LATEST AIR-CIRCULATION SYSTEM

Shukuma Bricks has consolidated its position as the leading brick, block and paver manufacturer in the Eastern Cape by investing in a new Kraft Nautilus air circulation system supplied by PMSA.

This unique system from German OEM Kraft Curing Solutions utilises the heat from cement hydration, as well as the humidity from the concrete, to combine the advantages of air circulation with heat recovery technology. It not only saves energy and cement, thereby reducing operating costs, but also eliminates condensation.

Ancillary benefits include increased product quality and strength while saving cement. Shukuma Bricks manufactures a range of interlocking and bevelled pavers, in addition to concrete bricks and blocks. "We are able to offer our clients a broader spectrum of products to meet their needs," comments Jacques Bellingham, owner and director of Shukuma Bricks.

Michael Kraft, managing director of Kraft Curing Solutions, reveals that by installing the company's full curing system on their precast brick and paver plants, customers can realise cement input cost savings of up to 30% when implementing a total PMSA system.

"This is of particular importance in the context of Africa's infrastructure build-up, where we see a major opportunity for this technology. It is also the main reason we have partnered with a company like PMSA, which has such a strong foothold throughout the continent," Kraft comments.

"Our significant investment in the latest state-of-the-technology from PMSA has allowed Shukuma Bricks to retain a leading edge in a highly competitive market," Bellingham points out. PMSA, the leading manufacturer of brick, block and paving machines on the continent, together with Kraft Curing Solutions, was responsible for the circulation and curing system design for the ducting and controls.

Kraft Curing Autocure control system panel.

Bellingham explains that quality at Shukuma Bricks begins with the fully automated production process in the factory. The whole plant is monitored and managed from the control room by means of a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

This provides visual animated graphics of the machine and plant operation. Machine parameter control and data capture allow for remote control of the plant, in addition to retaining historic and daily data for plant management.

Various tests are conducted to ensure that strict quality control is applied, in order to maintain the highest production standards. "All products are manufactured to exceed SABS requirements, thereby giving customers' peace of mind when using them," Bellingham confirms.

Shukuma Bricks recently also installed a fully automated RE-1400 machine from PMSA, which offers a range of batching configurations, wet and dry side production handling and production board handling, according to Quintin Booysen, PMSA marketing and sales manager. The new plant will be producing 95 000 pavers per nine-hour shift.

As part of its automated brick, block and paving manufacturing equipment, PMSA also offers locally-developed automation and handling systems for large-scale brick and block plants to increase productivity and improve the end quality of the final products.

"We have been building on our technology, leadership, expertise and experience in the concrete products sector for the past 40 years and have an array of options to suit all client needs without compromising on end product quality," Walter Ebeling, MD of PMSA, concludes.

Shukuma Bricks is a leading brick, block and paver manufacturer in the Eastern Cape.