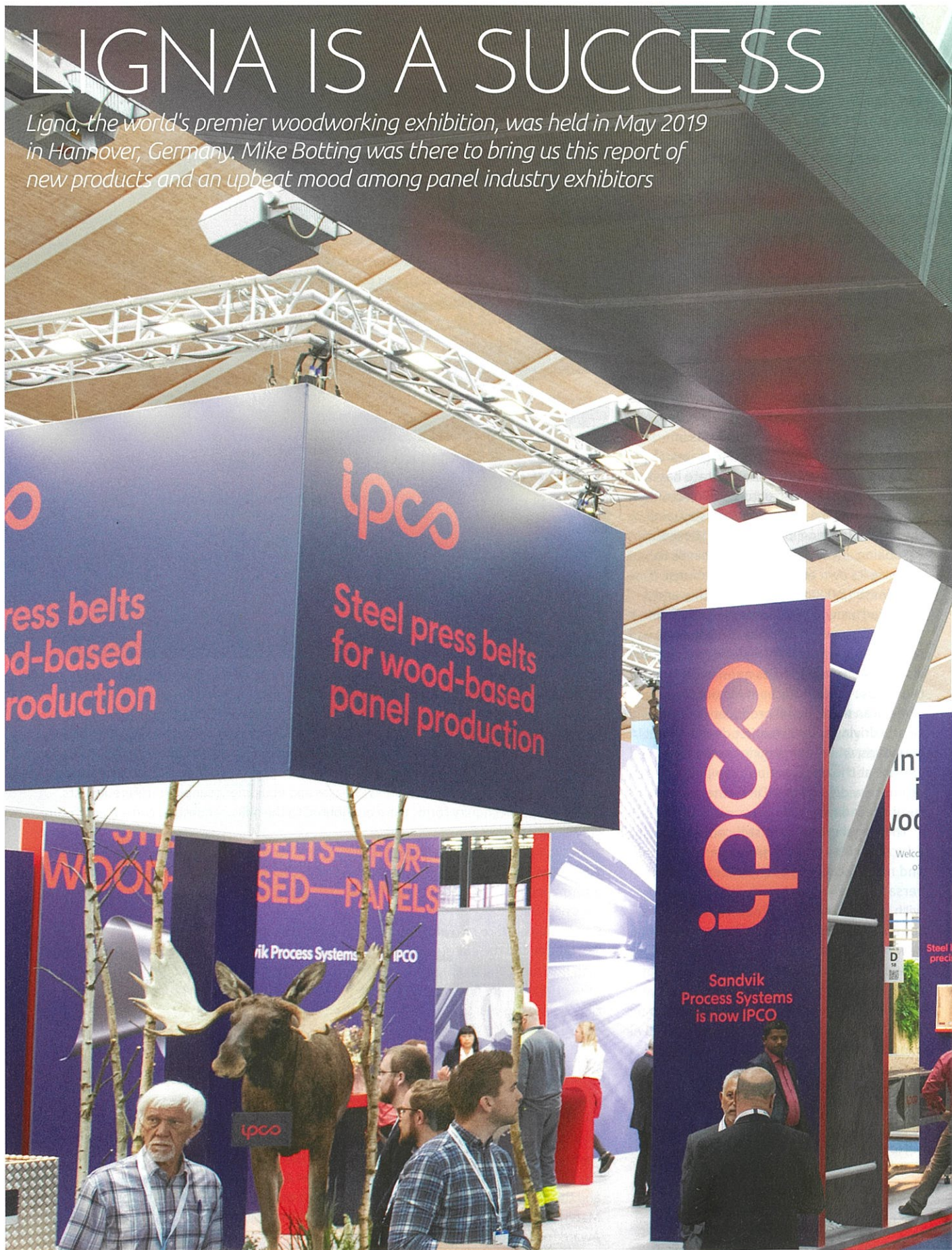


LIGNA IS A SUCCESS

Ligna, the world's premier woodworking exhibition, was held in May 2019 in Hannover, Germany. Mike Botting was there to bring us this report of new products and an upbeat mood among panel industry exhibitors





This biennial exhibition is, of course, an essential tool for anyone wishing to sell machinery, chemicals or services to the woodworking industry, globally.

Visitors came from Europe east and west, Asia, China, Latin America and North America to see what is new on the market. They were not disappointed, with plenty of innovations to see.

Meanwhile, all the panel industry-related exhibitors to whom I spoke said it had been the best Ligna in years. Yes, visitor numbers were universally seen as being down, but the quality of the discussions held during the show was very good. This suggests that, because budgets are tight, only senior members of staff – the decision makers – were sent to visit the show.

My first call happened to be at the stand of Chimar (Chimar Hellas SA), which was promoting its resin technology. The company moved into new premises late last year and now has everything under one roof.

Charles Markessini, son of founders Effi and Andrew Markessini, is responsible for third party R&D projects and was the initiator of the Durabind product range, offering no- or zero-added formaldehyde (NAF) resins.

BioPiva is a lignin phenol formaldehyde resin for plywood. Chimar said it has successfully replaced phenol content at levels of up to 80%. The company is also concentrating on pMDI accelerators.

Stela of Germany was exhibiting its low-temperature 'RecuDry' belt dryer for panel lines, claiming 35-55% energy savings.

Plywood specialist Plytec of Finland offers complete lines for veneer scarfing and patching, as well as grading, lay-up and stacking lines. Vice-president Tomi Virolainen said he had signed a very big contract on the first day of the show with a Russian birch plywood manufacturer.

Sharing Plytec's stand was Elliott Bay, which is well-known as a specialist in the measurement of veneer moisture content on-the-line.

The former Sandvik Process Systems is now known as IPCO (standing for Industrial Processing Company), following its acquisition by the Swedish Wallenberg Group two years ago.

IPCO continues the former company's concentration on stainless steel continuous belts for panel production, but also has a new line in steel belts for digital printing

