



## CEMENT & CONCRETE

# Colour And Workability Added To BRT System

*Chryso South Africa added striking pigmented colour to the bus lanes for Cape Town's new Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system and also supplied a key admixture to enhance the performance of the concrete AfriSam is providing for the initial phase of the multi-billion rand project.*



*Work in progress on the Cape Town BRT bus lanes.*

**A**nthony Venier, regional manager of Chryso in the Western Cape, says the company provided large volumes of Lanxess red oxide for the deep red finish sought by the City of Cape Town to add aesthetics - and colour contrast - to the bus lanes which straddle busy streets in the Mother City. "Chryso imported large volumes of our Lanxess pigmentation from Germany for the first phase of this project which will require 28 000 cubic metres of concrete."

### HARSH CLIMATE CONDITIONS

Anthony said the choice of pigmentation was vital for the BRT lanes, which will be subjected to the Cape's harsh climatic conditions, particularly in exposed, windy areas such as Table View and Milnerton. "Lanxess' Bayferrox pigmentation is weather-stable and light-fast, and can withstand strong alkaline cement paste. The pigments are also not toxic or irritating to the skin or mucous membranes."

Chryso SA is the sole South African distributor to the construction industry of Bayferrox inorganic pigments produced by Lanxess Germany. The pigments offer substantially superior colour fastness compared to organic counterparts.

Complying with AfriSam's request, Chryso's Cape Town plant packed the pigmentation into 5kg water soluble bags to assist with the hand-dosing of the pigmentation.

### HELPED REDUCE THE WATER

Chryso also supplied its Chrysoplast Omega 101 plasticiser admixture to AfriSam for the project. "The plasticiser helped reduce the water demand in concrete and promoted stable air and workability retention.

It proved particularly important to retain workability while the manual broom finishes specified for the bus lanes were in progress," Anthony stated.

Chryso's curing agent, Chrysocure HPE, was also used in sections of the project.

Jaco Cokart, Works Manager of AfriSam's Peninsula Quarry, who designed the concrete mix for the project, says a characteristic of cement in the Western Cape is that it tends to produce unusually fast setting concrete. "Omega 101 plasticiser was vital for maximum workability in a windy and hot summer in which day temperatures often hovered around 40 degrees Celsius. Chryso's advisory and logistical input to this project has also been noteworthy and exceptional," Cokart added.



*Jaco Cokart (left), of AfriSam, who designed the concrete for the BRT project, and Anthony Venier, Chryso's regional manager in the Western Cape.*