



FOREST PRODUCTS FROM BIRCH TREES

The **Fortress Specialty Cellulose Inc.** pulp mill in Thurso, Quebec, will be the first mill in North America to produce dissolving pulp from birch wood:

- The new technology will enable the production and commercialization of dissolving pulp from birch trees, a tree species that grows abundantly in Canada but has been largely underutilized by the pulp and paper industry.
- The resulting pulp has a cellulose content of about 95 percent, which is much higher than regular pulp. Regarded as “specialty cellulose” by the pulp and paper industry, dissolving pulp, with its higher cellulose content, is used in a variety of every day products including textiles, medical equipment, packaging and food additives.



UTILIZING CANADA'S FORESTS: RESULTS EXPECTED


94,000 m³
OF BIRCH PER YEAR

INCREASE OF
17,000 TONNES
OF DISSOLVING PULP WITH
UNIQUE PROPERTIES FOR USE
IN A RANGE OF APPLICATIONS

 **SUSTAINS OVER**
300 DIRECT AND
1,400 INDIRECT
JOB

INNOVATING WITH WOOD

- birch trees grow in abundance in Canada
- birch is currently underutilized because of the difficulty of converting its high hemicellulose content into dissolving pulp
- first time in North America that birch will be used continuously to produce dissolving pulp
- the addition of birch produces a dissolving pulp that has technical properties similar to current dissolving pulp, such as long fibres

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

ENVIRONMENT: IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF THE AREA'S FORESTS

ECONOMIC: NEW REVENUES FROM NEW PRODUCT OFFERINGS

COMMUNITY: SUSTAINABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT AT THE MILL AND CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT DURING IMPLEMENTATION

ECONOMIC: STRONG POTENTIAL FOR OTHERS TO REPLICATE

ENVIRONMENT: IMPROVED PERFORMANCE RESULTING FROM PROCESS CHANGES



FORTRESS SPECIALTY CELLULOSE INC. IS A DIVISION OF FORTRESS PAPER LTD., AN INTERNATIONAL PRODUCER OPERATING IN TWO DISTINCT BUSINESS SEGMENTS: SPECIALITY PULP AND SECURITY PAPER PRODUCTS.

PROJECT LOCATION: THURSO, QUEBEC

... the innovative and transformative potential of producing dissolving pulp using birch is another step in our advancement in emerging renewable raw materials space. The project at the Fortress Specialty Cellulose Mill demonstrates our continued commitment to developing new revenue streams and transforming our industry.

— Yvon Pelletier, President and CEO
Fortress Paper Ltd.

Investments in Forest Industry Transformation Program: In 2010, Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Forest Service created the Investments in Forest Industry Transformation Program (IFIT) to support Canadian companies to develop and grow markets for new and innovative high-value products using Canada's forest resources. For more information www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/federal-programs/13139

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