



Command
Alkon

Lammers Beton

COMMANDbatch CP™

By cooperating with Command Alkon, concrete element manufacturer, Lammers Beton, has reaped great rewards. Besides reducing failure costs, Lammers is now able to respond more effectively to customer requirements. As Henk Lammers, managing director at Lammers, explains: “We have increased efficiency, our supply is more competitively priced, and we have also broadened our product range.”

The Challenge

Lammers was forced to innovate due to economic instability in the industry. Describing the reason for change, Lammers states: “There is a growing market demand for white and colored concrete and we want to take advantage of this. Moreover, our central mixing plant was too small so we decided to replace it and purchase a new control system.”

The Solution

With the Command Alkon control system Lammers is able to monitor the mixing process in real-time (and more accurately). COMMANDbatch CP is a modular system that runs on MS Windows and uses standard hardware and the widely used TCP/IP protocol for communication with field components such as remote I/O and weighing/flow controllers.

The Result

- With Command Alkon, Lammers can monitor the production process in real-time and make any adjustments as required
- Cost management: accurate control keeps failure costs to a minimum
- The number of shop floor transport movements is reduced by two thirds



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- The ability to produce (special) mixes is increased
- Post production handling time is reduced: polishing out air bubbles is a thing of the past
- Employee satisfaction has increased, due to a more relaxed way of working
- Lammers has a greater overview of production and inventory thanks to the management information that is available in the Command Alkon control system
- With Command Alkon, the overall cost savings achieved are significant

High-quality concrete elements

Lammers has been working with Command Alkon for quite some time, having chosen the Command Alkon solution to automate its concrete production processes. As Henk Lammers states, "Command Alkon enables us to better respond to market demands. The plant is controlled from a PC with a number of screens, but we also use wireless touch screen tablet PCs. This has enabled us to increase production efficiency but with reduced personnel and failure costs. As a result, we can deliver high-quality concrete elements at a competitive price."

Production capacity

Lammers switched to a new concrete mixing system in order to increase production capacity. The new mixer has a capacity of 3 cubic meters. But according to Lammers: "It is the Command Alkon control system that makes the biggest difference because we are able to maintain better control of the mixing process. If it is warmer, additional blast furnace cement is added to the mix as well as a different type of plasticizer. We control everything remotely and can monitor the process in real-time. We can also adjust the water content with precision up to a liter. We also use white cement. The colors need to be consistent and hardening should not occur too quickly."

Smooth operation

The concrete mortar is transported by bucket via a wirelessly controlled forklift truck that stops automatically. It collects the concrete mortar from a BHS twin-shaft batch mixer, in which smaller quantities

can also be mixed if required. "Our staff are happy with the new system because there is less noise and fewer transport movements. It also works more smoothly, faster, and with less errors," explains Lammers.

Measurable Results

According to Lammers, the cost savings delivered by COMMANDbatch CP are measurable: "The number of transport movements has been reduced by two thirds, production capacity has increased, there are fewer fluctuations in the concrete mortar, and post production handling, i.e. polishing out surface air bubbles, is reduced. We now also have an automatic bucket cleaner and the wireless panel PC's can be charged in each production hall."

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Benefits

Henk Lammers is very pleased about the cooperation with Command Alkon and the benefits of the control system: "The system is easy to adapt and maintain and there is no longer any need for additional costly programming: we have a customized production control, but with the benefits and continuity of a standard system."

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www.commandalkon.com