

Wasa AG, 64293 Darmstadt, Germany

Alas Emirates Block LL.C. prepares for the future with solid plastic boards

Appropriate production boards, which bring the performance of the machine into the stone product to be manufactured, also belong in a high quality static board machine and circulation plant. Accordingly, the Al Ain-based Alas Emirates Block LL.C. decided three years ago to purchase 3,150 Wasa Uniplast® Ultra.

These solid plastic boards reinforced with glass fibres are used in a Quadra Q12. With a board dimension of 1,400 x 1,300 mm, it is a big board machine in the classic sense. The machine was already put into operation in 2011, but started with wooden boards at the beginning. According to the increased quality requirements, the choice was made in 2017 to switch to the seamless and flat Wasa Uniplast Ultra.



The Arab company processes around half a million tonnes of concrete annually

The decision-makers at Alas Emirates Block opted for the 52 mm thick board, although 50 mm would have been sufficient according to the load parameters. The investment in the extra 2 mm will probably pay off for the customer in many years to come: if, after years in use, the customer determines that the harsh everyday life in the concrete business has somewhat affected the surfaces of the solid plastic boards and led to low wear, the boards can be reground on both sides without problems and at low cost. The new surfaces obtained in this way then allow further years of efficient production. For this purpose, Wasa provides a mobile grinding plant complete with technical personnel, which - housed in two containers - is able to grind the total quantity of 3,150 boards on both sides in less than two weeks. Due to the installation of the system at the customer's site and the possibility of grinding the boards during operation, there are not even any interruptions in production.



Blocks are mainly produced on the solid plastic boards



Stones as far as the eye can see

At Alas Emirates Block, production runs ten hours a day, six days a week. In the two daily shifts, blocks and paving stones are predominantly produced, as is customary in the Middle East region. Around 40,000 tonnes of concrete are processed each month. A total of 65 people work at and for Alas Emirates Block. Two of these people are production manager Omar Aljanabi and purchasing manager Akram Abed Al Kawy. Aljanabi has got to know the advantages of Wasa's solid plastic board: "Due to the high-strength and almost indestructible solid plastic material, we have a significantly better stone quality than could be achieved on any type of wooden board. But it is not only the quality of the blocks as such that has increased since the Wasa Uniplast Ultra has been in use: we have also been able to significantly reduce cycle times, which allows us to increase daily production". And Al Kawy adds from the buyer's point of view: "You don't make the decision for solid plastic boards just like that. After all, these boards were considerably more expensive than the normal wooden boards we started production with in 2011. However, the extremely long service life of solid plastic boards and the fact that our machine operators no longer have to pay attention to such things as joint formation due to drying out of the boards are outstanding advantages of plastic boards." Aljanabi also reports that the solid plastic is insensitive to the curing chambers, which are equipped with a steam supply. "This would never have been possible so easily with wooden boards, because wood simply expands or shrinks very strongly with climate and humidity fluctuations. It's just a living product; plastic, on the other hand, doesn't mind any of that." At the time of commissioning the solid plastic boards, the machine parameters originally tailored to wooden boards were converted to the significantly better compaction values of the solid plastic boards. "It is of fundamental importance that, when changing a production board - especially when moving from wood to the Wasa Uniplast Ultra - all relevant settings on the block making machine are adapted to the better production values of the solid plastic board," says Matthias Bechtold, CEO of Wasa AG, who is personally responsible for sales in the Arab regions.



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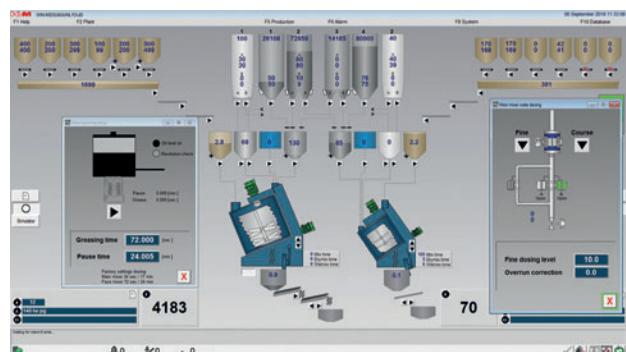
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Omar Aljanabi and Akram Abded Al Kawy (from left to right) are delighted with Wasa's solid plastic boards

Alas Emirates Block is also grateful for the fact that the solid plastic boards do not require any special or expensive maintenance. In most cases, the use of a steel brush with corrugated wire is sufficient to keep the board surfaces permanently clean. Spraying with expensive release agents and emulsions can therefore often be dispensed with. For those who still have to struggle with concrete structures, however, Wasa has recently added Wasa Protect to its range of release agents, which can be used to spray the board surfaces. The range is supplemented by a special spray bar with which the release agent is applied. Because Wasa Protect is 100% biodegradable, environmental concerns are unfounded.



The solid plastic boards can be used for up to 20 years thanks to the possibility of regrinding

The products from Alas Emirates Block are, of course, not only sold in Al Ain, but also throughout the Arab Emirates.

With the Wasa Uniplast Ultra, Alas Emirates Block is very well prepared for the future, as the solid plastic boards have a service life of up to 20 years. Especially the possibility of regrinding the solid plastic board can be a sensible investment for all those concrete block plants that plan long-term and economically.



A total of 3,150 Wasa Uniplast Ultra are in use at Alas Emirates Block

FURTHER INFORMATION



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