

Production tweaked

One second saved in the brick production process could result in thousands more units.

Pan Mixers claims that one second is all it takes for its clients to increase productivity by thousands of units per day. Pan Mixers MD, Walter Ebeling, says that many of his customers don't realise just how much more productive their machines could be by simply eliminating stoppages and improving cycle times for maximum impact. Saving just one second per 12 second cycle could result in the production of thousands more brick units daily.

Ebeling divulges: "The main problem is that many people accept their current machine production levels as standard and we need to change this kind of

thinking. Many years of experience in the industry has proven that production capacities between customers differ dramatically on similar specified machines. By taking a closer look at daily production and breaking it down into machine cycles, with timing attached to each process in the cycle, and 'refining' the operation to save time per cycle could literally enable you to produce thousands more products per shift."

Working on 12 seconds per cycle, five cycles of product would be produced per minute. Reducing the cycle to 11 seconds on a VB1X making 30 bricks per cycle would result in



more than 6 000 additional bricks per day and more than 12 000 additional bricks on the VB4X machine, by saving just one second per cycle – based on 9 hours and 90% of full production.

Ebeling adds that a closer look at why a client's plant may be stopping during the day may also have a significant impact on productivity. For example, if the

plant is stopping for around five minutes every hour – a total of 45 minutes each day – then at a 12 second cycle, an additional 225 pallets of product could have been produced, which would be 6 750 bricks on a VB1X machine, or 13 500 on a VB4X machine. If continuous operation can be achieved, then production and quality would remain consistent. ■