

Kobra Formen GmbH, 08485 Lengenfeld, Germany

## Customer-orientated product philosophy and innovative world firsts in mould construction

According to the management of Kobra Formen GmbH "the bauma is and remains the trade fair highlight in our industry". As a strong partner to the concrete block manufacturers all over the world, the company will be presenting itself and its innovative products once again this year at the world's leading building industry trade fair at booth 111 in Hall B1. The visitors will be able to experience the technical level at which steel moulds are currently manufactured and to see what creative possibilities are available in modern mould construction. Kobra develops and manufactures quality moulds „made in Germany“ for the worldwide mechanical manufacturing of various concrete products. There will be interesting new items in several product groups.

As a leader in surface processing and hardening technology, the company forcefully argues that its recipe for success, 'milled and hardened surfaces', is the crucial success parameter for a longer service life and high economic viability of concrete block moulds. Following the strategic decision several years ago to abandon the flame-cut stone cavity and the product disadvantages associated with that, it is today the modular mould design that will crucially affect the level of quality in the industry. The term 'modular mould design' should be taken to mean the disassembly of the mould into its essential constituent parts which are, for example, stably bolted to one another via releasable joints. In practice, releasable joints are found between the mould frame and the mould insert, as well as between the tamper assembly and the upper tamper head. The modular mould design is the basis for various development approaches towards the customer or project-specific configuration of mould technologies and even the creation of completely new application possibilities for concrete block moulds. One of these possibilities is the new »Evoline« mould by Kobra. It represents the highest degree of customer orientation and will be presented to the public for the first time at the bauma 2010 as one of the company's new product highlights.

The evolution of bolted mould constructions goes hand-in-hand with the development of the in-house hardening processes »Optimill carbo« and »Optimill nitro«. Optimill machining sets the benchmark among the competition for the accurate reproduction of product surfaces and precise cavity geometries in entirely reproducible concrete block moulds. The range of different hardness grades extends as standard up to 68 HRC, and in certain custom applications even up to 74 HRC.

Kobra describes significant product improvements in the further development of its »Longlife« technology, which will be seen in various versions at the bauma trade fair booth. The new design method makes longer service lives possible by dispensing as far as possible with avoidable welded joints in the mould bottom. The new mould generation reduces the process-related wearing of the cavity significantly and shows an even wear pattern both in the edge regions and in the centre of the mould insert. This technology is now available for all types of block making machines.

Kobra supplies products and service all around concrete block moulds from one source. Sophisticated blocks and pavers, laying



systems and product surfaces are developed in a time-saving process for and with the customers. The order is clarified exclusively on the basis of three-dimensional drawing models with a high degree of detail, on whose basis completely new options for the representation of prototypes will be available in future. Beside true-to-scale functional models, graphic prototypes are now also available – animated, printable pictures that represent the block model or its laying in an astonishingly realistic quality.

For Kobra, the bauma 2010 represents new application possibilities and added value for the concrete block industry. Proof of the mould maker's expertise is its certain dealing with the latest technology to support the customers sustained investment in solid mould technology and the saving of time and money in the development of new products. ■

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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