

TEKA North America, Inc., Chesapeake, VA 23323, USA

R.I. Lampus Company updates batch plant with newest mixing technologies

Since 1924, Pennsylvania-based R.I. Lampus Company and its sister company Doren, Inc. have been manufacturing quality concrete products and providing superior service to the tri-state region. For three generations, the family-owned company has introduced the area to innovative outdoor living, hardscape and masonry products to accommodate consumer's needs through relentless product research and development.

In addition to its concrete block and hardscape products, R.I. Lampus' Alloy Division serves the carbon steel, stainless steel and cast iron industries across the nation. The company has seven manufacturing facilities and a fleet of more than 40 heavy-duty delivery vehicles serving the region. Most recently, R.I. Lampus has strengthened its position as one of the largest tri-state distributors of clay

brick and stone veneer products. As part of its ongoing efforts to stay at the forefront of product development in their production of interlocking paving stones, in the fall of 2015 Gregg Boehler, Vice President at Doren, Inc., was looking to update their batch plant with a new mixer for face-mix production.



Doren, Inc. chose the Teka THT 500 C-1-II mixer model with a Teka Skip Hoist. Like all THT mixers, it comes standard with a Variable Frequency Drive that allows producers to choose mixer speeds that best suit specific mix designs.



The Teka Skip Hoist has a bottom-discharge bucket, and travels on the 60° angle track, quickly delivering batch materials to the mixer, which is over 25' above the plant floor.

Ever-increasing demands by the design community, contractors, and specifiers for superior quality and broader variety of paving stone shapes and colors, mean that producers need to utilize the latest in mixer and batching technologies. Boehler worked closely with Teka in determining which mixer size and model would best suit his high expectations. Doren, Inc. decided on a THT 500 C-1-II model with a Teka Skip Hoist.

First introduced at the 2013 bauma trade show, THT mixers are well proven in plants across Europe, and have demonstrated how producers are able to achieve excellent mixing results.

The mixing action of a THT mixer is completely different than that of conventional mixers, because the patented Mixing Turbine consists of two long sweeping arms that generate a "swing and throw effect" of the batch material. The rotation and shape of the arms causes materials to accelerate across its face, maximizing the distribution of the raw materials throughout the mixer pan.

According to the manufacturer, the results of this process are the highest batch quality, shortened mixing times, and significantly reduced mixer discharge times. For producers, that is a huge benefit. Gregg Boehler confirms, "that he has reduced his mixer cycle times by 66%". This in turn has "increased our production capability by approximately 10 cycles per hour", says Boehler.

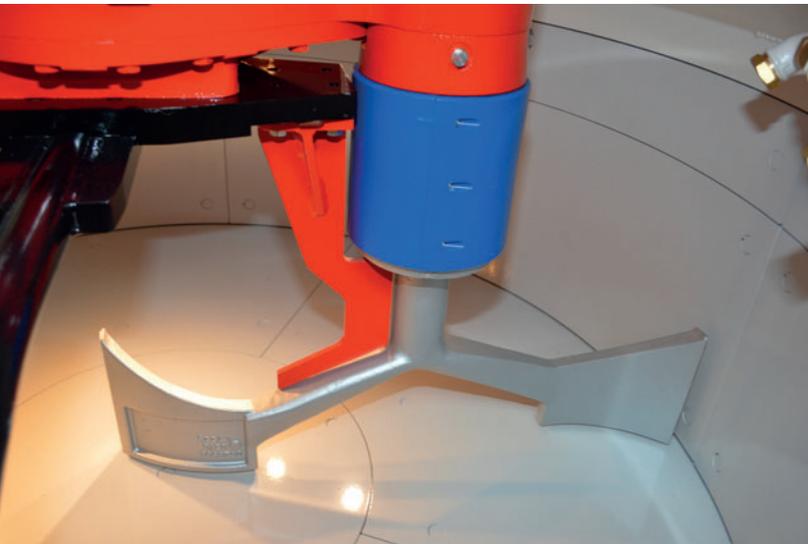
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The Mixing Turbine has two long sweeping arms that generate a “swing and throw effect” of the batch material. During operation, batch materials accelerate across its face, maximizing distribution of throughout the mixer pan.

Moreover, THT models allow an extremely wide range of batch sizes in the same mixer. The combination of the Mixing Turbine and the Variable Frequency Drive, which is standard in all THT mixers, allows minimum batch sizes as low as 10% of the maximum capacity, without sacrificing batch quality.

The Teka THT mixer that Boehler chose for his plant is thus ideally suited to the Tiger PS-100 production machine that was already in use at Doren, Inc. Earlier in 2015, Pathfinder Systems and Merts, LLC were approached to assist Gregg Boehler in designing a replacement for a top hopper above the PS-100 machine. The plan was to design and build a replacement that also had internal functionality. The goal, was to assist in the quality of color blends, while increasing the capacity, while still fitting inside the constraints of the existing building.

According to Travis Hilldore of Pathfinder/Merts, they took a dual approach of utilizing the function expertise from Pathfinder, and the engineering capabilities of Merts to create a unique hopper system.

Once designed, the hopper was able to hold several batches of material, channeling them to specific areas of the Tiger PS-100 machine, to maximize Boehler’s face-mix blends. The hopper design took a compartmental approach, allowing for independent feed and discharge of each compartment. Each holds up to 1,500 lbs. of material, and houses its own individual slide gate. In addition, chute plates inside the hopper can be controlled independently to divert and control the location of separate colors within the hopper, before discharging material to the feed drawer.

Doren, Inc. had high expectations for the update and upgrade to its production line. The addition of the THT mixer, coupled with the design and engineering elements of the Pathfinder/Merts equipment have given Boehler the results he demanded, while staying within a set budget, as well as building space constraints. ■



Teka discharge gates are operated by a powerful hydraulic rotary cylinder. If needed, multiple proximity switches can be added to allow for partial openings of the gate.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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