

Kobra Formen GmbH, 08485 Lengenfeld, Germany

# Further-developed mould design and innovative management software for concrete block moulds

Following the successful first event three years ago, the second Kobra Technology Symposium took place on 13 and 14 September 2017. The venue was once again the company headquarters of Kobra Formen GmbH in Lengenfeld. As with the first event there was once again great interest and the conference room was accordingly completely full with 140 international participants from 20 countries per day. In addition to tried-and-tested products from Kobra, however, there were also interesting new items on the agenda, such as the presentation of the further-developed Headguide construction, new mould management software with RFID data acquisition and the new Kobra app for mobile devices.

Both days began in the morning with technical presentations that were simultaneously translated. Under the motto "Design through Form", architectural projects from Germany, the USA, Canada and Russia amongst others were presented along with international block trends. The orientation of the Technology Symposium to international topics was noticeably to the taste of the participants.

Apart from the numerous lectures by international speakers, technology workshops took place on both afternoons in the Kobra production halls. The participants were led in small in-

dividual groups to various stations in the production halls. The main points on the agenda there were the stone garden, mould management system, service mould check, virtual reality application, concrete hardening methods, features of the concrete block mould, recipe optimisation for facing concrete, design of stone systems, modular mould systems and the Kobra idea competition.

## Idea competition

At the beginning of June, students of architecture from the Leipzig University of Technology, Business and Culture (HTWK Leipzig) took part in an idea competition held by Kobra. A concept for a new type of concrete block or a modern concrete block system for paving was to be developed within three days. The students had from Friday afternoon until Monday afternoon to come up with designs. The best ideas were honoured and presented during the Technology Symposium. In the idea competition, which is jointly run by Kobra and Professor Alexander Stahr, the usage rights to the ideas are naturally retained by the students.

Due to the enormous response, Kobra is planning to hold the idea competition annually in future.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Kobra Technology Symposium was once again a great success with 140 participants from 20 countries.



*Technology workshops took place on both afternoons in the Kobra production halls. The participants were led in small individual groups to various stations in the production halls.*

### **New items at Kobra meet with great interest**

Particular attention was paid within the scope of the Technology Symposium to the new items from Kobra, which were presented to the expert audience for the first time.

### **Further-developed Headguide construction**

The pin and bush in the further-developed Headguide construction are each rotatable by 90° and can thus be used for a longer period. Once the mould is mounted in the machine, the Headguide centres the mould upper part with respect to the drag mould. The plunging of the tamper shoes into the stone cavities is steered and the wear of the tamper shoes and the top edge of the mould is significantly reduced. The pin and bush, which perform the centring work, often wear in a particular place. The possibility to rotate the system by 90° thus extends the usability of the feature and contributes to prolong the service life of the mould.



# People make molds



Maximilian Fritsch  
[hardening]

### **WE ARE KOBRA.**

We are the technology leader in mold manufacturing for the concrete block making industry. But good molds can only come from good employees. How? They talk about it here.







Model mould workshop



The best concepts from the idea competition could be seen in the workshops.

### RFID screw in the mould

The possibilities to manage the mould inventory in the concrete block plant go well beyond a simple identification number. Economical use of the tool includes information on the number of cycles, their project-related planning, the assignment of maintenance and repair intervals, co-ordination in case of relocation to another plant and a great deal of additional information.

Irrespective of the size of the concrete block plant, there are various reasons for professional mould management, which is intended to serve as an interface between the company software and information generated in production. Basically it's about the provision of data that are important for the respective concrete block plant and can be retrieved and used in a simple manner. The mould management system can be adapted to suit the individual prerequisites in the plant.

From 2018 onwards, therefore, Kobra will be installing RFID chips in the form of a screw in the mould upper part and drag mould of all moulds. Using RFID, numerous data about the mould can be acquired and used to facilitate its planning in

the production process: cycles, repair and maintenance intervals, location of the mould in the plant (mould store, machine, repair), location if the mould is used in several plants. The OGS company has developed an appropriate mould management system for this. The innovative software was also presented at the Technology Symposium directly under real conditions in the production halls.

In July 2017 OGS Gesellschaft für Datenverarbeitung und Systemberatung (data processing and system consulting company), headquartered in Koblenz, and Kobra entered into a partnership for the development and sale of the mould management system.

OGS is an IT company specialising in software solutions, hardware and service for mid-size companies. OGS GmbH and its OGSiD software solution are distinguished by more than 30 years of experience.

### KOBRAwe

This is an app for the Kobra sales team with a public area. The user can find a great deal of information here about moulds,



On the evening of the first day of the event, Kobra invited the guests to spend a casual evening together in the industrial museum in Chemnitz.

features, standards, stones and stone systems, and service. The app works on the basis of iOS for iPads and iPhones and is set to be available in the Apple App Store by the end of the year.

### Successful symposium in every respect

After the two days the participants all agreed that they had taken part in a successful trade event. As with the first event in 2014, the mix of theory and practice was well received and, with an even more extensive agenda, was also fully convincing at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kobra Technology Symposium, too. ■



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### FURTHER INFORMATION



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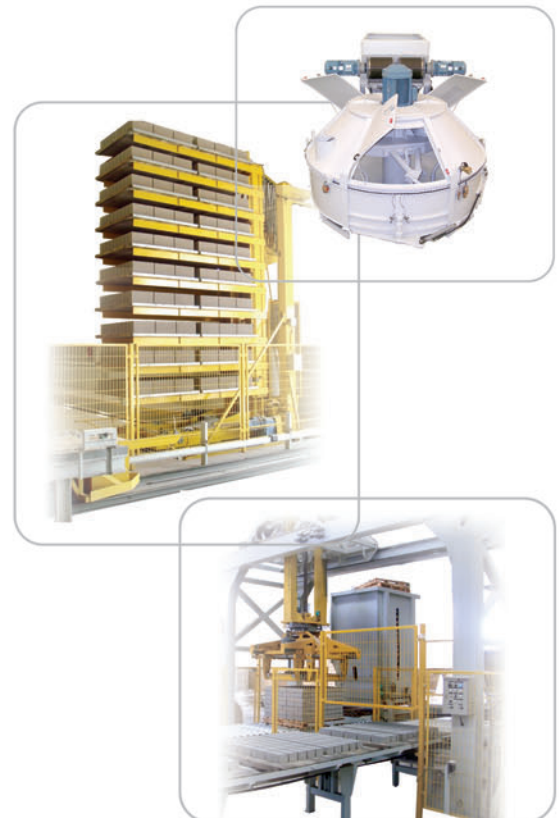


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