

## True colours shine through

Top-quality colours can now be produced directly from a concrete mixer, thanks to the Finke Universal Powder Pigment Dosing System – available locally from Pan Mixers SA.

The patented system is designed to feed concrete mixers from a single ground-level weighing station; replacing the need for the more costly granular and free-flow methods. The Universal System is able to work with up to six primary colour pigments, which are stored in bulk bags, and can be dosed individually, or mixed together in different proportions for 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 to get the same intensity that powder oxides produce. In addition, if you use granules, you may end up with streaks of colour on the product surface, because the granules don't break up completely. Using the Finke system produces a better and more consistent end product at a lower cost."

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 operator to determine when a new bag of pigment is required, and to avoid any disruption to production.

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

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

**More information from Tel: 011 397 3754 or [www.pmsa.com](http://www.pmsa.com)**

