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SELF-LOADING CONCRETE MIX: A SOLUTION FOR REMOTE CONSTRUCTION

Simple construction tasks can become challenges when building in remote areas or in difficult terrain. Even basic tasks that would normally not be an issue can become costly and inconvenient where supplies, equipment or services are limited.

Lyons & Pierce Karratha, a Pilbara Plumbing and construction company that specialises in installing accommodation buildings and facilities for mining companies, needed to reduce the time and cost for pouring concrete cyclone tie downs, veranda pads and paths and building footings. According to the company's owner, Lou Samson, the cost of using a large mixer for the relatively small batches needed for the types of works his company performs was not economical.

"Not only were we paying for heavier equipment for these works, access around the buildings was an issue and combined with this, time and convenience issues forced us to find an alternative solution. When you have to complete accommodation projects on time, we need control of the delivery of materials in the right batch size and when needed. We found the answer in a Fiori DB 250S self-propelled mixing system." Lou said.

According to Lou, the 2.5m^3 per load mixer has made a significant contribution to cutting construction time and costs and is deployed on sites at least once to twice per week. He said the Fiori equipment had performed faultlessly and proven to be extremely reliable in the demanding climatic conditions.

Graham Murphy of Semco says its Fiori equipment is well suited to rural and remote areas where on-site concrete production is an attractive alternative to trucking mix over long distances. He said while the Fiori equipment represents a relatively new concept in Australia, compact self-propelled, self-loading concrete mixers have been used worldwide for many years.

To ensure critical optimal quality of the mix, all models feature on board water pumping systems and accurate water dosing measurement via a digital pre-selector panel. The compact model DB250S (2.5m^3 capacity) and the DB400S have their own on-board water reservoir and filtered pumping system that can store enough water for three batches.

Semco says Fiori mixers can be supplied from the 1.8m^3 capacity model DB 180 up to the 4m^3 capacity model DB 400 S. The DB 250S used by Lyons & Pierce Karratha is set up for both volumetric-type mixing and Q/A compliance (electronically weighed batching). It also has 3-mode all wheel steering and produces up to 2.5m^3 of fresh high quality concrete per batch.

The DB400S can produce almost any type of concrete on site at the rate of up to 12.0 m^3 per hour; transport it over almost any type of terrain and deploy the equipment through 360 degrees anywhere it is required, often cancelling the need for a concrete pump.

“Fiori self-propelled concrete mixers are an affordable addition for contractors operating in rough terrain in rural or remote areas. We are also able to provide competitive finance and insurance facilities through our own finance company” said Murphy.

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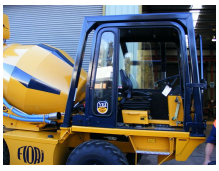
JPG Image files attached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