

Cleaning up cycle route

GOSCOR Cleaning Equipment's heavy-duty mechanical sweeper helped to increase the safety of all cyclists participating in this year's Momentum 94.7 Cycle Challenge by cleaning up the route.

Jonathan Kirsch, Sales Manager at Goscor Cleaning Equipment, which forms part of the Goscor Group of Companies, explained that they put their most advanced mechanical road sweeper, the MACRO M60, through its paces to sweep up debris such as glass, wood, stones and other potentially hazardous objects along the cycle route prior to the race.

"The removal of loose sand and stones from the road surface not only help to reduce the number of punctures but will also make cornering safer for the riders."

According to Kirsch, a number of excellent features make the sweeper the perfect solution for reliable, cost



effective and seamless urban road sweeping.

The 6m³ hopper volume and 6000kg net payload allow the sweeper to work fast and efficiently for extended shifts, even under the harshest of urban road conditions while the unit's large surface filters ensure dust-free opera-

tion. The four-wheel steering delivers excellent manoeuvrability and Kirsch adds that the machine's excellent sweeping system allows for effortless sweeping in unbalanced conditions such as over speed bumps.

He also points out that the machine's 'load sensing' hydraulic system reduces both fuel consumption and service costs. The well-equipped and spacious cabin provides premium operator comfort. The cycling challenge organisers rented the M60 work horse from Cleaning Equipment over a three day period to make sure that the entire route cycle ready.

"This is the first time that our road cleaning equipment was rented by the organisers of the Momentum 94.7 Cycle Challenge and we are extremely proud to have been a part of Jo'burg's biggest cycling event this year," concludes Kirsch.

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The rise of rope access

DUE to its ability to reduce maintenance downtime and complete work quicker in the safest possible manner, rope access is becoming an increasingly-popular choice for industrial rescue, maintenance and cleaning tasks across South Africa.

Skyriders marketing manager Mike Zinn explains that more industries are discovering the benefits of rope access and are moving away from conventional means. "Maintenance budgets are under considerable strain and, faced with the dilemma of limited funds for carrying out maintenance work and ensuring that the plant or facility can still operate effectively, companies are moving towards rope access, as it saves on the access component, with a safe and professional end result."

Rope access is one of the most cost-effective and safe ways to access difficult-to-reach points in a number of applications, especially when the cost of access is disproportionate to the scope of work. It is ideal on tall structures, such as smoke stacks, cooling



towers and boilers. The scope of rope access work includes maintenance such as cleaning, repair, painting and inspections.

"Rope access provides flexibility, as rope access technicians are able to traverse obstacles in order to carry out numerous tasks relating to inspection, maintenance and surveying, all while they are suspended in their

secure position.

Rope access is also highly-effective for numerous rescue tasks in any application over 2 m above ground," Zinn continues.

According to Zinn, South Africa is at the forefront of international rope access trends. "In some cases, we are ahead of developed countries such as Australia, which hardly uses rope access in its power generation industry, whereas it is fairly mainstream in South Africa. The adaptation of the ISO standards for rope access is another indication that we are keeping up with international trends."

Skyriders boasts extensive experience in all rope access applications, and undertakes work in the power generation, mining, facilities management and heavy industries.

It offers services such as non-destructive testing (NDT) and inspection, concrete inspection, maintenance and repairs, application of coating systems, work at height safety systems, welding, and confined space

Achieving flawless floors



CONSTRUCTION firm URE Projects (Pty) Ltd recently finished a high-level project where the company was contracted to polish 10 400 m² of flooring for two warehouses using diamond segmented metal bond grinding shoes, sealer and a densifier from Diamond Products.

The project was undertaken by a team of 16 people working day and night shifts for 40 days in early 2015.

URE Projects director Kuben Naidoo explains that the company's core focus is polishing, maintenance, sealing and restoration of concrete floors, which is a sustainable flooring alternative that does not require wax or coating.

"We mostly do commercial flooring where the surface is likely to experience wear-and-tear from heavy traffic. Proper sealing of the floor every few years and regular mopping can guarantee a ten-year lifespan."

Concrete flooring is an intricate

process comprised of multiple stages, including; cutting, grinding, grouting and burnishing the sealer to give the floor a glossy finish.

There is a wide variety of design options to choose from, such as decorative engravings, graphics or dye with the available sheen levels. Naidoo notes that concrete grinding and polishing presents its own set of challenges such as holes in the floor, undesirable floor angles and the unsatisfactory strength of concrete.

"The installer therefore relies heavily on the performance of their tools. Usage of inferior products for this process will quickly show in the results. The floor will not have the desired shine, and the strength of the floor will be compromised, which might result in cracking," he notes.

According to Naidoo, URE Projects started using Diamond Products a year ago after finding its service impressive.

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