

## CURING UNATTRACTIVE CONCRETE SURFACES



Control curing is an essential process in the manufacture of concrete products, as it ensures a more aesthetically-pleasing and consistent appearance, while increasing overall durability and minimising cement usage. The largest supplier of concrete brick, block and paving machinery in Africa, Pan Mixers South Africa (PMSA) is the Southern African distributor for German-based Kraft Curing Solutions. The European company manufactures customised thermal-dynamic and accelerated concrete curing equipment for precast concrete production.

PMSA Sales and Marketing Manager Quintin Booysen notes that the company directly imports a Kraft kit, which is assembled by PMSA appointed sub-contractors using local insulation and ducting materials.

“This agreement does not only makes the equipment more affordable for local precast concrete producers, but also creates new jobs and stimulates the local economy,” he explains.

Having designed and installed more than 650 concrete curing systems in 56 countries, Kraft Managing Director Michael Kraft says that the company is dedicated to making these products stronger, more durable and more aesthetically pleasing while saving the producers time and money.

“By making use of control curing, concrete products will result in less efflorescence and a brighter colour, which will also appear more consistent through secondary processing equipment. This method can result in a reduction of cement costs by 10%, as well as a decrease in pigment content. Control curing also makes the concrete product more durable,” he states.

Kraft adds that, through the control curing process, the concrete will become more resistant to freeze thaw forces, and will also have a higher resistance to abrasion and chloride penetration. “The corners and edges of the product will also be stronger, which will result in less chipping.”

Through their partnership, PMSA and Kraft aim to provide the local market with high-quality equipment that is complemented by a value-added and comprehensive service offering. “The Southern African market is ready for this evolution in precast concrete manufacture, and we are prepared to support them with value-added initiatives such as this,” he says. ■