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# 5<sup>th</sup> Forest Engineering Conference



Contribution 32 in session “Innovation-driven developments in harvesters and forwarders“

## **Answering future specific challenges in harvesting – Views of design students**

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During recent year the Forest Technology Cluster (FTC) in northern Sweden, with ten companies, has collaborated with academic research and education to develop new techniques for future forestry. To get visionary ideas on future techniques, more than ten design students (candidate and master levels) at Umeå Institute of Design were given the task to design machine concepts that would meet future demands. All work was done in collaboration between students and professionals from both academy and producers. The primary forest stakeholders vary e.g. between countries, regions and owners but the stakeholder that is always affected regardless of country is the eco-system. Therefore, all design concepts were considering environmental issues and most student works included solutions to reduce damage to the environment. Other considered aspects of future harvesting techniques were man-machine interaction, degree of autonomy and future end-use of tree parts. The collaboration was rewarding to all involved parties and suggested concepts now fill a role in the development of future forestry base machines, equipped with relevant tools. To develop machinery for the future we need to break away from the traditional mind-set. Selected concepts will be presented at the conference.