

# Batching in remote areas

Fiori self-loading concrete batch plants are finally in the country.

Making its debut in South Africa in the next few weeks is the Fiori self-loading concrete-to-batch concrete in remote areas. *Quarry SA* first learnt about the company's plans to approach a local agent at Intermat in Paris in 2009. Readers may recall that another two manufacturers are also keen on entering the country. They are competing against the Merlo and AUSA units, which have already found a home in the country. Director of Pan Mixers South Africa, Walter Ebeling, says that his company signed the deal for the Fiori agency on March 1 2010, believing the plant to be a top quality offering for the local building and construction industry, as well as certain applications in the mining sector. "This equipment is ideal for mixing high-quality concrete, without having a massive concrete batching plant or a large labour force. To be able to mix your own quality concrete in rural areas or greenfields sites means cutting down the costs and logistics involved in transporting ready mixed product." These hydraulically-operated, standalone machines are able to scoop, load, mix, transport and place concrete independently, while being operated by a single person. They are also easy to manoeuvre, making them suitable for the concrete lining of canals and

tunnels, road works, building construction sites, low cost housing sites and other infrastructure projects. "Customers can also opt for the on board electronic weighing system, which ensures that every batch is identical in quality and weight, with a receipt printed out for every operation to keep as a permanent record," Ebeling says. "The mixing drum has a double auger system that mixes concrete very intensely and prevents material segregation, giving a quality end product." These mixers have their own loading bucket and are mounted on a mixing truck, which drives the bucket into the sand and stone stockpile and loads itself. "Bigger models offer four-wheel drive with hydrostatics that enables them to handle rough terrain – ideal for local conditions," says Ebeling. Pan Mixers will be offering the entire range of Fiori self loading mixers, from the 1,1 m<sup>3</sup> capacity to the 4 m<sup>3</sup> machines. "We saw a need in the construction industry for a plant that can be operated in smaller, remote or even greenfield sites. Pan Mixers already deals in hydraulic systems, so peace of mind is part of the offering when it comes to maintenance and parts." The advantage of small equipment like this is that cement can be batched immediately, eliminating down-time spent waiting for deliveries. ■