

Unique business & technical training programme

Series of full-day courses at Armcon's headquarters

Armcon are to continue the unique series of training days at their Cheshire headquarters. Aimed at increasing not only the technical knowledge but the earning potential of their customers, the events, "give new customers a chance not only to learn from our own technical experts but to share knowledge with existing users of our equipment," says Armcon's Managing Director, Robert Armstrong.

The training covers a wide range of topics. Technical points include mix design, materials care and quality and the use of specialist techniques such as foaming and. This

section of the training is being handled by Richard Calder, Armcon's own Technical Manager, and Michael Caine, a concrete technologist with over 30 years' experience in the ready-mixed concrete industry. In addition to dealing with technical matters, Michael is able to offer tips, hints and warnings acquired over a career that has taken him from Northern Scotland to Saudi Arabia. "To the best of my knowledge," he says, "there is no professional body and as other manufacturer offering this kind of training. It really is a unique service." As well as the indoor session, there is a live demonstration concrete

pour. As well as technical and operating information, delegates are given information on business and marketing strategies that have been proven by existing Armcon customers - everything from pricing to advertising. There is also an opportunity to discuss these matters with successful users of the equipment.

The full-day training sessions include breakfast, morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea as well as printed material on all topics covered.

For more details and forthcoming dates, call Armcon on 01625 856685.



Behind you all the way

We build our machines to keep going - and we have a complete system in place to make sure that they do. From maintenance to repair, from advice to spares, we put all our weight behind our customers - just as you'd expect from Europe's leader in the field.



- A national network of fully trained specialist engineers
- Service at your site or in our factory
- Fast, efficient service to keep you working
- Huge stock of all spares from shear pins to augers
- Computerised calibration service for maximum accuracy
- National telephone help line with out-of-hours service



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First volumetric QSRMC in UK!

Armcon Cementech customer Bodychell Sand and Gravel, based in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, has become the first concrete supplier using an all-volumetric truck mixer fleet to win QSRMC accreditation. According to Armcon's Technical Manager, Richard Calder, "Ours are the most accurate volumetric mixers available: without the precision of the Cementech machines, I don't believe that the specifications laid down by QSRMC would have been met."

The decision to achieve accreditation was taken, in September 2003, in response to market demands. "Some clients demand certified quality assurance: the Highways Agency, for instance, and house-builders who need to be able to offer NHCB,"

Richard explains. "It was felt that QSRMC was the more rigorous of the standards available because they specialise entirely in concrete."

The certification is based on The Quality and Product Conformity Regulations which incorporate the requirements of BS EN 206-1:2000, BS 8500-1:2002, BS 8500-2:2002 and BS EN ISO 9001:2000 and is designed to ensure that customers get what they order, precisely and consistently. Properties measured and tracked include accuracy of volume, strength, consistency and air volume. The standards are stringent: batching tolerances are + or - 3%. The Cementech machines were comfortably within these limits, offering tolerances of + or - 1% and helping to secure the certificate for Bodychell.



AHEAD OF THE PACK:
Accuracy of within + or - 1% secured a QSRMC certificate for Bodychell Sand and Gravel after rigorous quality testing.

THE LATEST NEWS ON CEMENTTECH MIXERS

Armcon News

Edition 1

All aboard!

Armcon takes to the rails in Britain and Belgium



Wind of change

Why Cementech mixers are the solution for wind farms



In the trenches

Transco's Cementech puts the roads back together



IN BRIEF

Precise fibre feeder

Maintaining their lead in volumetric technology, Armcon Cementech have continued their programme of innovation and improvement with the launch of a new glass fibre chopper/feeder, available both as an option on new machines and as a retrofit to mixers already in service. Offering ease of operation, precise proportions and minimal downtime compared to pre-chop feeders, the new unit is already in service with customers.



Welcome to Armcon News

Launch issue!

New technology and the latest case studies from Europe's leading volumetric mixer manufacturer

Welcome to Armcon News - keeping you in touch with the latest developments from Europe's leading name in truck-mounted and static volumetric mixers. There's news of the latest technological developments as well as articles on what Armcon Cementech machines have done for some of our customers. In this issue, we look at the new Pumpmaster mixing auger, specially designed to work with top-loading concrete pumps and available as a no-cost option. There's a look at

Cementech success stories including one the UK's biggest names in utilities contracting, Transco - and a continental rail giant, Vossloh, too, running two units on a rail carriage as they prepare the line for Belgium's new TGV trains. We'll also be finding out why Cementech is the perfect solution for the country's growing wind turbine power sector, as Ken Hope Limited take their MCD8MX-150 machines to far-flung destinations across Scotland and the North of England. Now read on...



Revolutionary new mixing auger

Armcon Cementech has announced the launch of a revolutionary new mixing auger which solves the problem of matching top-fed concrete pumps with volumetric mixers.

Designated the Pumpmaster, the new auger is the only one of its kind in operation in Europe today. It is capable of operating at up-angles as great as 45°, over 50% steeper than any competing machine,

thanks to its unique paddle geometry. Like all Cementech augers, it is an advanced high-shear design for optimum efficiency. Low operating costs and long service life are designed in, as the

Pumpmaster's blades are fully replaceable. Even more attractively, it is available as a no-cost option on Armcon Cementech truck-mounted and static 100,130 and 150 series volumetric mixers.



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From design to support, from quality to productivity, Armcon Cementech leads the way in volumetric mixers. Built to standards our competitors can't match, our machines can put **you** ahead of **your** competitors. For more information or a brochure, call us. After all, we are the best.

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First Armcon Cementech mixer on road for Transco

■ Ability to handle high clay content tips the scales for utilities giant.

Transco has taken delivery of an Armcon Cementech MCD10MX150 volumetric cement mixer for trench-filling work in North West Yorkshire. The first Armcon machine in the national gas pipeline company's fleet, its ability to handle high clay-content recycled materials while offering a cost saving over foamed concrete was the major factor in Transco's decision.

Mike Queenan, Engineering Operations Manager for Transco's North of England Network, spotted the potential of volumetric mixers for trench-filling work. "Our target is to recycle 90% of excavated material," he says, "but one of our major concerns

was the ability of a volumetric mixer to cope with the clay content we commonly encounter - up to 25% - which can place a heavy stress on machinery. However, a demonstration by Armcon convinced me that their machines were more than capable of handling it."

Waste from trench excavations is taken to Transco's processing plant at Sheepscar, West Yorkshire, where it is crushed and screened to two grades: one equivalent to gravel, the other to sand. These graded materials are then fed directly into the aggregate and sand hoppers of the MCD10MX150 and mixed with cement to provide infill.

This model has a capacity of 8yd³ and a potential production rate of 60yd³ per hour.

"Using recycled materials this way," explains Mike, "enables us to match the characteristics of the ground at the trench site without having to use foamed concrete - which would also be a more expensive option."

The mixer is mounted on a Volvo FM12 8x4 chassis, selected for its quality and reliability in this application, and supplied through Armcon. "Having the whole package sourced through them meant we had to deal with less administration: they simply produced the complete piece of kit for us," says Mike.



Cementech on the rails in Britain...

The MCD 4M-100 volumetric mixer is finding growing acceptance among rail contractors. Not only are contractors themselves purchasing the unit, says Armcon Cementech's Managing Director, Robert Armstrong, but hire companies have begun to add them to their fleets - among the latest being Shovlin Plant Hire of Manchester.

"The volumetric solution is proving ideal for the rail industry," says Robert. "Because, unlike rotary drum mixers, it does not depend on a batching plant within a short journey of the working site, it can service even remote parts of the rail network. Its water tank and materials

hoppers can be refilled anywhere a front loader can reach it and the mix can be instantly adjusted to the precise consistency required."

The MCD 4M-100 in particular is sized to fit within the railway loading gauge while still delivering excellent productivity: it is capable of generating up to 25m³ of concrete per hour. Its hoppers contain enough cement, sand and aggregate for approximately 4m³ of concrete. It is powered by a 60bhp donkey engine.

Robert describes the MCD 4M-100 as "highly adaptable." As suppliers to main rail contractors such as Jarvis and Carillion, Shovlin have elected to mount the unit on a

Thwaites dumper, modified by the manufacturer to run on road or rail and with an extended chassis. However, the mixer is also demountable (unlike some other volumetric mixers, which are mounted by welding to the chassis) meaning it can be transferred to other vehicles as required, or the dumper fitted with other equipment.

"This versatility," says Robert, "makes the Cementech system of particular value to plant hire operators: if they have a chassis capable of serving a particular sector, then they can provide that sector with a volumetric concrete mixer with minimal engineering work and at short notice."



...and in Europe



European infrastructure services provider Vossloh has taken delivery of the first Armcon Cementech rail-mounted volumetric concrete mixer system in Continental Europe. The package consists of two 8MX100 units mounted to an ISO rail container base, giving the maximum material storage capacity that the rail gauge and weight rating will allow. Its first deployment is on the new Antwerp-Amsterdam TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse - high-speed train) line, mixing and pouring foundations for overhead gantries.

"This system will fit on any standard, ISO container wagon," says Robert Armstrong. "This means it can be deployed anywhere in Europe that Vossloh needs it. In the past we've supplied UK rail maintenance operators

with road/rail bogie-mounted machines: now we're delighted to be working closely with Vossloh, SNCB (Belgian National Railways) and SNCF (French National Railways) on this major European infrastructure project." The Antwerp-Amsterdam TGV link is due to open in 2005: its ultra-modern trains will be capable of speeds as high as 186mph, compared to under 140mph for their Pendolino counterparts in Britain.

The system has a cement storage capacity of 12 tonnes and two large aggregate bins: all bins and water tanks can be replenished on site without returning to base. Under typical working conditions, it will generate a cubic metre of concrete every 60 seconds.

Concrete delivery is controlled via a cordless, remote handset, which not

only activates the mixer screw and concrete belt but positions the conveyor arm and retracts or extends the chute. This puts the operator at the point where the pour is going, so a very precise delivery can be achieved. Additionally, the machines are fitted with Armcon Cementech's unique Accu Mezur, touch-screen mixture system, which stores a large number of mix designs and gives a printed delivery history, reducing the risk of operator error.

Based in Luxembourg, Vossloh Infrastructure Services provides rail construction and maintenance services in Germany, France and Switzerland as well as the Benelux countries. Among the capabilities it offers are power supply maintenance, track welding, ballasting and materials recycling.

MCD8M-150 boosts council business for J.C. Balls & Sons

■ Derbyshire operator in daily demand as out-of-hours response brings in the highway jobs.

Derbyshire plant hire and excavation contractor J.C. Balls & Sons reports that, within three weeks of starting service, its new Armcon Cementech MCD8M-150 volumetric mixer has enabled it to increase its out-of-hours highway maintenance and local government work. It is now operating daily on projects for Morrison Highway Maintenance on behalf of Derby City Council, as well as local contractors, "some of whom," according to Chris Balls, a partner in the Belper-based company, "have said they'd never go back to a drum mixer again!"

On a test-pour for Derby City Council, the MCD8M-150 demonstrated its ability to generate very high quality concrete. While the STI standard calls for a compressive strength of 10n/mm after a 7-day cure, the Cementech machine's sample reached 18.5n/mm,

rising to 26n/mm after 28 days. As a result, says Chris, "although there's no formal contract as such with the Council, the machine goes out on jobs for them literally every day."

Armcon Cementech stood out from other suppliers, in Chris' opinion. "The machine itself is great," he says, "with excellent engineering quality throughout from steelwork to electronics. There's no waste and it offers great ease of use. Company image is very important to us: this machine looks right and is right."

Equally important, however, was the service that Armcon looked after us through every step of the order," says Chris. "They answered all our questions and arranged for us to spend half a day with another of their customers to get a user's perspective. And the in-service backup is excellent."



TOOL FOR THE JOB: J.C. Balls & Sons can work faster and longer after adding a volumetric mixer to their fleet.

16 years of reliability

After sixteen years of "excellent reliability" with plant hire operator Scanlan's, based in Nantwich, Cheshire, the older of their two Cementech volumetric concrete mixers is to be traded against two new Cementech machines mounted on Scania 8-wheeled rigid trucks. This compares very favourably with drum-type mixers which often suffer serious degradation within only 3-5 years. The higher capacity and productivity of the incoming MCD8MX-100 units was the driving force behind the purchase: the original will return to Armcon Cementech for refurbishment and be sold

with a full warranty.

"The older machine has demonstrated excellent reliability," says Scanlan's Financial Director, Simon Baldwin, "with good service from Armcon, and even after sixteen years we weren't surprised that it had a good trade-in value. There have been advances in technology since we bought it, though, and we want to keep abreast of the times. The main advantage of the new MCD8MX-100 is the faster delivery of concrete - around two and a half minutes per cubic metre."

Scanlan's was one of Britain's first operators of Cementech mixers, with

twenty years' experience of the type: beginning as a building contractor, the company - still run by the founder's family - has diversified into fields including ready-mix, plant hire and waste disposal. "That we use Cementech is almost entirely down to the vision of David Scanlan," says Simon. "He saw one at a show and grasped the benefits immediately. What's best about the concept is that the mixer can travel from site to site all day without the concrete going off - and there's no need to worry about exact quantities. If customers need 2.1m³, then 2.1m³ is what we mix and they pay for."



Ken Hope - where no mixer has gone before



Armcon Cementech mobile volumetric concrete mixers have helped Cumbrian civil engineers, Ken Hope Limited, to move into a highly unusual niche: wind farm construction in Scotland and the North of England. The Cementech MCD8MX-150 units have no need of a batching plant, making them ideal for use in

the remote areas typically selected for wind farm sites.

"We have run rotary drum mixers in the past," says the company's founder and director, Ken Hope, "and I don't know how we could have handled some of these jobs with them. The project on the Isle of Gigha, for instance, would have meant filling

the remote areas typically selected for wind farm sites. plant then driving them to the ferry. It would have been very difficult to tie in with sailings and, if the weather had stopped the ferry at short notice, we would have lost a load." Instead, materials were ferried over in bulk and the Cementech machines loaded on site, staying until the job

was done. "Without these mixers," says Ken, "it simply would not have been a viable proposition."

The most recent addition to the fleet is mounted on a Volvo FM12 8x4 rigid truck also supplied through Armcon. Its Globetrotter sleeper cab enables the drivers to work remote locations without

returning to base.

Ken was impressed by recommendations of Armcon from other operators. "I felt comfortable with the level of backup they offered, though the mixers have been reliable. The technical support in particular was important, especially as we began to operate the machines."