

Article for Holzkurier, Issue 11/2026

Combined Expertise

A year of successful integration for solid wood

It has been about a year since Howial became part of the MINDA family. A review shows that the integration has not only taken place on paper but is also progressing rapidly in practice and on a technical level. The industry benefits from a strong full-service provider that not only has decades of experience but also impresses with its software expertise.

The fact that the acquisition is a win-win for both sides is already evident in day-to-day business. Howial brings decades of expertise in finger jointing technology, perfectly complementing MINDA's portfolio in the solid wood sector. In return, Howial benefits significantly from the structures within the MINDA Group. A decisive factor for customers: MINDA is now providing strong support to Howial in the service sector.

Thanks to MINDA's significantly larger workforce, response times can be shortened and service calls handled even more flexibly worldwide.

Unified control and management system

In the technical sector as well, important steps were taken last year to set the course for the future. As part of standardization and technological development, the control technology of Howial's finger jointing machines was systematically upgraded to meet industry standards. Siemens controls are now used in combination with SEW drive technology. For the customer, this means significantly easier integration of the machines into existing production lines as well as simplified spare parts management. Several successfully implemented projects that have gone into operation with the new Siemens/SEW equipment already prove that this was the right decision.

The next technological step has also already been determined: Software engineers are currently developing a new, scalable lamella production computer based on the proven MINDA control system "FlowMate." This higher-level control system is specifically tailored to the requirements of the finger jointing machine. As a result, Howial benefits from the most advanced system on the market, while the finger jointing machines will seamlessly integrate into MINDA software environments in the future.

Integration and market success

The fact that the integration works not only strategically but also culturally is evident at the company locations. Howial moved into a new, modern building in Pohlheim, Hessen—a clear commitment to the future.

Furthermore, the collaboration is actively practiced. Howial employees regularly visit the MINDA plants and vice versa. It has been clear since the joint Christmas party, if not before: it's not just two companies that are growing together here, but two teams as well.

Economic successes have also been achieved since the merger. In Central Europe, three new Flyback-HVP-28 compact machines were sold for the production of structural timber bars. In addition, a new DUOZINK 12 was sold to a glulam producer and a DUOZINK 15 to a laminated timber manufacturer. It is evident that, together with MINDA, Howial has not only maintained but also expanded its business potential.

Article for Holzkurier, Issue 11/2026

The Perfect Puzzle Piece

The management teams of both companies are highly satisfied with their first year of collaboration.

Robert Falch, Managing Director of MINDA, sums up:

"With Howial, we have found the perfect piece of the puzzle for our portfolio. In addition to conveyor technology and presses, we can now offer our customers finger jointing technology from a single source, thus expanding our expertise in the field of complete systems." Michael Hofmann, Managing Director of Howial, also sees decisive advantages for the market in this partnership: "With MINDA's development and service power behind us, we are raising our proven finger jointing technology to the next level."

The course has thus been set for the second year of the partnership. MINDA and Howial demonstrate what a successful integration can look like—one in which, in the end, one party comes out on top: the customer.



The course is set for the future:
Michael Hofmann (Managing Director of Howial) and Robert Falch (Managing Director of MINDA)

Article for Holzkurier, Issue 11/2026



Robert Falch (Managing Director of MINDA), Nikolaj Gavrilov (Sales, Finge Jointing Machines), and Michael Hofmann (Managing Director of Howial) in the production hall for finger jointing machines (from left)



Integration in practice: The Howial and MINDA teams growing together, here at the Pohlheim site

Article for Holzkurier, Issue 11/2026



Howial's new company site in Pohlheim