



cement and concrete

A customer installation of a three-stage press with take-off, showing a complete press installation

New plant for wet concrete pressing industry

Extending its reach into the concrete wet pressing industry, Pan Mixers director Robert Ebeling has announced that the company will be supplying two three-stage rotary presses manufactured by leading British machinery supplier Wil-EI-Mil Engineering.

"The order was placed in February and delivery of the first machine was set for the end of October," Ebeling explains. "Wil-EI-Mil has over 30 years' experience in the wet press design and manufacture arena, particularly for the production of slabs and kerbs.

"Standards set for kerbs in the United Kingdom are very similar to those set in South Africa, so the match is good. As part of the deal, Pan Mixers will offer local support on machinery and spare parts," he continues.

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. The moulds would then have to be cleaned for reuse."

While the equipment is available in both single and three-stage, Pan Mixers will import two three stage models, due to their high production capacity. Ebeling says that the presses are capable of manufacturing 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," Ebeling notes.

Besides kerbstones, the presses are also used to manufacture high quality paving slabs and tiles for the construction industry.

"They are ideal for mass production, which is often required in construction. Quality assurance is made simpler by the fact that it's a single batch of concrete being used for a massive number of tiles or slabs," says Ebeling.

What's more, Pan Mixers has a superb relationship with Wil-EI-Mil, not only because both companies have the same standards regarding quality machinery, but because they both consider customer service and value-for-money to be as important as mechanical excellence. ■