

Business Unit: Concrete

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Sika in Comedy Carpet Roll Out

Self compacting concrete containing Sika admixtures played an important role in the production of Comedy Carpet, a brand new £2.6 million attraction, located on the Tower Headland at the foot of Blackpool Tower. The 2,200 square metre concrete artwork, which was commissioned by Blackpool Council, features gags, catchphrases and names of more than 1,000 comedians.

Comprising 235 cast concrete panels, the piece by Gordon Young, a visual artist who focuses on creating art for the public domain, with typography by Why Not Associates, includes over 160,000 letters cut from solid red and black granite and specially created cobalt blue concrete.

The 30mm deep letters were cast into high quality concrete panels. The letters were laid out in a mould, upside down and back to front, and cast in a white, hardwearing grout to form the visual layer when completed and turned over. A reinforced concrete base layer was then added.

To avoid disturbing the mosaic of letters, it was necessary for this base layer to be cast without added vibration to consolidate the concrete. To achieve this, self compacting concrete supplied by Robin Concrete was chosen. This concrete mix, containing specially adapted Sika[®] ViscoCrete[®] superplasticisers, produces unique fluidity and inherent compactibility. Once completed and laid in place on the headland, the carpet was ground, polished and sealed.

Concrete admixture, Sika[®] Control 40 was also contained in the mix to greatly reduce any shrinkage during curing of the concrete.

Comedy Carpet is one of the largest and most ambitious pieces of public art ever commissioned in the UK. It has taken five years to complete and is part of the larger



Festival Headland overhaul, a new events area in the resort. It was officially unveiled by comedian Ken Dodd.

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Note to Editors:

Sika Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sika AG, a global company located in Baar, Switzerland, supplying specialty chemicals markets. It is a leader in processing materials used in sealing, bonding, damping, reinforcing and protecting load-bearing structures in construction and industry. Sika is committed to quality, service, safety and environmental care and has subsidiaries in more than 73 countries worldwide with 12 900 employees generating annual sales of CHF 4.6 billion.



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Photograph attached:



Press Release



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