

1 — “The GSK” at the University of Nottingham is Great Britain’s first carbon-neutral laboratory for sustainable chemistry.

2 — Delivery of raw timber to the plant in Fügen (Austria).

3 — Finished, packaged cross-laminated timber BBS on a Mafi trailer.



# Guaranteed sustainability

**3,984**  
fewer tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e  
are released compared  
to road transport

**The future of wood as a building material is looking bright. That particularly applies when the wood is transported by environmentally friendly rail, as evidenced by the collaboration between DB Cargo Logistics and binderholz.**

**T**he aspiration of this Austrian company is clear and cuts right to the chase: bringing people, nature and technology into harmony with one another. They have been striving to do exactly this for more than 60 years. binderholz is a family-run company nestled in the idyllic Zillertal valley, and it is currently at the head of the pack among European providers of solid timber products and innovative construction solutions. Cross-laminated timber BBS is a successful product, and demand for it has seen strong growth. Cross lamination makes the finished building materials particularly robust and versatile. binderholz is relying on rail to transport its products — after all, climate protection is an issue that must be considered from

multiple angles. Martin Sigl, head of logistics at binderholz comments: “The way I see it, rail transport has a bright future, especially for long distances.”

## Great expectations for transport

binderholz is the world’s market leader for cross-laminated timber building supplies, and the company exports throughout Europe and beyond, even all the way to Australia. Timber has been steadily gaining ground as a renewable, recyclable and healthy raw material with outstanding insulation properties. binderholz cross-laminated timber BBS elements have already been used to construct industrial buildings and schools, and even for a 10-story residential building in the heart of London.

However, there are stringent requirements that must be met when these materials are transported. The BBS building components are of various sizes and need to be properly loaded and secured. In addition, their transport is time-sensitive. In the worst-case scenario, construction sites can be brought to a standstill if the supplies fail to reach them on time. This is a crucial point for Martin Sigl to consider when selecting his service providers: “Our customers expect binderholz to have top-notch product quality, outstanding technical support, and of course, to adhere firmly to set deadlines.”

The Timber division at DB Cargo Logistics is rising to this challenge and meeting it with flying colours. For several years, the logistician has reliably

## CUSTOMER: BINDERHOLZ, FÜGEN (AUSTRIA)

<b>Routes:</b>	Austria, German seaports, Finland, etc.
<b>Type:</b>	Single wagonload transport and block trains
<b>Freight:</b>	Raw timber, sawn timber, BBS panels
<b>Transport volume in 2017:</b>	Approximately 100,000 tonnes, around 1,700 wagons
<b>Expected in 2018:</b>	Approximately 180,000 tonnes and around 3,200 wagons (equivalent to 7,500 lorries)
<b>DB Cargo product:</b>	DBeco plus (zero-carbon traffic)

**“Rail transport has a bright future, especially for long distances.”**

**MARTIN SIGL**  
Head of logistics at binderholz

supplied the binderholz plants, including the premises in Kösching/Ingolstadt, with logs from timber-rich areas of Europe. At the plant, the wagons are reloaded with sawn timber. The sawn timber is brought to German ports for the overseas market. “Transport has to be punctual, since ships with fixed departure times are waiting at the ports,” explains Norbert Kurz, key account manager for binderholz at the Timber division of DB Cargo Logistics.

### A logistical challenge

DB Cargo recently successfully completed the first transports of BBS elements, also managing its partners in the intermodal logistics chain. One example was the transport of binderholz cross-laminated timber BBS from the Austrian plant in Unternberg to Finland. DB Cargo not only looked after the rail transport, but also handled intermodal transshipment onto Mafi trailers (roller trailers used for

the transshipment of goods at seaports) and managed the passage by ship. “The order in which specific building elements are arranged on the wagons and other modes of transportation used plays a key role in the logistics concept, since building elements need to be utilized at the construction site in accordance with the construction plan,” says Kurz.

The environmental aspect naturally plays a large role for this traffic. Ultimately, rail customers emit some 75% less CO<sub>2</sub>e than the equivalent transport by road. But Deutsche Bahn aspires to be more than just an environmental conscience: “Our ambition is to measure up to binderholz’s steep expectations,” explains Thorsten Wartenpfehl, who heads up the Timber division at DB Cargo Logistics. “Keeping that in mind, we won’t be 100% satisfied with the performance we turn in until we’ve met our customer’s requirements based on these high expectations.” This calls on the ability to creatively design solutions and show agility and flexibility in operational management.

There are already plans to expand cooperation further. Together with Martin Sigl, timber experts Norbert Kurz and his colleagues on the timber team are already working on novel solutions to overcome emerging logistical challenges and bring people, nature and technology even closer together. ●



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## BINDERHOLZ

**Europe’s market leader for solid timber products and innovative building solutions**

In the timber industry, the name Binder stands for tradition and integrity, coupled with high-tech and innovation. binderholz has 12 sites — five in Austria (Fügen, Jenbach, St. Georgen, Hallein and Unternberg), five in Germany (Kösching, Burgbernhem, Oberrot, Baruth and Wolfegg)

and two in Finland (Lieksa and Nurmes). The sites employ roughly 2,750 people. The waste timber generated as by-products of production is used to produce densified biofuels, green electricity, multi-purpose panels, moulded pallet blocks and moulded wood pallets. The products are exported all over the world. binderholz produces sustainably and efficiently in accordance with the no-waste principle, and it recovers 100% of the resource of timber. [www.binderholz.com](http://www.binderholz.com)