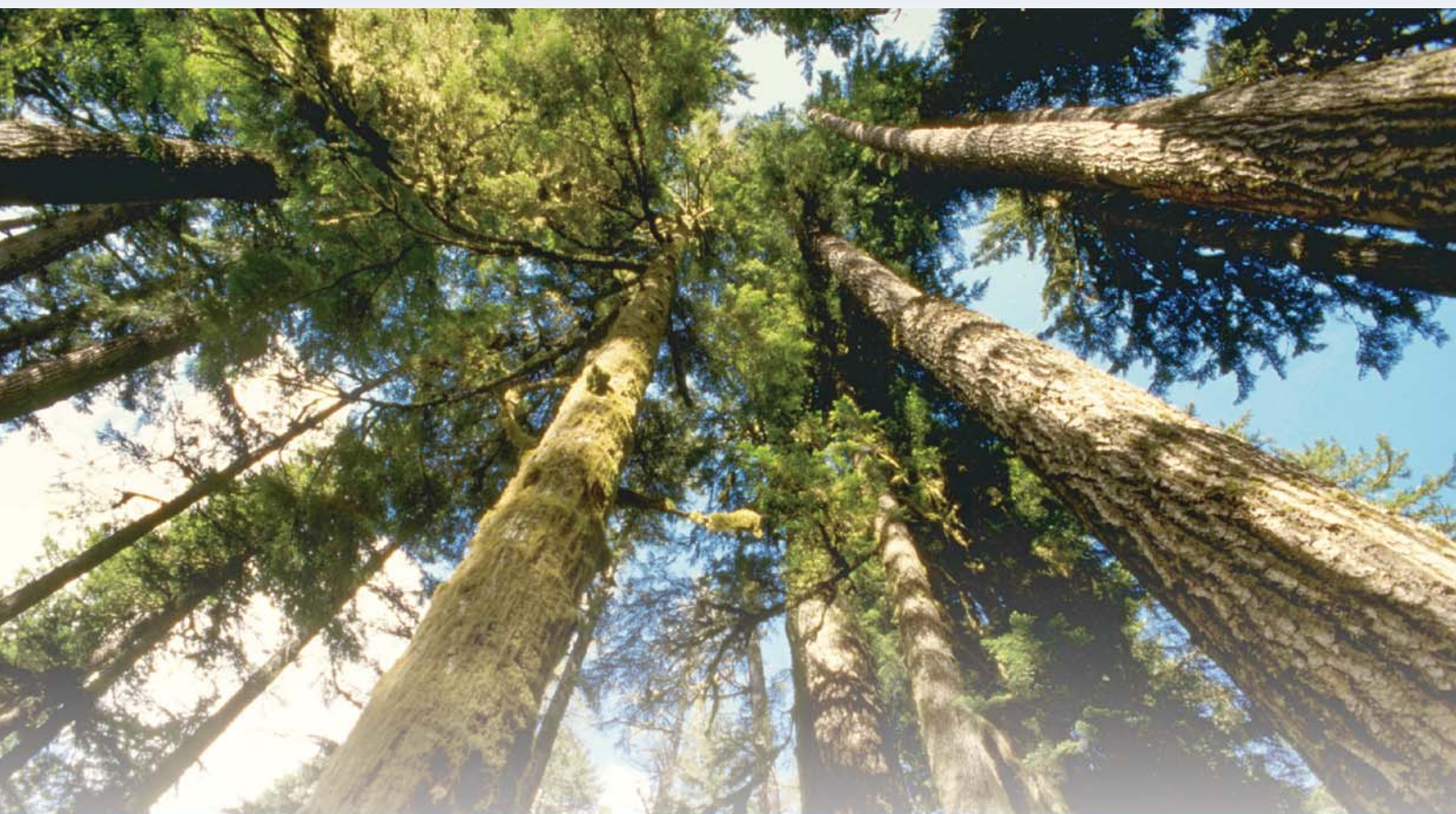




UAB SWEDSPAN GIRIU BIZONAS

**LOCAL TRADITIONS AND INTEGRATED INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE**



*“Lithuania can be proud of its old traditions and long-term activities in the wood engineering industry. Giriu Bizonas is a vital part of this tradition and today in its second decade of operations. As a member of the Swedspan Group since 2008, the company can fall back upon the best of international experience. This enables us to implement new technologies, invest and develop our production systems.*

*When we invest in Swedspan Giriu Bizonas, we are also investing in the Kazlu Ruda region, leading to improvements in its infrastructure and living standards, generating employment opportunities, and strengthening the community. We believe this will bring new opportunities for the whole region and its community.*

*The activities at Swedspan Giriu Bizonas are based on values that are passed on to our employees and the community. We aim to provide good and steady working conditions for every member of the team. We also want to maintain friendly and warm relations with the community of Kazlu Ruda – and to be an active, responsible member of it.*

*Being part of the Swedspan Group creates new possibilities, aims – and responsibilities. Our main responsibility is to work according to high operating standards and to advance the development of production and environmental protection.*

*We are aware that the company’s activities will only be successful if we maintain a responsible attitude towards our customers and the community.”*



**Laimonas Rackauskas**

*Managing Director at UAB Swedspan Giriu Bizonas.*



## WHO WE ARE

UAB Swedspan Girių Bizonas is the biggest company in the Kazlu Ruda region. The company’s production concentrates on particle boards and foiled particle boards – and meets the highest European standards.

Girių Bizonas can look back on fifteen years of particle board production. On 10 December 2008, UAB Girių Bizonas became part of the Swedspan Group, a member of the IKEA Group of Companies. Swedspan Girių Bizonas is dedicated to the production of particle boards for IKEA’s Baltic and north-east European furniture suppliers. As the wood based panel market is quite competitive, it is essential for the success of Swedspan Girių Bizonas that our operations are performance-oriented and flexible. Swedspan International, the group’s steering company, gives Swedspan Girių Bizonas important supports on these issues.

Historically, the units producing particle board and furniture were part of the same company. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 this united organization was split into two different companies – Swedspan Girių Bizonas, producing particle boards, and Swedwood Kazlu Ruda, producing furniture.

The sister companies – Swedspan, founded in May 2008, and Swedwood, founded in 1992 – are members of the IKEA Group. The main objective of Swedspan and Swedwood is to ensure the long-term supply of materials for IKEA’s furniture business. Our investment in research and development aims to set new standards in the production of wood based panels – e.g. improving lightweight panel technology, lowering emissions and optimizing the quality of the surfacing. The Swedspan Group is made up of UAB Swedspan Girių Bizonas in Lithuania, Swedspan Polska z.o.o, Swedspan Sweden AB, Swedspan Slovakia s.r.o., and Swedspan International.



## OUR HISTORY

Girių Bizonas started operations in 1994. The production of particle board using a “Bison” line began at almost the same time. As production developed, in 2002 we began producing melamine-faced and foiled-wood particle boards, using a “Hymmen” press. In 2004 the company launched furniture production. In order to improve production, the “Bison” line used for particle board production was replaced by a “Siempelkamp” press in April 2007. This was part of the technical project “implementing innovative wood-board production technologies to form the biggest furniture-manufacturing network in the north-west Europe”. Many improvements have been implemented since the company became part of the Swedspan Group, and further actions are planned.

## OUR PRODUCTION

UAB Swedspan Girių Bizonas produces raw and foiled particle boards. The thickness of the high-quality particle boards ranges between 8 and 40 mm. The boards are fully in line with the EN 312 standard. Since the company has been part of the IKEA Group of Companies, Girių Bizonas has implemented the 1/2-E1 production standard for all the boards we supply to the IKEA flat line furniture producers. UAB Swedspan Girių Bizonas also supplies other customers with 1/2-E1 standard boards. The implementation of low emission boards is part of the IKEA Group’s fundamental strategy. For this reason, UAB Swedspan Girių Bizonas began implementing the new 1/3-E1 standard in September 2009.

## OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENT

Since Swedspan Girių Bizonas has been part of the Swedspan Group, the company has been following the

latter’s high working standards. The IKEA Group is well known for its high environmental standards and the attention it pays to the needs of society. In order to meet the environmental expectations of Swedspan and IKEA, we at Swedspan Girių Bizonas have been making a lot of improvements to our production processes. These activities are ongoing and important for the future of the whole company.

The environmental improvement efforts have been concentrating on reducing emissions and waste water. In 2007, the company invested over €2.5 million in a so-called WESP or emission filter, which cleans the air from drying processes, reaching more than 95% efficiency in removing dust. The plant recycles all its waste water to avoid discharging it into the city’s treatment plant. Formaldehyde emissions from the plant meet the strict requirements of the German BImSchG (air quality) law. In Lithuania and several other EU countries, companies are obliged to monitor the ambient air (measuring of immissions). In order to prove compliance with the limits, Swedspan Girių Bizonas has conducted a series of such monitoring studies.

UAB Swedspan Girių Bizonas has implemented both the ISO 9001 quality-management standard and the IWAY standard (the IKEA way of purchasing home furnishing products), which covers environmental, social and working conditions and special wood-purchasing requirements.

Swedspan’s product strategy focuses on developing state-of-the-art lightweight and low emission boards and implementing strict environmental compliance at all the Swedspan plants.



UAB Swedspan Girių Bizonas is the biggest company in the Kazlu Ruda region and produces approximately 450 thousand cubic metres of particle boards a year. By paying meticulous attention to our employees' and society's needs – as well as to the quality of our production – the company attracts investment to the region and secures its development. The taxes paid by Swedspan Girių Bizonas grow steadily each year.

Employees from many different professions work for the company – including engineers, technicians, etc. All in all Swedspan Girių Bizonas employs about 220 people, coming mostly from the Kazlu Ruda region. The company pays a lot of attention to creating and maintaining good working conditions. People at the company are given for example an opportunity to learn English and improve their qualifications; those on shift work are provided with catering facilities.

Swedspan Girių Bizonas operates a salary-supplement system. The variable part of an employee's salary is directly dependent on the volume of production or

sales; additional payments are made after the annual results have been evaluated. This salary-supplement system also includes incentive pay for doing additional work, replacing colleagues, mastering new products, submitting suggestions or actively participating in applying innovations in production and technical development, etc.

Being a socially responsible company, UAB Swedspan Girių Bizonas also contributes to environmental protection activities – e.g. company staff is invited to take part in tree-planting actions. Furthermore, the company supports a kindergarten in Kazlu Ruda.

*"I have been working with the company for ten years. I have actively participated in the changes and innovations, so working here is interesting and offers good prospects. We try to keep team relations as close as possible and to help each other. I am sure the company offers the best conditions for improvement".*

**Renata Saukiene**, administrator.



## HOW THE WOOD BECOMES THE BOARD

1



Round wood and sawdust are brought to the timber yard. Swedspan Girių Bizonas can produce 50% of the raw materials it needs itself, the rest is supplied in the form of sawdust. 30,000 cubic metres of timber and 4,000 cubic metres of particles can be stored at the timber yard. These raw materials are screened, cleaned and processed into particles of the required size and geometry.

2



The particles are dried in a special drum drier which processes 45 tonnes per hour. The energy needed for drying is generated using gas and dust from the production process. Next, the particles are separated according to size; some are used for the production of external surface board layers, others for internal core board layers.

3



The particles are mixed with glue and enter the forming machines, where a “mat” is formed – the body of a large format board.

4



The shaped “mat” is later sent to a press, where it is pressed into a board at a specific temperature and pressure.



The pressed board is cooled down in a “star cooler”, a special device reminiscent of a large fan.



Finally, the board is sanded and cut to the sizes required by the clients.



Some of the polished boards are faced with a special foil with a décor imitating different types of wood. The particle board is now ready to become part of a piece of furniture.



The warehouse at Swedspan Giriu Bizonas can store up to 40,000 cubic metres of boards. They are delivered to the clients as required.

9

Every stage of board production is monitored and checked by our laboratory, whose staff test samples of chips, particles, boards, etc.

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