

True colours of SA construction industry 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 South Africa (PMSA).

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 system is able to work with up to six primary colour pigments 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 that powder oxides produce. In addition, granules result 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 Finke universal powder pigment dosing system

“After selection of 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.”

West End Roof Tiles have been using this system for four years. 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.” ■