

HIGHWOOD-USA www.highwood-usa.com

Stacking Sticks Highwood USA LLC, located in Tamaqua, PA, was founded in Jan 2003, and began to manufacture and sell *highwood*® synthetic wood in Feb 2004. Several portions of Highwood's process could be automated, thus freeing technicians to focus on process improvement, quality initiatives, and other higher value added tasks. One area in particular—packaging of finished product—would yield an additional 50 to 70 person-hours per day for higher level functions. Could a system be designed to automatically collate and bundle finished product (of various shapes and lengths), then the process could be extended to automatically package the bundles—either in boxes or on pallets. A solution to this problem will provide higher productivity of profile technicians and would be deemed successful if the return on investment was 35%.