



# Producing prestressed floors efficiently

**Boulogne Composants Béton (BCB), one of France's traditional companies in the field of precast concrete elements, expanded its machinery to keep production efficient and to stay at a top level. The automated machines are provided by Echo Precast Engineering, a Progress Group company.**

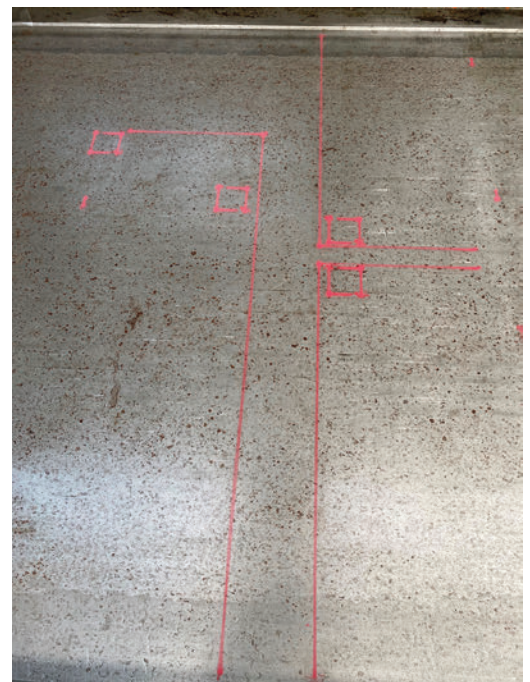
## Automated machinery

With how the construction market is evolving, the need is well known to work even more efficiently and responsibly with our resources than ever before and make sure the employees have a safe working environment. Automated machinery can make the work for the staff easier, while saving material and resources at the same time. BCB was aware of this development and is moving ahead in terms of automation, time saving and high-quality production, with a flying bucket D-Flyer and an automatic plotter SmartJet. The flying bucket D-Flyer transports dry or wet concrete from the concrete mixer to the designated position on elevated tracks. These tracks are positioned so that they don't interfere with any other production machine or people, which increases the safety as well as the efficiency. The delivery of concrete will happen in intermediate hoppers which are in fixed positions or a moving half portal or bridge line supply to feed on the machinery on long beds. All speeds can be customized from its PLC in the control cabinet. With the automated plotter it is possible to write

on hollow core slabs the markings needed. However, in this case the plotter is tailor made for plotting with paint on the long production beds. With these markings on the beds, it is possible for the employees to place the needed shuttering's and inserts on the production beds before casting. The markings can be made exactly as planned, as it is plotted fully automatically, and the information is transferred to the machine directly and additionally checked by specialized software.

## Main advantages of the new machinery

According to BCB, the main advantages of the new machinery, is a combination of high performance, reliable service, support and advice as well as the smooth commissioning provided by Echo. As an additional service to satisfy the client, the plotter and flying bucket have been constructed tailor-made and even painted in the company colors of BCB, "We decided to invest in this new equipment, when we were modernizing our production plant. The flying bucket allows us to feed our production lines more safely, but it also achieves a better control of the reaction of the fresh concrete during its transit from the concrete plant.", says BCB's management and adds: "The plotter SmartJet, has enabled us to control the plotting by computer and even if zero error does not exist, it reduced the sources of error in measuring. Furthermore, it has also allowed us to save working time."



*The automatic plotter SmartJet makes it possible to draw data such as inserts, shuttering placements and cutouts.*



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Since the automatic plotter is battery-driven, no cabling is required.



The flying bucket D-Flyer transports dry or wet concrete from the concrete mixer to the designated position in the production facility on elevated tracks.

### Understanding the customer needs

BCB, Boulogne Composants Béton, is a family-run company in Boulogne-Sur-Mer, which operates successfully since 1968. It currently employs around 40 people to design and manufacture a wide range of linear concrete structural elements, as well as pre-stressed or reinforced floor slabs and hollow core slabs. Also, a local ready-mix concrete business is part of their scope of delivery. For their hollow core production and prestressed flooring, they were looking for a supplier who spoke French, and understood their customs as well as their

vision of modernizing with including their staff. Now that the machines are in production and have completely replaced the old ones, their performance is in line with expectations.



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The indoors produced hollow core elements are then transported to the construction sites and installed in a short period of time.

### FURTHER INFORMATION



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