

PRODUCT: Tree assessment scanning technology based on laser scanning and image analysis.

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Enda Keane, CEO

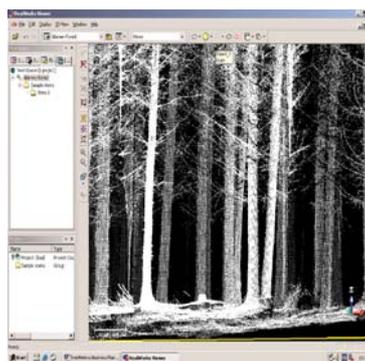
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| Innovation Partners: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecommunications Software Systems Group (TSSG) • Institute of Forest Growth, University of Freiburg, Germany |
| Government Supporting Agencies: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Council for Forest Research and Development (COFORD) • Enterprise Ireland |
| Notable Achievements: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winner of the Schweighofer Prize 2005 |

TreeMetrics Ltd was founded by Enda Keane and Garret Mullooly and is based in Cork. The company has been researching and developing a laser based forest assessment system for the past two years. In 2004 they participated in the Genesis Enterprise Programme which was supported by Enterprise Ireland and Cork Institute of Technology.



This team have co-operated in the research and development of a new forest assessment technology which will allow foresters and researchers to monitor forest crop attributes. The technology is based around the use of ground based lasers and image processing. This year they embarked on a proof of concept project funded by COFORD, the Irish national council for forest research and development.

TreeMetrics Ltd CEO, Mr Enda Keane, explains how the partnership developed. "Both of the founders have a background in forestry and although we were confident that we had developed a novel use for laser scanning we recognised that we would have to build a strong multi-disciplined team to commercialise this concept. To this end we first identified Freiburg University and Professor Heinrich Specker as a preferred partner. Freiburg had the necessary forest statistic analysis experience and specific knowledge of laser scanning. They had spent three years working on similar applications. TreeMetrics Ltd were able to provide the necessary funding to keep the Freiburg team intact and we negotiated a mutually acceptable agreement on intellectual property rights."



Their work has shown that terrestrial laser scanners can provide timber growers and processors with significantly more information about the quality and value of forest crops. One major advantage of scan data technology is that a significant amount of data are captured and stored for subsequent analysis. In essence, a 3D image of individual stems can be captured in the field and measured later in an office (virtual) environment and, with the use of appropriate data processing and

interpretation software, the compilation and analysis of large amounts of measurement data is possible. This will lead to many advantages for forest owners and buyers in the areas of supply chain analysis, forest valuation and optimisation of forest harvesting.

Operations Director of TreeMetrics Ltd, Mr Garret Mullooly, explains the next step. "The next partner we identified was TSSG. This group operates on the Waterford Institute of Technology and has strong experience in project management, having successfully managed FP6 projects with multiple partners across the EU. However, they also had the necessary computing technology skills to pull all of the pieces of our jigsaw together."

The company were recently awarded the 2005 Schweighofer Prize in the forestry category in recognition of the innovative nature of this system.



Gerald Schweighofer, Enda Keane (TreeMetrics), Prof. Heinrich Specker, Garret Mullooly (TreeMetrics) and Georg Eirlacher at the Schweighofer Prize award ceremony in Vienna, Austria in June 2005.