

## Regulatory Announcement

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**Company** [Accsys Technologies PLC](#)  
**TIDM** AXS  
**Headline**  
**Released**  
**Number**



**20th March 2006**

**AIM: AXS**

### **Accoya wood to Set "New Standards of Reliability" across Windows, Doors and Cladding Markets**

Following BSW Timber's recent Press Release, which is reproduced below, Accsys Technologies PLC comments as follows:

- BSW recognises the market potential for Accoya wood, with its exceptional attributes: dimensional stability, durability, reliability and sustainability;
- BSW will promote Accoya wood to UK & Ireland's major window, door manufacturers and joinery firms and has further plans to market Accoya wood in the timber cladding sector through the A. Proctor Group Ltd.;
- BSW has forged an exclusive agreement with leading coatings supplier Akzo Nobel Sikkens to provide a package of coatings guarantees for windows and doors that is set to create a new industry benchmark; and
- Extensive testing has yielded impressive results, endorsed by British Research Establishment.

*BSW Press Release reads as follows:* " BSW Timber, the UK's largest sawmilling group, is hoping a new high performance wood will significantly increase its share in the windows, doors and cladding markets.

The company has signed an agreement with Titan Wood to be the exclusive supplier across the UK and Ireland of Accoya wood - a modified, environmentally friendly wood that offers outstanding levels of performance, stability and sustainability.

Following two years of extensive research, BSW is now promoting Accoya wood to many of the UK's leading window and door manufacturers as well as joinery firms, and is further planning a route to market for the timber cladding sector through the A Proctor Group. BSW has also signed an exclusive agreement with leading coatings supplier Akzo Nobel Sikkens to provide a high quality finish for the new product.

Accoya wood offers performance attributes that are equivalent to or better than the best tropical hardwoods and superior to many artificial material alternatives. It is produced using a patented process that adapts sustainably grown softwoods and non-durable hardwoods by increasing the amount of acetyl molecules present in the wood. Natural wood has 2% acetyl molecules, oak has 4% and Accoya wood has 20%.

Wood acetylation protects wood from rot by making it inedible to most micro-organisms and insects, without making it toxic. It also greatly reduces the wood's tendency to swell and shrink, making it less prone to cracking and ensuring that when painted it requires dramatically reduced maintenance.

Since acetyl molecules are already present in all wood species, the process does not introduce anything that does not occur naturally in wood and Accoya wood is therefore completely non-toxic.

John Alexander, Head of Business Development at BSW Timber, says: "Accoya wood will raise standards of reliability and performance for timber windows, doors and cladding to new levels. It is a high performance wood product, which has excellent environmental credentials and is more sustainable than other materials used in non-timber windows and doors.

"Testing of Accoya wood for machining properties, gluing and coatings has now been completed, with excellent results. We now offer a product that has new levels of warranty against decay and a new warranty for quality coating finishes, and does not require any further preservative treatment at joinery companies' factories.

"Significantly, these benefits are endorsed and backed by leading third party technical experts such as the British Research Establishment. And our two-year commercial partnership with Akzo Nobel Sikkens will offer a solution for joinery companies looking for new market opportunities and increased manufacturing efficiencies.

"We aim for this advanced technology to contribute to our partner and customer success in the joinery products market, as well as helping them compete with non-wood products and imported timber windows."

Customer trials of Accoya wood in key product applications are currently underway in the UK with BSW and Titan Wood interested in establishing reference projects for the UK, in cladding in particular, during the next four to six months.

Trial material, at maximum four metres lengths, is coming to the UK from Titan Wood's largescale pilot plant in the Netherlands. Titan Wood is presently building a 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> commercial scale production plant, with start-up due in September 2006.

Initial commercial volumes are expected to be available in the UK through BSW towards the end of 2006. Larger volumes will be available in the in 2007 once the Dutch operating plant achieves full operating conditions. BSW Timber plans to establish a BSW Accoya wood production plant in the UK as the market materialises."

**ACCOYA is a registered trademark owned by Titan Wood Limited**

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors: BSW Timber in the UK / Europe**

- BSW Timber is the largest sawmilling business in Great Britain. The company has six sawmills in the UK and one in Latvia, producing a total of over 600,000m<sup>3</sup> of sawn timber per year.
- BSW Timber supply sawn timber products to customers in the Construction, Pallet and Packaging, Fencing and Garden Products sectors.
- BSW is committed to supporting sustainable forestry, and use FSC certification by independent auditors as a way to display this.
- All BSW Timber sawmills have FSC Chain of Custody Certificates, and all timber supplied from UK sawmills is FSC certified.
- BSW Timber's Group Headquarters is in Earlston, Berwickshire. Its six UK sawmills are based in:
  - o Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire / Fort William, Inverness-shire / Petersmuir, East Lothian / Carlisle, Cumbria / Newbridge-on-Wye, Powys / Senghenydd, Mid Glamorgan

**Accsys Technologies** - owns the rights to a number of processes, including high temperature cracking and cellulose modification. Accsys' core technologies have either existing patent protection or pending patent applications. Accsys is focusing its energies on the launch of its Titan Wood business: once this business has been established, the Directors intend to pursue other technologies within its portfolio.

**Wood Acetylation** - Wood acetylation is a process which increases the amount of 'acetyl' molecules in wood, thereby changing its physical properties. The process protects wood from rot by making it "inedible" to most micro-organisms and insects, without – unlike conventional treatments – making it toxic. It also greatly reduces the wood's tendency to swell and shrink, making it less prone to cracking and ensuring that when painted it requires dramatically reduced maintenance.