

PMSA SECURES CONTROLLED CURING EQUIPMENT AGENCY

CMA member, Pan Mixers South Africa (PMSA), the largest supplier of concrete brick, block and paving making machinery in Africa, has secured the Sub-Saharan African marketing rights for German-controlled curing equipment supplier, Kraft Curing Solutions.

Kraft produces customised thermal-dynamic and accelerated concrete curing equipment which results in precast concrete products with higher strengths, less efflorescence, and brighter colours. The company has designed and installed over 650 concrete curing systems in 56 countries since it was founded in 1991.

Kraft and PMSA have struck an agreement whereby curing equipment can be imported from Germany in kit form to be assembled by PMSA appointed sub-contractors using local insulation and ducting materials. This will not only make the equipment more affordable for local precast concrete producers but will create jobs and stimulate the local economy.

According to Kraft Curing Solutions, managing director, Michael Kraft, controlled curing makes for a more durable concrete product and can result in reduced cement usage of up to 10% and a decrease in pigment content.

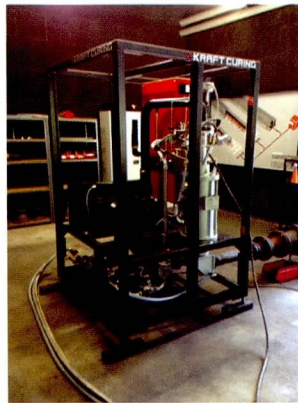
"Cement hydrates naturally, but what we are doing is controlling that process to take advantage of characteristics that benefit the producer. Controlled curing results in concrete with a higher resistance to abrasion and chloride penetration. Moreover, less chipping occurs on the corners and edges of precast concrete products," says Kraft.

PMSA has already delivered Africa's first Kraft Curing Solutions plant to brick-maker, Van Dyk Stene in the Western Cape. One of the most advanced curing systems in the country, the plant comprises fully insulated racking and curing chambers, and includes circulation of the precast products.

Kraft and his colleagues have accumulated vast and in-depth knowledge in precast concrete curing and during September they shared some of this expertise with South African professionals in two seminars held in Johannesburg and Cape Town. The principles of curing as well as the difference between racking and curing systems were discussed, and products covered included: bricks; blocks; pavers; roof tiles; prestressed slabs; concrete piping and other types of infra-structural concrete.

PMSA sales and marketing manager, Quintin Booysen, says the South African market is ready for this evolution in precast concrete manufacture.

"By installing curing systems manufacturers will find it easier to maintain consistent quality," comments Booysen.



A Kraft Curing Solutions vapour generator used for curing precast concrete.