

# Smurfit Kappa Comptoir du Pin

## Biganos, France



The biomass power plant in Biganos, near Bordeaux, is operated by Dalkia Atlantique. This 69 MWe operation was initiated 2006 with well thought out plan on sourcing its fuel. The plant's 500.000 ton per year demand was to be satisfied in part by 170.000 tons of stumps extracted from Landes Gascogne forest each year. The stump retrieval had been in planning for decades and the operation was about to begin with a special stump processor from Saalasti ready to be installed at Biganos site. The plan was about to change dramatically.

In January 24th 2009 the cyclone Klaus made its landfall on Bay of Biscay. Roaming through Landes Gascogne area, it swept down 39 million m<sup>3</sup> of forest, four times the normal annual harvesting, in one day.

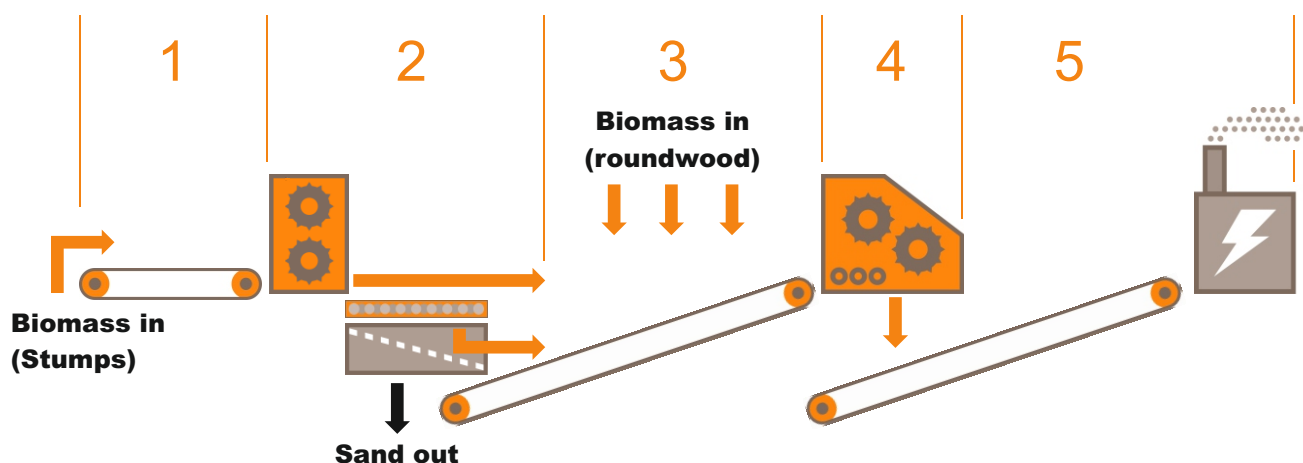
The wood brought down by Klaus was not fit for paper production, but was perfect for energy use. The factory management at Smurfit immediately contacted Saalasti to adapt the Saalasti stump crusher to round wood processing. There was now logs to fuel the boiler at least for three years. Processing

stumps would continue once the storm wood had been exhausted.

Saalasti solution was to install a Saalasti Chipper 1218H to produce energy chips from logs, forest residue bundles and pre-crushed stumps at 150 tons per hour. It became operational in 2010. Soon after this in 2011, a special Saalasti PreCrush stump processor was installed in front of the processing line to speed up processing of stumps. The Saalasti PreCrush has a special feature of being able to remove sand from stumps that initially contain up to 20 % sand in dry weight. After pre-crushing and screening the sand content has been reduced to 6 %, which significantly reduces equipment wear at all stages of the process.

Today the Saalasti installation in Biganos is exceedingly flexible operation, with separate loading areas for stumps and round wood respectively. Both fuel sources can be processed with zero waiting time for inbound trucks on unloading, considerably speeding up the on-site logistics.

## Biomass processing system



1

**Saalasti Feeder:**  
- Size 2000 x 7600 mm

Stumps loaded to processing system by an excavator with a grapple.

2

**Saalasti PreCrush 1218H:**  
- Installed in 2011  
- Motor power 160 + 315 kW  
- Disc screen  
- Vibrating screen

Stumps pre-crushed, amount of embedded sand is reduced by app. 60 %.

3

**Saalasti Feeder:**  
- Length 1800 x 9000 mm  
- Metal detector

Round wood loaded here.

4

**Saalasti Chipper 1218H:**  
- Installed in 2010  
- Motor power 2 x 710 kW  
- Cutting tools: chipper knives  
- Capacity 150 t/h\*  
- Particle size: P63

Round wood and stumps chipped to small, uniform size.

5

**Discharge conveyor**

To storage / boiler.

\*Nominal capacity, softwood