

Hess Group, India / Forest Press Hydraulics, UK

# Hydraulic kerbstone presses for the Indian concrete industry

A wide variety of products can be produced on hydraulic kerbstone presses. This article gives an overview about Forest Press kerbstone machines, their history and the recent joint venture of Forest Press Hydraulics in India with the Hess group, one of the leading machinery producers for the concrete industry worldwide.

Forest Press Hydraulics Limited, was set up in 1984, by its founder and current owner Frank Bullock. Frank's background was working for 'Fielding & Platt' for approx 30 years, working on all types of hydraulic presses such as extrusion, forging, concrete, hydraulic stretchers and special presses.

In the early eighties Fielding & Platt were asking for redundancy as work was in short supply, after working up from 'apprentice' to 'Works manager'. Frank thought it was time to go alone and spotted that there was a niche in the concrete press market.

Forest Press was moved and settled in approx 20,000 sq ft of buildings. Some land and buildings have been developed and now rented to other companies in the local area, Frank fully owns the site and is still currently expanding the industrial building side of the business.

Forest Press has continued to grow, and now runs from 30,000 sq ft, employing approx 30 staff and purely specializing in the kerbstone press market. The company in 2006 was proud winners of the 'Queens Award for International Trade' - the highest

award a UK business can achieve, where members of staff and Frank were invited to Buckingham Palace to receive the award from the 'Queen' and visits from local dignitaries were received at Forest Presses factory in the UK.

From 2006 onward, Forest Press continued to grow and trade in all corners of the world. In 11 countries on 5 continents the international trade continued to increase and with the increased demand, a new assembly area was built onto the factory offering 25 tons lifting capacity, 10,000 sq ft extra assembly space. This helps making the assemblies of the equipment more efficient and cost effective. To compliment this, new software was introduced and a new 4.5m x 2.5m CNC gantry mill was also purchased increasing the machining capacity of the company and allowing more efficient machining of the larger parts.

## Hess Group & Forest Press

Hess Group and Forest Press decided to set up 'Hess Forest Press' in early 2010. It was

decided that there was interest in the 'wet press' in India and after a short meeting the partnership / JV was decided and set up. Within a very short period of time the first machine was sold, built and commissioned at the Hess factory in Bangalore and shipped and installed to 'A & P Builders' Trivendrum Southern India for the manufacture of Kerbstones for a road project in the area.

This first project was followed by the BC India exhibition in February 2011 where the interest in the equipment was very high. At the EXCON exhibition in November 2011, the response in the 'wet press' machinery and the process itself was overwhelming.

Currently the machines are being built in the Hess Bangalore factory with perspective customers in mind. The association between the two companies is growing ever closer with servicing and supporting both Hess Group & Hess Forest Press Customers in the forefront of the companies mind. ■



Hess Forest Press is manufacturing kerbstone presses in the Hess factory in Bangalore

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