

paving site and cooperating with professional paving consultants. At Port of Doha, Optimas cooperated with Mirage Paving, New Zealand, to ensure a successful completion of the individual project.

Nowadays port authorities and architects are definitely forced to integrate initial costs, maintenance and replacement or alternative use in their calculation when preplanning container terminal projects.

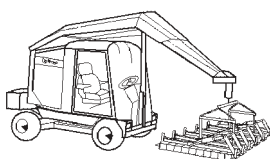
The initial costs may be higher with block paving, long-term maintenance and replacement costs are lower. The laying method represents a major component of lifetime costs and cost studies demonstrate that machine-laid block paving for large commercial and industrial areas is very competitive, based on a 25-year period compared to asphalt. The increasing number of recently completed projects gives



Use of Optimas machinery at Port of Doha, Qatar

evidence that mechanical paving is the current "State of Art" for container terminals. ■

Further information:



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Following successful restructuring, Masa is now strengthening its capital too

In 2004, Masa AG, a company with around 500 employees, achieved a growth in its overall performance of 29 % to € 89 million. In order to improve its market position and finance growth, IKB Private Equity GmbH, a subsidiary of IKB Deutsche Industriebank AG, took a 24.9% stake in Masa AG and also made available mezzanine capital of € 5.3 million.

The strengthening of the company's capital base by financially strong partner IKB Private Equity GmbH underlines the soundness of the company and increases the level of security for both customers and business partners.

IKB Private Equity GmbH assists medium-sized companies in meeting the challenges of their business with the provision of equity. IKB Private Equity GmbH offers established medium-sized companies comprehensive advice for capital funds, direct investment and mezzanine financing (in particular typical, and not so typical, undisclosed shareholdings and participation rights).

Masa increases the operating efficiency and competitive ability of its customers in the worldwide construction materials industry by providing sophisticated technical solutions, excellent service, process training and consultation.

Further informAtion:



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