

The “Toploader” arrives in New Zealand and Australia

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A Toploader in a 450m³ fuel bay feeding a wood boiler at a glasshouse near Sydney

A new product has hit the wood energy market, and it’s called the “Toploader”. It is manufactured by Javo International in Holland, and supplied to New Zealand exclusively via Living Energy Ltd.

Rob Mallinson, MD of Living Energy says “After over a dozen years supplying turn-key wood boiler solutions, we feel there is a gap in the market and so it is timely to re-position our services. There are now several very professional companies doing a great job meeting the demand for wood boilers. We want to work with those companies and with the end clients to provide the best fuel storage and handling solution available. Having done over 30 wood fuel stores for our own boilers, and studied countless others, we have a wealth of experience in this area, and will be offering a horses-for-courses approach, using the most appropriate system for the specific project. But the Toploader is likely to form the back-bone of many solutions, being a 3-in-1 system that can provide fuel storage at half the cost of traditional systems, and deliver many other benefits.” Rob says “The Toploader is a game-changer in that it provides fuel reception, storage and extraction all in one, with very low electrical demand and very low maintenance. We can install the whole system in a week, so disruption is limited. There will also never be a fuel blockage, and the equipment is very low wear, so low energy and low maintenance.” The Toploader draws only 1.8kW most of the time, with a very brief peak demand of under 3KW.

The distinctive feature of the Toploader is that the fuel is managed using a large rake which rolls along rails above the fuel. After fuel trucks discharge wood fuel into the Toploader bay, the over-head rake scans the pile and pulls the fuel towards the extract conveyor at the boiler end of the bay. This creates space for the next delivery, without the need for a front-end loader. The demonstration video in this link shows the Toploader in action <http://www.javointernational.com/>

The fuel bay, depending on the dimensions selected, can hold anything from 80m³ to 800m³. By having several fuel bays in parallel, over 2000m³ can be stored to feed very large boilers. “It is a very flexible system so can suit most situations – but the key benefits are common to all Toploaders. And because the cost per cubic metre is so low, we can supply much larger stores within the project budget – giving more volume, which leads to greater delivery flexibility and greater security of supply for the client.”

There are now well over 100 of these Toploader systems feeding wood boilers in Europe. Rob says “We have already supplied three Toploaders to feed wood boilers in Australia. We were in and out very quickly, and the interface to the boiler is very simple.” The Toploader can actually be used to feed any bulk material on a 24x7 basis, so it can feed pelletising machines, driers, evaporators, cement mixers, bagging plants or even coal boilers.

Rob says “Wood fuel reception, storage and handling are critical components in the success of wood boiler projects, and can require a significant amount of design, project management and delivery effort. We can manage that entire aspect, freeing-up the wood boiler supplier to focus on their key role. We believe that ultimately the end client gets an all-round better fuel storage solution, as well as a very focused wood boiler supplier, at an overall lower project cost. So our new role offers an alternative project delivery model to the sector, a model that can help deliver successful bioenergy projects as the rate of uptake increases over time. We are looking forwards to working with boiler suppliers, fuel suppliers and end users to provide this game-changing solution.”

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