



NEWS RELEASE

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Freres Lumber Awarded \$250,000 Wood Innovations Grant

Mass Plywood Panel project gets boost from U.S. Forest Service grant

LYONS, ORE. 13 JUNE 2017—[Freres Lumber Co., Inc.](#) applied for and was recently awarded a [U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovations grant](#) for its new product, the Mass Plywood Panel (MPP). Freres Lumber was granted \$250,000 to help pay for a computer numeric code (CNC) machine, which helps finish panels to buyers' specifications.

"We were recently informed that our Mass Plywood Plant was named the Forest Service's top project in the United States," says Rob Freres, Executive Vice President. "This was a competitive process with 114 grant applications submitted for consideration."

This grant award will go toward purchasing a Weinmann CNC machine that uses computer aided design and computer aided machining to saw doors, windows and all other cutouts with precision and efficiency. Panels will be cut with the CNC machine to fit specific projects, eliminating labor and time at commercial building sites.

The Mass Plywood Panel facility will be Freres Lumber Company's seventh wood processing plant. Plant construction is estimated to cost upwards of \$23 million. The plant is expected to open for manufacturing in January 2018 and will begin with employing approximately twenty people per shift. The economic impact is expected to have a positive trickle-down effect, as well, retaining nearly 500 existing Freres family wage jobs, and retaining hundreds of indirect jobs, as well.

"This grant award provides welcome financial support for our company's significant investment in the future direction of our veneer based wood products market," says Rob.

"Patents are currently pending for the Mass Plywood Panel," said Tyler Freres, Vice President of Sales. "MPP is a new-to-the-world product. It is a carbon neutral substitute for concrete and steel in multi-level structures. It is one-sixth the weight of concrete and will provide a stronger, lighter, smaller, less expensive option than cross-laminated timbers."

Testing through Oregon State University of Forestry and the Center for Advanced Wood Products has proven that MPP can achieve the same structure attributes of Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) while using 20 to 30 percent less wood. Like CLT, MPP panels can be manufactured up to 24 inches thick, 12 feet wide and 48 feet long.

The U.S. Forest Service points out that the public-private partnerships leveraged with these grants will lead to the removal of hazardous fuels from forests while spurring the economic development of rural communities. "The Wood Innovations Grant Program helps create jobs in rural communities and keeps our forests healthy," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "By investing in strong markets for forest products, we can incentivize sustainable forest management and sustain our rural communities."

For more information on the Mass Plywood Panel, visit www.frereslumber.com/products-and-services/mass-plywood-panel.

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About Freres Lumber Company

Freres Lumber was established in 1922 by T.G Freres on the North Fork of Oregon's Santiam River. Over the last ninety years, and three generations of family management, the company has evolved from a small sawmill to one of Oregon's premier wood products manufacturing companies. The company now operates six plants, including a small log veneer plant, large log veneer plant, veneer drying facility, studmill, plywood plant and cogeneration facility. Freres is committed to maintaining modern manufacturing facilities, producing high-quality wood products, and providing family wage jobs to the local area. For more information, visit www.frereslumber.com or call 503-859-2121.