

## CUSTOMIZED FOR CLT

### Portal robot for flexible CLT joinery

Not only the size, but also the complexity of the cross laminated timber projects realized by Xlam Industrie SAS has increased significantly in recent years. With the TW-Mill M portal robot from TechnoWood, the CLT manufacturer based in the French Jura is optimally equipped for these constantly growing requirements.

With the founding of the subsidiary Xlam Industrie, the Chauvin sawmill entered the production of CLT and thus increased the added value of the company. Both the sawmill with around 130,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year sawn timber production and the newly founded site for CLT production are located in Mignovillard and thus in the middle of the French Jura. This area - known not least because of the good softwood quality from higher altitudes - also serves the company as a catchment area for logs, with spruce being the primary focus.



Techno Wood installed a portal robot at Xlam Industrie, equipped with a five-axis spindle including a tool changing system and an additional five-axis saw spindle.

### Also for complex machining

Since the start of the CLT line in 2019, not only the output, but also the complexity of the individual projects has grown steadily. "The trend is towards ever larger and more complex timber construction projects, which is why we have to keep developing," reports production manager Samuel Pritzky. With slabs up to 3.4m high and 16.5m long, Xlam Industrie primarily serves the French home market, with the range of services extending right through to the ready-tied slab. Since the start of production, the company has relied on a mobile portal robot of the type TW-Mill M 4000 2U from the Swiss manufacturer TechnoWood.

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The mechanical engineering company specializes in customer-specific configured production lines for timber construction. These solutions – the so-called TW Concept Lines – are put together in modules from various table elements for conveying, clamping, positioning and pressing. They are completed with the matching TW-Mill portal robot. At Xlam Industrie, however, the TechnoWood installation focuses on a portal robot for processing CLT and optionally also Glulam elements. The Swiss realized this TW-Mill M on 40m long rails, whereby the elements to be processed are placed on a wooden table built by Xlam Industrie between the rails. The CNC machining center moves over the BSP and does all standard machining as well as complex special machining. "Our powerful system, paired with our CNC control, allows an extremely high processing flexibility," explains Thomas Koster from TechnoWood.

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### Flexible CNC machining

The standard five-axis spindle unit of the TW-Mill M is designed in such a way that it can be moved out of the table area. This enables comprehensive machining from all five sides, including deep horizontal drilling on all sides. In addition, the system at Xlam Industrie has an additional five-axis saw unit. "This means we can distribute the tasks between the two units, with optimum power and speed for each task being guaranteed," reports Koster.

It is precisely this adaptability of the system that Pritzy particularly appreciates: "When we started with the CLT joinery, we didn't know where we were going. Thanks to the flexibility of TechnoWood and the constant further development of the tools from Oertli, our joinery system has been able to grow with the requirements of the past few years," says Pritzy with satisfaction.



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*Author and photos; Austrian Agrarverlag, Günther Jauk*

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