

Optimas Solutions Tunnel Division brings fastener innovations to SICAT 2017

Optimas Solutions' Tunnel Division, the manufacturer of the Sofrasar Tunnel Product range of fasteners for pre-cast tunnelling projects, was present at the Symposium on Innovation and Challenges in Asian Tunnelling 2017 (SICAT).

Run by the Tunnelling and Underground Construction Society of Singapore (TUCCS), the event acts as a forum for industry innovators to share recent advancements and experiences relating to underground infrastructure projects in Asia. Optimas was joined on stand by its representatives in Singapore, Basler & Hofmann.

Experts in the field of tunnelling delivered 12 lectures throughout the event, with suppliers and manufacturers also conducting presentations regarding their latest products and services. Topics addressed included high-speed rail, new tunnelling machine technologies, ground improvement works, tunnel maintenance, monitoring and safety systems, use of geophysical surveys and environmentally friendly approaches to tunnel construction.

As a leading component supplier to the industry, Optimas' Tunnel Division highlighted its new fastener innovations, as well as discussing a number of completed and forthcoming high-profile tunnelling projects with industry members. The business specialises in providing fastener solutions to expedite construction schedules, as optimised fasteners offer compound cost and time savings throughout the tunnel construction process.

New innovations from the Sofrasar Tunnel Product range included the Grout socket Type 1 with HDPE in-liner, a new system that provides an optimum solution towards ensuring tunnel integrity. An adaptor is welded to the in-liner membrane via a specially developed heating blade machine, with the socket then screwed into the adaptor. The liner, adaptor and socket are then placed inside a mould, and integrated into the concrete segment. The welding station can be adapted to fit any size of segment, with the system successfully utilised in a recent sewerage tunnelling project in Qatar.

Another highlight was the Divisible socket Type ZU, which offers easy installation into moulds to deliver time savings and increase productivity. The device serves to resist ingress from dust or water during casting or storage, ensuring that it retains full functionality until final installation. Furthermore, the device is cheaper than a steel equivalent, and eliminates the need to remove steel holder bolts before installation. With a 50% approximate saving on screwcaps, it also reduces the overall Bill of Materials (BoM) for end users.

In addition, Optimas and Basler & Hofmann were also present at the TUCCS Annual Dinner 2017, which marked the 20th anniversary of the organisation. The dinner took place at the Raffles City Convention Centre, with key industry players taking part in the celebrations.

Christophe Delus, Tunnel Division Director at Optimas, commented: "Events such as these allow us to connect with the industry as a whole, so we were delighted to be a point of interest for many attendees at the show. The chance to preview new component innovations and our forthcoming projects is invaluable, so we can directly transmit the unique time and cost advantages we can provide to end users in the pre-cast tunnel segment."

Photo Captions:

Photo 1: Mrs LiYing Tay, Mrs Elizabeth Yong (from left to right)

Photo 2: Mr Gema Argentty, Mrs LiYing Tay, Mrs Mamta Rana, Mrs Elizabeth Yong (from left to right)

About Optimas Solutions - Tunnel Division

Optimas Solutions - Tunnel Division, the manufacturer of the Sofrasar Tunnel Products, can provide a complete range of bespoke or standardised bolting systems, dowel systems, centring systems & shear dowels, grout-lift sockets, guiding rods & packers plus precast accessories & security systems. All components are designed and developed in-house by Optimas Sofrasar, which backed by a strong supply structure, means even bespoke parts can be delivered at a competitive cost point.

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