Global made local

DENMARK'S Hardi may not sound like an Australian sprayer maker, but its Hardi Australia subsidiary has a substantial manufacturing facility in Adelaide.

In fact, the majority of Hardi sprayers sold in Australia and New Zealand are built locally. To put it in perspective, the company's local production consumes more than 7200 kg of welding wire and 8.4 tonnes of 'Hardi Red' powder a year.

Hardi International established Hardi Australia in 2002 and today the local business occupies more than 10,000 m^2 of production, testing, logistics and support space on a 10 hectare site that also has space for testing new machines.

Fluid systems are tested separately in a facility that can fit all Hardi sprayers, including the giant 9000-litre Rubicon self-propelled sprayer and its 48.5 metre boom. With a full water recovery system, Hardi is able to run spray tests for 24 hours and longer.

Hardi's Australian Product Development Centre (APDC) is a conduit for the latest sprayer technologies and innovations. One of Hardi Australia's big advantages is the global company's specialised expertise. Hardi Europe has an ongoing R&D commitment, and the APDC can rapidly bring the benefits of that research to Australian farmers.

Australian innovations

At the same time, Australian innovations are fed back into the network to benefit producers overseas.

The Hardi Rubicon is a perfect example. It was developed locally to meet the unique needs of Australian broadacre farmers, but now it is Hardi's largest self-propelled sprayer and is offered worldwide.

Building on the Australian template, Hardi's global network contributed class-leading engine, boom, fluid control and guidance technologies to the Rubicon.

Its 6500 and 9000-litre stainless steel tanks are manufactured by a South Australian supplier, which also manufactures 6200-litre tanks for the Hardi Saritor 62 Active self-propelled machine.

It is one of more than 130 Australian OEM suppliers that benefit from Hardi Australia's manufacturing operation, along with more than 100 local employees.

Hardi Australia's production commitment has also helped develop local expertise. Making sprayers here means Hardi can configure machines to meet the specific needs of its customers. Plus the company carries an inventory of more than 20,000 different backup parts.

While Hardi local dealers and service technicians are generally a farmer's main source of information, Hardi Australia has specialist technicians for all of its sprayers.

Hardi technicians are also experts in aluminium boom configuration, which requires lots of local knowledge. Hardi Australia began importing Pommier aluminium booms years before anyone else and worked hard to adjust their performance for local farmers.

The process involved a lot of testing and significant deviation from the settings recommended by Pommier engineers in Europe.

Now, Hardi Australia uses its unrivalled know-how to manufacture aluminium booms in Australia from imported Pommier extrusions, under the Hardi Paragon brand.

The booms are integrated with Hardi's advanced AutoHeight and AutoTerrain sprayer centres at the factory, to provide the best possible height control and a smooth, accurate boom ride. Operators often marvel at the way Hardi Australia's booms 'float' across melon holes, lumps and slope changes.

Hardi enhances its local boom expertise with leading international technology, such as the H-Select nozzle control, which is offered exclusively on Rubicon aluminium booms. H-Select uses compressed air switching to control different combinations of up to four different nozzles at each nozzle body.

It can provide constant fluid pressure, application rate and droplet size across the Rubicon's entire speed range. Droplet size can even be adjusted on the move from an in-cab run screen, for better coverage and drift control.

Hardi installs and tests H-Select at the Adelaide factory, then 'fine tunes' the system final testing on delivery.

Mixing international technology with tailored production is called 'global made local', and it underpins every aspect of Hardi production and customer service. It means the next Danish sprayer you see is a lot more Australian than it looks. ■

The Hardi Rubicon has been developed locally and incorporates many Australian field-based innovations.

The complete package

FARMERS round the world are looking for ways to manage nitrogen fertiliser usage in order to increase the quantity (yield) and quality (protein) of their crops. Measuring protein in grain as it is harvested in the field, provides a direct measurement of the nitrogen availability and uptake by the crop.

By combining the protein and yield maps collected off a combine harvester protein/yield correlation quadrant maps can be generated for each field. These maps provide four performance zones for the crops – low yield/low protein; high yield/low protein; low yield/high protein; and, high yield/high protein.

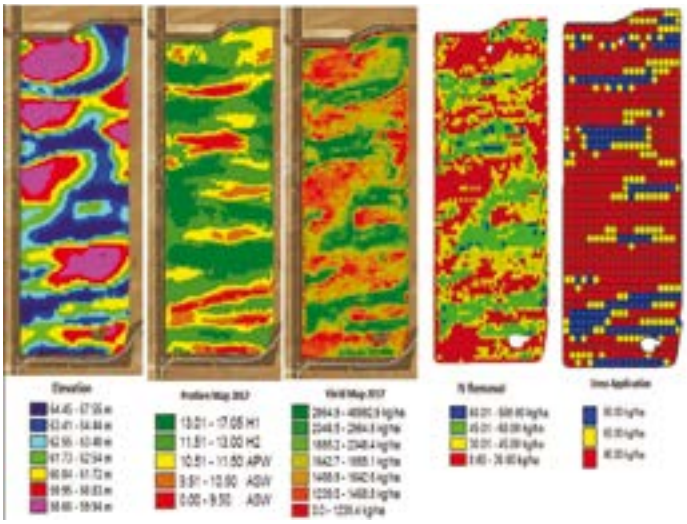
These four zones can be used to develop simple and reliable variable rate fertilisation prescriptions that produce a positive yield response to nitrogen fertiliser.

CropScanAg Solutions offers a complete package of hardware, data processing, mapping and VRF recommendations that provides a total Nutrient Management System. The package includes:

- CropScan 3300H On Combine Analyser to measure protein, oil and moisture of grains and oilseeds as they are harvested;
- Soil station with soil moisture probes to monitor rainfall, soil moisture and weather conditions;
- Management Tree and shape file setup prior to harvest;
- Field maps – protein, moisture, oil, yield, protein/yield correlation quadrants, nitrogen removal, sulphur removal, potassium removal, phosphorus removal, elevation and gross margin in each field – maps can be downloaded to the farmer's preferred platform;
- Analytics software that generates water efficiency and nitrogen efficiency data; and,
- Soil and nutrient advisory service to provide recommendations for VRF prescriptions and soil treatments.

CropScanAg Solutions is an Australian developed system based on six years experience and trials. No other service for farmers provides the complete picture on nitrogen availability and uptake by crops.

For more information on the CropScanAg Solutions, visit our web site: *www.Cropscanag.com* or view our video on Youtube: *https://youtu.be/PMJIUvVMqUc* or contact us at sales@nextinstruments.net, tel: 0428 988 090. ■



Simplicity releases section control

WITH the high cost of crop inputs, it is no secret that section control offers broad acre growers the opportunity to save significant amounts of money. By reducing overlap and minimising double application, the savings accumulate. Following a successful demo roadshow program across Southern and Western Australia, Simplicity Australia now offers section control as an option on their 30 Series Airseeders.

Simplicity's journey toward section control has been a long one, starting in 2008 with a wing shut off system developed for use within the rice industry. It was a simple system with manual operation, but it laid the ground work for what would become section control.

Simplicity's section control is based upon their renowned ground drive system – a system with a reputation for accuracy and reliability. By simply engaging and disengaging the drive to each metering spool, Simplicity has been able to retain the benefits of ground driven airseeders. Many growers will appreciate the comfort of knowing that the system can be manually engaged, should an issue arise within the electronic control system.

The metering spools are set in pairs, with each spool having an individual control and monitoring system. These units have been designed to be easily removed for inspection or replacement if necessary. Each spool operates separately but they can also be linked together to operate as a single section if required.

Another feature of Simplicity's section control system is an air damping system to balance the air pressure when a section disengages. This ensures that sufficient air remains within the active sections to deliver grain or fertiliser to the boot.

Simplicity is offering their section control option on any new 30 series airseeder.

Not only are Simplicity Australia's new 30 Series seeders the largest they have ever built, they are also packed with features to benefit growers now and into the future. ■

Development of the Simplicity 30 Series was a response to demand for larger capacity airseeders with innovative features.