

Self-loading mixers for local construction industry

MARY-ANNE O'DONNELL | FEATURES REPORTER

Concrete machine manufacturer Pan Mixers South Africa (PMSA) has launched a new range of self-loading concrete mixers for the local construction industry.

"The mixers are ideally meant for manufacturing

concrete on sites where ready-mix concrete is not conveniently available, where smaller amounts of concrete are needed or where time constraints are evident. Because the mixers are compact, they can be used on smaller, remote sites and even



SELF-LOADING

The Fiori mixers range in size from 1 m³ to 4 m³ and PMSA will initially supply the larger-capacity mixer because of market demand in the South Africa

greenfield sites, but can deliver up to 16 m³/h of concrete." PMSA director **Walter Ebeling** tells *Engineering News*.

PMSA is waiting for the delivery of its first two 4-m³ mixers from Italy, which will arrive in the country in the middle of this month.

These hydraulically operated machines are able to scoop, load, mix, transport and place concrete independently, while being conveniently operated by one person.

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of market demand in South Africa and smaller models will be imported for specific orders.

The Fiori mixer can be used in many applications, including the process of road making, foundations, wet-cast concrete, lining of canals and tunnels, building construction, shuttering work and precast concrete work, and for other infrastructure projects. It is also used in surface mining applications and larger area mining, such as diamond mines.

These mixers have a good mixing action and a specially designed drum and mixing blades that give a high-quality mix of concrete, even without large concrete batching plants or large labour forces on the site.

The mixers also cut down on costs and the logistics involved in transporting a ready-mix product to the site.

The mixer is equipped with its own water tank and is able to discharge concrete from the mixing drum around the mixer in an area of about 270°.

Young Brad came off the soccer pitch looking very dejected, and slunk into the dressing room. "I've never played so badly before," he sighed.
"Oh", answered a fellow player.
"You've played before, have you?"



WALTER EBELING

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Ebeling reports that construction company Frankpile is already using the mixers on its construction sites, and that the product is performing well in the market.

The construction company previously used traditional labour-intensive drum mixers that are difficult to monitor for quality control, whereas the Fiori mixers load themselves, are equipped with a weighing system to measure each load of concrete and allows the operator to print out a report of each load of cement produced.

Frankpile has about 20

mixers operating throughout Southern Africa.

Surviving the Recession

Ebeling reports that PMSA was fortunate during the recent global financial downturn and is starting to see positive growth in the company.

"We consider ourselves lucky as we did not reduce on our labour force last year. We also have an improved order book for this year, compared with last year, so we are quietly optimistic about this improvement; however, we are still cautious and understand that it will take time before we start seeing major improvements," he reports.

PMSA already has orders and inquiries from other parts of Southern Africa, but reports that the South African market still seems to be sluggish in its recovery from the downturn. These orders include a large automatic handling plant, in the north of Namibia, several smaller machines in Mozambique and Angola, and enquiries are coming in from Zimbabwe. "As soon as the market turns sufficiently for us to start investing in capital equipment again, we feel positive that we will do significantly better in selling our range of concrete pumps and mixers," he concludes.

ENGINEERING NEWS COUPON ON PAGE 108 E191950