**Metsäkone Pirinen Oy:**

**High-quality results as objective**

“It’s always wonderful when the forest owner is happy with the results and gives positive feedback”, says Jukka Pirinen, CEO of Metsäkone Pirinen Oy.

The company’s objective is to achieve high-quality results, and they consider harvesting as taking care of forest owners’ assets. Therefore, it is highly significant how happy forest owners are.

* “It’s also great to hear when operators say that it’s good to work for us”, says Pirinen.

These things are also linked together, because machine operators are responsible for achieving good results. The CEO can set high-quality results as an objective, but the actual work is done in the forest. Everybody has to commit to the objective, and it has to be kept in mind in the cabins of the machines every day.

Metsäkone Pirinen Oy is Metsä Group’s regional contractor in Northern Ostrobothnia. The company has four machine chains and 14 employees. The company has a hall in Paavola in Siikajoki, and it operates within approximately 100 kilometres reaching Liminka, Raahe, Pyhäjoki and Vihanti.

* “There are plenty of pulp logs in these regions. I’m sure that demand will increase if they build the bioproduct factory in Kemi as planned. In that respect, the outlook is good, and the company is expected to slightly grow”, says Jukka Pirinen.

The company employs four brothers from the Pirinen family. Jukka is the CEO, and Kari, Jarmo and Pekka Pirinen are partners. The foundations of the company were laid by their father in the 1980s when he started harvesting as a side business in addition to farming. In 1998, the father and the three eldest brothers – Jukka, Kari and Jarmo – established Metsäkone Pirinen Ky. It became a limited company in 2003, and Jukka Pirinen started as the CEO in 2007. The change of generation was finalised in 2015, when their father gave up his last shares.

* “Our father has retired now, but he still lends a hand when necessary.”

Jukka and Kari Pirinen also have another company called Konehuolto Pirinen Oy, which focuses on the maintenance and repair of machines.

* “I'm a qualified mechanic specialised in heavy machinery. First, I planned to work in a repair shop, but when our father started to expand the harvesting business, I began to work as a forest machine operator”, Jukka describes his work history.

Mechanical skills are an advantage in the current job, too. The repair shop has also helped provide work for employees when there has been less harvesting due to unfavourable business conditions.

* “The repair shop has kept a couple of operators busy during quieter periods.”

Fluctuations in demand for harvesting are one of the major challenges in the field particularly from the perspective of providing work for employees. During the peak in 2018, we were really busy, but year 2019 and the current year have been more volatile.

* “During quieter periods, like this summer, the harvesting of energy wood has saved the situation.”

There is one good thing about quieter periods: you can take trainees to work for your company then. It ensures that there will be workers available in the future. At the moment, there are two trainees working for Pirinen.

* “During peak periods, like in 2018, there is no time to instruct trainees.”

According to Jukka, employees have had long careers in the company, but Metsäkone Pirinen has also trained many operators for other businesses.

* “In the course of 20 years, we have had many trainees working here", says Jukka.

Even if the trainees had not stayed in the company, they have learnt at least one important thing.

* “The objective to achieve high-quality results is always shared with new guys.”