Echo Precast Engineering NV, 3530 Houthalen, Belgium

Large hollow core producer in UK invests in new extruder

Creagh, one of UK's largest producers of concrete products, invests in new machinery from Echo Precast Engineering, a Progress Group company, and with that in its own progress. As one of the largest producers of hollow core in the UK, Creagh are always at the forefront of innovation. Due to market demand, they require a higher level of output from their factory based in Scotland, so they decided to purchase two new extruder X-liner to boost production, increase quality, reduce waste, and enhance health and safety.

Creagh purchased two new extruder X-Liner to make their production faster, safer, and more economical.

Same roots – same drive for innovation

Formed by the McKeague family, from small beginnings in 1974 making concrete blocks, Creagh have grown into a large precast and prestressed producer and supply these products throughout the UK and Ireland. Progress Group, of which Echo Precast Engineering is a part of, has the same story with them starting the family-business in the 60's as brick producers. The two company groups are also connected in their constant drive for innovating their products. Creagh for example, with products such as Spantherm, a thermally efficient flooring and Rapidres, an offsite fast track build system. As the leading producer of hollow core elements, Creagh is committed to quality and excellence and thus is constantly investing in innovation. Just like Creagh, Progress Group, is one of the leading companies in their field and thrives to engineer the most fitting state-of-the-art machinery and software for the precast industry.

The new X-Liner are working fully automated, and the design of the machine makes it easy to maintain and clean. Creagh can reduce labour, waste, and production-time.

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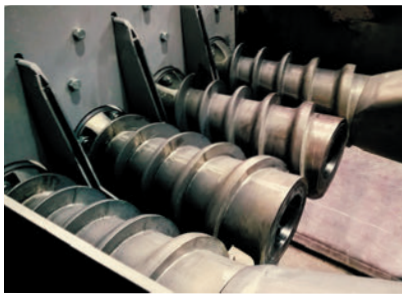
Extruder X-Liner®



- New patented *Shark Screws*
- Better compaction
- Hollow core slabs height from 12 cm to 50 cm and width of 0.6m, 1.2m, 1.5m or 2.4m

Echo Precast Engineering designs innovative machinery for the production of prestressed concrete elements.

Our dedication to our customers and experience in development of tailor-made solutions makes us your competent partner.

www.echoprecast.com

Info

The hollow core elements are produced on 1.2 wide and ca. 150 m long beds.

The concrete is directly compressed into the production beds and remains behind the machine to cure.

Automation for progress

Creagh operates within a wide range of markets, including education, residential, commercial, and custodial. With 3 quarries they produce their own aggregates, which are used to make the concrete elements. The hollow core elements produced are used for many different projects from house building to larger commercial jobs such as apartments and schools. With a capacity to produce more than 600,000 m², Creagh is the largest producer of hollow core flooring in the UK and Ireland. They began manufacturing hollow core in the 1990's where they purchased a large site which had a slip-former installed by the previous owners. The company then met with Echo in Belgium and purchased another slipformer to enable them to produce high quality hollow core slabs. So, for the extension of the factory in the subsequent years they went back to the hollow core machinery producer Echo for more equipment, with which the process became much more efficient.

The new machinery – saving time, money and reducing waste

The reliability of the extruder machines is even better than the slipformer machinery, cure time is quicker and there is less chance of delamination.

The produced prestressed hollow core slabs are light-weight, yet durable enough to provide floors to support heavy loads.

"The extruder X-Liner® consistently makes a very good slab", states Joan Belton Sales and Marketing Manager at Creagh and adds: "We have noted a considerable reduction in waste, which is good for the environment and a cost saving."

The semi-automatic production has reduced their labour costs by 10%. The hollow core units produced are lighter by 30kg/m² and this provides a further 10% saving on transport. These are significant savings, and the product is of a superior quality. In terms of health and safety, there is less noise and less risk of strand slippage creating a safer environment.

"We have chosen Echo, as we have had a long-standing relationship with the company. We know that they offer the best customer service and quality machinery", says Mrs. Belton and adds: "We would recommend the Echo machines to any Hollow core producer. The benefits in cost savings, quality, efficiency, and health & safety have been great for the company." ■

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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