

Portland cuts carbon footprint

Portland, situated on the Vissershok Road, between the picturesque Durbanville Hills has imported and installed a Bibko concrete recycling system, resulting in a major influence on the production and environmental benefits of the Portland Readymix plant.

For any readymix supplier, wastage and concrete returns are a problem. This system completely eliminates the need to waste concrete, to dump returns and to pay for the removal of waste. The reuse of resources means that the plant will, in effect, be paid back within three years from installation. At the time of writing, in two months over 300 t of aggregate had been recovered.

After every delivery, the trucks return to be quickly and efficiently washed. All aggregates are recovered and the cement water is pumped into a separate dam, and

re-used during the mix of new loads. The system is user-friendly and can be used by a general labourer. There is no need for special training and each driver cleans his own truck with this automatic system. There are two buttons: one for rinsing and one for mixing. The machine requires basic ongoing maintenance in order to be kept clean.

The constant recycling ensures a clean plant without slush, leaving a smaller carbon footprint. The trucks are constantly clean and there is no build up of residue in the mixing drums. The rapid cleaning

and loading operation has resulted in better turnaround times for the operation.

Portland has incorporated this recycling plant into the improvements and facelift the group is undertaking, which includes the recent upgrade of electrical wiring at the aggregate plant and the current upgrade of the precision hollow-core factory. New machinery is on its way from Weiler in Germany for the installation of new casting beds, a new casting machine and the resultant upgrade of the stock yard. In terms of hollowcore, the group is expanding rapidly, with Phil Surridge from Bobcrete joining the management team.

The Portland group is home to Portland Quarry, Readymix and Hollowcore.

www.portland.co.za
Report by Dale Kelly, photographs courtesy Portland



Recently imported from Germany, the Bibko recycling plant is already reaping benefits for the Portland group.



Simple to use, drivers are able to clean their own trucks with the automatic system.

AECI blasts off Down Under

Leading African explosives and chemicals company AECI, and Thiess, a major global mining contractor, have signed a five-year agreement signalling AECI's entry into Australia. In terms of the agreement, AEL

Mining Services (AEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of AECI, will provide leading edge explosives, initiating systems and technical services to Thiess in Australia.

AECI's entry into Australia is aligned with the company's clearly defined growth strategy. In addition to Australia, other places of interest are Africa, Brazil, Chile and Indonesia. Australia is one of the world's largest producers of metallurgical and thermal coal, and ferrous and non-ferrous metals. The explosives industry is nearly six times the size of that of South Africa.

To prepare the groundwork,

AECI Australia was registered as a legal entity in 2014. At the same time, a MD was appointed, an office opened in Brisbane and a site developed in Bajool near Rockhampton in Queensland. The site includes an ammonium nitrate emulsion manufacturing facility imported from South Africa, as well as storage space. The modular design of the manufacturing facility is deployed globally and gives AEL the flexibility to grow capacity easily in the future. All the necessary regulatory approvals are in place.

According to Mark Dytors, AECI CE, the first 140 t of emulsion was manufactured in November 2014 and a trial blast involving 550 electronic detonators was completed in January this year. Full explosives supply will commence shortly.

www.aeci.co.za / www.thiess.com.au

Beltcon 18 set for August

Now in its 36th year, the biennial International Materials Handling Conference and Exhibition – Beltcon 18 – takes place from August 5-6, at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre. The prestigious conference is recognised worldwide as a value resource in bringing the latest developments in materials handling to a wide audience.

The latest research, new conveyor techniques, report backs on methodology and new technology and installations are presented by some of the most eminent international conveying specialists. www.beltcon.org.za