

THE EXCELLENCE ISSUE

The original Stakpro systems built by Trussquip, were an extremely reliable and clever way of stacking both trusses and frames without even touching the finished product!

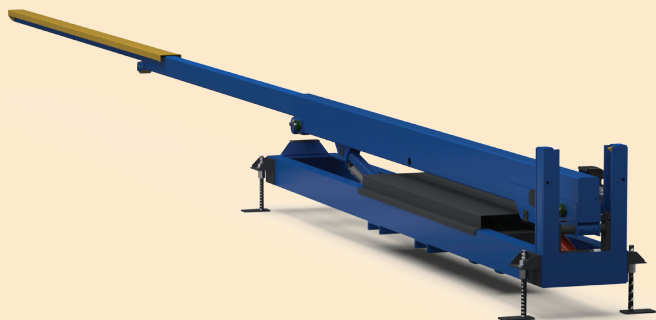


THE FIRST NEW AND IMPROVED VEKTA STAKPRO UNITS ARE HOT OFF THE PRESS!

With Trussquip now closed down, and the first of many Stakpro units built by Vekta now complete, we are proud to say this product line lives on and is better than ever!

The benefits are very easy to see:

- Eliminate the risk of manual handling injuries
- Fast and efficient – one person can stack even the largest trusses
- Eliminate repetitive stress injuries
- Reduce staff fatigue



Health and safety is on the forefront of everyone's mind and getting a team of workers together to manually lift a large, awkward truss is dangerous on so many levels. What happens if someone trips? How much is each person lifting and how are they lifting the load? On top of this, consider the fact that there are now two, three, or even four workers not actually building trusses and frames. Instead, they are awkwardly handling each and every unit that comes out of your factory. Try adding up the time (money) spent manually handling the finished product – you might be surprised!

The Stakpro product line is a cost-effective way to both reduce risk of injury and to improve the efficiency and productivity of your plant. One operator does the job of many with the simple use of a remote control – and he does it faster!

If you are interested in finding out more about the Stakpro visit our website vekta.com.au/stakpro or give us a call.

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MEET THE VEKTA TEAM Q&A

Meet Taylor Jenkin, our Customer Relations Manager

As part of Vekta's dedication to providing the highest quality support for all of our customers we have recently appointed Taylor Jenkin as our Customer Relations Manager. Taylor will be overseeing our service and support department and will be working with our customers to ensure that they can relax when it comes to their service and support needs.

What helped you decide you wanted to work at Vekta?

When I walked into to my interview I noticed that everyone was happy, it was a pretty good first impression. Looking around the building there were so many photos of family which led me to believe that the Vekta culture is family first.

I always wanted to be an actress until I learnt that public speaking really just isn't my thing.

What did you want to be growing up?

Ping Pong and playing guitar. The Ping Pong causes a great deal of disputes amongst the household, I am a little bit dubious about some of the line calls!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

What are some other places you have lived?

I have lived in Holland, New Zealand and the UK. My favourite place so far being Barcelona..... I'm still working on making the world's best Paella.

Tell us a bit about your family?

I live with my amazing partner Ben who I have been with for 5 years. We both agree that we would like to get a dog or two but might just start with a goldfish!

My mother owns and manufactures organic skincare in Melbourne, my brother is my best friend who will strongly disagree to a lot my table tennis calls. My Dad is the sweetest and most stubborn human in the world, I am sure he would say the same thing about his daughter.

I would have to say my achievements are made daily, constantly developing my skills and being so fortunate to work alongside some of the most interesting people who I am happy to call my friends. I would like to say my favourite memory aside from building fantastic customer relationships and being offered the role of Customer Relations Manager, would be learning to operate a drone without crashing it into oncoming colleagues.

And the Christmas parties are hilarious.

What has been your favourite memory/achievement at Vekta?

THE EXCELLENCE ISSUE



CURTIN BUSINESS SCHOOL

VISITS VEKTA

Vekta has recently had a visit from about 70 students from Curtin University, as a part of Curtin's 'Work Integrated Learning' program.



The aim of the visit to Vekta was to allow the students to observe and examine how managing operations occurs within a real business environment.

As a part of the visit Ed gave a presentation to assist the students in completing a report where they are required to make connections between what they have observed at Vekta and the theory they have been learning. Areas covered include the importance and interrelatedness of business strategy and operations, lean manufacturing, product design and process selection, facility layout and capacity planning, inventory management, supply chain and the management of quality.

We believe that visits like this not only help the Curtin students, but also provide a fantastic opportunity for us to reflect on our current business situation and to take on new ideas for improvement. We look forward to a continuing relationship between Vekta and Curtin University.

OUR CORE VALUES

From engineering and design to the manufacturing of products and building relationships, Vekta upholds these core values.

SAFETY

IT'S TOP OF OUR LIST

From design to engineering, manufacturing, install and training - safety supersedes everything at Vekta.

EXCELLENCE

OUR PRODUCTS LEAD THE WAY

At Vekta, we are continuously striving for excellence in our engineering, manufacturing, software and customer relations

TECHNOLOGY

WE'RE ALWAYS INNOVATING

Vekta is highly adaptable and we pride ourselves on providing innovative technological solutions that are customised for each individual business and their unique needs.

CUSTOMER FOCUS

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

From buying, installation, training and technical support Vekta focuses on the customer- their needs, their requirements, their satisfaction.

THE EXCELLENCE ISSUE

OPTIMISING CHAOS

Optimisation... Getting the most out of your linear saw always seems to be a hot topic and more and more plants are looking to explore their options for optimising their saws.

Optimisation... In general, most plants want to mix up the cutting list, while still controlling the order that the members cut by the saw. This allows some gains in waste/cost to be had by the combining members but still allows the cut components to be stacked easily according to truss once they come out of the saw.

Interestingly, over the past few years I have seen a number of plants starting to re-think this approach. Some plants are starting to say bugger the order of the components coming out of the saw – let's give the saw full rein and let it come up with the very best solution possible! The approach might sound half-baked at first but there are some compelling justifications behind the strategy.

First, if we look at the more traditional approach, plants tend to mix and match components but more or less want the components to come out truss by truss. In most cases, our customers will let the system optimise, and hence cut, a few trusses at a time to reduce waste and/or cost but they are essentially controlling the order in which the members come out of the saw. This means that stacking the cut components on trolleys is relatively straight forward but the restrictions placed on the optimisation to maintain the order naturally prevents the best possible solution from being realised. It also means that the order of the raw timber being fed into the saw will tend to be random. The argument for this approach is that it's much easier to load timber onto the infeed in a random order than it is to stack cut components by truss on trolleys when they are coming out of a saw fast and in a random order. Fair enough!

But the flip side of this is that timber cost is a substantial portion of the total cost of the truss – significantly outweighing labour costs, or so I'm told. If a random (or at the very least a highly relaxed)

order of cut components could be handled with little, if any, additional labour costs, then why not – but how?

Well, one approach is to stack the components based on member type – not truss. Taking this further, a truss build order number might be printed on each member – i.e. which trusses are to be built first, second, third, etc. In this case, the operator simply stacks all like members in a certain location (for example on a tree-trolley) and in the order specified by the build number. Another approach I've seen is to use additional outfeed kickoffs to help sort the members coming out – certain trusses and/or member types go to certain kickoff locations. This obviously isn't an option for many plants but might be something to consider if you're thinking of going to a new location. As an added advantage, once you give up trying to sort out the outfeed side of the saw, you can instil order on the infeed without sacrificing waste/cost – cutting all sticks of timber that are of the same grade and length at once for example. This makes loading the infeed even easier – which, of course, means a savings in labour.

Which method is right for you – I can't answer that but there are enough plants thinking outside the box with this one that I thought a brief discussion might be warranted. There are usually compromises involved in most optimising approaches but with a little creative thinking, almost anything is possible!

Ed Serrano is the Managing Director of Vekta Automation. Ed has more than 10 years of experience with the Prefabricated Truss and Frame industry, all of which has involved the Razer linear saw and other forms of automation. With a solid understanding of the conditions and needs of truss plants and his experience in industrial automation, he has helped many plants overcome machinery obstacles and has been instrumental to the success of the Razer saws.

Christmas
closedown

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family, and staff a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

We wish to advise that our operating hours over the festive season will be as follows:
Office/ Workshop: Closed from Friday the 23rd of December 2016 and returning on Wednesday the 4th of January 2016.