

## Walmart Mass Timber Story Continues: Structurlam--->Mercer International



### 1) MERCER INTERNATIONAL INC. (MERC)

<https://www.marketscreener.com/quote/stock/MERCER-INTERNATIONAL-INC-10005/news/Mercer-International-Inc-Signs-Major-Mass-Timber-Construction-Project-43129632/>

### Mercer International Inc. Signs Major Mass Timber Construction Project

03/01/2023 | 04:31pm EST

NEW YORK, March 01, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Mercer International Inc. (Nasdaq: MERC) *today reported that it has signed its first major mass timber project contract with a large consumer products retailer.* The project, which is comprised of cross-laminated timber panels, glue-laminated beams and connector elements, is expected to utilize four months of capacity at Mercer's Spokane facility on a one-shift basis over the course of 2023.

Juan Carlos Bueno, Mercer's President and CEO stated: "We are delighted to conclude our first major mass timber contract. Our customer has selected mass timber for its appearance, structural integrity, fire resistance, construction efficiency and carbon footprint that only mass timber construction can provide. We expect that this is the first of more major projects to come as Mercer's innovative product line and services become more recognized in the growing mass timber construction space."

Mercer International Inc. is a global forest products company with operations in Germany, the USA and Canada with an annual production capacity of 2.3 million tonnes of pulp, 960 million board feet of lumber, 140 thousand cubic meters of cross-laminated timber, 17 million pallets and 150,000 metric tonnes of wood pellets. For further information, please visit [www.mercerint.com](http://www.mercerint.com).



### 2) Structurlam halts Conway operations (excerpt)

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2023/jan/19/structurlam-halts-conway-operations/>

Laminated wood manufacturer lays off 144, blames loss of Walmart contract  
by [Andrew Moreau](#) | January 19, 2023 at 4:19 a.m



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Structurlam Operations Manager Hayes Anthony walks through the Conway facility on May 3, 2021, as the plant geared up to make laminated wood products for a new Walmart headquarters in Bentonville. With the cancellation of the contract, the plant has suspended operations and about 144 workers have been laid off. Company chief Matthew Karmel said new customers are being sought for the plant, which he said has the capacity "sufficient to construct a 200,000-square-foot office building every two months." (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Staton Breidenthal)

Structurlam Mass Timber Corp. announced Wednesday it will reduce production staff and suspend operations in Conway after Walmart canceled work with the manufacturer. The move led to about 144 employees being laid off.

The announcement is just three years after the manufacturer said it would invest \$90 million to set up its first U.S.-based production facility in Conway. The plant was established to provide laminated wood products for Walmart's new Bentonville headquarters campus.

"Decisions like this are never easy, especially when they impact our people," Matthew Karmel, chief executive officer of Structurlam, said Wednesday in announcing the suspension and layoffs.

Walmart, essentially the plant's only customer, canceled its contract, Karmel said.

Structurlam was set up as an Arkansas-centric production facility. The company was going to harvest pine grown in the state as its material source and then create product to be used by Walmart for its sprawling new Bentonville headquarters.

The project was initially announced in December 2019 as a strategic partnership with Walmart, including an equity investment from the retailer to lure the plant to Conway.

Dan Bartlett, executive vice president of Walmart corporate affairs, was on hand for the launch announcement and noted the retailer's commitment to the project. Walmart approached Structurlam and decided to invest in production to bring the company to Arkansas, Bartlett said at the time. "This was more than just a purchase order for us," Bartlett said. "We understood the capital investment it would take to do this here and that's when the conversation shifted to what it would take for us to be a financial partner."

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