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Big New EWP to Challenge CLT

STEPHANIE ORNELAS

Mass Plywood Panel is a new veneer-based engineered product.



FRERES LUMBER

(Oct. 27, 2016) An innovative new wood product, Mass Plywood Panel, is hitting the market thanks to Freres Lumber Co., Lyons, Or. “MPP” is currently being tested and refined through a partnership with Oregon State University and the new Center for Advanced Wood Products.

A veneer-based engineered wood product, MPP is a massive, large-scale plywood panel with maximum finished panel dimensions up to 12 ft. wide by 48 ft. long and up to 24 inches thick. The panels may be customized to fit specific

projects; constructed in 1-inch thick increments that provide superior strength and performance.

A good alternative to cross laminated timbers, MPP is an engineered panel that allows wood products to be used for multi-story buildings, while increasing the speed of construction. What sets it apart is the fact that it uses engineered veneer and custom plywood layups as a base material rather than lumber.

Freres Lumber has tentative plans to construct the manufacturing plant in Lyons, close in proximity to its six other processing plants. The company expects to have a full MPP production facility by the end of 2017.

VP of sales Tyler Freres said the company sees veneer as the most appropriate raw material for mass timber panels in the Pacific Northwest. “Our veneer plants can efficiently and responsibly use second and third growth timber with a minimum of a 5-inch block diameter to produce engineered panels,” he explained. “Natural defects within the log are engineered out of the raw material prior to constructing the mass panel by virtue of the traditional plywood laminating process. The compounded veneer layers and the ability to engineer each individual layer means that we can customize the panels to specific engineering needs.”

According to Freres, studies conducted at OSU show that by using veneer as a raw material for a Mass Timber Panel, they can potentially achieve the same structural attributes of a CLT panel with 20 to 30%



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less wood. Other advantages of MPP include how the panels' relative lightness can help transportation costs and logistics.

The company's goal is to bring the forest to the city by showcasing wood products in urban structures, reestablishing people's relationship with wood as an environmentally responsible building product. "We hope to revitalize rural communities with an innovative wood product that shows the responsible use of Oregon's renewable resource—our actively managed forests," Freres added.

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