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PRESS RELEASE

EXCITING DEVELOPMENT FOR NORTH EAST TIMBER GROWERS

July 2014 marks an exciting development for North East Timber Growers. Andrew Nicol Chartered Forester, which runs Deeside-based Timber Marketing Co-operative, DWP Harvesting, has joined forces with RTS Forestry. During the past month RTS Forestry staff, Mike Thomson and John Moran, have moved from their Aboyne office to join Andrew in his custom-built timber offices at Deeside Activity Park in Dess which are heated by a wood pellet fired boiler.

As RTS Forestry's Director, Harry Wilson explains *"Our emphasis is to build on local contacts and established services already provided by Andrew Nicol Chartered Forester. RTS introduces a broader range of resources to provide a full turnkey woodland service portfolio from planning and planting to thinning and felling to help the North East to obtain best returns from its forests and ensure their long term sustainability."*

With RTS Forestry forming in 1984 it is 3 years older than DWP Harvesting. Much has happened in the energy market over the last 3 decades and RTS' director of Woodfuel, Norman O'Neill, sees a rising demand for woodfuel at the agricultural and light industrial scale - particularly in the north-east where farmers see the opportunity to use wood efficiently for heat. As stated by Norman O'Neill, *"The strengthening of our presence in Aboyne is in part to enable RTS to respond to and to aid the realisation of that potential. Often the outstanding concern of potential woodfuel users is the logistics associated with woodchip storage and conversion. RTS has successfully developed a resilient process which can supply woodchips to a consistent standard throughout the year."* RTS provides woodfuel for existing systems at Aboyne Academy and Macphie, Glenbervie.

Andrew Nicol commented on behalf of DWP Harvesting *"I am delighted with this new development especially given the rising profile of the timber industry in Scotland. Working with RTS not only gives DWP Harvesting's Members immediate access to a bigger range of services it also provides us an excellent basis to expand the Membership. It could not have happened at a better time."*

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