

New equipment launched by PMSA

By bringing together high-quality equipment, experts and industry leaders at its international product fair in September 2009, Pan Mixers director Walter Ebeling sent a clear message: "The fair was our way to demonstrate our commitment to offering the best service and technology – in good and in tough times."

The 360 delegates at the fair were treated to the launch of a number of new equipment ranges. First were the Sermac concrete pumps which, after years of research, development, and testing under extreme conditions, offer sophisticated features that give maximum mobility and efficiency across various areas of construction sites. Pan Mixers became the Sub-Saharan Africa distributor for Sermac in February 2009 and represents the company in all southern African developing countries.

Ikhaya brick (i-brick), also launched at the fair, looks set for success in the housing sector. "Nico Le Grange of Ikhaya Brick Technologies (IBT) approached us with the latest in stabilised soil/cement brick design, and we developed a machine to

make the i-brick to the quality standards and production capacity required," Ebeling explains.

The i-brick is an innovative product for housing in Africa. The soil mix includes IBT additives as well as cement for better waterproofing and longevity than current soil bricks. I-bricks are manufactured under pressure of up to 20 tons – where conventional equipment uses 7 tons – and their potential lifespan is 30 years. A single-stage press will yield 2 000 i-bricks a day, and a double-stage press is also available.

"The semi-interlocking facility means that lower skill levels are required for building, making the bricks ideal for low-cost housing in rural communities," adds Ebeling. Presses are manufactured exclusively for Ikhaya Brick Technologies by Pan Mixers and sold through IBT.

The new Fasteverdini range, now available locally, was also on show. Direct from Italy, quality products include drum vibrating rollers, vibrators and converters, power screeds and core drills.

Subsequent to the fair, Robert Ebeling announced that Pan Mixers is extending its reach into the concrete wet-pressing industry and will be supplying two three-stage rotary presses manufactured by Wil-EI-Mil Engineering in the UK.

"The first machine was delivered at the end of October," Ebeling says. "Wil-EI-Mil has over 30 years' experience in the wet-press design and manufacture arena, particularly for the production of slabs and kerbs. UK standards for kerbs are similar to those in South Africa, so the match is good. Pan Mixers will also offer local support on machinery and spare parts."

The three-stage rotary presses compact concrete densely without vibration. A 400-ton hydraulic cylinder squeezes the concrete into the form, while pressing out excess moisture. "The process is far quicker than the traditional method," explains Ebeling, "where the concrete would be poured into moulds, vibrated and then removed only once it is cured."

Though the equipment comes in single- and three-stage versions, Pan Mixers have imported three-stage models for their high production capacity. The presses can manufacture up to 1.8 km of kerbing in a 9- or 10-hour shift. "Compare that to the traditional process, where you would need 1 800 moulds over a period of days in a highly labour-intensive situation."

Besides kerbstones, the presses are used to manufacture high-quality paving slabs and tiles. "They are perfect for mass production and quality assurance is simplified by the fact that it's a single batch of concrete being used for a massive number of tiles or slabs," concludes Ebeling. ■

**More information from Tel: 011 397 3754 or
www.panmixers.co.za**



From the top, Ikhaya bricks, a Sermac concrete pump and a Wil-EI-Mil rotary press.