THE NEXT GENERATION OF MECHANICALLY LAYING CONCRETE BLOCK PAVING

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Summary:

As producers of the Auto-Optimas Concrete Block Paver (CBP) Laying Machine, Optimas GmbH of Germany, founded in 1977, continues to develop new products for use on CBP job sites.

Optimas GmbH is a family-owned independant company with strong links to all members of the CBP chain throughout the world having direct and indirect customers in over 60 countries in the world. Optimas GmbH specialises exclusively in machines and equipment for use on the CBP job site.

In 1994 Optimas GmbH and Auto-Optimas introduced you to the 21st Century at the Oslo Conference!

In 1996 the company Optimas GmbH and its customers worldwide, block producers and laying contractors hand in hand, continue to develop the "Optimas" laying of concrete block pavers.

1996 sees Optimas machines in operation in almost 60 countries of the world and the geographic spread and number of Optimas customers is growing steadily. Many of our direct customers and their suppliers are here with us today.

Produced in Germany and operated worldwide, Optimas offers the most comprehensive range of machines and equipment for laying concrete block paving.

Optimas is constantly introducing product improvements and innovations and this paper will introduce you to the new generation of Optimas machines and equipment.

Video START

Let us take a short look at Optimas GmbH the company, then move on to the Optimas innovations such as Auto-Optimas.

Our production line is equipped with the most modern fittings including industrial robots and powder coating equipment which ensure high quality, environmentally-friendly finishing.

In Europe, we generally transport our own machines using Optimas Service Jeeps and trailers.
For oversee shipment we naturally make use of the most cost and time effective means of transport (usually shipment by 20 foot container by ocean freight) depending on product and customer considerations.

The purchased Optimas equipment is trained in by full-time professional Optimas Trainers (either in person or via video - work is being done on interactive computer or online video based training).
This ensures that Optimas customers are efficient regarding performance and costs starting with the first m2 prepared and laid by Optimas equipment.

The reason for using Optimas machines and equipment:
Simple: it just makes sense!

Optimas customers experience many savings and economies regarding work to be carried out on the concrete block laying site:

- extracting broken or damaged pavers simply and quickly

- replacing individual pavers with differently coloured "markers" using simple extractor tools

- aligning spacing joints for best finish

- laying curbstones and retaining walls (due to weight considerations the handling of such materials are sometimes restricted by law)

- preparing the screeded sand bed using an Optimas screed
    a. expensive by hand due to labour costs
       (e.g. USA/Japan/Switzerland)
    b. slow by hand due to scarcity of cheap workers
       (e.g. eastern european and hot climate countries)
    c. less efficient by hand
       (many untrained workers/cost of training)

- transport trolleys or paving carts for transporting the paving more economically than by using for example a wheel-barrow (damages paving, takes too long and is inefficient due to avoidable excessive handling of the CBP on the job site)

- automatic laying for ensuring the speed and efficiency of man-power and simple training

- sanding in or filling in joints using easy to use and cheap attachments

- the list goes on ....

For example, using our Optimas screed our customers ensure that screeding the sub-base of sand is no longer a bottle-neck. Using both the Optimas screed and new Auto-Optimas concrete block laying machine our customers can save considerable labour and time costs when compared with all other methods of hand or mechanical laying.

Where?

Optimas machines and equipment are indispensible working tools for concrete block paving manufacturers and laying contractors throughout the world:

From Oslo to Tel-Aviv,
from Toronto to Tokyo,
from Nairobi to New York,
from Hobart to Hong Kong,
from Bangkok to Buenos Aires,
from Vienna to Vancouver,
from Seoul to Southampton,
from Singapore to Sydney,
from Amsterdam to Atlanta,
from Madrid to Moscow
from Christchurch to Copenhagen
from ..... The list goes on!

For what?
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OPTIMAS equipment is used on major sites like ports, airport aprons and runways, parking areas for heavy load areas for trucks and containers, industrial areas and zones.

OPTIMAS equipment, designed with flexibility in mind was originally designed for use on small and narrow areas like footpaths or sidewalks, cycle paths and roadways, residential driveways and pedestrianised zones and urban streets, agricultural roadways and crossings in slow drive areas or even in indoor/multistorey and underground carparks and factory buildings and halls.

The list goes on .....

Which Pavers?
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OPTIMAS CLAMPS handle all CBP types such as grass pavers, environmentally friendly blocks with large spacer-nibs, flagstones for petrol filling stations, flagstones for footpaths, concrete dyke reinforcement elements, blocks with vertical interlocks etc.
The list goes on ....

How?

Auto-Optimas was introduced to the world market at the 2nd Concrete Block Paving Workshop in Oslo, in June 1994.

Auto-Optimas no longer requires the driver of the machine to operate the grabbing functions of the grab. Such actions are done directly and automatically by the machine. The driver drives only between pick-up and lay-down site.

Auto-Optimas works as an invisible assistant at optimal speed.

As soon as the grab is placed on the cube of blocks the positioning of the layer occurs, the machine grabs and lifts up some 10 cm so that the driver can reverse immediately from the cube of blocks. At the lay-down site the grab opens automatically and will be lifted up a certain distance so that the machine can drive away for another layer.

With Auto-Optimas a relatively new driver with little experience can achieve around the same output as a fully trained professional driver. All this allows the driver to procede quicker and concentrate on the positioning aspects of the job. The increased hydraulic grabbing power of the Auto-Optimas coupled with the unique advantages of our Optimas grab ensure that driver friendliness, better quality laying and higher productivity is possible when compared with all other machine laying techniques on the market.

The high output of the Optimas concrete block laying machine (prices start at ca. DM 25.000 or US $ 17.500 upwards) especially in connection with blocks designed specifically for mechanical laying for example UNI-Coloc, UNI-ANCHORLOCK and Escoo-six is worthy of special mention.

No stones have to be replaced by hand with these blocks and hence productivity of around 600 to 800 m2 per 8 hour day with the Auto-Optimas laying machine is achievable on a regular basis with one driver and one helper. Specialised Optimas customers do more.