.

Forestry and Wood Update

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COFORD

Arena House

Arena Road

Sandyford

Dublin 18

Ireland

Tel: +353 - 1 - 2130725

Fax: +353 - 1 - 2130611

Email: info@coford.ie

Web: [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie)

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This newsletter was compiled and edited by Lauren MacLennan,
Technology Transfer Co-ordinator, COFORD

Email: lauren.maclennan@coford.ie

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# Calls for proposals (Open)

**Department of Agriculture and Food Research Stimulus Fund Programme**: Forestry: Review critical loads approach to acid sensitivity; improve understanding of biogeochemical cycles; test effectiveness/design of riparian woodlands; and investigate effectiveness of sediment and suspended solids management systems. [See Dept. Agriculture and Food website for more information.](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/index.jsp?file=tenders_and_notices/RSF/index.xml) Closing date for applications: 26 July 2007.

**EPA/COFORD Call for Research Proposals on Forests and the Aquatic Environment**: [Click here for documentation](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/tech_desc__forestrywater_call__2007.pdf). [See EPA website for more information.](http://www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/funding/current/#d.en.22800) Closing date for applications: 12 September 2007.

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# COFORD/FDA Co-op/ITGA/SIF/Teagasc Field Day

This field day will take place in north Kildare on Friday 6 July and is part of the continuing programme of *Growing Quality Broadleaves*. The theme of this meeting is *Critical time for thinning, tending and respacing of young ash plantations and early management of broadleaved/conifer mixtures.* Participants meet at 10.15 am at the Allen Community Hall, Kilmeague, Naas, Co Kildare. Allen Community Hall is approximately 1 mile from Kilmeague on the Miltown/Newbridge Road. Bus transportation will be provided from hall to and from the sites.

Morning Session: Newark, Kilmeague, Co Kildare on the lands of Eddie Healy.

The first session will open with a discussion on time of first thinning of ash and important issues to be considered at time of first thinning. This will be followed by a practical demonstration of selecting trees for thinning, with participants being taken through this operation and identification of potential final crop trees. A number of thinning plots have already been laid down in the crop and the session will conclude with a visit to one of these.

Leader: Dr Ian Short and Liam Kelly (Teagasc), John Fennessy (COFORD). Prof. Juergen Huss, former Professor of Silviculture, Freiburg University, Germany, and Prof. Padraic Joyce, former Professor of Forestry, University College Dublin, recognised experts in the area of growing broadleaves who be in attendance to provide their views and input to the discussion.

The afternoon session will begin at 2 p.m. at O Mahony's Forest, Pluckerstown, Milltown, Co Kildare (bus transfer will also operate to/from the Pluckerstown site from Allen Community Hall).

Pluckerstown woodland was the winner of the 1994 RDS Irish Forestry Award and consists of 44 ha planted in 1989. Various species mixtures have been planted, incorporating ash, sycamore, oak with Norway spruce, with beech and cherry interplanted in areas. Sitka spruce is planted over the main body of the woodland. The broadleaves and broadleaved/conifer mixtures have been outperforming the Sitka spruce and while the spruce does not yet require thinning the broadleaved/conifer mixtures have been respaced, tended, pruned and thinned over the past year. The afternoon session will discuss planting history, species mixtures, early management and recent operations. Roading and access issues for harvesting and extraction will also be discussed.

Leader: Donal Whelan, Technical Director ITGA.

The co-operation of Eddie Healy, Tom and Eddie O Mahony and Teagasc in organising and hosting this field day is gratefully acknowledged.

For more details contact John Fennessy (john.fennessy @coford.ie).

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# Bioenergy 2007

COFORD, Teagasc and Sustainable Energy Ireland’s Renewable Energy Information Office are presenting Bioenergy 2007 on Thursday 30 August 2007 at Oak Park, Carlow.

This major national one day get together on bioenergy is based on the *Taking you from Know-How to Show-How* concept, combining a comprehensive technology and product exhibition with conference, seminar and workshop sessions, field excursions, site visits and practical demonstrations, all rolled into one comprehensive event. The purpose is to promote the use of solid biomass and raise awareness across all sectors from landowner to end user on the many uses and advantages in growing, harvesting and using wood fuels and energy crops for energy generation.

The Bioenergy 2007 exhibition will give visitors access to the latest product innovation from suppliers within the national bioenergy sector, displaying many pieces of machinery and equipment such as domestic pellet stoves and boilers, commercial wood pellet/chip boilers, chippers, residue bundlers to name but a few.

Exhibitors will have the opportunity to showcase and demonstrate their full range of products and services. The exhibition will be held in a tented village, centrally located and beside the field demonstrations. There will also be ample space to demonstrate various kinds of activities and machines such as chippers, slash bundlers and other equipment not suited to indoor operation.

If you are interested in participating as an exhibitor at this event, please contact Paul Dykes at SEI REIO, email pauld@reio.ie or phone 023 29185/ 087 9978723

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# Forest Energy 2007 chipping demonstrations

The second phase of the COFORD/Teagasc Forest Energy 2007 programme, will demonstrate chipping of forest energy wood at the following locations and dates:

* Tuesday 4 September - Kilconnell, Co Galway. Meet at the Kilconnell Community Centre, Co Galway (on the R348 - Ballinasloe-Athenry road).
* Tuesday 11 September - Bweeng, Co Cork. Meet at the Bweeng Community Centre, Co Galway.
* Friday 14 September - Stranorlar, Co Donegal. Meet at the Finn Valley Centre, Stranorlar, Co Donegal.

Each event will commence at 11a.m. Buses will take groups of participants from the meeting point to the site between 11am and 12.30 pm. Further information on the programme can be found at www.woodenergy.ie

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# COFORD Conference on Forestry, carbon and climate change – local and international perspectives

Climate change is now widely acknowledged as the most important environmental issue facing mankind. According to the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC, impacts on human settlement and ecosystems, particularly at the higher latitudes and in the tropics, are already being felt. Renewed and intensified action to address these impacts is being signalled, particularly for the period post 2012, the end of the first Kyoto commitment period. The most substantial undertaking to date has been the recent announcement by the EU that it will cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 20% by 2020. Achieving reductions of this level will mean fundamental changes in energy, land use and other policy support areas. For civil society it will mean fundamental shifts in transport and other behaviour – everybody will be affected in one way or another.

Forests too will play a key role in attaining compliance with emission reduction targets - directly through carbon sequestration and the avoidance of deforestation - and indirectly through providing renewable wood fuels and materials. Nationally, forests are already playing an important part in the Kyoto compliance regime, particularly new forest planted since 1990; while a broader role for forests and forest products may emerge post 2012. In order to better understand the current role of forests in climate change policy, and how this might develop in the future, COFORD is holding a one-day conference on 19 September 2007 on the theme ***Forests, Carbon and Climate Change - Local and International Perspectives*** at the Glenview hotel, Co Wicklow. The conference will be addressed by leading policy makers and analysts, as well as a number of eminent scientists who are dealing with forest and climate change issues.

Bringing together science and policy, the conference will outline current national initiatives, how these have come about, what they plan to achieve, their economic effectiveness and what the future might hold. In addition, the thinking used to estimate how much greenhouse gases forests actually remove from the atmosphere will be outlined. The afternoon session will feature presentations from eminent national and international experts on the latest thinking on forests and climate change, and on the balance between uptake and losses in the forest carbon cycle. Ongoing work in the COFORD-funded CLIMIT programme will be outlined, including the important area of how current and future forests will be affected by climate change, and how best to plan and manage forests into the future.

All those interested in climate change and the role of forests in mitigating rising levels of greenhouse gases, and how forests themselves may be impacted by future climate regimes, are sure to find attendance at the conference worthwhile. The programme includes the following presentations:

* *Climate change and energy policy – an economic perspective* - John Fitzgerald, Economic and Social Research Institute
* *Ireland’s national climate change strategy* - Owen Ryan, Department of the Environment
* *Forests and the UNFCCC process – an overview* - Jim Penman, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK
* *New Zealand: Forest carbon reporting and the role of forests in climate change policy* - Peter Stevens, New Zealand Ministry for the Environment
* *Global forests and international climate change research* - Ricardo Valentini, University of Tuscia
* *Ireland’s forest carbon reporting system* - Kevin Black, FERS Ltd
* *Forest soils – a vital carbon reservoir* - Ken Byrne, University College Cork
* *The impact of climate change on forests* - Duncan Ray, Forest Research, UK

Booking information and the registration form are available on [www.coford.ie](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/defaultarticle.php?cArticlePath=129_389_401). The cost to attend is €60.00 per delegate. If you wish to register, please email info@coford.ie or phone 01-2130735.

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# COFORD Alder Working Group

A Working Group on common alder was established by COFORD in April 2004 with the objectives to address the current supply and demand for seed and plants of common alder and to develop suitable seed sources to meet a projected increase in future demand on a sustainable basis. Since 2004 work has progressed to the stage that a number of seed sources have been identified and added to the National Catalogue of Seed Stands. In addition, a new breeding programme has begun, with 88 alder plus-trees being identified in several parts of Ireland during the course of 2006. The plus-trees have been successfully grafted and are ready for planing in an alder clone bank. Seed was also collected from each of the plus-trees and the plants from these individual trees are almost ready to be planted out in one-parent progeny trials at a number of sites. Earlier this year a further 42 plus-trees were identified and these will be soon be grafted and planted in the alder clone bank. The aim of this phase of the work is to have a breeding population of at least 200 alder plus-trees selected from a wide geographical spread in Ireland. Further information on the work can be had by contacting Dr Ellen O’Connor at Teagasc (ellen.oconnor@teagasc.ie)

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# Open calls for proposals

The newsletter supplement regularly compiled by InnovaWood ([click here](http://www.coford.ie/iopen24/pub/pub/cofordsupplementjune07.pdf)) for this newsletter contains information about:

* Bioethanol, biorefining and the Green factory. Opportunities for European research in FP7. Current call closes on 11 September 2007.
* Call for projects to carry out research for the benefit of SMEs. Current call closes on 4 September 2007.
* Intelligent Energy Europe programme: Promoting new and renewable energy sources and energy diversification. Part of the European Commission's *Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme* 2007. Call for proposals is now open, closing on 28 September 2007.

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# CARBON CORNER

## Adapting to climate change – global and local pictures

Climate change is now recognised as a serious and growing threat to communities worldwide. Developing countries are particularly vulnerable, as they have limited capacity and resources to adapt to changing weather patterns. Some indication of the likely impacts can be found in the IPPC report *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*:

*Africa*

*By 2020, between 75 and 250 million people are projected to be exposed to an increase of water stress due to climate change. If coupled with increased demand, this will adversely affect livelihoods and exacerbate water-related problems.*

*Agricultural production, including access to food, in many African countries and regions is projected to be severely compromised by climate variability and change. The area suitable for agriculture, the length of growing seasons and yield potential, particularly along the margins of semi-arid and arid areas, are expected to decrease. This would further adversely affect food security and exacerbate malnutrition in the continent. In some countries, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50% by 2020.*

Developed countries have been largely responsible for climate change. There is therefore an onus on them to provide capacity and support to allow developing countries to better adapt to what the IPCC report says is likely to happen in the relatively short period of time up to 2020.

There is also on onus on all developed countries and emerging economies to very substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to lessen future impacts and tackle the problem at source. Leadership in the international arena has been shown by the EU, which has set a 20% reduction target by 2020. Various policies have been outlined to achieve the target, including the use of renewable energy. Making these policies a reality demands concerted and coordinated action across all sectors of the economy, including land use and forestry. Unfortunately this message has not impacted sufficiently in terms of policy supports that envisage the continuation of REPS - in a similar format as before - to the end of 2013, and which will tie-in 40-50,000 land owners.

While REPS will contribute to climate change through reducing national herd numbers and by lessening fertiliser use, it will do very little to directly address the climate change agenda. The one area where it can and should make a direct contribution is in renewable energy – particularly in biomass. Demand for biomass for energy generation is already growing rapidly, and further rapid expansion is forecast due to the various support schemes and measures that are now in place, the continuing upward trend in fossil fuel prices, and the likely introduction of a carbon tax.

Now is an opportune time for policy makers to revisit REPS and seek to in some way to tie in biomass production (most likely using a long-term forestry model) as a central part of the scheme. Locally produced wood fuel is one of the most sustainable and easily managed renewable energies. Including such a requirement in all REPS approved projects would also provide an economic impetus and incentive for rural business development.

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# EUFORGEN Stand-forming Broadleaves Network Meeting

The European Forest Genetic Resources (EUFORGEN) Fifth Stand-forming Broadleaves Network Meeting was held Novi Sad in Serbia, from 27 to 29 June 2007. The local organiser was Sasa Orlovic, National Co-ordinator for Serbia, based at the Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment in Novi Sad. Representatives from the participating countries outlined their country’s forest genetic resources activities and discussed the development of minimum requirements for stand-forming broadleaves.

J. Koskela, EUFORGEN Co-ordinator, introduced the new EUFGIS project (Establishment of a European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources), launched on 1 April 2007 (http://www.bioversityinternational.org/networks/euforgen/News/EUFGIS.htm).

Georg von Whulisch (Chairman) presented an update on the COST Action E52 - *Evaluation of beech genetic resources for sustainable forestry*.

Progress on the TREEBREEDEX project was also presented. It is funded by the EC as a co-ordination action under the 6th Framework RTDI programme. The project is co-ordinated by L. Pâques at INRA Orleans and brings together 28 participating institutes in 19 countries. It builds on the earlier achievements by European forest tree breeders and their networks of experiments. The project started on 1 June 2006 and will continue until 31 May 2010.

The final presentation in this section was a progress report on the EVOLTREE project (Evolution of trees as drivers of terrestrial biodiversity). It is a large EC-funded network of excellence launched in April 2006 to analyze the impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems from an evolutionary perspective

Under the Agenda item Progress made in Network activities the common action plan was discussed and a paper was presented by Alexis Ducousso (France) on European oak species with particular emphasis on endangered oaks in the Mediterranean region. This discussion concluded with the identification and selection of target species requiring future work.

A seminar on genetic resources of stand-forming broadleaves in Serbia included presentations by Ljiljanna Sovilj of the Directorate of Forestry on *Forest genetic resources in Serbia* in which she outlined the most important statistics on genetic resources. This was followed by a paper presented by Vasilije Isajev of the Faculty of Forestry in Belgrade on *Breeding and variability of beech* (*Fagus moesiaca*) *in Ser*bia. Another paper on *Gene pool conservation and seed production of pedunculate oak* was presented by Andrej Pilipovice of the Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment in Novi Sad.

For information on EUFORGEN and its work visit [www.euforgen.org](http://www.euforgen.org/).

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# PhD studentships available

**Greenhouse gas fluxes in peatland forest**s: Based at the Centre for Hydrology, Micrometeorology and Climate Change, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University College Cork, Ireland, the duration of this PhD studentship is 4 years. The value of the studentship is approximately €18,000 per annum (plus fees) and is tax-exempt. Closing date for applications is 20 July 2007. This position is funded by the Irish Council for Forest Research and Development (COFORD). The successful applicant will investigate the effect of afforestation on the greenhouse gas balance in blanket peatlands. The study will be based on a chronosequence which will include a pristine blanket peatland and at least four forest sites spanning the full rotation. Soil fluxes of CO2, CH4 and N2O will be measured using chamber techniques. Litterfall and fine root turnover will also be studied. The successful candidate will possess an undergraduate (first or upper second class) or Masters degree in a cognate Science or Engineering discipline and have numerical analysis skills in FORTRAN, Matlab, IDL, C/++ or a similar environment and experience of statistical software.

**The effect of agricultural liming on carbon sequestration and soil N2O and CH4 fluxes:** Based at the Centre for Hydrology, Micrometeorology and Climate Change, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University College Cork, Ireland, the duration of this PhD studentship is 3 years. The value of the studentship is approximately €18,000 per annum (plus fees) and is tax-exempt. Closing date for applications is 20 July 2007. This position is funded by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency. The successful applicant will investigate the effect of agricultural liming on carbon sequestration and soil N2O and CH4 fluxes using a randomised block experiment. CO2, N2O and CH4 fluxes will be measured using chamber methods. In addition biomass production (above- and belowground) and bicarbonate concentrations in soil water will be measured. The successful candidate will possess an undergraduate (first or upper second class) or Masters degree in a cognate Science or Engineering discipline and have numerical analysis skills in FORTRAN, Matlab, IDL, C/++ or a similar environment and experience of statistical software.

For both these positions, the possession of a full clean driving licence is desirable. Further information on the research activities of the Centre is available at http://www.hydromet.org/. For informal discussion contact: Dr Ken Byrne (k.byrne@ucc.ie) or Prof. Ger Kiely (g.kiely@ucc.ie). Candidates should submit a letter outlining their suitability for the position and a full curriculum vitae, to include the names, addresses and emails of three referees, to: Dr Ken Byrne, Centre for Hydrology, Micrometeorology and Climate Change, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University College Cork, Ireland. Email: k.byrne@ucc.ie

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# Co Clare Wood Energy Project call for expressions of interest

The Co Clare Wood Energy Project is working to facilitate the uptake of wood energy in Co Clare. They invite interested parties to submit expressions of interest for the following forthcoming tenders:

• 2 commercial scale wood chip boiler installations

• 2 wood chip Heat Supply Agreements

• 1 ESCo

Expressions of interest for the tender process should be submitted by 5 pm on Thursday July 19 2007, specifying the relevant tenders. Full tender documentation will be sent out to interested parties. Please send EOI to: Doirin Graham, CCWEP, Rural Resource Development, Shannon Business Centre, Town Centre, Shannon, Co Clare. Email: dgraham@rrd.ie; tel: 061 361144.

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# What is your vision for forestry in Ireland in future?

On behalf of the Heritage Council, Woodlands of Ireland is co-ordinating a wide ranging review of current Heritage Council forest policy to reflect the changing context of forestry and to provide a vision for the future development of forestry in Ireland, with a particular emphasis on the national heritage. The review has been contracted to a collaborative team, and the team members are interested to hear from all forestry stakeholders. They are asking for concise and directed input and welcome comments on any aspects of forests and forestry, but particularly on the following topics:

* Forest policy, legislation, certification and incentives
* Species and site suitability
* Forest products
* Biodiversity
* Recreation
* Silvicultural systems
* Protection of water and soil
* Climate change
* International trends and markets
* National trends and future forestry potential
* Forestry and the landscape
* Public perception and attitudes toward forestry
* Training and research needs

The team is looking for information, ideas and suggestions of a general nature (not site-specific) about forests and forestry in Ireland which will contribute to discussions. Their main question is "what is your vision for forestry in Ireland in the future?" The review team is seeking concise submissions. Bullet points or short paragraphs are welcome, and submissions under 3 pages in length would be appreciated. Recommendations supported by reference to factual or scientific documentation are encouraged, especially if you are recommending targets. To facilitate your participation in this process, a website has been set up with information on the review and on how to make your submission. Please look at www.forestryheritagereview.com and send a concise submission by 21 August 2007.

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# Vacancy at ECE/FAO Timber Section Geneva: leader of work on forest resource assessment

The leader of ECE/FAO work on forest resource assessment, is retiring this summer and candidates are being sought to replace him. The main task is to lead the Section’s work on forest resource assessment, as well as to support work with countries in transition. More background information on the work is at the Section website (http://www.unece.org/trade/timber). Full details of the post will be posted on the UN website. To apply visit http://www.un.org, choose your language, Click Employment, Click Vacancies, Find Economic Affairs Officer, Geneva, P-4

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# Timber homes would offset carbon dioxide

A 10% increase in the number of timber frame homes built within the EU would produce sufficient carbon dioxide savings to meet 25% of EU requirements under the Kyoto Protocol, according to a leading expert in timber frame in Dublin recently. Robin Lancashire, timber frame consultant with the TRADA Technologies (Timber Research and Development Association) was speaking at a seminar entitled “Timber Frame – Energy Efficient Dwellings for the 21st Century” organised by the Irish Timber Frame Manufacturers’ Association. Lancashire said that this saving in carbon dioxide emissions can be made as timber uses less energy to manufacture from raw material to finished product than any other building material. He continued, “Traditional construction materials create other problems; waste material produced on site needs to be transported to landfills, whereas timber frame waste does not leave the manufacturers facility. Timber waste is often used in the manufacture of chipboard and as biodegradable and combustible biomass, any other waste can be disposed of easily”. But there is always room for improvement and Lancashire believes that further EU legislation will be introduced to ensure that old materials from derelict buildings be recycled before any new building commences. Lancashire also added, “Not only can timber frame reduce your carbon footprint but TRADA’s research has shown that using timber also helps to save energy over the life of a building as it provides excellent thermal insulation. In fact, timber is 15 times more efficient than concrete, 400 times better than steel and 1,700 times better than aluminium”. According to Philip Mahony, Manager of Irish Timber Frame Manufacturers’ Association, “Timber frame’s Irish market share is on the increase. The more the timber frame method of construction is used in Ireland the more we are doing to play our part in helping the country achieve its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol”. For further information see [www.itfrma.ie](http://www.itfrma.ie)

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# Seed Orchard Conference in Umeå, Sweden

Seed orchards constitute the cradle for most cultivated forests. Sometimes seed orchards are needed just to get a reliable reproducible seed supply and are the most important interface between forestry and tree breeding and supporting research. In late September all those who are interested in the various aspects of seed orchard establishment and management will have an opportunity to meet and discuss the many aspects of seed orchard development in Umeå in Sweden. The conference is scheduled to take place from 26 to 28 September 2007. For further information and full details on this conference go to: <http://www-genfys.slu.se/staff/dagl/Umea07/Umea07.htm>

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# Call for ESF research networking programme proposals

ESF Research Networking Programmes bring together nationally funded research activities for four to five years, to address major scientific issues or science-driven topics of research infrastructure at the European level with the aim of advancing the frontiers of science. The Call and the submission form are available at <http://www.esf.org/activities/research-networking-programmes/2007-call-for-proposals.html>. The deadline for submission is 30 October 2007.

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# Third European Conference on Wood Modification

This event takes place on 15-16 October 2007, at The Angel Hotel, Cardiff. The programme for ECWM3 has now been published, with many scientific and industrial presentations reporting developments in this field. The conference is being hosted by Dr Callum Hill of University of Wales, Bangor, following successful conferences in Gehnt (2003) and Gottingen (2005). All details are available on the conference website www.ecwm3.com

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# International Panel Products Symposium (IPPS 2007)

This event takes place from 17 to 19 October 2007 at The Angel Hotel, Cardiff. The new name for the European Panel Products Symposium reflects its increasingly international flavour. The conference addresses all aspects of the panel products industry. The full programme is available from the conference website [www.ipps.uk.com](http://www.ipps.uk.com).

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