



Innovative Technique for Early Thinning of Young Forests – Project “Mini-Harvester”

Contact:

Dipl. Forstw. Mareike Schultze
 Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau
 mareike.schultze@th-wildau.de

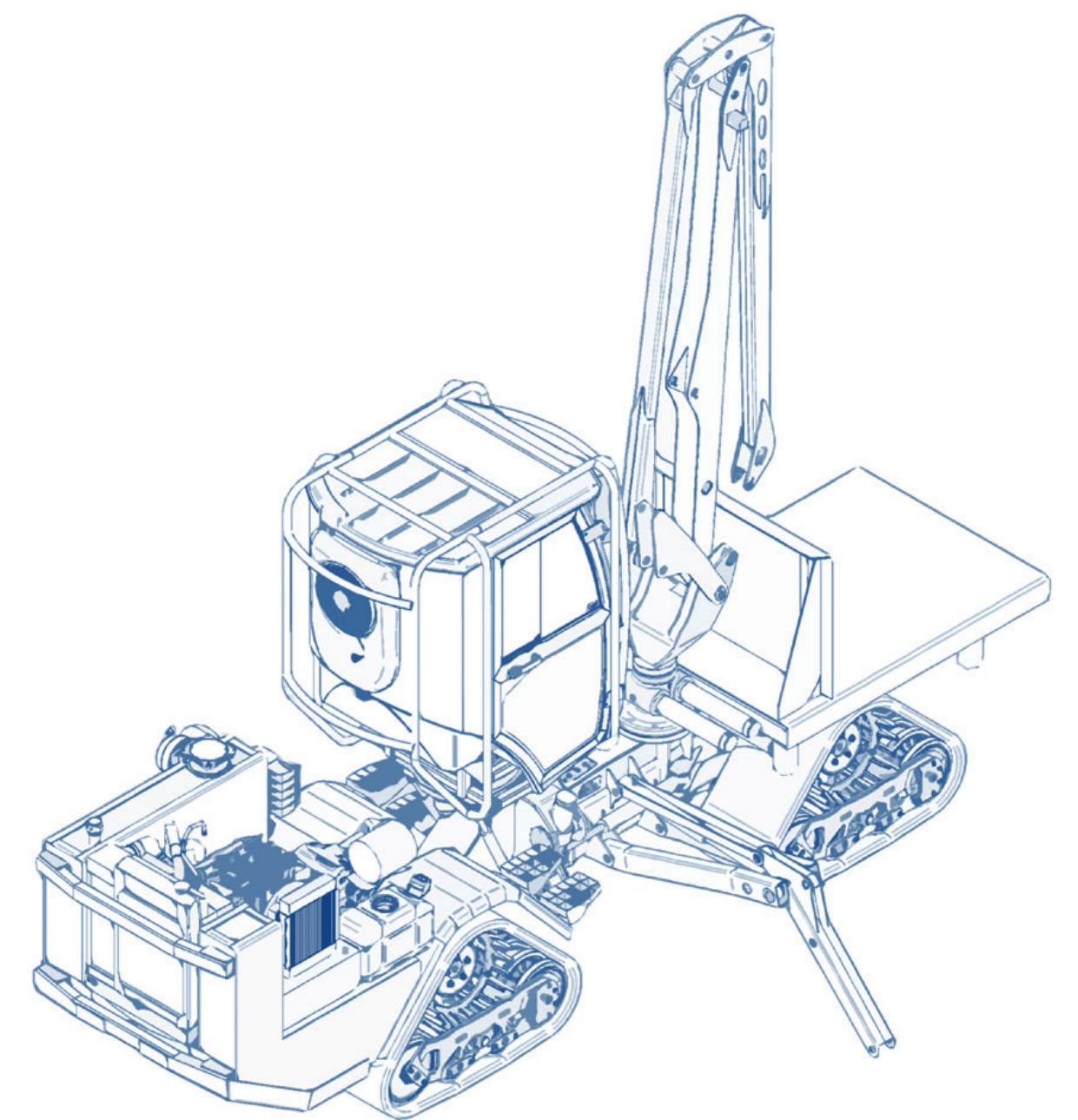
www.th-wildau.de/fgvlog



The research project „Development of an innovative fully mechanized method for pre-commercial thinning” aims to increase the production of woody rawmaterials by easing the harvest of small trees in early thinning.

Early thinning is an important tending measure in young forests to stimulate the growth and biomass production of trees. It increases the vitality, stability and quality of forests. The effects of early thinning can be observed ~~over~~ the whole life span of forest stands. It also results directly in significant amounts of woody biomass that is much in demand for industrial and energy production. ~~Early thinning is costly and time-consuming, and damages to the soil and remaining trees can occur. Large machinery can be used only under certain conditions.~~

Within the project, researchers, forest practitioners, mechanical engineers and software specialists cooperate in developing and testing an innovative harvesting technique. A small harvesting machine has been designed and constructed specifically for this purpose. This harvester is very narrow and versatile and the traction power is distributed evenly to the ground. The harvester can move easily in forests; impacts to the soil are minimal. The thinning technique is designed for professional use. The productivity will be tested under a range of harvesting conditions that are typical for Central Europe.



Funding: Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Duration: 2015 – 2018

Project Partners:

- Technische Hochschule Wildau
- Tyroller Hydraulik Herzberg
- Möhle und Braker Datentechnik



AN INITIATIVE OF THE



Research in Germany



Land of Ideas