

Rekers GmbH Maschinen- und Anlagenbau, 48480 Spelle, Germany

In-house trade fair for Benelux customers

The family-run company Rekers GmbH, a typical German mid-size enterprise, presented a further block making plant – the newly designed RS 1 KV block machine – to its customers at an in-house trade fair in November 2014. The complete plant was fully assembled at the company's site in Spelle and proudly presented to the guests in fully automatic operation.

In the year 2000 the company's founder, Dipl.-Ing. Karl Rekers, handed over the management of the company to the next generation of the family. Since then the two managing partners, Dipl.-Ing. Norbert Foppe and Dipl.-Ing. Annette Foppe, have continued the successful management of the family company Rekers GmbH, although Karl Rekers still serves the company with his many years of experience in an advisory capacity as managing director.

At the in-house trade fair on 27 November 2014, Mr Foppe bid his guests, most of who had travelled from the Benelux states, a warm welcome to the Rekers company site. In addition, Mr Foppe welcomed further international guests from Great Britain, France and Brazil, among others.

First of all he explained the new situation of the Rekers company with regard to the former representative for the Benelux countries, with whom a long-standing co-operation was mutually ended in autumn 2014. From now on these countries will once again be taken care of directly by Rekers. Service, spare parts orders, quotation preparation, project engineering and project handling will be considerably simplified and business transactions significantly accelerated through the direct contact with the customer. This change, together with the advantage of the closeness of the Rekers headquarters to the Dutch border, were very much welcomed by the guests.

Following this information Mr Foppe presented the entire Rekers product range

informatively and in detail. With a review of the company's history and some of its milestones, he reported that Karl Rekers established Rekers GmbH in 1955, at that time beginning with the manufacture of mechanical grippers and crane systems. Customer demand rapidly grew for further products for the concrete industry. For instance, the first fully automatic bucket conveyor system was developed in 1962 as well as the world's first automatic packet assembler in 1966.

The product range was supplemented by the development of a microcomputer control system, which was used for the first time in 1976 in the company's self-developed finger car. In 1983 Rekers supplied the first computer-controlled pipe handling plant. The design department has been working with a CAD system since as far back as 1981. The production of the first block machine in 1993 completed the scope of delivery of a complete block making plant. Constant innovations as well as the very high quality of the products were the basis for the company's ranking today among the world's leading suppliers to the concrete industry. With the current newly-designed RS 1 KV block making plant, it was possible to acquire four patents at once at international level. The mechanical engineering graduate Norbert Foppe, who has worked for the company for 25 years, expertly presented his newly developed principle of the RS 1-type block making plant. With the four newly granted patents for the RS 1 KV

block machine and an innovative system for storage or removal of products, an important change is taking place in the block production area.

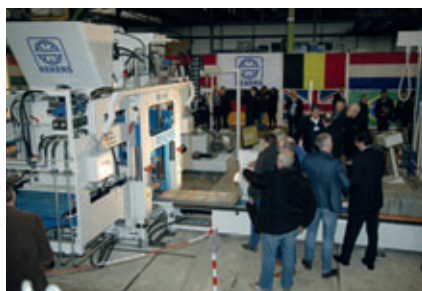
The RS 1 KV block machine is capable of manufacturing products with a stone height of only 15 mm, which met with great astonishment on the part of the visitors. This could enable manufacturers of concrete products to extend their ranges by new products. The RS 1 KV can thus produce slabs as thin as those familiar from wetcast production. Production can be implemented in large lot sizes with short cycle times. In combination with the newly developed Colour Blending System, further markets could open up for the customers.

"100% made in Germany" - this statement is very dear to Mr Foppe's heart. "At Rekers everything is offered from a single source, from the development, design and manufacturing through to controller/programming and test run."

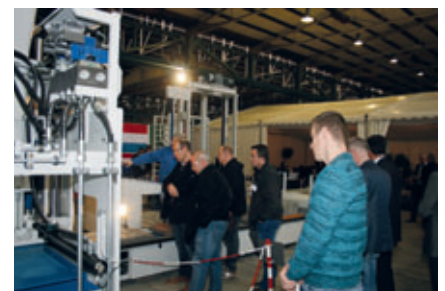
Immediately following the detailed technical presentation, the guests were able to see for themselves the process of a block machine of the type RS 1 in fully automatic operation in the festively decorated factory hall. Just a few days previously, the first thin concrete slabs had been produced in very good quality with this new block machine at Rekers GmbH's own premises. This plant was dismantled in December 2014 and subsequently delivered to a customer in



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In the factory hall the guests were able to see for themselves the process of a block machine of the type RS 1 in fully automatic operation.



The customers showed great and positive interest in the new items

Thailand. A further block making machine of the type RS 1 has just been ordered by a customer from Great Britain.

The sophisticated modular construction principle of this compact block machine was presented to the guests. It enables a complete production system to be arranged in the tightest of spaces. With regard to the equipment and costs there is the possibility to implement the plant step by step.

The RS 1 KV block machine can be equipped if the customer so desires with profiled drawing sheets in or transverse to the conveying direction. The same option exists for the cleaning of the tamper in both directions. Also advantageous is the option for the insertion of polystyrene blocks and steel reinforcements, which are located visibly or invisibly inside the products after the manufacturing process. The latter has already been implemented with an RS 1 KV at a Rekers customer in Russia. There, a steel reinforcing cage is automatically supplied to the machine.

Mr Foppe said that despite the currently high level of orders, development at Rekers will not come to a standstill and he hinted that there will be two 'big brothers' of the RS 1 block machine in the near future. The patented technical innovations will also be found in the RS 2 (board size 1400 mm x 950 mm) and the next larger RS 3 (1400 mm x 1100 mm). Depending on the customer's requirements these will also be developed in accordance with the modular construction principle. Both machines could be equipped in future with conventional unbalanced mass vibrators or with the patented and proven Rekers Vario Servo vibration among other things.

Rekers is taking new roads with the extendable circulation plant. Paternosters such as elevator, lowerator and a finger car have been replaced by a single storage and retrieval machine. The conventional hardening rack, which takes up an enormous amount of space in a block making plant, was replaced by a high-bay rack specially made for the customer. Individual product density is possible in the tightest space. This means that the lowest products (up to min. 15 mm) can be stored with the smallest level spacings. In the case of higher products only every second or third level is used. Optimum utilisation of the hardening area is thus possible.

The visitors were able to see for themselves that Rekers is capable of developing and also programming such logistics with a specially built storage and retrieval machine in a high-bay rack.

The customers showed great and positive interest in the new items that Dipl.-Ing. Norbert Foppe announced on that day. Subsequently, customers were competently advised by further Rekers sales employees who were in attendance, so that no question remained unanswered. In addition, there was a plant tour of the large halls with their total floor area of over 36,000 m². ■

FURTHER INFORMATION



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A video of the in-house trade fair can be found here:



Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone and watch the video!



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