



Field Demonstration: Automatic Quick Coupler Kinleith Forest, Tokoroa Thursday 21st March, 2024

Dear Industry Member

You are invited to attend the field demonstration of the Automatic Quick Coupler in Kinleith Forest, on **Thursday 21st March 2024**.

What: FGR has been working with **Synergy Equipment Ltd, AB Equipment Ltd and Total Hydraulic Solutions Ltd** to develop the Automated Quick Coupler which allows a base machine to change attachments quickly and safely in just a few seconds without the operator leaving the cab. This project and the field demonstration of the Automated Quick Coupler is part of the Automation & Robotics Primary Growth Partnership.

When: 8:00am on Thursday 21st March 2024.

This field demonstration is hosted by Manulife Forest Management (MFM) and Brian Rutgers of Loggabull Ltd. The Quick Coupler on the Sumitomo SH300-6 base will be operated by Ivan Quin of Loggabull Ltd. Brian and the team at Loggabull has been involved in the field testing and production trials of the Quick Coupler in 2022-2023.

Benefits: With the constant focus on production costs this development provides the opportunity to increase utilisation of your machinery and reduce costs, if one machine and operator can do multiple tasks, such as felling, log processing, sort and stack, truck loading, tracking and road building.

Who should attend:

- Logging contractors, machine operators and employees of logging contractors.
- Forestry company operations managers and harvest planners
- Staff of New Zealand forestry companies
- Forest owners and managers (especially owners of small forests).
- Forestry equipment suppliers
- Contractors who run quick change hydraulic attachments



Cost: There is no cost for people to attend the field demonstration. The field demonstration is subsidised by the FGR Automation & Robotics Primary Growth Partnership co-funded by Forest Growers Levy Trust and the Ministry for Primary Industries, and the project collaborators, Synergy Equipment Ltd, AB Equipment Ltd and Total Hydraulic Solutions Ltd, who have worked together to develop the Automated Quick Coupler.

Transport: FGR will arrange bus transport to the site from two main pick-up points: Bus transport departs from Distinction Hotel, Trigg Avenue, Rotorua, and travels to Kinleith Forest. The second pick-up point is the junction of SH1 and Old State Highway 1. No private vehicles will be permitted into the forest. The bus returns to the pick-up points at the end of the day.

What to bring: As this field demonstration is an operational logging site, you will need to wear sturdy covered footwear, high-viz clothing, and a safety helmet. As it is still in the summer season, you are advised to wear sunscreen and bring a water bottle. If rain is forecast, bring wet weather gear.

What is provided: FGR will provide transport from the pick-up points, and the project team Synergy Equipment Ltd, AB Equipment Ltd and Total Hydraulic Solutions Ltd will provide BBQ lunch and drinks (fruit juice, soft drinks, and water). A hand-out with information on the development of the Automatic Quick Coupler and results from the recent production study will also be provided.

Register:

Register early as numbers may be limited. If you wish to attend, please register using this link: <https://field-demonstration-automatic-quick-coupler.lilregie.com/>

RSVP:

All registrations close at 5:00pm on **Monday 11th March 2024**. If you require more information, please contact: Keith Raymond at Forest Growers Research Ltd (m: 027 438 5233; e: keith.raymond@fgr.nz).

ITINERARY

Time	Activity	Details
8:15am	Bus departs Distinction Hotel	Trigg Avenue, Rotorua
9:00am	Bus arrives at pick up point	Junction SH1 / Old State Highway 1
9:30am	Bus arrives at Kinleith Forest site	Kinleith Forest
9:40am	Introductions	Keith Raymond, FGR
9:45am	Safety briefing	Brian Rutgers, Loggabull Ltd
9:50am	Background to Development Project	Keith Raymond, FGR
10:00am	Machine Demo: Felling & Delimiting	
10:20am	About the Automatic Quick Coupler	Jason Stamp, Synergy Equipment Ltd Phil McKenzie, AB Equipment Ltd Andy Bedford, Total Hydraulic Solutions
10:50am	Machine Demo: Shovel Logging, Log Processing, Sort & Stack, Load Truck and Bucket tasks	
12:00pm	Lunch and Inspection of Equipment	Lunch provided by AB Equipment Total Hydraulic Solutions and Synergy Equipment
12:45pm	Presentation of Production Study	Rob Prebble, FGR
1:15pm	Bus departs forest for pick up point	Kinleith Forest to SH1
3:00pm	Bus arrives Distinction Hotel	Trigg Avenue, Rotorua