

First of a kind equipment cuts costs

Pan Mixers is the local distributor for Wil-EI-Mil Engineering, and director Walter Ebeling announced the commissioning of a Wil-EI-Mil kerbstone press machine for MVA Precast, saying that the press went through its first wet testing phase in early March 2010, and five pallets of kerbs were successfully manufactured.

"The process was switched over to automatic the following day, with great results," he explains. MVA Precast director Sarel Maree concurs: "There were some minor teething problems that one can expect, but the plant is now running smoothly and efficiently."

Pan Mixers ensured that the plant had been prewired, and that all the hydraulic systems were connected prior to the arrival of the Wil EI Mil installation and commissioning engineers. The company also supplied the mixing and weigh batching plant with four aggregate bins, and a weigh belt that feeds into a PMSA P1000 rapid counter current pan mixer for the operation at MVA Precast.

"Two cement silos were installed, as well as a P1000 rapid counter current pan mixer with a Spiraltch concrete screw conveyer from the mixer to the feeding hopper of the Wil-EI-Mil press," explains Ebeling. "The plant is capable of between 15 and 20 second press cycles, which means that it is able to manufacture up to 2 km of curbing in a nine hour shift."

Having run the rotary press for just on a month, Maree adds that MVA Precast currently has an output of 1 000 metres of kerbstone per shift, which is limited by the number of curing pallets that they presently have.

"The rotary press machine – supplied by Pan Mixers – is a first in South Africa. MVA was given a choice of two machine manufacturers, but we chose the Wil-EI-Mil kerbstone press as it's technically more advanced."



MVA Precast's first Kerb with Dion, Johan and Sarel Maree –directors of MVA Precast – with newly installed kerbstone press

Compared to a traditional wet casting process - where a company would need some 1 800 moulds over a period of days in a highly labour-intensive operation – Wil-EI-Mil's equipment allows rapid output of high quality product, and less risk of human error.

The Wil-EI-Mil press is a modern adaptation of older technology, offering far easier maintenance and more modern technologies in hydraulic and electronic control systems.

What's more, the hydraulics ensure fast pressing, with an automatic product take-off that uses a vacuum plate to suck the pressed kerb out of its mould before placing it on a transfer carrier. "The carrier has a variable speed drive and variable tilting action, which tips the kerb onto its side and places it onto the curing pallet," says Ebeling. "Once the pallet is full, it's taken to the curing area, making the whole process extremely quick. The only manual part of the operation is the placing and removing of filter paper, meaning human error and safety risks are further minimised." ■