

Hess Group GmbH, 57299 Burbach-Wahlbach, Germany

Excluton replaces three concrete block making machines within just three years

The Excluton company of Druten, one of the major manufacturers of concrete products in the Netherlands, has a whole series of garden designs and decorations for the outdoor area. The range includes products made of concrete, natural stone and ceramics. Whether they are classic or modern, elegant or outlandish, inexpensive or exclusive – but contemporary across the board – only high-quality products are adopted into the product range. Excluton consistently relies on modern machine technology in order to be able to ensure this quality at all times. The replacement of three existing concrete block making machines by three new ones within just three years underlines this aspiration. The Hess company from the Topwerk Group was selected in all three cases as the supplier of the new concrete block making machines. The standard high-performance machine from Hess, the RH 2000-3 MVA, was selected three times. New board magazines and conveying sections up to the elevator were also supplied with the machines. The existing finger cars were fitted with new controllers and drive systems.

■ Mark Küppers, CPI worldwide, Germany ■

More than 130 people work daily in the production and sales of around 2,000 different products for garden and landscape construction. Excluton is a supplier to DIY stores and garden centres, landscape and road construction and public-sector projects. Production takes place in several halls virtually around the clock in order to meet the high demand.

Excluton is constantly informed about current needs and new trends through intensive contact with customers, architects, garden designers and specialist groups. These co-operations and information make it possible to continuously optimise the products and to react rapidly to changes in the market. It is just as important for Excluton to develop new ideas, designs and products and to be trend-setting and innovative – combining



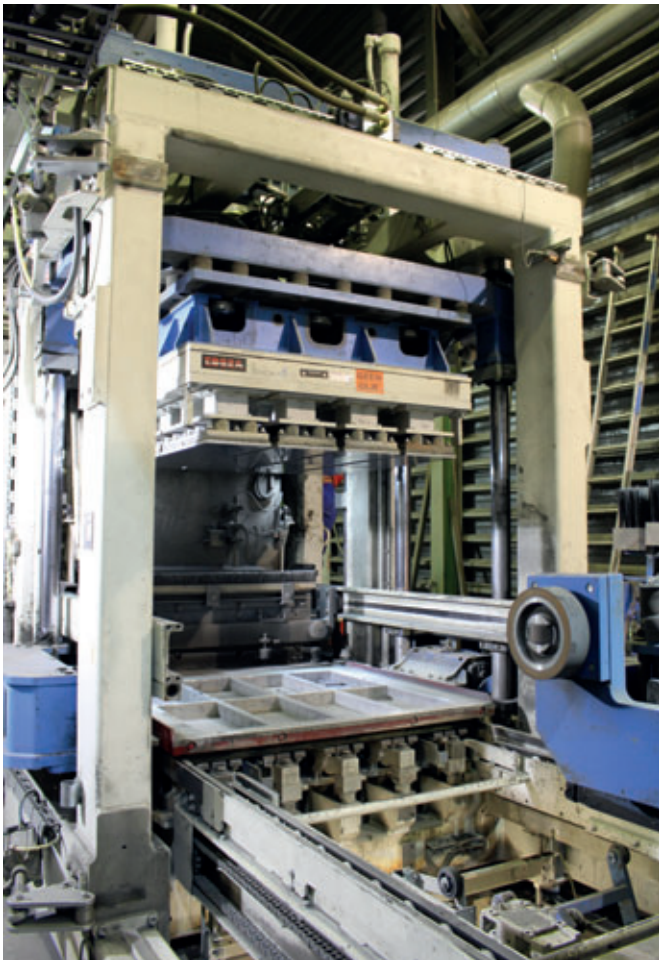
Many raw materials are delivered to Excluton by ship.



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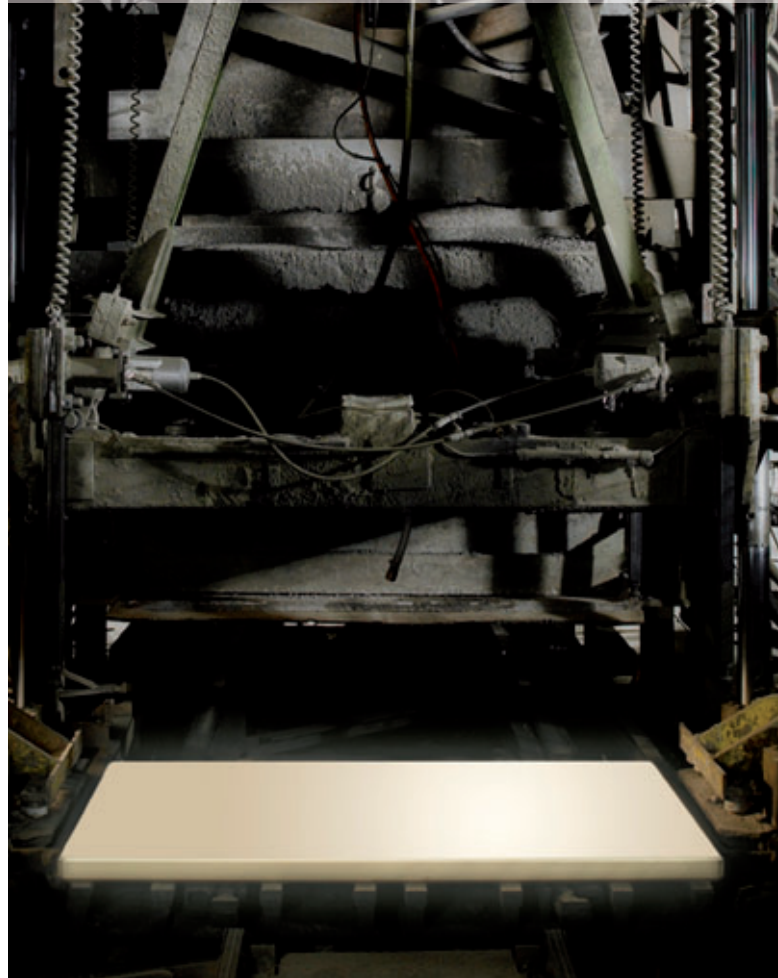


1st Hess RH 2000-3 MVA, production pallet size 1450 x 1250 mm, commissioned in mid-2011



2nd Hess RH 2000-3 MVA, production pallet size 1450 x 1250 mm, commissioned at the start of 2013. The photo also shows the Hotshoe mould from Kobra with heatable tamper shoes.

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3rd Hess RH 2000-3 MVA, production pallet size 1450 x 750 mm, commissioned at the start of 2014

high quality and beautiful forms. For Excluton, therefore, the quality of the concrete products from its own production clearly stands out from the crowd.

One of the trends is towards high-quality, large-sized concrete slabs – a product that is increasingly popular with architects. Excluton has the right answer to this trend with the new Hess Multimater RH 2000-3 MVA concrete block making machine. As the largest standard concrete block making machine from Hess, the Multimater RH 2000-3 MVA can be used for a wide range of products.

RH 2000-3 MVA concrete block making machine continuously developed

The RH 2000-3 MVA stationary concrete block making machine from the Hess Group is a high-performance machine that reflects Hess's many years of experience in mechanical engineering as well as current technological progress. The RH 2000-3 MVA stands for simple operation, high speeds and economical production and also meets high safety requirements.

The RH 2000-3 MVA is equipped with the MAC8 hydraulic controller from Bosch-

Rexroth. This allows very dynamic movement sequences and offers very high positioning accuracy of tamper head, mould and feed box.

The Siemens S7 and Siemens Win CC control and visualisation systems have similarly been completely revised, simplifying the operation. The RH 2000-3 MVA machines are installed inside enclosures for noise insulation and the control terminals are located in connected containers. The control room has large glass windows, through which every production sequence of the RH 2000-3 MVA concrete block making machine can be directly observed. The operator can view current production parameters such as the momentary compaction force in real-time on a monitor.

The entire concrete mixing processes can be tracked on two separate monitors for the facing and core concrete mixers. These include the levels in the aggregate and cement silos, the concrete recipes and all dosage parameters.

In combination with the driven planing roller built into the facing concrete feed box, the hydraulic controller offers an optimised operating cycle of the machine. This technical equipment enables the manufacture of concrete slabs with dimensions of up to 1,200 x 1,200 mm with facing and intermediate tampers in very high quality.

The first two concrete block making machines from Hess that were installed are suitable for these products due to the size of their production pallets. They are operated by Excluton with production pallets from Assyx measuring 1,450 x 1,250 mm. The third machine runs with production pallets measuring 1,450 x 750 mm, similarly from Assyx.

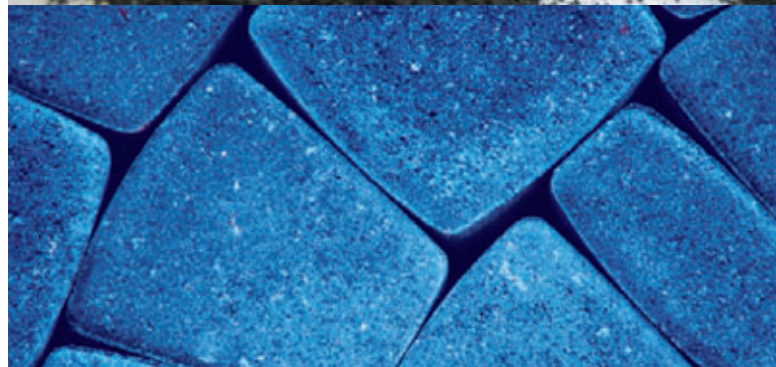


Paving stone production with the third RH 2000 at Excluton

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Every production sequence of the RH 2000-3 MVA concrete block making machine can be directly observed from the control room.



Hermetic turntable press with a pressing force of 14,000 kN from SR-Schindler

All the mechanical components are extremely robust and equipped with modern electronics. The innovative implementations of the most diverse machine functions support the operator during production.

Slab production using a hermetic turntable press

A new slab making plant from SR-Schindler, also a member of the Topwerk Group, was put into operation at the end of 2012, between the replacement of the first and second concrete block

making machines by two new RH 2000-3 MVA machines from Hess. The heart of the high-performance slab making plant, which was designed precisely to meet Excluton's needs, is the hermetic turntable press with a pressing force of 14,000 kN and six stations, on which single two-layer slabs up to a size of 1,000 x 1,000 x 100 mm or 1,200 x 800 x 100 mm, or four two-layer slabs measuring 500 x 500 mm can be manufactured. The maximum pre-pressing force is around 800 kN, while the maximum main pressing force is 14,000 kN. The press operates with a press cycle of 12 - 18 seconds, depending on the product format and thickness.

The slab production plant from SR-Schindler is rounded off by a colouring unit for the manufacture of two-colour or multi-colour slabs, a horizontal depositing device, a drying chamber with air circulation system, a direct slab washer, a refinement unit and a combined flat/upright packaging unit. The complete plant was specially designed for the production of Excluton's Mondo - X slab collection.

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MANN Modell & Formenbau
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FURTHER INFORMATION

Excluton
STENEN MET KARAKTER

Excluton B.V.
Waalbandijk 155
6651 Druten, Netherlands
T +31 487 516 200
www.excluton.nl

TOPWERK
HESS GROUP

HESS Group GmbH
Freier-Grund-Straße 123
57299 Burbach-Wahlbach, Germany
T +49 2736 4976776
F +49 2736 4976620
info@hessgroup.com
www.hessgroup.com

TOPWERK
SR-SCHINDLER

SR Schindler Maschinen-Anlagentechnik GmbH
Hofer Straße 24
93057 Regensburg, Germany
T +49 941 696820
F +49 941 6968218
info@sr-schindler.de
www.sr-schindler.de