



Satisfied faces during the acceptance test and final assembly in Minden: Christophe Godefroy, Basile Poisson, Boris Cousin of Arbonis and Jonas Keller and Jan Deppermann of MINDA (f.l.)



The DuoZink12 finger-jointing machine during pre-commissioning at MINDA

Setting New Standards for GLT Production in France

Innovative Manufacturing Solution for Sophisticated Timber Construction

In partnership with one of France's leading timber construction companies, MINDA, based in Minden, Germany, is currently implementing an extraordinary project: Arbonis, a subsidiary of the Vinci Group, is building an automated production line in Chemillé-en-Anjou, France for manufacturing glulam in a straight shape and in large-format beams in a curved shape. The line incorporates numerous new developments and demonstrates how automation, flexibility, and continuous material flow can be combined in a modern timber production.

For more than 40 years, Arbonis has been a recognized market leader in timber construction and supports construction projects from planning through implementation. With its own design and construction offices, as well as three production sites, the company develops sophisticated timber construction solutions for a variety of applications.

The first contact between Arbonis and MINDA was arranged in 2024 by the French sales partner TBM and its managing director, Patrick Meyer. The company was looking for a partner to help implement a fully automated production line manufacturing both straight glulam beams and curved beams cost-effectively. At the same time, the goal was to develop a future-proof solution that minimizes the operational efforts.

Jointly Developed Solution

Working closely with the customer, MINDA developed a plant layout for

a combined production. From board feeding to the finished beam, the entire material flow is fully automated. The operator is primarily responsible for monitoring tasks, while all production steps are interconnected.

A DuoZink 12 finger-jointing machine of the latest generation of MINDA is included in this facility.

The line is complemented by a newly developed block storage system with fully automated destacking.

Straight and curved beams on one production line

A hydraulic TimberPress V 220 flex is used to manufacture straight glulam beams up to a length of 18 meters. Melamine is used as glue, which is applied contactless. The pressure is applied from above, ensuring a uniform, high-quality gluing. A following finishing planer then performs the necessary planing for standard beams and beams glued together as a block.

A key focus of the project is the production of curved beams. In collaboration with Arbonis, MINDA developed the new TimberPress C 500 flex for this purpose. It can be used to create curved boards to produce glulam beams up to a length of 44 mm cost-effectively.

The press concept differs significantly from conventional methods: The beams to be pressed, consisting of up to two beams, are fed into the press bed by an overhead crane. Then the press processes the package fully automatically into shape before the tie rods are tightened.

After that, the shaped press package is placed next to the press for curing. This results in a continuous and flexible production flow throughout the shift.

Digitalization as the Centerpiece

The complete production is controlled via a production control system. MINDA's intuitive Flowmate user interface supports employees at every stage of the process and provides a transparent overview of the entire production process. In this way, Arbonis lays the groundwork for efficient and future-proof manufacturing.

Installation of the system at Arbonis is currently underway. Start of production is scheduled for early 2027. This project will not only create new production capacity for the French market, but also innovative solutions that have the potential to advance the production of glued laminated timber sustainably.



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