

Kobra Formen GmbH, 08485 Lengenfeld, Germany

## Innovative trade fair novelties in bolted mould technology

Kobra is presenting the new project mould Power 'Evoline' to the international professional public for the first time at the bauma 2010. Innovative mould construction continually takes new, customer-orientated paths in its products. Kobra Formen GmbH's sales goals for 2010 include showing the concrete block industry new means and ways of reacting flexibly to rapidly changing customer requests with tailor-made moulds.

Hence, Kobra is taking up the market requirements of niche producers and transferring them to mould technology configured for the specific project. The company's range of services, demonstrated at trade fair booth B1 / 111, extends from bolted concrete block moulds of the latest generation and moulds that meet the demands on the project business through to creative and technological capabilities in the field of stone development.

The concrete block industry is frequently confronted with orders whose requirements are connected with specific building projects. Typical public or commercial property business - exclusive products with a low repetition frequency, defined, limited constructible surfacing areas and short delivery schedules. In addition, in the case of stones in a combined installation, custom formats in small lots are often frequently required, possibly in order to adapt to the structurally dictated boundary conditions. In addition, projects of this kind have a particularly high image effect for the company. Hence, the representative project business is an indispensable service component for many stone producers who tender for international contracts. Whether football stadiums, new exhibition centres, airports, railway stations or public squares - the stone producer is in the area of conflict between being awarded the contract and the gain in image on

the one hand and the most economic completion of the order on the other, whereby Kobra can support its customers even better in the future with its expertise in stone development and a new generation of project moulds. The development of new stones and stone systems, which are initially produced only in small series, is also accelerated considerably by this technology.

The Power 'Evoline' is in the broadest sense an interchangeable system of bolted mould components with defined characteristics. The subassemblies of the mould frame and the tamper head are built to be reusable, whereas the mould insert and the bolted tampers with tamper shoes are unique to the specific product. Above all, the mould Power 'Evoline' is a quickly available, highly economical tool for the short term needs of small production lots of stones. This gives rise to the question of whether

this mould must have a hardness comparable to that of moulds for mass production or whether the properties of the mould cavities should be more orientated towards the expected service life. Like longlife moulds, the individual stone cavities of the 'Evoline' are precisely 'Optimill' machined and guarantee the precise dimensional accuracy of the manufactured stones for a defined production quantity. Of course, surface hardening of the cavities and tamper shoes is also possible, depending on requirements. In conjunction with reusable, stable interface subassemblies to the machine, such as frame and tamper head, the project mould can be seen as being more economical than previous standard moulds with regard to the production orders to be accomplished. Kobra's main argument with regard to the fundamental product advantage is the short production times in the construction of moulds and, hence, improved reaction times of its customers.

In the context of close co-operation, the customers challenge the mould maker, which is strong in development, and thereby make use of the excellent approachability of its employees over short routes. For Kobra, customer orientation is a basic component of its worldwide sales organisation. At the production site in Lengenfeld, which is equipped with an almost complete manufacturing depth, many ideas can be put into practice that are of economical benefit to concrete plants.

An additional main item at Kobra Formen GmbH's bauma trade fair booth is the further development of bolted mould technologies. In addition to solid bolted cover plates, the new generation of the 'Longlife' moulds features a revised layout of the mould insert. The wall thicknesses in the mould insert have thereby been retained down to the region of the milled blank cavi-



Kobra supplied Rinn Beton- und Naturstein GmbH & Co. KG with the moulds for the 'Frankfurt Exhibition Centre' project (product: 12 cm Magnum slabs)

ties and enable the even induction of hardness into both the centre and the edge areas of the mould insert. The Kobra 'Longlife' construction principle is considered by the company to be the abandonment of welded joints in and around the cavity, which impair the wear characteristics in the region of the highly stressed upper edge of the mould insert. Due to the enormous input of heat when welding in a hardened mould insert, its hardness structure can be completely destroyed in the significant wearing areas. In the Kobra 'Longlife' moulds, the critical wearing areas are protected by the constructive arrangement of blank cavities between the insert layout and welded-on frame parts. The hardness properties of the mould insert are completely retained, making a long service life possible for the mould. The standard hardness of the Kobra paving stone moulds of 62 HRC can be increased to 68 HRC and for special applications even up to 74 HRC in the proprietary hardening plant thanks to 'Optimill carbo 68 plus'. A comparison of the conventional mould technology with the new welded and bolted product standards is illustrated at the mould constructor's trade fair booth.

Kobra impresses at the bauma with a clear commitment to its customers' products. Concrete blocks of all kinds are the linchpin of the company's dedication. From the approachability of the customer support staff and the close cooperation in the development of sophisticated stone systems up to the conscientious final inspection of the finished standard and special moulds, the company's way of working is orientated to the benefit of its customers. In addition to numerous moulds for different stone types that can be looked at and touched, visitors to booth B1 / 111 can see for themselves how economic moulds for contemporary concrete products are created at Kobra with the aid of the latest technology.



FURTHER INFORMATION



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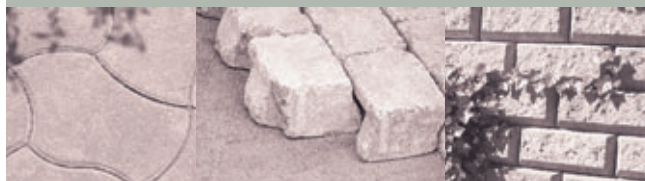


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