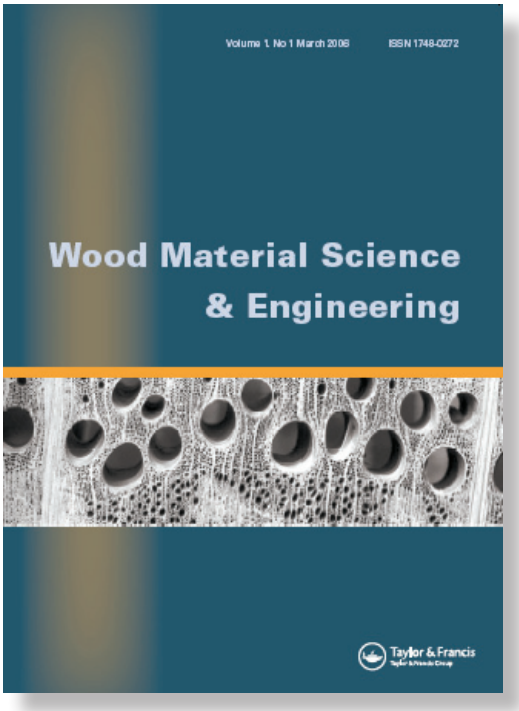
‘Wood Material Science and Engineering’, an important player in wood science publication



“We have a good inflow of high-quality manuscripts, and we publish our issues on time. Therefore, I consider the health of Wood Material Science and Engineering to be very good.”, says Professor Dick Sandberg, editor-in-chief of the journal.

SNS initiative

Wood Material Science and Engineering was first published in March 2006. It started because of an SNS initiative, specifically through its Nordic-Baltic network Wood Science and Engineering. The motivation was the shortage of journals within the field, particularly wood engineering, and the long lead times for publication in the main international journals.

SNS is sponsoring the editorial work, which was originally headed by Professor Magnus Wålinder at KTH Royal Institute of Technology. Dick Sandberg from Linneaeus University took over in 2009, with Dr Jimmy Johansson, Prof Magnus Wålinder and Dr Charles Frihart as co-editors.

Wood Material Science and Technology has recently applied to be indexed by the Thomson Reuter Web of Science.

“The decision will be taken in 2013, but we are convinced that the board will regard the journal as a high-quality actor that fulfils the requirements. The journal will become even more attractive once we can specify an impact factor”, says Dick Sandberg.

Currently, about 50 manuscripts are received per year, and about 70% are finally accepted for publication. Authors from Europe dominate, but contributions also come from other parts of the world. A current topic that receives much attention is wood modification, including heat treatments and thermodynamic modification.

Nordic net-working

The journal operates within a field of science where the Nordic and North European countries are very important actors. These countries have a large forest resource, and forest industry is important. The journal therefore focuses on issues important for the competitiveness of forest-based actors in these regions. The journal is, however, widely read and downloaded throughout the world. Outside Europe, most engagement is found in the USA and Canada.

Nordic cooperation in wood engineering is strong and important. Recent projects supported by SNS have covered topics such as communication to the market of the environmental values of wood products, xylan modification, surface modification with wood hemicellulose and the use of wood to mitigate climate change.

The Nordic-Baltic network Wood Science and Engineering has a busy agenda with workshops, conferences and exchange programmes (see News & Views No. 2, 2012).

“The network provides arenas to meet, and such meetings are prerequisites for cooperation and high-quality research”, says Dick Sandberg, who is actively involved in the network.

The editor
Dick Sandberg has been Professor of Forest Products at Linnaeus University in Växjö since 2008. He heads the Technology & processing unit and is involved in several wood engineering research projects in close cooperation with the woodworking industry.

Linnaeus University was formed in 2010 after a merger between the universities of Kalmar and Växjö in southern Sweden. The Forest Products unit is one part of the sphere “Forest products and sustainable development” with about 50 employees, including nine professors. Forest Products supports the development of forest products and timber industries in the country, particularly in southern Sweden. Linnaeus University cooperates extensively with the industry, for example with the forest owners association Södra, IKEA and the Swedish Forest Industries Federation.