

Kobra Formen GmbH, 08485 Lengenfeld, Germany

Establishing RFID technology as the industry standard for concrete block molds

■ Holger Stichel | Stefanie Schaarschmidt, Kobra Formen GmbH, Germany

In September 2017, Managing Director Holger Stichel gave a lecture at the Technology Symposium of Kobra Formen GmbH on future-oriented developments in the concrete block industry and spoke about the diverse application possibilities of RFID (radio-frequency identification) tags on concrete block moulds and the associated advantages in the management of moulds. RFID refers to a transmitter-receiver system for the non-contact localisation of objects using radio waves. All Kobra molds are now equipped with two RFID tags, one on the top and one on the bottom of the mold. This applies not only to new molds, but also to molds that have been serviced or repaired.

In this way, Kobra creates the prerequisites for professional mold management based on RFID technology as the interface between the company software and information generated in production. With the appropriate program, a complete overview of the molds available in the company, their

number of cycles, maintenance and repair intervals, the current location or planned operations is possible.

Together with the OGS company from Koblenz, Kobra worked in a development cooperation on a practical solution for the concrete block industry. OGS has developed the OGSiD MMS program, which stands for OGSiD Mold Management System. In addition to the information already mentioned, master data for any mold can be stored and technical data sheets or photos can be added. If a mold is planned for a project, the planned cycles can also be entered, which in turn affect the maintenance intervals, for example. A traffic light system shows the current status of the mold. The concrete block products produced with the mold can also be assigned. If a mould is defective, the software can use the article search function to display all the molds with which the product can also be manufactured. OGSiD MMS offers even more functions for professional mould management that can also be individually configured.



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Within the partnership, Kobra took care of testing the RFID tags, tested various chips and screws and has now found a practical solution. The tags are located on the nameplate of the respective concrete block mold. In contrast to the first version of a screw, the chip is very small and can easily be attached to the mold. This means that a retrofit to existing moulds is no problem either.

The protection of business data is also guaranteed, as the RFID tag only contains an identification number. The information is linked exclusively in the mold management software, in which the individual "mould events" are realised by scanning the work steps in production or by specifications in the system.

In order for RFID technology to establish itself as an industry standard, it must be possible to use it independently of mold manufacturers and software. Kobra is aware of this and supports the establishment of the system in order to achieve added value for its customers.

FURTHER INFORMATION



Kobra Formen GmbH
 Plohnbachstraße 1
 08485 Lengendorf, Germany
 T +49 37606 3020
 F +49 37606 30222
info@kobragroup.com
www.kobragroup.com



OGS GmbH
 Hohenfelder Str. 17-19
 56068 Koblenz, Germany
 T +49 261 915950
 F +49 261 9159555
info@ogs.de, www.ogs.de



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Namtaş Concrete Block Machines Ltd. Co. - Izmir, Turkey -
 Phone: +90 232 878 13 59 info@namtas.com www.namtas.com