

company news



Pan Mixers launches new range from Italy

Pan Mixers South Africa
director, Walter Ebeling

Pan Mixers South Africa is set to launch a new range of self-loading concrete mixers from Italy, which will assist users in accessing remote locations and delivering a quality product. Making its debut in South Africa in the next few weeks is the super-strong Fiori self-loading concrete mixer range that is equipped to handle South Africa's toughest terrain and batch quality concrete in the most remote areas.

Pan Mixers South Africa director, Walter Ebeling, says that his company signed the deal for the Fiori agency on 1 March 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 a reduction of 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, roadworks, 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 explains.

"The mixing drum has a double auger system that mixes concrete very intensely and prevents material segregation, giving a superb quality end product."

Always keeping safety top of mind, the Fiori design allows the driving station to rotate so that the driver can turn the seat to face the load bucket and also check the texture of the concrete without having to get out of the cabin. What's more, 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 enable 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 m³ capacity to the 4 m³ machines. "We saw a need in the construction industry for 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 downtime spent waiting for deliveries. "Complementing this," Ebeling adds, "are Pan Mixers' Universal (Uni) and Mobile plants for the manufacture of bricks, blocks and paving products – also particularly suitable for small or rural development."

The Mobile, the Uni and the Hydraulic Uni boast twin shaft vibration technology – usually used on much larger machines – which enables the manufacture of paving on smaller equipment that occupies far less space on sites.

"Customers have the option of machines mounted on trailers for ease of transportation, and a larger piece of equipment called the VB1 that is mounted on a flatbed trailer, along with a concrete mixer." In this instance, "small" shouldn't be confused with "unproductive": The Uni produces between 10 000 and 14 000 bricks per shift; the RE600 produces 28 000 in the same time span; and the VB1 produces 50 000 bricks.

Currently being used by Brickon in Mozambique to build housing in rural areas, the equipment has been manufactured by Pan Mixers for some 20 years. "Plant like this enables companies to involve local communities in the making of the bricks and paving products, thereby creating jobs and offering basic skills to the local community," Ebeling adds.

Pan Mixers is confident that both the Fiori mixers and the brick making plant will continue to find favour with companies that see the value in being able to take small plant with them into far-flung regions across South Africa, making them almost entirely self-sufficient and not dependent on deliveries.

"Being in control of the job – and especially the equipment and materials – is often the key to a smooth build. That's what the Pan Mixers offering is all about: ultimately, our customers' final product is what we want to be proud of, concludes Ebeling. ■