

● CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT & LOGISTICS

Catering for the needs of emerging contractors

Small to medium-sized contractors are not only faced with a skills shortage, but also lack the capital to buy expensive automated equipment.



PAN MIXERS SOUTH Africa (PMSA), the largest manufacturer and distributor of brick and block making machines on the African continent, offers a range of machines to meet the specific needs of this sector.

The emerging contractor market is a critical sector of the South African construction industry, as it promotes the empowerment of local entrepreneurs. "Our machines allow contractors to establish viable small businesses that require little capital injection," Quintin Booyesen, sales and marketing manager at PMSA, comments.

To date, Booyesen estimates that PMSA equipment has been used to manufacture the bricks for about two million houses in Southern Africa alone. PMSA's small-capacity machines include the PK300 (Cornet) and the PK100 (UNI). The standard brick capacity of this range is from 10 000 to 16 000 per nine-hour production shift, depending on the machine option.

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Quintin Booyesen, PMSA

These machines are supplied with the appropriate mixing plant. Materials and pallet handling and machine operations are all manual. This range is, therefore, ideal for smaller contractors, without significant experience in manufacturing operations, to set up their own plants.

Easy to operate and maintain

Looking more closely at the UNI plant, Booyesen explains that a simple switch panel is used to operate the loader skip and pan mixer. In addition, the discharge gate is operated by means of a simple hand lever.

"The main idea behind this range is to manufacture machines that are easy to operate. They must also be able to withstand rugged operating conditions and be easily maintained," Booyesen notes. In this regard, the pan mixer's wall and floor are lined with easily replaceable wear segments.

The three-bladed sprung mixing star has an inner-wall scraper for maximum efficiency, with block machines

TOP PMSA sales and marketing manager Quintin Booyesen

ABOVE LEFT A VB4X machine from PMSA, with a capacity of up to 110 000 bricks per nine-hour production shift

ABOVE Mobile VB1 machinery, from PMSA, for rural projects where mobility is required

all having interchangeable moulds for producing a range of products from a single machine.

PMSA's medium-capacity machines include the VB1X, VB1, and RE-600. Here, the standard brick capacity is between 22 000 and 60 000 per nine-hour shift. A choice of materials handling systems is available, with the option of either fully automatic or totally manual operation.

The largest-capacity machines from PMSA are the RE-1400, VB4X, and VB4. Standard brick capacity is from 96 000 to 165 000 per nine-hour shift. A selection of materials and pallet handling systems are available. These high-end machines can be fully automated or semi-automated, with a selection of options according to the end products being manufactured. **35**