

equipment news

## Colouring the SA construction industry

Colour has been added to the South African concrete industry, as Pan Mixers South Africa [PMSA] introduces an innovative powder oxide system to the market.



**T**op-quality colours can now be produced directly from a concrete mixer, thanks to the Finke Universal Powder Pigment Dosing System - available locally from PMSA, Africa's leading manufacturer of concrete block, brick and paving machinery.

The patented system is designed to feed concrete mixers from a single ground-level weighing station, thereby, replacing the need for the more costly granular and free flow methods.

The Universal System is able to work with up to six quality primary colour pigments, which are stored in bulk bags, and can be dosed individually, or mixed together in different proportions to produce a wide range of intermediate shades.

PMSA director Walter Ebeling explains: "The disadvantage of a granular or free flow system is cost, and the fact that granules take longer to break up inside the mixer, meaning that more product needs to be used in order to get the same intensity provided by powder oxides. In addition, if you use granules in your oxides, you may end up with

streaks of colour on the product surface, because the granules don't break up completely. The end result of using the Finke system is lower cost and a better quality end product that is more consistent."

The process starts when the bulk bag discharge sleeves are connected to the system, using a special sealed docking station for dust-free connection. The level of pigment within the bags is continuously-monitored and displayed on the control panel of the unit - to enable the production operator to determine when a new bag of pigment will be required, and to avoid any disruption to production, adds Walter.

"After selection of the required recipe, the pigments are automatically weighed in the correct proportions, using a computer-controlled load-cell system," Walter says. "After weighing, the pigment is discharged into a pressure vessel, and pneumatically conveyed to whichever mixer requires pigment."

Leading roofing specialist, West End Roof Tiles, has been making use of the Finke 4-colour Universal System on its production line for the past four years.

West End production manager Hennie Nortje says: "In our line of work, colour quality is of the utmost importance. By using the Finke System supplied by PMSA, we are able to ensure that we can precisely blend various colours to the highest grade, in the shortest amount of time. The system is precise every time, and it has given us an edge over our competitors."

German-based Finke has been a global leader in the dosing and dispensing of granular pigments, liquid pigments and chemical admixtures for more than 20 years.

*The Universal System is able to work with up to six quality primary colour pigments, which are stored in bulk bags, and can be dosed individually, or mixed together in different proportions to produce a wide range of intermediate shades.*

### About Pan Mixers SA

*Pan Mixers SA is a leading manufacturer of a wide range of concrete block, brick and paving machinery, turbine and counter-current pan mixers and batching plants for the Concrete, Refractory and Ceramic industries. Pan Mixers has been servicing the needs of local and overseas customers since 1976. PMSA brickmaking machinery, in the Johannesburg area alone, produces two million bricks per day.*