

Enter Fiori

Making its debut in South Africa in the next few weeks is the Fiori self-loading concrete-to-batch concrete in remote areas. *Civil Engineering Contractor* first learned about the company's intentions at Intermat in Paris in 2009 when it was still finalising its agency agreement. Readers may recall that another two manufacturers are also keen to enter 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 was 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 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, you have to cut the costs and logistics involved in transporting ready-mixed product." These hydraulically operated, stand-alone machines are able to scoop, load, mix, transport and place concrete independently while operated by a single person. They are also easy to manoeuvre, making them suitable for the concrete lining of canals and tunnels, roadworks, construction and low-cost housing sites, as well as 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," Ebeling says. "A receipt is printed out for every operation as a permanent record. The mixing drum has a double auger system that mixes concrete very intensely and prevents material segregation: giving a superb-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 m³ capacity to the 4 m³ machines. "We saw a need in the construction industry for a plant that can be operated in smaller, remote or even greenfield sites," Ebeling points out. "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 on-site, reducing the down time spent waiting for deliveries.