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REPRINT | CONCRETE PRODUCTS & CAST STONE

Ecomix Ltd. from Bulgaria with ground-breaking investment for the future



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BUILD SOMETHING GREAT WITH US.



For some, it's just a heap of grey material. But for our customers, it's the source of limitless possibilities – in architecture, road construction and landscaping.

Be it production boards or Wetcast moulds: We support you in bringing your design ideas to life.

Let's turn possibilities into reality!



Wasa AG, 64293 Darmstadt, Germany

# Ecomix Ltd. from Bulgaria with ground-breaking investment for the future

■ Alexander Simos, Wasa AG, Germany

**Ecomix Ltd. is a well-respected, family-run company with its headquarters in Zhitnitsa, Bulgaria, that has specialised in manufacturing construction materials and construction chemical products. The company can proudly look back on more than 25 years of history in producing ready-mix concrete, mortars and concrete products. Since its foundation in 1996, Ecomix Ltd. has made a name for itself in Bulgaria as a leading manufacturer of products such as cement mortars, tile adhesives, renovation materials and sealing systems.**

Sites for ready-mixed concrete are operated at both Chisarya and Karlovo. Zhitnitsa is home to its production facility for manufacturing concrete products. Ecomix Ltd. has established itself as one of the most important manufacturers of concrete and lime mortar plus concrete products in Bulgaria and has proven to be a reliable partner in co-operation with investors, construction companies and end customers.

At its site in Zhitnitsa, Ecomix carries out production with a concrete block machine made by Ermak, a Turkish manufac-



*View of the new concrete block production facility in Zhitnitsa*

turer. The company decided to build another production line on a greenfield site in 2022 with a view to further expanding its market position and increasing production capacity. The company remained loyal to the Turkish machine manufacturer when it came to system technology and opted for another system from the same manufacturer as a consequence. Ecomix had previously relied on classic softwood production boards made from pine. Increasing market requirements and an ever-growing, highly flexible concrete product portfolio prompted the company to reconsider. The decision was taken to break new ground in this area as a result. Ecomix found that replacing the softwood boards after only four years was unsatisfactory. This, together with the clear differences in the new production boards' vibration transmission compared to boards that had been in use for 2-3 years, was no longer a viable option.

The performance and vibration properties of classic softwood boards initially exhibit good transmission values but these generally decrease steadily over their service life. This then inevitably has an effect on the compaction of blocks and thus on their quality.

Concrete products often deteriorate in quality with otherwise identical machine settings and unchanged concrete mix due to variations in vibration transmission and compaction effects with ageing wooden production boards. The wood, as a natural raw material, is simply the reason for this, as it is exposed to great stresses and strains especially when there are fluctuations in moisture content and varying temperatures.

### The Wasa Uniplast Ultra glass fibre reinforced all-plastic board

This is why Ecomix opted for glass fibre-reinforced all-plastic boards made by Wasa. Not just the new system at Ecomix will carry out production on solid all-plastic boards. The decision was also taken to replace the softwood boards on the existing production line with Wasa all-plastic boards. Ecomix was persuaded by the advantages these homogeneous all-plastic boards exhibit in respect of constant vibration transmission over their entire service life as well as their excellent compaction results.

However, the greatest difference to all solid wooden or coated wooden board types is the fact that the plastic/glass fibre mix demonstrably remains virtually unchanged over the entire service life of such boards, whereas wood or wood-plastic composite boards can become softer over time with the result that vibration transmission can decrease – which would then lead to longer cycle times or poorer compaction results. This phenomenon cannot be observed with all-plastic boards. Their production parameters are almost the same in Wasa's experience after ten or more years as on the day of delivery.



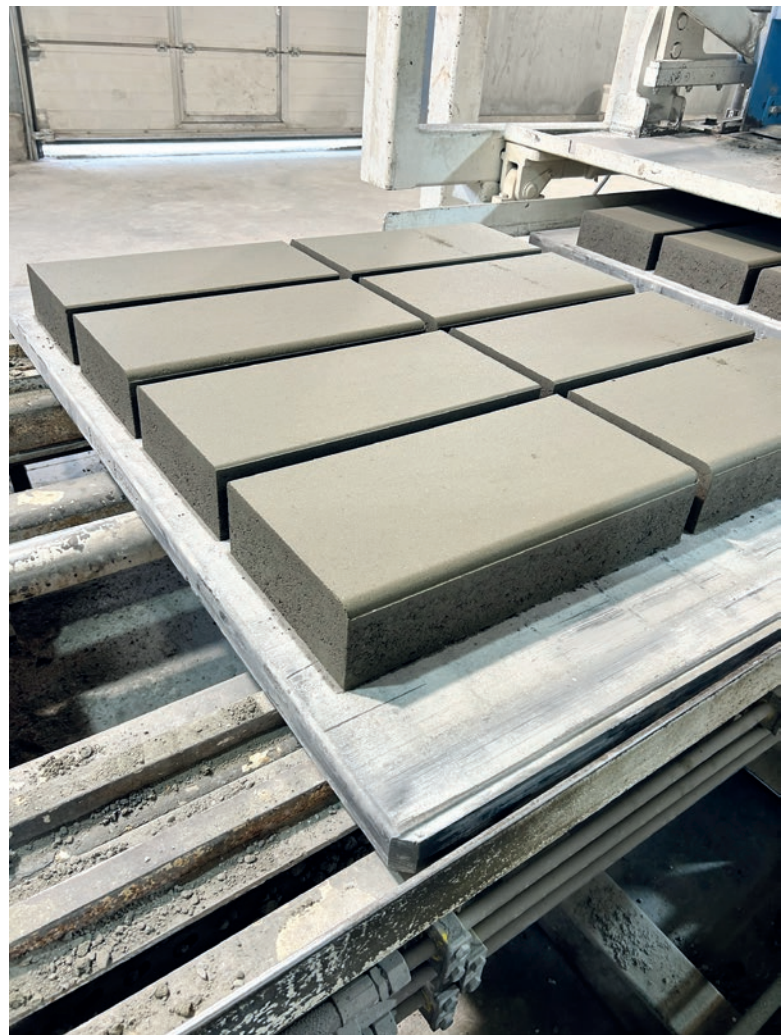
*View of the new production hall*

Wasa has a proven track record of over 30 years in manufacturing all-plastic boards. Over six million units have been delivered worldwide since this type of board was invented and launched on the market. The first generation of the board, the Wasa Uniplast, was formerly reinforced with steel profiles on its outer edges. This gave the board its necessary rigidity. Continuous further development and the use of ultra-modern technology have enabled steel profiles to be dispensed with on the board since 2007. Since then, Wasa Uniplast Ultra boards have been reinforced with glass fibres, which are added to the homogeneous all-plastic mixture.

Uniform vibration transmission ensures excellent compaction even under very tough production conditions. The all-plastic board's solid material also has a very positive effect on cycle times. There is also no need to use a drawing plate because



The existing system is already operating with Wasa boards



Wasa Uniplast Ultra glass fibre reinforced all-plastic production boards in operation at Ecomix

the board's upper side is flat and without joints. This also generates time savings per cycle. It makes the Wasa Uniplast Ultra one of the most efficient production boards on the market.

Wasa Uniplast Ultra production boards have won over numerous customers around the world alongside Ecomix, the Bulgarian concrete product manufacturer. The boards' surfaces are extremely impact-resistant due to the addition of glass fibres and achieve high Shore hardness, which translates into very hard-wearing surfaces. The Wasa Uniplast Ultra is therefore an excellent choice for a reliable, long-term solution in the area of production boards.

Ecomix was also able to reduce cycle times in addition to significantly better compaction results. This not only has a positive economic impact in the medium and long term, but also an ecological one - something of great importance for the company's future strategic direction.

Both companies are very pleased with their trust-based working relationship and are confident about the steadily growing market in Bulgaria. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION

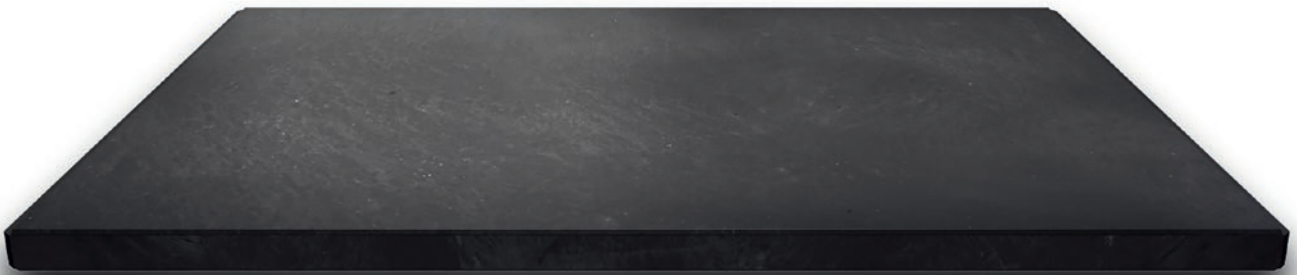


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# NON PLUS ULTRA



More than 6 million of our WASA UNIPLAST® ULTRA boards are deployed in concrete plants all over the world. Many of them have been in use for decades – and are showing no signs of fatigue.

When we developed them at the beginning of the 1990s, we were far ahead of our time. And today, more than 30 years later, we are still ahead of the curve – because, while decades have passed, our determination to make what is strong even stronger, to make what is efficient even more efficient, and therefore to make good products and services even better has remained the same.

At WASA, this virtue has become a tradition – so that the best always remains the best.

