

GIS gives an even clearer view of the forest



TOPCON
AT WORK

*“The easiest way to find your way
in the forest”*

“Forestry has become a science”

Forestry office Paderborn manages the forests of Paderborn in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Every day foresters find their way through the large forests of several thousand square kilometers. “The forest covers 30% of the state area of North Rhine – Westphalia, so it is easy to get lost. When you are deep in the woods there are no road signs or taxi drivers to ask the way”, Dieter Feldkötter of the Forstamt Paderborn explains.

“The nostalgic view of the forester no longer exists”, Feldkötter adds. “We don’t walk through the forest with a dog on our side and an axe over the left shoulder. Nowadays we work scientifically. It all starts with going through the woods using Topcon’s GPS and Glonass backpack system. We tag the trees that will be felled or update maps and forest information. The position of the tree trunk is registered digitally and marked on a map so the harvester can find it faster. To preserve the forest, the route and the way back are given as exactly as possible.”

“Thanks to Topcon technology on the harvester, the machine operator knows exactly where he is. His predefined road has been documented and he can use a topographical map, an aerial shot or a map with property borders on it. When he is done he can also attach additional tree information like quantity, kind, age, tree thickness and quality.”

“The forwarder receives this data and a map of the respective routes and storage places by email and drives straight to the location. He already knows what quantity, how many cubic meters, what kind and what quality of timber is waiting for him. This way we keep empty travels of the forwarder to a minimum. And the truck driver knows where he is and where he has to go.”

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