

Case Study: Norske Skog Paper Mills (Australia) Ltd

Project TSDS_1754

Norske Skog Paper Mills (Australia) Ltd is a large employer in the paper making industry with its own forest management division.

The forest management division identified that drone technology could provide their personnel with the ability to monitor forest health and growth across a large area of land, more efficiently than the current labour intensive approach, and in a much safer manner than risking injury from traversing hazardous ground that occurs within a forest environment.

The TerraLuma research group at the University of Tasmania held an intensive “Understanding of drone technologies and applications” course, in a face-to-face lecture-based environment that provided a strong foundation in remote sensing, specifically for drone applications, as well as practical skills needed to make the most of the latest advances in drone technology.

“I now have a better understanding of the current state of development of drone technology and how it is being employed across a range of industries and more particularly how other forest management organisations are utilising the technology,” said participant Peter McLoughlin, the Forest Information Specialist at Norske Skog.

The training has been of benefit not only to Peter, but to his colleagues as well. “The skills developed by the participant have been shared with other employees and raised the profile of this technology and its potential benefits to the organisation,” said Sandra Hetherington, the Softwood Procurement Team Leader.

Sandra suggested that improvements could be made in the way individuals or organisations apply for funding and found that there were too many forms and documents to be completed to make it worthwhile for only a small number of employees to attend a short training course. Sandra’s suggestion was an express option for training courses under \$1,000, which has been raised with, and is under consideration by, the TSDS Project Team.

Norske Skog agreed that participation in the TSDS program has resulted in an improvement in their employee’s work practices. They strongly agreed that the training provided value for money whilst causing minimal delays to normal work practices and that the training provided by University of Tasmania met their expectations. Overall Norske Skog were satisfied with their involvement in the Training and Skills Development Service and are likely to undertake further training.