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Wasa AG, 64293 Darmstadt, Germany

Unproblematic changeover from softwood to glass-fibre reinforced plastic production boards

■ Alexander Simos, Wasa AG, Germany

Prefabricados La Romera S.L., a Spanish family-run company is based in El Padul, Andalusia, with a wealth of tradition. Since its beginnings in 1976, it has pursued two clear goals: manufacturing products of the highest quality and meeting the needs and expectations of its many customers. The company manufactures a broad product portfolio on a total of four production lines with advanced machine technology. It includes concrete products, such as concrete blocks in many variations, kerbstones, garden furniture and flower boxes, and also large-format precast concrete elements, concrete floor beams and pipes for sewer engineering. To ensure consistently high quality in the area of concrete blocks in the future, the decision was recently taken to employ a product from Wasa that has proven itself over decades: the Wasa Uniplast Ultra glass-fibre reinforced plastic production board.

From El Padul, Prefabricados La Romera S.L. sells its products in the province of Granada and the rest of Andalusia. With its eyes ever on the future, the company is developing plans for diversifying its own products to cover more sectors with its construction materials. The principles of quality and service to the customer will always have top priority.

Developing and manufacturing concrete products is the passion of the family-run La Romera company. Every day, Mr Fernando Delgado, one of the company's owners, works personally at the facility in pursuing this passion. The production technology for concrete products at La Romera comes from Poyatos, a Spanish manufacturer. Their system is still in very good condition and functions as it did on the first day despite the many years it has been in operation (it was installed in 2009). As it is very versatile, the system can be employed to



View of the company premises

produce a wide range of products (hollow and solid, single and double layer, special coloured products with a decorative character, etc.). The Poyatos factory is only a short distance away from La Romera, who graciously allow regular visitors to Poyatos from all over the world to view its production lines. For years, softwood boards had been utilised as a production base. La Romera discovered in the face of ever-increasing



View of the production hall at La Romeras with the concrete block-making machine from Poyatos

quality requirements that such boards are limited. This led to a search for a high-quality production board. The company found what it was looking for with the Wasa Uniplast Ultra. La Romera was completely won over after rigorous, extensive testing with its Wasa Uniplast Ultra glass-fibre reinforced plastic production boards, which were initially provided as samples. The company made the decision to employ these production boards in future.

The La Romera factory has a capacity for a total of around 7,000 production boards in its drying chamber. It was decided to replace the boards completely in two stages. The first 4,000 boards were delivered by Wasa in mid-2022. Another 3,000 production boards are to follow this year.

Wasa's many years of market experience in the area of production boards and especially its worldwide references from well-known companies, some of which have been using the Wasa all-plastic board continuously for over 20 years, were convincing factors in La Romera's decision-making process. The option of regrounding is seen as a further major advantage in addition to the consistent vibration transmission over the entire service life of this homogeneous production board.

Wasa Uniplast Ultra

Wasa can look back on more than 30 years of market experience in producing solid plastic boards. Around 6 million all-plastic boards have been delivered worldwide since this type of board's invention and market launch. The first generation of the board, the Wasa Uniplast, was still reinforced with steel profiles on its outer sides. This gave the board the necessary rigidity. It has been possible to dispense with the use of steel profiles on the board since 2007 thanks to the use of the latest technology and constant further development, especially in the field of new industrial plastics. Since 2007, the successor to Wasa Uniplast – the Wasa Uniplast Ultra – has been reinforced with glass fibres, which are added to its homogeneous all-plastic mixture.

This production process and precisely adjusted mixture has won over numerous customers to the Wasa Uniplast Ultra board. It possesses greater stability and load-bearing capacity with, at the same time, lower board thickness compared to the predecessor model and without needing the previously obligatory C profiles. The board surfaces are very impact-resistant due to the addition of glass fibres and achieve a high Shore hardness rating, which makes the board surface very durable.

It means that the Wasa Uniplast Ultra offers outstanding prerequisites as a reliable, long-term solution in the area of production boards.

Its uniform vibration transmission ensures excellent compaction even under very tough production conditions. The solid plastic board also has a very positive effect on cycle times. Metal sheets can also be dispensed with because the board



Concrete blocks are among the most important products at La Romera. The extremely good production properties of the Wasa Uniplast Ultra generate consistent block heights

top sides are flat and without joints. This also leads to time savings per cycle. It makes the Wasa Uniplast Ultra one of the most efficient production boards on the market.

Handling and cleaning a production board well - generally recommended for all types of boards - is a very important issue in terms of operational performance. At La Romera, a cleaning brush fitted with corrugated wire is utilised for this type of board as recommended by Wasa. Installing a scraper unit before the brush to remove coarse concrete residues in advance from the production board is also recommended by Wasa.

The stage is now set in the area of production boards at La Romera. Wasa is very pleased and thrilled to have won over another customer to the Wasa Uniplast Ultra in Spain. ■



An excellent working partnership (from left to right):
Pilar Delgado (La Romera), Sergio González and
Alexander Simos (both Wasa)

FURTHER INFORMATION



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