

# PMSA adds colour to the South African concrete industry

Leading roofing specialist, West End Roof Tiles is able to produce roof tiles of the highest-quality colour directly from a concrete mixer, thanks to an innovative powder dosing system available locally through PMSA.

West End has been using the Finke universal powder pigment dosing system in the production of its roof tiles for the past three years, and operational director, Francois Aveling, considers powder oxide to be more consistent and user-friendly than granules.

"West End strives to ensure that colours on all products are consistent, and powder moves considerably faster than granules, ensuring that precise colours can be blended to the highest grade, in the shortest time," he explains. "The Finke system can work with up to four primary colour pigments

which can be dosed individually or mixed together to produce a wide range of intermediate shades."

Aveling says customer service from PMSA is unrivalled. "We know we can rely on PMSA to give us outstanding after-sales and technical support, allowing us to focus on manufacturing high-standard products continuously without unnecessary delays."

"What's more", he says, "the Finke system complements our on-site mixing plant – also installed and commissioned by PMSA. "The process starts when the bulk bag discharge sleeves are connected to the system, using a special sealed docking station for a dust-free connection. The level of pigment in the bags is continuously monitored and displayed on the unit's control panel so the production operator can see

when a new bag of pigment will be needed, and avoid any disruption to production."

"After selecting the required recipe, the pigments are automatically weighed using a computer-controlled load-cell system. Then the pigment is discharged into a pressure vessel and pneumatically conveyed to whichever mixer requires it."

PMSA director Walter Ebeling says the patented Finke system replaces the more costly granular and free-flow methods, as it is designed to feed concrete mixers from a single ground-level weighing station. "The disadvantage of granular or free flow-systems is cost, as granules take longer to break up inside the mixer, meaning that more needs to be used in order to get the same intensity that powders produce," he explains. "If you use granules, you may also end up with streaks of colour because the granules don't break up properly. Powder pigments produce a cost-effective, better-quality, more consistent product."

"The Finke universal powder pigment dosing system pays for itself over a period of time, as the higher price is countered by superior reliability, accuracy and consistency, which ultimately saves the user on overall production costs," Ebeling explains. "A number of manufacturers are beginning to realise this, and I am confident that demand for the powder oxide dosing systems will continue to increase." ■



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