

Topwerk Group, 57299 Burbach-Wahlbach, Germany

# Successful start-up of a production and finishing line for concrete blocks in the United Arab Emirates

**As the conclusion of a repeatedly successful collaboration, the companies Hess Group GmbH and SR Schindler Maschinen - Anlagentechnik GmbH, both belonging to the Topwerk Group, have commissioned another production and finishing line for concrete blocks at Raknor L.L.C. in the Middle East.**

As one of the leading manufacturers of high-quality concrete products in the Middle East, Raknor has more than three decades of experience in the production of first-class products for both the private and public sector. The company supplies customers throughout the Middle East.

The prestigious project started with Raknor's vision of being one of the first companies in the region to manufacture and market large-format concrete paving slabs in order to differentiate themselves from the competition and to tap into new markets. As part of the generation process for high-quality concrete products, Raknor searched for ideas and visited several plants in Europe to see the equipment installed there and the production of high-quality concrete products.

Subsequently, in collaboration with Raknor's specialists, Hess and SR Schindler developed and implemented an overall plant concept that best meets the ambitious expectations of all parties involved regarding productivity and achievable product quality.



Figure 1: SR Schindler finishing line for concrete blocks



Figure 2: SR Schindler material handling system „Made in Germany“

As an outcome of several meetings in Germany and in the UAE the plant was developed with the Hess concrete mixing plant and the concrete block plant with the core machine RH 2000-3 MVA, which is individually tailored to the needs of Raknor, has all the capabilities to produce high-quality concrete block products.

The customer Raknor has decided to enter a partnership with a very renowned German manufacturer to gain a "know-how" transfer for the selection of aggregates as well as to produce high-quality concrete products.

Already during the installation period of the plant in the UAE, the machine operators were trained in the German plant of the partner.

The new SR Schindler finishing line, which is arranged downstream the Hess RH 2000-3 MVA concrete block plant, essentially includes the value adding processes of calibration / grinding, blasting, curling and coating. Figure 1 and figure 2 show the completed finishing line.

"In order to be prepared for the future, we also have to consider the many different possibilities of stone finishing. It was therefore important to us to choose a machine supplier like the Topwerk Group who not only manufactures concrete block machines but also supplies the value adding line", reports Richard Fowler, Technical Manager at Raknor.

In addition to the actual processing machines that SR Schindler develops, the Regensburg-based company also supplies infrared and ultraviolet heating tunnels, sprayers and roller application devices for the coating, as well as all the necessary dust suction and filter systems (figure 3). Machines and systems for product transport within the line (roller conveyors, belt conveyors, etc.), handling technology (drum turning devices, layer pusher, cuber, etc.) and the entire packaging of the end products are also included in the scope of deliveries of SR Schindler.

Besides of the noticeably short cycle times of the entire system, the decisive factors for Raknor to vote for the new Topwerk plant were the precision of all components which enable Raknor to produce high quality concrete products.

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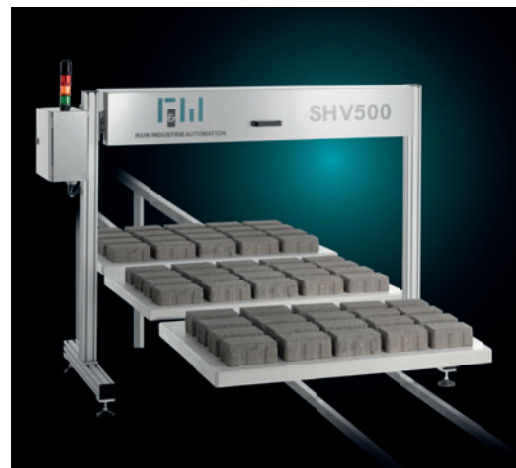
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Figure 3: Ultraviolet and infrared heating tunnel

Furthermore, the globally recognized assembly and service quality of Hess and SR Schindler as well as the local presence of the Topwerk Middle East branch, based in the neighboring Emirate of Dubai, contributed to Raknor's decision in favor of this high-tech system. "We can always rely on the best trained service personnel [...]. In this way, we get the best performance out of the system", says Richard Fowler.

"With our excellent product quality and a well-experienced erection team, we were able to put the new finishing line into operation on schedule. We are proud that Raknor opted for a system from Hess and SR Schindler so that we were able to further expand our presence in the Middle East", says Christoph Ditter, Project Manager at SR Schindler when Raknor signed the acceptance report (figure 4).



Figure 4: Successful take-over of the new production and finishing line



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