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## Papyrus to export banana-based products

Wednesday, 2 December 2009

**After 15 years of research and development, Papyrus Australia is ready to produce commercial quantities of the world's first ever fibreboard and veneer products for export to Europe. The fibre produced in its Walkamin factory in far North Queensland, branded *Beleaf*, is both water-resistant and fire retardant.**

The company, which utilises fibre from the waste trunk of the banana plant to produce paper and timber products, developed the technology that takes an otherwise unused waste material to produce high-value paper, cardboard, veneer and fibreboard products.

Papyrus is quick to note that its process does not contribute to the destruction of natural or purpose-planted forests and does not consume any chemicals or water during manufacture.

It also has much lower production costs when compared to traditional tree pulping technologies.

At the company's AGM on Monday, Papyrus chairman Ted Byrt announced its intentions to export the banana-based veneer and fibre to Europe.

"We have identified Europe as our first market for our products and have signed an export agreement with European veneer company 3W Tout Bois," Byrt said.

"Our aim is to become a technology licensing company, but this requires us to first prove our technology and validate the commercial values of our banana veneer and fibre products in a production environment."

The company's next goal will be to increase production levels, commission a fibre cutting machine and explore new markets.



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