also, drivers’ skills and experience must be taken into account in the planning.

“I like to call it a devilishly difficult jigsaw puzzle. There are so many moving parts, including the drivers’ shifts and rest breaks. But with reliable personnel, plenty of experience, and a sprinkling of luck, it all works out,” says Nousiainen.

#### AN EASY-TO-USE SYSTEM

In addition to running a fleet of ten timber trucks, Nousiainen makes use of five subcontractors and their vehicles. The company operates mainly in Southern Finland, rarely delivering timber north of the cities of Pori and Lappeenranta. Nousiainen is pleased with how easy LogForce is to use, and he has received positive feedback from drivers too.

He says, “Our calendar is pretty full. We carry out deliveries for Stora Enso and Metsä Group. This collaboration has created confidence in our ability to deliver the raw material to the right place in time without separate requests. Each year, we transport about a million cubic meters of wood.”

LogForce is a SaaS solution for the forest industry that enables haulage contractors and timber companies to streamline their operations. The service supplied by Trimble encompasses all planning and vehicle software needed by a transportation company.

“With LogForce, we can be sure our vehicles are put to efficient use and don’t travel long distances without a load. Because the situation for forestry companies varies from one week to the next, we always look at our operations a week at a time to guarantee efficient operations. LogForce makes route planning easier, thanks to real-time information on logs ready for picking up,” explains Nousiainen.

With pulp prices remaining high, the future looks bright for timber transportation companies. But even though no black clouds are visible on the horizon, the industry has undergone a sea change in recent years.

“I’m a third-generation haulage operator, and the methods used by my father and grandfather no longer work. I have to rely on my experience and the great team we have here. With pulp being in high demand, things looks good for us,” sums up Nousiainen.